



Submission regarding the Participation of Stakeholders to the UNFCCC Process,

Submitted by the following member organizations of the Youth Constituency:

Clean Energy Nepal (CEN), Energy Crossroad (EC), European Youth Forum (YFJ), Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG), International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY), International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA), International Forestry Student Association (IFSA), Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE), Service Civil International (SCI), SustainUS, UK Youth Climate Coalition (UKYCC), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)*

In its conclusion on Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings¹, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation invited Parties and observers to make submissions to the secretariat, by 16 August 2010, on ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations. The Youth Constituency (YOUNGO) welcomes this opportunity to share its views on this important issue, as well as other processes conducted by the UNFCCC secretariat to review the scope of civil society participation.

The Youth Constituency, recognized provisionally by the UNFCCC secretariat since September 2009, represents the interest of the young generations at the UNFCCC process and is committed to support the parties in achieving the objective of the convention for the sake of all present and future generations.

The present discussion by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation represents a unique opportunity for the parties to the Convention to support the enhancement of the constructive participation of stakeholders in the intergovernmental process.

While we recognise that the Framework Convention is a multilateral process, mandated to work at government level, we also recognise that the UN Charter in its Chapeau refers to 'we, the peoples' as its main target group. Whereas governments represent its people at government level, the different constituencies represent people's stakes at a grass-roots level. The effective participation of stakeholders to this process is therefore key in ensuring its legitimacy, in raising the quality of the discussion and in creating the political momentum necessary to face adequately and equitably the challenge caused by climate change. Effective public participation is also a fundamental principle of good international governance, acknowledged in the Rio Declaration², in Agenda 21³, in the text of the Convention itself⁴ as well as in regional instruments such as the Aarhus Convention.⁵

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¹ FCCC/SBI/2010/L.21

² Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration states: "Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level."

³ See the whole section 3 of Agenda 21 on "Strengthening the Role of the Major Groups".

⁴ UNFCCC Article 4.1(i).

⁵ Article 3.7 of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters provides that "Each Party shall promote the applica-

Specifically the participation of youth and children in environmental or intergenerational decision-making is critical to long-term successes as underscored by several instruments.⁶ Furthermore the participation of civil society to the negotiations plays a fundamental role in supporting the capacity of states lacking the resources to engage in this process on an equal footing as other bigger and wealthier nations.

In order to ensure the broadest and most effective participation, the Youth Constituency calls the Parties to include in the conclusions of the SBI the following points.

1. **Fair and balanced participation of each group of stakeholders** requires consideration being given to relevant factors affecting the participation of each group. Processes and mechanisms for participation should be designed to minimize inequality and facilitate the participation of those constituencies that are most directly affected and might not have the means for participation without encouragement and support.⁷ The parties and the secretariat needs to design mechanisms of participation in order to facilitate the effective participation of those groups which are and will be more affected and lack the resources to participate fully, such as money, steady access to new technology, or the presence of established and formally recognized NGOs in their country.
2. The enhancement of the participation of groups of stakeholders needing particular support could be enhanced by the creation of a **trust-fund** which would attract the necessary resources to enable the participation of young representatives of civil society based outside Annex I countries.⁸
3. While the secretariat is currently reviewing how to deal with the increase of interest of all types of participants and with the related logistical challenges, this phenomenon should be seen as a joint success of the parties, the secretariat and the civil society to increase the political momentum around the process. **Venues** should be chosen in order to accommodate strong representation by all groups of stakeholders in order to maintain this momentum and interest.
4. The **organization of the meetings within each venue**, and in particular in the case of a session hosted in several venues, should be designed in such a way as to enable physical access for civil society representatives to a maximum extent. Civil society activities shall not be separated from the location of the main negotiations and access to the media for NGO delegates shall not be impaired.
5. In parallel to logistical considerations, the issue of the **quality of stakeholder engagement** needs to be considered in order to fully enable their potential to influ-

tion of the principles of this Convention in international environmental decision-making processes and within the framework of international organizations in matters relating to the environment”.

⁶ Chapter 25 of Agenda 21 (mentioned above) as well as Childrens Rights Convention, the World Programme on Action for Youth (A/RES/50/81) as well as the more recent A/RES/64/61 and A/RES/64/61

⁷ UNECE Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums, ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.5, para. 15.

⁸ In it's consideration, the parties could draw upon the example of the trust fund established by the UN Comission on Sustainable Development.

ence positively the outcome of the process and to support parties in achieving the ultimate objective of the convention. At present, civil society participation is often limited to a symbolic level, which infringes the commitments of all parties under the international declaration and agreement referred to above and undermines the legitimacy of the whole process. Options available for civil society to provide information directly to Parties should be maximized while respecting the need for Parties to be isolated from direct civil society contact during negotiating sessions.

6. We welcomed the participation of youth representatives in national delegations by approximately 20 countries at the last Conference of Parties. Indeed, several resolutions⁹ encourage the full participation of young people to all the decisions that affect them. Therefore, the inclusion of official youth delegates is a good way to strengthen the voice and interest of this particular stakeholder. We therefore encourage other Member States to consider being represented by youth representatives on a continuing basis during relevant discussions.
7. Stakeholder Engagement could be enhanced by the participation of representatives from civil society to each of the structure of decision making related to this process. We call the SBI to explore the possibility of including non-voting members of civil society within the respective Bureaux of the convention bodies. The purpose of their participation would be to promote full participation of the major groups in the work of the bodies established under the Framework Convention, facilitate public participation and to provide input and expertise in each relevant stage of the whole process.¹⁰
8. The **nomination process** of delegates by observer organizations to the sessions of the bodies established under the convention needs to allow for adequate flexibility and predictability in order to guarantee strong representation of each of the groups of stakeholders. Late notices and short timeframes affect more particularly those groups with less resources and capacity. The same principles should be applied to the nomination processes to the workshops organized on specific themes by constituencies. We commend the work done by the secretariat to set up a more effective online nomination process. The ongoing dialogue on this issue between the secretariat and representatives from the civil society needs to continue in order to regularly assess the effectiveness of the registration and nomination processes and to adjust to new issues.¹¹
9. Negotiations should be organized in a more **transparent environment**. We welcome the timely access to document being granted to observers. However the

9 See UNGA resolutions 52/83, 54/120, 56/117, 58/133, 59/148, 60/2, 62/126 and 64/130

10 Several examples exist across the UN system: the policy bureau of UNAIDS, the Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

11 At present, the UNFCCC secretariat strictly prohibits any contestation of the activities of the World Bank Group. However, the World Bank Group is a clear implementing actor within the regime, given the considerable economic support that it currently provides for projects contributing to climate change and its participation to the mechanisms developed under the Kyoto Protocol. Furthermore, the World Bank Group is also a key normative actor on the issues related to institutional arrangement for financial transfer. We therefore consider it opportune to submit the World Bank Group to the same scrutiny and accountability as we submit to the other parties to the convention. However, the restrictions imposed by the secretariat prevent civil society representatives from expressing both their positive or negative views on this matter.

UNFCCC process has evolved in the practice of closing most relevant meetings to civil society delegates. Such a practice can take place only when informal consultations are needed and on an exceptional basis rather than as default practice. A greater transparency would strengthen the legitimacy of the process.

10. Opportunities for representatives from relevant and affected stakeholders to **intervene and provide input** to the negotiations process needs to be enhanced in order to make participation more effective. The channels for the submission of views and for the delivery of interventions need to allow for more flexibility in order to adjust to the pace and reality of the negotiation process. Thus stakeholders could bring additional expertise and support the discussions of the parties with view to reaching agreements to achieve the objective of the convention.
11. **Manifestations** constitute a constructive channel of communication and information and they have until now contributed to highlight when the position of relevant actors endangers the achievement of the objective of the convention. We reiterate our commitment to non-violence and the respect of all participants to the sessions of the UNFCCC. We call the parties to create a true space for democratic expression. At present, the use of manifestations is restricted in relation to the content of their messages, The UNFCCC secretariat deciding on the type of messages that will be authorized in manifestations.¹² These restrictions should be abandoned and a dialogue should take place between the secretariat and representatives of the observer organizations in order to define guidelines that respects the freedom of expression of delegates while ensuring that offending messages and personal attacks are still prohibited within the UN premises and that respect for other participants social, cultural, religious or other opinions is maintained. Additional subjective restrictions, such as the prohibition of handling directly documents to delegates in the frame of an action, should also be abandoned.
12. Processes aiming at **defining rules related to the participation of observer organizations** in and between meetings shall be fully inclusive and transparent and based on cooperation with representatives of the stakeholders in order to design the most adequate and effective rules framing the scope of stakeholder engagement. Relevant documents such as terms of references of external contractors hired in this context should be made available to the public.
13. In exceptional cases, when **restriction of access** for accredited delegates are imposed, any such restriction shall be designed in such a way so as to minimize their impact on the quality of the participation of civil society. Such restrictions shall be communicated. Such restrictions shall be decided upon objective criteria and communicated to stakeholders in a transparent and timely manner.
14. Effective participation of civil society is conditioned by the **capacity of the Secretariat** to deal with this matter. Parties need to increase funding allocated to the facilitation of the participation of civil society in order to ensure that the secretariat has sufficient staff and resources necessary to ensure the full implementation of the previous measures.
15. Finally, the youth constituency refers the parties to the suggestions of the report drafted by the UNFCCC secretariat in consultation with parties and representatives

12 http://unfccc.int/files/cc_inet/information_pool/application/pdf/unfccc_youthparticipation.pdf

from civil society in Spring 2010. A version of the report has been published under the title "*Youth participation in the UNFCCC Negotiation Process: The United Nations, Young People and Climate Change*" and the relevant section is reproduced in Annex 2 of this submission.

Annex 1

Executive Summary of the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations–Civil Society Relations

Executive summary

Public opinion has become a key factor influencing intergovernmental and governmental policies and actions. The involvement of a diverse range of actors, including those from civil society and the private sector, as well as local authorities and parliamentarians, is not only essential for effective action on global priorities but is also a protection against further erosion of multilateralism. This presents an opportunity as well as a challenge to the United Nations: the opportunity to harness new capacities and diverse experience to address some of the most exacting challenges the world faces today and the challenge of balancing its unique intergovernmental characteristic with being open to work with new actors in a profound way.

Over the years, the relationship of the United Nations to civil society has strengthened and multiplied. The Secretary-General's personal leadership has been a major factor in this development. However, at the same time difficulties and tensions have arisen, particularly in deliberative processes. Governments do not always welcome sharing what has traditionally been their preserve. Many increasingly challenge the numbers and motives of civil society organizations in the United Nations — questioning their representivity, legitimacy, integrity or accountability. Developing country Governments sometimes regard civil society organizations as pushing a "Northern agenda" through the back door. At the same time, many in civil society are becoming frustrated; they can speak in the United Nations but feel they are not heard and that their participation has little impact on outcomes.

Mindful of both the immense strengths of civil society and the stones in the road, the Secretary-General made clear that improving United Nations–civil society relations was an important element of his reform agenda, set out in his 2002 report on further reforms (A/57/387 and Corr.1). In February 2003, he established the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations–Civil Society Relations, chaired by Fernando Henrique Cardoso. The Panel agreed at the outset that its advice should be informed by the experience of those who have sought to engage with the United Nations, on either policy or operational matters, and whether at the country, regional or global level. Hence it consulted extensively — through meetings, workshops, focus groups and via its web site.

Global context

The Panel was clear that, to be effective in its work, it had to start by analysing major global changes and challenges that affect the United Nations and multilateralism insofar as they might affect the Organization's relations with civil society and others. It is clear that the question is not How would the United Nations like to change? but Given how the world has changed, how must the United Nations evolve its civil society relations to become fully effective and remain fully relevant? Globalization, the increasing porosity of national borders, new communication technologies, the increasing power of civil society and public opinion, mounting dissatisfaction with traditional institutions of democracy, the imperative of decentralization and other factors have enormous implications for global governance:

- Concerning democracy, a clear paradox is emerging: while the substance of politics is fast globalizing (in the areas of trade, economics, environment, pandemics, terrorism, etc.), the process of politics is not; its principal institutions (elections, political parties and parliaments) remain firmly rooted at the national or local level. The weak influence of traditional democracy in

matters of global governance is one reason why citizens in much of the world are urging greater democratic accountability of international organizations.

- Concerning the roles of civil society in governance, citizens increasingly act politically by participating directly, through civil society mechanisms, in policy debates that particularly interest them. This constitutes a broadening from representative to participatory democracy. Traditional democracy aggregates citizens by communities of neighbourhood (their electoral districts), but in participatory democracy citizens aggregate in communities of interest. And, thanks to modern information and communication technologies, these communities of interest can be global as readily as local.
- Concerning multilateralism, the way the multilateral agenda is shaped has changed. Previously, Governments would come together to discuss a new issue until there was a sufficient consensus for an intergovernmental resolution, which then led to action by Governments and intergovernmental organizations. Today it is increasingly likely that a civil society movement and a crescendo of public opinion will bring a new issue to global attention and that initial action on new issues will be taken through multi-constituency coalitions of Governments, civil society and others. Increasingly, multilateralism includes ongoing processes of public debate, policy dialogue and pioneering action to tackle emerging challenges.

Why strengthen United Nations–civil society engagement?

The most powerful case for reaching out beyond its constituency of central Governments and enhancing dialogue and cooperation with civil society is that doing so will make the United Nations more effective. Because of the features of global change described above and the attributes of many civil society organizations, an enhanced engagement could help the United Nations do a better job, further its global goals, become more attuned and responsive to citizens' concerns and enlist greater public support. There are trade-offs, however. The unique role of the United Nations as an intergovernmental forum is vitally important and must be protected at all costs. But today's challenges require the United Nations to be more than just an intergovernmental forum; it must engage others too. To do so risks putting more pressure on the Organization's meeting rooms and agendas, which are becoming ever more crowded; this calls for more selective and not just increased engagement.

Paradigm shifts

The Panel consolidated its contextual analysis into four main principles — or paradigms — on which the set of reforms it proposes is based:

- Become an outward-looking organization. The changing nature of multilateralism to mean multiple constituencies entails the United Nations giving more emphasis to convening and facilitating rather than “doing” and putting the issues, not the institution, at the centre.
- Embrace a plurality of constituencies. Many actors may be relevant to an issue, and new partnerships are needed to tackle global challenges.
- Connect the local with the global. The deliberative and operational spheres of the United Nations are separated by a wide gulf, which hampers both in all areas from development to security. A closer two-way connection between them is imperative so that local operational work truly helps to realize the global goals and that global deliberations are informed by local reality. Civil society is vital for both directions. Hence the country level should be the starting point for engagement in both the operational and deliberative processes.
- Help strengthen democracy for the twenty-first century. The United Nations should accept a more explicit role in strengthening global governance

and tackling the democratic deficits it is prone to, emphasizing participatory democracy and deeper accountability of institutions to the global public.

The following are the proposed reform areas, building on these principles. Civil society is now so vital to the United Nations that engaging with it well is a necessity, not an option. It must also engage with others, including the private sector, parliaments and local authorities. When, as is often the case, messages relate to all these actors, the broader term “constituencies” is used. Some of the reforms proposed are measures the Secretary-General could act upon on his own authority; other measures require intergovernmental approval.

Convening role of the United Nations: fostering multi-constituency processes

The convening power and moral authority of the United Nations enable it to bring often conflicting parties together to tackle global problems. Nowadays, non-State actors are often prime movers — as with issues of gender, climate change, debt, landmines and AIDS. The first step is often the creation of global policy networks (of Governments and others who share specific concerns) to promote global debate and/or to pilot activities to combat the problem directly. The United Nations has to date often played a weak role in such innovations. Since this mode is clearly becoming a major aspect of multilateralism, the United Nations must learn the skills and be more proactive, bringing together all constituencies relevant to global issues and galvanizing appropriate networks for effective results. This entails innovation in global governance and tailoring forums to the task at hand. The General Assembly should include civil society organizations more regularly in its affairs, since it no longer makes sense to restrict their involvement in the intergovernmental process to the Economic and Social Council. Big global conferences can still play an important role if used sparingly to establish global norms. More modest public hearings, also involving the full range of relevant constituencies, could be more appropriate tools for reviewing progress on agreed global goals.

Investing more in partnerships

The Panel strongly affirms multi-stakeholder partnerships for tackling both operational and policy challenges. This is not a new idea; some of today’s most important global advances emanate from partnerships, and their scale and breadth are growing. Although they are no panacea, the United Nations should invest much more systematically in convening and incubating them wherever the capacities of diverse actors are needed and in making them more sincere ventures. They must be viewed as “partnerships to achieve global goals” not “United Nations partnerships”, decentralized to relevant country and technical units and driven by needs, not funding opportunities. To advance this goal necessitates innovations and resources at both the country and global levels.

Focusing on the country level

Priority should be placed on engagement at the country level. This could enhance the contributions of civil society organizations and others to country strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other United Nations goals, and level the playing field between civil society organizations from North and South. This would strengthen operations, tailor them to local needs and enable ground-level realities to inform the Organization’s norm-setting process. Although the rhetoric already emphasizes such an approach, the reality is often quite different. United Nations Development Group agencies may involve civil society organizations in implementation but often not in strategic planning, and weak information-sharing may hamper the formation of strong partnerships. The Panel’s proposals entail strengthening the capacity of resident coordinators and other United Nations staff to maximize partnership opportunities and better prioritize their relations with all constituencies. This is vital for the world’s poor and for the credibility of the United Nations, which rests on demonstrating progress with the Millennium Development Goals.

Strengthening the Security Council

The Security Council has greatly benefited of late from expanded dialogue with civil society. The nature of modern conflicts makes it more important to understand their social origins and consequences. Much interaction focuses on international non-governmental organizations. Security Council members, with support from the Secretariat, should deepen this dialogue by emphasizing the involvement of participants from conflict-affected countries and including such dialogue in Security Council field missions. The United Nations could learn much by conducting commissions of inquiry after Council-mandated operations, to draw, inter alia, on the experience of civil society organizations.

Engaging with elected representatives

More systematic engagement of parliamentarians, national parliaments and local authorities in the United Nations would strengthen global governance, confront democratic deficits in intergovernmental affairs, buttress representational democracy and connect the United Nations better with global opinion. The Panel's proposals are designed to encourage national parliaments to give more attention to United Nations matters, to evolve more appropriate engagement for those members of Parliament who come to United Nations events and to link national parliaments more directly with the international deliberative process, particularly by experimenting with global equivalents of parliamentary select committees.

In an era when decentralization is shaping the political landscape as powerfully as globalization, it is also important for the United Nations to find deeper and more systematic ways to engage with elected representatives and authorities at the local level. They and their international networks are increasingly helping the United Nations to identify local priorities, implement solutions and build closer connections with citizens. The Secretariat should engage this constituency more, and the United Nations could promote mechanisms of decentralization and discussion of principles of local autonomy.

Tackling accreditation and access issues

Although the Panel emphasizes new forums tailored to specific needs, traditional modes of engagement — such as the accreditation of civil society organizations with defined participation rights in United Nations forums — remain important. But today this process is overly politicized, expensive and can present a barrier, especially for developing country civil society organizations, hence major reforms are proposed to emphasize technical merit. The Panel proposes joining all existing United Nations accreditation processes into a single mechanism under the authority of the General Assembly (if it is agreed to extend civil society engagement to this forum). It further proposes establishing a more thorough initial Secretariat review of applications, lessening the prominence of intergovernmental review, which tends to overpoliticize the accreditation process. Member States would retain a final say on which applicants are accredited and would also define the criteria by which applicants would be assessed. By drawing on the growing knowledge about civil society organizations that exists throughout the United Nations system (and perhaps beyond it), the Secretariat would be well-placed to advise Member States on which applicants met such criteria and which did not. The Panel suggests that by reducing the time demands of intergovernmental deliberation on applications, an existing committee of the General Assembly (perhaps the General Committee) could assume this role alongside their normal functions, discussing applications only when some Member States disagree with the proposals.

Accreditation should be seen as a cooperative agreement entailing rights and responsibilities; hence measures are also suggested that could help enhance the quality of civil society contributions, especially by encouraging self-governance and self-organizing processes within civil society networks.

Determining what the proposals mean for staff, resources and management

The Panel suggests what would be needed in terms of the skills mix, financial resources, training, management and changes to the institutional culture of the United Nations in order to achieve the reforms it proposes. It suggests in particular the creation of a new high-level position in the office of the Secretary-General to help lead and manage the change process, perhaps also assuming line management responsibility for some of the units at the front line of dialogue, partnership development and engagement with different constituencies. There should be a strong emphasis on levelling the playing field between Northern and Southern civil society, for which the Panel suggests establishing a special fund to enhance Southern civil society capacity to engage in United Nations deliberative processes, operations and partnerships.

The overall strategy would have considerable resource implications, but amounting to less than 1 per cent of the operating budget of the United Nations, most of which could be found from potential savings identified by the Panel and from donor contributions.

Providing global leadership

The United Nations should use its moral leadership to urge coordinated approaches to civil society, to encourage Governments to provide a more enabling and cooperative environment for civil society and to foster debate about reforms of global governance, including deeper roles for civil society. This should emphasize principles of constituency engagement, partnership, transparency and inclusion, with a special emphasis on those who are normally underrepresented.

Future of multilateralism

Multilateralism faces many threats and challenges; it must address new global priorities while facing the erosion of power and resources. The Panel affirms the importance of multilateralism and so is pleased to make this contribution, since civil society can help the United Nations to redress those threats. The Panel is also aware of various commissions and panels on other topics, and ends with some messages that it believes are applicable to them all.

Panels have some features in common with global conferences — albeit on a much smaller scale. They can serve a useful purpose, providing they are publicly respected. This depends on their inclusiveness, the realism and courage of their proposals and the degree to which their proposals are acted upon.

Our starting paradigms also apply to the other panels and are the foundation for the continued relevance of the United Nations: (a) multilateralism no longer concerns Governments alone but is now multifaceted, involving many constituencies; the United Nations must develop new skills to service this new way of working; (b) it must become an outward-looking or network organization, catalysing the relationships needed to get strong results and not letting the traditions of its formal processes be barriers; (c) it must strengthen global governance by advocating universality, inclusion, participation and accountability at all levels; and (d) it must engage more systematically with world public opinion to become more responsive, to help shape public attitudes and to bolster support for multilateralism.

Annex 2

Youth participation in the UNFCCC Negotiation Process: The United Nations, Young People and Climate Change

The way forward: enhanced youth participation in the UNFCCC process

Based on a series of interviews with government delegates, United Nations officials, representatives of NGOs and with young people themselves, the following suggestions are developed as a way forward to enhance youth participation in the UNFCCC negotiations. They are presented on a short-, medium- and long-term basis and could be adopted by governments, the United Nations family, NGOs and young people in their efforts to promote and facilitate youth participation in the UNFCCC negotiations.

Short term:

A. Schedule plenary interventions earlier in each session of the UNFCCC constituted bodies: As noted by some Parties, a greater number of government delegates will be able to take youth interventions into consideration if these statements are made at the beginning of the sessions.

B. Allow YOUNGO to make statements in contact groups open to NGOs, when appropriate: Chairs of negotiation groups could allow YOUNGO representatives to provide inputs throughout the meeting, if possible, to address the issues at hand and thereby avoid general references to procedural issues.

C. Regularly schedule informal meetings between YOUNGO representatives and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary and members of the Bureau of the COP/CMP and of its subsidiary bodies: Young people have recognized that informal meetings allow them to gain a better understanding of the status of the negotiations, plan their activities accordingly, and provide timely input in a constructive manner.

D. Organize briefings and informal meetings for YOUNGO representatives with key negotiators during UNFCCC meetings: During such briefings, invited negotiators could make short interventions on the status of the negotiations. This would be followed by questions from young people. Informal briefings could provide YOUNGO representatives the opportunity to openly share points of view with negotiators. These meetings could also leverage existing video conferencing technologies and foster participation by young people not present at the sessions.

E. Liaise with YOUNGO representatives about logistical issues that may limit their effective participation at UNFCCC meetings: Access to venues holding UNFCCC sessions may be limited due to space constraints tied to the increasing number of participants at these events. During interviews, young people requested that specific steps be taken to address logistical issues at future meetings. It would be pertinent to help them plan strategies to effectively and constructively participate at UNFCCC negotiations.

F. Ensure continued logistical support from the secretariat at UNFCCC meetings, including office space and an identifiable area in the exhibit hall: It was noted how well this worked for the first time at COP 15/CMP 5, especially as young people were able to create a youth arcade.

G. Increase the number of official youth delegates in government delegations to UNFCCC meetings and establish guidelines for their participation: Having official youth delegates in government delegations promotes communication and mutual understanding between negotiators and youth civil society participants. Official youth delegates facilitate communication flow as well as understanding of respective positions, roles, and constraints between government negotiators and civil society actors. Governments also stated the need for guidelines that could help them identify and recruit official youth delegates.

H. Provide funds to support attendance by young people at UNFCCC meetings, including intersessionals and regional workshops, without affecting the level of support for eligible Parties: Youth and other groups have often cited lack of funds as the main impediment to their participation at UNFCCC meetings. The support of the Government of the Netherlands for youth activities at COP 15/CMP 5 demonstrated that targeted funds for youth participation can increase the quality and impact of youth activities as outlined in previous sections.

Medium-term:

A. Hold multi-stakeholder forums, roundtables and/or civil society hearings prior to UNFCCC meetings: Multi-stakeholder forums can range from short meetings to long-term processes that can take months to implement. Scope of the activities would have to be determined keeping in mind time constraints. Roundtables provide a forum to encourage high quality discussion, which are directly linked to the negotiation process. However, skilled facilitation and reporting is required to guarantee effective participation by stakeholders. Civil society hearings could differ in format, but tend to last between 1-3 hours and allow participants between 2-3 minutes for each statement. The content of the discussions is usually recorded in written summaries and/or could be captured via webcast. The outcomes of these hearings could be included in the official documentation of the appropriate body (i.e. Subsidiary Body on Implementation or COP/CMP).

B. Enhance existing clearing house systems such as the Climate Change Information Network (CC:iNet)¹³ to support information sharing, networking and collaboration by youth participating in the UNFCCC negotiation process: The resources offered by CC:iNet could be utilized to support the work of young people by retaining institutional memory, sharing information among them, and interacting with government officials on an on-going basis.

C. Provide technical support for the preparation of, and follow-up to, youth activities at UNFCCC meetings: Youth, especially from developing countries, have stated that their ability to provide technical input on specific issues is sometimes hindered by lack of resources and access to negotiators in their countries. By receiving technical support related to climate change, such as access to latest scientific findings and up-to-date policy research analysis, youth will be able to provide more constructive and targeted input into the negotiation process.

D. Provide timely and accurate information on the status of the negotiations through daily NGO briefings with the secretariat staff: Young people have identified the need for timely and accurate information during the proceedings of UNFCCC meetings as essential to their ability to effectively participate in the negotiation process. Other forums such as the UN CSD have already established similar practices.

Long-term:

A. Hold a special session with youth participation during high-level segments of the meetings of the COP/CMP: Given the increasing importance of climate change issues, special activities may be required in the long term as a way to provide youth with the opportunity to effectively participate at high-level segments of the sessions of the COP/CMP.

B. Establish a process to review the effectiveness of youth participation in the UNFCCC negotiations: The secretariat could be requested to regularly review actions taken by governments, the United Nations system, NGOs and young people to promote youth participation in the UNFCCC negotiations.

C. Create a trust fund to support youth activities in preparation of, during and following UNFCCC meetings: The Convention on Biological Diversity currently holds a general voluntary trust fund to support the work of indigenous peoples and local communities to facilitate their participation at meetings of its COP. Such arrangement could be adapted to support the work of youth within the UNFCCC negotiation process.