



REGIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE -POST 2015 MDG AGENDA Sierra Leone



CONCEPT PROPOSAL

Schedule: March 19th-21st 2013 Time: 10am-4:30pm prompt

Theme to be addressed: **"Putting Young People at the Heart of Sustainable Development"**

Organizers: A *collaboration effort of Youth Millennium Development Ambassadors, Democracy Sierra Leone (DSL)* <http://mdgambassadors.org> & *Worldview Mission (WM)* <http://www.worldviewmission.org>

Venue: British Council Hall, Freetown Sierra Leone

Background:

The priority of the 21st Century has been ending poverty as the central purpose of development. Top objectives have included peace and security; democracy and human rights; With only less than 3 years to the end of MDGs in 2015, poverty, climate change and youth participation remains a major global challenge and priority.

What then would be the most effective way for young people to take the international development agenda forward after 2015?

As the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, there are a growing number of preparations and debates on what a post-2015 agenda and youth participation in the framework will look like. These are occurring both within and outside of the UN system. In partnership with Civil Society, the United Nations is supporting 50-100 country consultations and facilitating eleven global thematic consultations.





Youth Millennium Development Ambassadors, Worldview Mission (WM) in collaborations with Democracy Sierra Leone, are co-conveying a youth consultation/ **Dialogue** in Sierra Leone West Africa with support from the Government of Sierra Leone, , UNDP, UNAID, National Youth Commission (NYCOM) Sierra Leone and Ministry of Employment & Sport republic of Sierra Leone.

The Youth Consultation has three main components:

- ✓ Plenary Session
- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Group Discussions

The results of the West Africa Youth consultation are intended to inform the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the high-level summit to review progress on the MDGs in 2013, the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other post-2015 related processes.

Audience: The discussion is an opportunity for a multitude of youth to be heard from civil society, academia, media, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, governments, the UN System, etc.

AGE INEQUALITIES: are youth falling between the cracks of the MDGs?

There is growing recognition that young people are important for development – to ensure that they realize their rights and potential as individuals and to build on their potential to contribute to the growth, development and stability of their societies. At the same time, there is concern that the marginalization and exclusion of young people can lead to a minority of youth engaging in unproductive activities, including violence. The Summit will examine the inequalities faced by youth, focusing on the ways in which different categories of young people are excluded from access to resources, opportunities and decision-making. It will consider the impact of these inequalities on individuals, their communities and wider society. To date, few development programmes have explicitly targeted or measured outcomes for young people and there is often an (unproven) assumption that general development programmes will automatically benefit youth in contexts where the youth population is high. There is a lack of specific targets on youth, and outcome data is rarely disaggregated by age - meaning that youth have often fallen between the cracks of the MDGs. Nonetheless, there are several examples of innovative approaches to addressing the inequalities faced by youth. The Summit will conclude by addressing inequalities in the post-2015 development agenda which seeks to involve, include and listen to young people, carefully analyzing differences in opportunities and outcomes among young people and between young people and other age groups, and putting in place measures to explicitly target youth, address the exclusion and challenges they face and build on their assets, skills and potential.





Challenge to achieving MDGs.

Despite improved GDP growth in Africa, especially in Sub Sahara Africa (SSA), over the past decade, this growth has mostly not been the rapid, sustained and inclusive growth that is key to lifting people out of poverty. Economic growth has been robust largely in countries with enclave resources such as oil and minerals. With few exceptions, the fruits of such growth have not been widely shared with the poor.

To achieve growth and also poverty reduction, governance - the capacity and quality of government - is key to effective and sustainable pro-poor targeting. Although governance is improving in Africa in many countries, much more remains to be done to ensure accountability and rule of law, fight corruption and create a business environment friendly to domestic and foreign investors and Youths. Unfortunately, many States have only weak capacity to carry out their basic functions and are not investing sufficiently in key social sectors such as education, health, water and sanitation.

The challenge of HIV/AIDS looms large over Africa's efforts to attain the MDGs. The pandemic has aggravated weak economic growth in many countries and is depleting human capital, the very foundation of social development.

Summit/ Dialogue objectives:

1. To bring together youth activists to review the attainment of MDGs in Sierra Leone and west Africa, develop strategies for accelerating the achievement of the MDGs and plan for the Post-2015 Development Framework.
2. To strengthen partnership within youth organizations in the region to implement MDGs based projects.
3. To create a platform for young people to learn and share their best practices in their actions towards achieving the MDGs.
4. To mobilize and motivate young people to actively get involved in the ongoing national, regional and international consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
5. To Present an African Youth Declaration on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
6. Agree on the key substantive messages evolving from the region on the Post-2015 Framework
7. Agree on a set of substantive messages evolving from the region on how Youth participation and concerns can be integrated in the Post-2015 Development Agenda





OUTCOME

1. Present an West African Youth Declaration on Post 2015 MDG and the Sierra Leone Agenda for prosperity
2. Come up with a youth-led strategy on advocacy and action projects to undertake in accelerating the achievement of MDGs in West Africa
3. Creation of Provincial Youth Working Groups that will facilitate collaboration with the Youth Millennium Development Ambassadors, Democracy Sierra Leone, Worldview Mission, Government and UN Country Teams to actively get involved in the post-2015 development framework

Speakers

The session will be in two parts:

- ✓ **Part I** will be a plenary discussion of the draft consolidated recommendations, derived from the Pre-conference meetings of countries, sub-regions and stakeholder groups
- ✓ **Part II** will include a High level panel discussion with panelists representing IGO, Government, Parliamentarians, Local Governments, Development Partners, CSO, IFRC, and Private sector

List of outcomes and recommendations to be addressed by the Ministers at the High-Level Round Table

- Summary of evolving messages from the region to enhance understanding of the major achievements, challenges and opportunities in Youth Employment and resilience building.
- Summary of evolving messages from the region to improve understanding between Youth Employment, participation, and sustainable development, thus paving the way for further mainstreaming of youth engagement into development planning and practices and into the Post-2015 Development Agenda setting process.

Technical Equipment & Supports

Projector; screen, Laptop computer to connect Project, microphones, Files, Pens, Flip Chart & Stand, Note pad, paper, Envelopes. Venue, Accommodation for delegates, Visa Waiver, Transportations, Air Tickets for Five Disables from West Africa





Annex: Draft agenda

DAY ONE 19th March, 2013

Session I – Plenary Discussion

Moderator: Mr. Anthony Koroma, Commissioner NYCOM Sierra Leone

10:00-10:10 am Welcoming remarks by **Amb. Paul Lengar** West Africa Regional Director YMDAs

10:10- 10:40 Presentation of the recommendations of the Pre-conference sessions and on Post-2015 the Youth Framework and Development Agenda – Worldview Mission & Restless Development

10.40- 11.45: Open Plenary

11:45- 12:00 Summary of the recommendations and proposals for Post -2015 Youth Framework and Development Agenda

12:00-12:20

Key Note Address: His Excellence the President Republic of Sierra Leone

12:20-12:45 Tea Break

Session II – High Level Panel Discussion

Chair: **Amb. Alhaji Warisay**

(National Coordinator Democracy Sierra Leone DSL)

12:45-12:55 Session objectives and introduction of panel members - Moderator

12:55 -1:55 Panel Discussion.

Panel members will reflect on the recommendations and discuss the ways forward.

- Inter- governmental organization
- Government of Sierra Leone
- Member of parliament -Parliamentarian
- Freetown City Council- Mayor/Local Government Leader
- NGOs – Communities, Civil Society, vulnerable groups
- Private sector representative





1:55-2:20 Lunch Break

2:20-2:45

Session III: Workshop

- Millennium Development Goals
- Thematic Consultations POST-2015 Agenda

Announcement

Closing DAY One

DAY TWO 20th March, 2013

Moderator: Amb. Paul Lengar

(West Africa Regional Director YMDAs)

10:00-10:10 am

- *Goodwill messages from Guests of Honors Ms. Helene Oord, (Founder and Chairperson Worldview Mission Int.) and Dr. Christiana Thorpe*
- *Special award presentation and Commissioning Ceremony by Amb. Chief Justin*
(President Millennium Development Ambassadors)

10:40- 11:45

- *Formal declaration by Dr. Raphael Ogar Oko,*
(International Coordinator, Youth Millennium Development Ambassadors Initiative YMDAs)

11:45- 12:00

Vote of thanks

- *Group Photograph*

12:00-12:30 Tea Break

DAY THREE 21st March, 2013 Site Seeing MDG Local Elementary primary School
Tannihum Village, Moyamba Town Southern Province Sierra Leone 9:30am

