**REPORT ON THE YOUTH CONSULTATION WITH MS. AMINA MOHAMED ON POST 2015, LAICO REGENCY-KENYA**

**Host: The International Youth Council Kenya**

**When: 16th November, 2012**

**Welcome remarks: Mwaura Kaara-United Nations Millennium Campaign Office**

Participants were given ballot papers to fill out ‘My World ‘a survey to be launched by UNMC on the world they envision in 2015. Participants were to choose 6 questions out of the 16 of what they considered most important and if they had anything that was not included in the choice list they were to add it on the comment box.

Mwaura urged the participants to act upon the capacity of their age asking them to call and demand for action towards achievement of MDGs and what their lives should be by 2015.

He explained that the Post 2015 meeting was aimed at creating a process to help structure frameworks towards achievement of the MDGs by 2015 and post 2015.He urged the participants to be open to sharing, to organize and not agonize.

**Introduction of the International Youth Council and the post 2015 discussion: Willice Onyango**

He introduced the International Youth Council as having being founded during the 4th UN Assembly in New York as a civil society. Its main aim is to support youth activities and promote social development through intercultural interaction.

**MDG Process**

There are 3 years left of the time frame set to have achieved the MDGs. He said Kenya will not have achieved unless a miracle happens. He said that the UN has taken the lead in setting up a team on the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

It is carrying out the following initiatives

1.50+ Multi stakeholder national consultations

2. Global thematic consultations

3. The Global Conversation

A high level panel has been set up to provide the process with input from 26 eminent persons, Kenya being represented by Betty Maina. They will have an MDG summit 2013.

**Civil Society Role**

The civil society through Global Conversation at [www.worldwewant](http://www.worldwewant) is allowing engagement with the broader development community in contemplation of the HLP gaps.

**Youth and Post 2015**

Willice noted that there is too little for young people participation and this risk bringing exclusion and engagement of youth as partners to solutions to world problems. With half the people in the world are under the age of 25 he reiterated that they are a vital asset and the difference between success and failure of any global commitments made.

He stated that young people are capable of taking leadership and that their participation is a fundamental right but their role is not well elaborated and this is creating a lost generation. As a consequence, he said the process risks denying youth a real voice in shaping the policies. Engaging the youth will impact our generation.

**Introduction of the role of the post 2015 secretariat by Ms. Amina Mohammed.**

Ms Amina started by noting that women representation was minimal during the consultation. She said that her coming was to prove action beyond the London HLP meeting.

She said that youth are considered to be a problem, often times being referred to as terrorists. This is due to lack of investment in the youth and denial of their rights hence their being disenfranchised.

She explained how the Education for All policy succeeded in Nigeria. The civil society engaged in discussions that led to Nigeria getting debt relief and the savings were put in MDGs in 2002.

She said that initially the MDGs were narrow and confined to a small agenda of 6 goals. She said that the MDGs took a long time to be owned by Africans because they were designed without Africans being involved and this was a challenge towards their achievement.

She urged participants to grab opportunities to make a difference wherever they are. She emphasized that Post 2015 was to finish the MDGs and what will not be finished will be carried forward to Post 2015.

She urged the participants to use the 3 years left to Post 2015 to think and come up with a set of priorities that will be included in Post 2015 unlike the MDGs which were imposed on Africans.

She said the youth will be doing a lot of heavy lifting and they should therefore not miss out on the time to build their experience to be in leadership. They should also question themselves of how representative they are of the issues they say they are representing and aim to develop a skill set through acquiring skills and experience.

Regarding youths being involved in the process of decision making, she advised the participants to recognize where they should be; around the round table or making sure the person who is in the high level is representing the issues they want to see.

She said that the HLP for Post 2015 will be going to the field to engage with locals to ensure that the issues presented by the country representatives resonate with what the HLP will have gathered from the field.

The UN has adopted the Social media Outreach which is not accessible to all. She urged those that have access to social media to pass information to those without reach and ensure that consultations are robust and go beyond the round table meetings emphasizing that the youth should fight for what they have a right to.

In regional consultations regarding what Africa wants, she recommended that leaders have to go back home after the meeting and get the answers, take the good things and run with them.

She urged the youth to know how to talk about and deal with issues regarding the environment e.g. climate change, floods, drought, people and the planet.

In September next year she would like to hear the 6 top issues from the youth that matter.

She advised that the youth make politicians understand the goals because if the politicians do not buy the next set of goals they will not provide the budget.

G**roup presentations**

**Youth Group 1-Youth Agenda**

The Organization was formed due to the need for young people to be represented in decision making.

They were awarded The Champions of Democracy award by The Ford Foundation.

He recognized that the UN may not be able to provide solutions to issues facing Kenyan youths and that the youths have to seek to engage and develop home grown solutions.

He discussed the Four Thematic Areas that they focus on

1. Leadership and Governance

- Generate a system ensuring we have SDGs

2. Social and Economic rights

- Vision 2030

- Devolved governance

3. Knowledge generation and Management

- Research

-Youth agenda

4. Institutional development and governance

- Strategic planning

- Establish a one stop youth center for information, research, ask questions and present issues.

He noted that young people constitute a high percentage of the population but only a small fraction run or hold political office. Young people play a huge role in popularizing campaigns and are also used in perpetrating violence. Young people have a role to play in determining the kind of governance, they should be actively involved in electoral process, identify the kind of leaders they want and vet them.

**Youth Group 2 -IPAS**

She discussed MDG No. 5 – Maternal Health.

The organization is involved in projects that aim to prevent maternal deaths caused by bleeding after birth, high blood pressure and unsafe abortions, the highest rate of maternal deaths resulting from unsafe abortions. They are currently working in Western Kenya where the practice is prevalent.

She emphasized that for MDG No. 5 to be achieved; the issue of unsafe abortions has to be addressed. They do this by supporting the Ministry of Health to improve health services and abortion care by ensuring provision of safe services to the extent allowed by the law. They also support the development of policies, mobilizing communities to prevent unplanned pregnancies, equip health facilities and research on unsafe abortions.

They have partnered with MOH, NGOs & FBOs and Rights based organization e.g. FIDA, ‘Maendeleo ya wanawake’.She said that there is need for pro-active participation by the youth.

**Youth Group 3**

H e said that poverty is manufactured, youths have to speak out.

His organization has supported over 200 youths by giving them grants to start businesses and asking the City Council to waiver licenses.

He noted that the money stolen by our politicians is enough to carry out big development projects.

**Youth Group 4-y-Peer**

Noting that over half the people in the world are youths and 87% are from developing countries, he said the dependability ratio is high. There are more men in the labour force than women.

His organization has established linkages with The Ministry of Youth and also has a mailing list whereby they share job opportunities among the youth.

He proposed economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, dealing with corruption, the youth taking up leadership, having meaningful involvement and participation and if all else fails advocacy and activism.

**INTERACTIVE SESSION BY PARTICIPANTS**

How to make ourselves effective citizens

* Being active and understanding individual responsibilities
* Holding the government accountable
* Developing new values that define a better society.

**Youth Participant 1**

He appealed to the participants to not only complain about poor leadership especially now that we are headed towards the elections, that instead they should register and voters and be involved in electing leaders.

He noted that the youth population is highly dependent on the adult population and they therefore driven by their self interest take advantage and scatter the youth initiative. The youth were urged to work towards unifying their interests and incorporating all classes of youths in the forums.

**Youth Participant 1**

She stated that leadership is not about being in position but rather about influence. She felt that the media people misrepresent youth interests.

She appealed to the UN to look at issues with a disability approach as well.

**Youth Participant 2**

She urged that MDGs and SDGs be incorporated to ensure environmental sustainability.

**Youth Participant 3**

She appealed that issues for youth with special needs be addressed eg the blind cannot utilize social media and they should be empowered.

**Youth Participant 4**

He noted that there is no direct correlation between unemployment and MDGs and there is need to develop policies that will bring change.

There is lack of proper tracking in MDGs and he recommended that for Post 2015 there be proper tracking and encouraged the youth to be persistent to achieve MDGs and Post 2015.

**RESPONSE BY Ms. Amina**

She noted that youth issues are the same world over. She requested that the 3 most important be aired.

She advised the youth to galvanize themselves in coalitions to conduct monitoring and evaluation of the government, identifying what dint work and how it should have worked. She cited a case in Nigeria where they appointed the Civil Society to conduct monitoring.

She said that corruption is such a deep rooted vice and leadership by example is no longer working hence need to re-evaluate leadership and the value system.

She recommended that youths identify a set of goals for Post 2015 that matter to all noting that youths can make change happen.

**2nd interactive session by participants – post 2015 recommendations**

* MDGs should focus on quality education
* Post 2015 process should focus on use of local resources to empower the local communities and involve them in running of MDGs.
* Establishment of social enterprises to create job opportunities.
* Establishment of proper linkages between government agencies.
* Strong commitment to intergenerational activities.

**Youth participant 1**

* There should be information dissemination.
* Data should be disintegrated to identify e.g. how many people are benefitting and use of indicators and targets to identify how many are affected, etc.
* The youth should aim to understand the history and dynamics of a particular approach at the time it was used before adopting the same for use in the current time.
* They should also tackle one issue at a time instead of handling several at once and accomplishing none.
* Transform all the statistics into action.

**Youth Participant 2**

* The youth should be engaged in the budget making process
* The youth have to actively engage in the processes if they want resources allocated like the private sector does.
* Youth also have to understand what the political parties stand for and their views on the MDGs.
* The youth have to put to task the youths elected to parliament to voice their issues.

**Youth Participant 3**

* Understanding and bridging of cultural gaps for proper strategies.
* The MDGs should also focus on agriculture and food security.
* The MDGs should also focus on informal education
* Women should give back to the world what they have and do not necessarily have to be boosted.

**Youth Participant 4**

He urged the youths to stop being used for violence during elections and to fight tribalism

**RESPONSE BY Ms. Amina**

She promised to take the issues forward to the parliamentarians and urged the youths to keep up the fight as democracy is hard fought. In conclusion, she noted that Africa is rich and that it will take ourselves to get out of poverty.

Closing remarks - George Ndung’u

He said that the youth’s participation is limited by lack of resources but urged them to make noise and demand for action.