

**PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL**  
*and*  
**The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco**  
*- empowering young people -*



Maroc 2003 Logo

# CASABLANCA DECLARATION

*- Mobilising young people to support the achievement of Sustainable  
Development and the Millennium Development Goals -*

Drafted and agreed as a  
**WORK IN PROGRESS**  
by delegates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of Youth,  
Casablanca, Morocco,

*August 16 - 28, 2003*

under the High Patronage of His Majesty, King Mohammed VI

© August 30th 2003 - Peace Child International / Forum des Jeunes Marocains

**Secretariat for the World Congress of Youth:**

Peace Child International

The White House, BUNTINGFORD, Herts, England SG9 9AH  
International Fax: +44 176 327 4460; International Phone: +44 176 327 4459;  
e-mail: david@peacechild.org; website: www.peacechild.org

# CASABLANCA DECLARATION

*The 2nd World Youth Congress was held in Casablanca, Morocco from August 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2003. 802 delegates from 126 countries attended. In regional groups, they discussed the implications of the Millennium Development Goals for young people and elected two individuals to the Casablanca Declaration Drafting Group to carry forward their concerns and ideas. This group met from 19- 24 August and produced a First Draft of the Declaration. This was discussed and amendments were drafted in Regional Groups. The Amendments were put to a Congress Plenary on Tuesday 26th August. The Final Text was passed by a meeting of country representatives on the last Day of the Congress, Thursday 28th August and presented to a representative of His Majesty, King Mohammed VI at the Closing Plenary.*

*One of the amendments the Congress passed in the plenary removed the original Youth-led Action sections. They felt that a closed list of existing projects weakened the declaration. Rather, they felt that the declaration should be a continuously expanding, dynamic, 'work-in-progress' rather than a "Final Document." Thus the Declaration is posted on the Peace Child website where the webmaster receives and adds appropriate examples of Youth-led Actions to each chapter of the Declaration. On the website, if you click on any of the projects listed, a full explanation of the project, usually with photographs, is accessed.*

*In this way, the Casablanca Declaration is becoming an educational and inspirational document to mobilise young people to take action to support their governments and the UN achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. This draft includes additions up to October 31st 2003.*

## **PREAMBLE:**

- We being the World Youth Congress, 802 delegates from 126 countries, gathered here in Casablanca, Morocco, without distinction of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation or political conviction, unified in our diversity:
- *Recall* with gratitude the words of His Majesty, King Mohammed VI of Morocco, to this Congress, saying that "Your preoccupations are also mine." We offer him, his government and his people our deepest thanks for the chance to participate in this excellent World Congress of Youth in Morocco and commend the Moroccan Youth Forum and Peace Child International for facilitating this Congress.
- *Recall* with gratitude the support and encouragement given to this Congress by UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, UNICEF Director, Carol Bellamy, UNESCO Director, Koichi Matsuura, the Islamic Conference Organisation Secretary General, Abdulouahed Belkaziz, World Bank President, James Wolfenson and President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi who said: "Youth now knows how to tackle the planet's problems and can muster all the knowledge and the passion to solve them..."
- *Encourage* all governments to follow the example established here by the World Youth Congress in Morocco, in actively promoting and nurturing Youth forums, councils and networks.
- *Insist* that no human or socio-economic development can be sustainable without genuine consideration for the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10.12.48) or for good governance, democracy and human dignity.
- *Recall* that Agenda 21 in Chapter 25 outlined extensive plans for youth and children to participate in decision-making processes related to sustainable development.
- *Recall* that the World Programme of Action for Youth through the year 2000 and beyond, agreed by the UN General Assembly in November 1995, created a comprehensive plan for youth development and called in Section IV J, "Priority Areas" for the "full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making."
- *Strongly uphold and applaud* the spirit of the young people who, at International Youth Conferences in the last decades, have formulated powerful appeals to governments to include young people in decision-making. In particular, we applaud the words of the Youth Caucus to the World Summit for Sustainable Development, calling on governments to recognise that

"young people are a resource, not a problem."

- *Recall* the Millennium Young People's Congress, meeting in Hawaii in October 1999, which mandated the setting up of the Be the Change! sustainable development action scheme to fund youth-led projects in the world's least-developed countries, and congratulates the young people who have already completed over fifty projects, during the Congress in Morocco.
- *Understand* the importance of engagement and dialogue between civilisations and cultures, for the abolition of all forms of violence, and intolerance.
- *Believe* that Youth participation in conflict prevention and resolution will bring sustainable peace and stability in the world.
- *Believe* that it is now imperative to mobilise the world's young people and involve them in decision-making processes, in order to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals.
- At the core of our declaration we the youth want to emphasise the need for a shift in consciousness that realises the interconnectedness that exists between all aspects of life. This shift in consciousness should underlie every action and decision made on behalf of our global community.

*We hereby declare:*

## THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### I. POVERTY:

Poverty is the greatest underlying cause of death, disease and environmental destruction. We endorse the goal of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015, but insist that our generation go further and eradicate poverty completely. We must also seek to bridge the gulf between the rich and the poor. Young people must play a vital role in these undertakings as poverty and its terrible consequences will be our inheritance.

#### **Priorities:**

- Education: The Millennium Young People's Congress in 1999 concluded that education was its top priority. We share the view that education, both basic literacy and skills-based education, is a pivotal issue in poverty eradication, as knowledge empowers people. In this spirit we deem it necessary to extend free education for girls and boys at all levels. Youth volunteer agencies also need to network and work towards a World Youth Corps that would facilitate a two-way exchange of young people South to North, in addition to North to South.
- Population: Reduce population growth in LEDCs which threaten poverty reduction and place an alarming strain on already limited natural resources especially in urban areas. Sexual education must be equally available to everyone.
- Gender Equality: Empowerment of women reaches all sectors of society. Legal and fiscal measures need to be introduced to enable both men and women to manage more income-generating projects.
- Rural issues: 75% of the world's poorest people live in rural areas. Their quality of life must be improved, and incentives given to inhabitants of these areas to enable them to have full and productive lives without having to migrate to already overpopulated urban areas.
- Infrastructure: LEDCs urgently need the road networks to be efficient, reliant and effective communication systems, the plumbing and drainage systems to work, and electricity supply to be consistent. All construction needs to be planned and monitored thereafter to achieve sustainable economic development. This will help achieve the MDG to improve the lives of 100 million living in slums and peripheries.
- Armed Conflict: war remains one of the biggest obstacle to poverty eradication in many regions. It destroys social amenities such as schools, health and recreational facilities. Conflict arises for many reasons – because of poverty, corruption, inequalities, human rights abuse and oppression lack of democracy and intolerance. All are exacerbated by fear caused by a lack of

understanding. So young people must build networks around the world, share knowledge and experience, and promote our joint capacity to develop constructive understanding and eliminate the root causes of war in our societies. Young people must refuse to be enrolled in armed conflict.

- **Dependency:** Both LEDCS and MEDCS have a responsibility to work together to end the dependency of LEDCs on MEDCs. Collaboration between LEDC's, cooperation between MEDC's and LEDC's to improve trade and implement fair trade markets, can end the dependency on donors. We must also, with haste, cancel or renegotiate all unpayable external debt.
- **Food Security:** Food security for all is essential to poverty eradication and must be realised by 2015. An end to food subsidies in MEDCs, stronger trade links, and solidarity amongst countries, must be achieved. Emergency food supplies must be available to all whenever the need arises through flood, drought, famine or natural disaster. Better distribution of food needs to be organised. Quality food free of pesticides and genetic modification needs to be available.
- **Irrigation:** It is imperative to find methods of sustainable irrigation as the world becomes more and more arid due to deforestation, desertification and the natural geography of areas.
- **Corruption:** Young people have an important role in resisting and combating corruption at every level of society. Government and society need to replace the deeply ingrained culture of corruption with a culture of transparency and punish those who resort to corrupt practices.
- **Minorities:** Realising that minorities and indigenous/traditional peoples often are the most economically oppressed and socially excluded, demand that their human rights be respected and their cultural heritage valued.
- **Exploitative Child Labour:** Move towards eradicating child labour by educating parents, providing income incentives and economic empowerment for low-income families, and refusing to buy any articles produced by the corporations which employ children.
- **Street Children:** All children and youth are entitled to a stable living environment. Children living in the street should receive rehabilitation according to personal need, and professional assistance in their reintroduction into society.

### **YOUTH-LED ACTION:**

- ♥ Sierra Leone: refurbishment of toilets and sewage system of Mandela camp for internally displaced people. Youth team take initiative to construct toilets and link them to mains sewage;
- ♥ Nigeria: young people build solid concrete steps for access to a slum area in river basin where women are always falling down the muddy slope. Small action but extremely helpful.
- ♥ Peru: Blooming Colibri: Young girl starts initiative to improve walk-in centre for street children with showers and batik/T-shirt machinery. T-shirts now sold to partner groups in Scotland and the Netherlands who have raised funds sufficient to restore rural Hacienda where former street children now farm, and run eco-tourism holidays.
- ♥ Congo: IT Training Centre, Bukavu: one of many hundreds of youth-led ventures to set up IT training facilities in LDCs. Helps unemployed get jobs and see opportunities to market their skills and products on the Internet. Long-term way to eradicate poverty;
- ♥ South Africa: fruit and vegetable garden, Katlahong: slum children have poor diets so a group set up a garden outside their school. Most of the produce goes to the young farmers, but some left overs go to the market and proceeds are used for school improvement.
- ♥ Africa/S.Asia: many examples of youth-led chicken, fish and honey farm initiatives. Simple to develop and they provide income + nutritious food for youth involved.
- ♥ Zimbabwe: SODA - old people's home refurbishment: students passed an old people's home daily on their way to school. The old people never moved and looked so sad. The students re-painted their rooms, planted a garden - and showed they cared.

## **II. UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR ALL (EFA):**

Education is essential in reducing world poverty and fostering a more equitable, peaceful

and sustainable future. Quality and relevant education and knowledge are important foundations from which to combat unemployment, bad public health systems, environmental degradation, corruption, lack of transparency and poor communication. We insist that governments live up to the Dakar Final Declaration and this MDG to ensure that Free Universal Primary Education for All be achieved by 2015.

### **Priorities:**

- **Ending Illiteracy:** We support the goals of the UN Literacy Decade. Poverty is often the chief cause of illiteracy. We commend existing schemes of informal and non-formal education. They need to be expanded to reach rural girls and boys with out schools. We also need to create educational centres and literacy programmes for adults, and encourage free access.
- **Teacher Training:** The training of staff teachers, specialists and programme directors, is vital to achieve a high level of professional expertise and quality education. Re-enforce education systems capacities and accessibility by quality and availability of infrastructures and facilities, programmes and teacher formation.
- **Relevant and Practical Education:** More opportunities for experiential and service learning need to be introduced. Community involvement should also be recognised as an educational experience, and as a component of our curriculum. Quality education must be relevant to the timeframe and setting. All youth must receive fair and equal educational opportunities regardless of their additional support needs, whether this is due to learning, mental or physical disabilities.
- **Human Rights Education:** It is essential that youth be educated in human rights and responsibilities as part of their learning about citizenship, government and policy-making.
- **Flexi-time Schools:** There needs to be greater recognition and implementation of flexible education systems with timetables that cater for young people in the workforce and also be flexible for allowing time for non-formal educational activities, cultural interventions and projects.
- **Scholarships Based on Merit and Need:** We seek the creation of special scholarships based on academic and non-academic merit and an opening up of all levels of education to make possible the completion of a full course of education through higher education for as many students as possible.
- **Education on Sustainable Development:** We support the UN initiative for a Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and insist that young people play a role in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, on all levels of its strategy, to ensure that young people, throughout the world, come to learn the disciplines and importance of sustainable lifestyles.
- **Communication:** We believe it is important to recognise and to involve youth in the educational role of the media, especially in sustainable development.
- **Holistic Approach:** We need to restructure our views of education to include a holistic and cross-cultural approach that emphasises empowerment and lifelong intergenerational learning. Academic and cultural exchange networks should be devised to promote international understanding between youths.

### **YOUTH-LED ACTION:**

- ♥ South India - Gudahatti Dalit village Human Rights education project: volunteers started tutorial classes for Dalit children who had never been in school; they also spread awareness on Human Rights and the dangers of Alcohol abuse by street theatre;
- ♥ Thathguni Village School Improvement project: 400 students crammed in a school built for 250; 2 x students get volunteers to build a roof over a courtyard to create extra teaching space. This inspired a local company to donate a computer and train teachers how to teach the use of them.
- ♥ Binny Mills School: Nagarathna and her friend Lakshmi, both 13 and the children of street sweepers, transform their school by setting up a school council, and taking charge of a school

- improvement programme that include total re-painting, new toilets, library and science lab.
- ♥ Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Azerbaijan: Refugee schools. Many many examples of young people living in refugee camps setting up their own schools to teach literacy and basic skills to their younger siblings. Also, libraries set up, IT facilities;
- ♥ Each-one-teach-one: A scheme whereby each child who learns to read has to pass on his/her skill to another before they can graduate;

### III. GENDER EQUALITY AND POPULATION ISSUES:

We want to found the basis of a society that empowers and respects women and gives them opportunity. Recognising that gender refers to both male and female, more needs to be done on the part of both genders to reach an understanding of each individuals role. It has been consistently proven that giving women more economic opportunities, like business training and access to micro-credit, is one of the fastest ways to economic growth and population stabilisation.

#### Priorities:

- Education: To educate all women and men in basic literacy, health, sexual education and family planning issues.
- Dignity: To create a society where women have respect, dignity and an equal legal status; where there are means for women who are victims of aggression, crimes and domestic violence may be helped and interviewed at special centres.
- Inheritance Laws: Women must also be enabled to inherit land and other property legally.
- Protection from the Sex Industry: As a matter of urgency, children and youth need to be given greater international legal protection from the sex industry. Human trafficking, tantamount to a slave trade, must be combated at all sides.
- Women's Human Rights: We urge communities to be similarly progressive in their approach towards allowing women the freedom to act and react to situations and decisions directly affecting their person, according to their personal beliefs. We wish to show solidarity for those coming forward to find alternative rites of passage to replace female genital mutilation.
- Support: Establish more walk-in centres for the victims of sex and other crimes of violence staffed by young women who can help their peers who have suffered these attacks.
- HIV/AIDs Prevention: We recognise that women are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDs and that 58% of HIV/AIDs infections in Africa are women. We must do all that we can to immediately help with the appropriate sexual education of young people and the provision of free contraceptive means and tools to fight the spread of HIV/AIDs.
- Women in Civil Society: We salute young women coming forward to help rebuild countries affected by conflict, and seek the realisation of the vital role that women have to play in creating a strong civil society by starting and being active within organisations.
- Sustainable Development: We urge more education for women on sustainable development as young women in LEDCs manage resources in the home, such as water, food and energy.
- Upward Mobility and Equal Pay: Equal pay for equal work, fair treatment and upward mobility, must be must available for all women. We urge women to take on and be promoted in more decision-making positions in government and corporations according to their expertise.
- Business Starts: We seek facilities to help young women, especially indigenous women, to access education, mentors and finance to enable them to help each other and start small businesses.
- We repeat: Empowerment of women is the key to poverty reduction, population stabilisation and, most importantly, the health and dignity of half the population. It remains a top priority.

#### YOUTH-LED ACTION:

- ♥ Pakistan: 12-13 year old girls teach their peers to literacy and numeracy skills through setting up schools in their parents front rooms. Parents who resist their daughters going to school are told that they are only going round to 'play'! The scheme, supported by the World Bank,

gets many hundreds of girl children educated.

#### **IV. HEALTH AND WELLNESS:**

Two MDGs address specific health goals – under five and maternal mortality. Together these goals reflect the unequal situation of healthcare in our world. Currently, 2.4 billion people lack basic sanitation, 1 billion people live without clean water, and thousands of rural dwellers lack access to primary health care owing to issues of infrastructure, cost and availability of medical expertise. Malnutrition in the developing world causes 55% of the deaths of children under five. It also impedes the proper physical development of children in developing countries. In the developed world, malnourishment due to eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia, and obesity due to unhealthy eating habits, has largely been ignored. Health extends beyond treatment of symptoms and emphasis must be placed on wellness, healthy lifestyles and nutrition.

##### **Priorities:**

- Natal care: The importance of maternal and infant health, pre-natal and post-natal medical care and follow-up should be emphasised, and greater allocation of resources should be prioritised to this area.
- Equitable access: Equal access to quality professional healthcare and medicine for all. We object to the profit principle creeping into the management of healthcare. There have to be more checks on private and public healthcare systems. Economic thresholds for access to healthcare need to be lowered.
- Affordable drugs: Drugs to deal with malaria and tuberculosis and other major diseases must be made available in LEDCs at affordable prices. These diseases together cause more deaths than HIV/AIDs.
- Research: Greater priority needs to be given to the research of tropical diseases.
- Drugs and alcohol: Alcoholism needs to be recognised as a disease. Drug abuse and addiction should be treated as a disease, and the rehabilitation process should include appropriate methods for societal re-introduction.
- Stigmatisation: End social stigmatisation of sufferers from disease, addiction, special needs and mental illness.
- Therapy: Counselling and other forms of therapy that seek the promotion of mental health, must be available to all people under stress, in order to reduce the 5,000-plus youth suicides each year and improve quality of life in general.
- Medical Personnel: Improve the quality and specialisation of doctors and medical staff, improve the distribution of medical personels in rural and urban areas, and expand the medical infrastructure in LEDCs.
- Prevention awareness must be emphasised through education in wellness and schools and communities, in particular and education, as early diagnosis can greatly alleviate the scale of infectious diseases and many STDs.
- Alternative Medicine: Doctors should embrace alternative approaches to health care particularly those practised by indigenous/traditional peoples. Intellectual property rights of indigenous people must be protected.
- Ageing Populations and elderly care: Many countries need to plan now for the shifting needs of their populations, sensitise society and make provisions for quality and dignified care for the elderly.
- Sports: Physical fitness and physical education contributes to overall wellbeing should be available to boys and girls. Sports and other outdoor activities stimulate greater team co-operation and healthier physical development, and thus should be prioritised in comparison to mentally restricting video games.
- Volunteers: In light of the shortage of health workers, there should be greater promotion of, and opportunities for voluntary health care chiefly, in the area of promoting preventative health education initiatives, but also in voluntary preventative campaigning.

## YOUTH-LED ACTION:

- ♥ South India: students at a village primary school set up their school to be a primary health care centre during out-of-school hours staffed by local volunteers;
- ♥ North India: Baby vaccination scheme. Student nurses inoculate children from slum areas;
- ♥ Morocco: Student doctors tour rural villages providing free pre- and post-natal care to young women, especially those carrying their first children.

## V. ERADICATION OF HIV/AIDS:

Although HIV/AIDS is a very important health concern, it has been given its own chapter in this document because of the vast social implications it encompasses. More than 48 million people in the world are infected with HIV/AIDS. Two thirds of them live in Africa. Every minute, six people under 25 get infected. The lack of medicines and a vaccine means that, at the moment, prevention is the only cure. Many cultures have reservations about sexual education. In developed countries, advertising campaigns exist in the form of billboards and TV commercials to spread awareness and stop the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS. In some developing countries, these have not been effective. Although a cure has not yet been found, there are drugs that can slow the advance of the disease. However, these are often far too expensive for HIV/AIDS sufferers in developing countries.

### Priorities:

- Stigmatisation: The primary objective of all societies is to take care of those who have contracted the disease and ensure that, socially, legally and culturally, they are not stigmatised.
- Orphans: It is vital that societies take care of young people orphaned as a result of the pandemic and give them the medical care, counselling and support that they need to deal with their situation.
- Prevention: All societies must energetically promote awareness and prevention campaigns to ensure that young people feel good about avoiding the disease and living full and productive lives. Sexual education programmes that eliminate the myths and fears surrounding the disease should, alongside freely available contraceptive methods, be enhanced in disadvantaged communities.
- HIV/AIDs Testing: Anonymous tests, accompanied by campaigns to encourage the public to be receptive towards testing, should be freely available in all countries in order to accurately monitor the pandemic.
- Anti-retroviral Drugs: We need to reconsider patent laws to allow access to generic anti-retroviral drugs, due to the catastrophic nature of this disease, free and easily accessible. It is urgent that governments and health agencies pursue the means to make anti-retroviral drugs available to all mothers so that their babies are not born with the disease.
- Treatment and Research: Lowering the cost of treatment, and accelerating the search for an effective vaccine, must be a priority for governments. Concerns relating to distribution and labelling of the drugs must be addressed to ensure that the drugs are used correctly.
- Support: Encourage the set-up of a globally recognised website for HIV/AIDs victims for education, online support, and to facilitate anonymous counselling.

## YOUTH-LED ACTION:

- ♥ Kenya: Youth in Focus - AIDS awareness street theatre: one of many hundreds of youth-led initiatives all over Africa sensitising young people to the dangers of unprotected sex and reducing the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.
- ♥ Stop AIDS tour: Students from Uganda, Tanzania, USA and UK tour British Universities to build a global campaign against AIDS; <http://tv.oneworld.net/tapestry?story=877&window=full>

## VI. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY:



We believe that peace, sustainable development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible. As recognised by the Youth Caucus at the World Summit, sustainable development is an umbrella concept which encompasses economic, social, environmental, political and cultural concerns. As such, this segment is applicable to the whole document.

The current means of human development and natural resource consumption have created serious environmental problems that threaten the survival of present and future generations. We appreciate the efforts that have been made in many international meetings, from Stockholm in 1972, to the Brundtland Commission, the Rio Earth Summit, Kyoto, Johannesburg and Monterrey. We agree with their outcomes and declarations and demand their ratification and implementation by the deadlines set. We look for rigorous monitoring of progress on meeting their objectives.

We take it upon ourselves, as our social responsibility, to change our lifestyles to be more sustainable as we seek future development.

### **Priorities:**

#### Climate Change:

- We insist that the provisions of the Montreal Protocol are strictly adhered to; that production of all CFC-emitting substances be halted by 2006.
- We insist that all countries pursue the targets agreed in the Kyoto Protocol as a matter of urgency and use these as a basis on which to pursue further reductions on carbon emissions.

#### Deforestation and Desertification:

- Food security and the destruction of natural habitats are directly related to desertification. As such, it is vital that the root causes of desertification – deforestation, global climate change, and improper farming techniques - be addressed.
- The world has already lost 80% of its original forests, and will continue to lose 145,875km<sup>2</sup> a year. This can be avoided if we move away from using firewood for energy production and curb urban sprawl. Governments should promote the creation of natural reserves and parks, and promote an environment of sustainable development within them by incorporating the locals in the preservation of the area.
- The clearing of forests, where necessary, needs to be carried out responsibly, and at a rate which allows for regeneration. Clear-cutting should be strictly controlled, as should the use of fire, such that undesirable consequences can be avoided.

#### Waste Management and Consumerism:

- Waste and recycling facilities should be made universal, and environmental impact assessment (EIA) made mandatory. This is possible through governmental, private and NGO support.
- Pollution standards must not only protect environment and human health, but they must be attainable and appropriate to the ecological context. In particular, we urge stricter regulation for the transportation and disposal of nuclear, chemical and other forms of hazardous waste.
- Corporations must take responsibility for their own waste and pollution, and governments should strongly enforce the Polluter Pays Principle (PPP), as agreed at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, 1972. However, we believe it is important to acknowledge corporations that have taken a significant role in the reduction of pollution and waste.
- Our current culture of consumerism is totally unsustainable. We need to raise the awareness of individuals about the ecological-footprints left by their personal habits, and the need to ensure that production is as sustainable as possible.

#### Biodiversity:

- We call on governments worldwide to live up to the commitments made in the Convention on Biodiversity, the CITES agreements and others.
- We wish to preserve all ecosystems and monitor their global warming levels.
- There is an urgent need to combat piracy and illegal trafficking of protected endangered flora

and fauna. Greater transparency in policy-making relating to the protection of biodiversity must be incorporated. A strategy that seeks to eliminate the piracy issue should be sought, and the creation of more protected areas must be promoted.

#### Water:

- Polluted water affects the health of 1.2 billion people worldwide. It contributes to the early death of 15 million children under 5 every year. Continued dumping of human and industrial waste into water sources is no longer acceptable.
- Governments need to pursue the means of providing their people with ready access to water, without price discrimination along rich/poor and rural/urban lines.
- We must involve governments, international organisations, NGOs, enterprises and civil society to manage water, in order to avoid the huge wasteful use of water.
- We recognise that water will become a key source of conflict in the future. It is thus imperative to preserve and conserve all water resources, especially in light of rapid population growth.
- Explore regulatory methods – water permits, water metering – to ensure that water resources are conserved and shared equitably for our own and future generations.
- The UN should play an active role in facilitating access to clean water in conflict areas, and tackle these problems now in order to prevent them in the future.
- The key to achieve sustainable development is to create sustainable solutions to change unsustainable production patterns. This could be achieved by increased support and grant schemes from government, corporations and institutions.

#### **YOUTH-LED ACTION:**

- ♥ South India: Gudahatti Human Rights project planted 500 saplings around the village and built a rainwater Check Dam to keep out floodwaters from flooding the village houses. Installed 30 donated garbage containers across the village to improve hygiene and sanitation
- ♥ Peru: 'Alerta Smog' campaign: young street children stop motorists with smoking exhausts and ask them to clean up. They present a leaflet and say they will report them if they spot them again. Raised a lot of awareness throughout the capital, Lima;
- ♥ Peru: VIDA-San Marcos: young people conduct an audit of natural and cultural resources of their rural community + give workshops to local people on the results;
- ♥ Sierra Leone: Kalokoh Alama is growing 100,000 trees from seed then planting them out to re-afforest a hill side woodland cut down for firewood by city-dwellers during the civil war;

#### **VII. GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS:**

We are aware that our governments and peoples are not as fully engaged in the effort to eradicate poverty and achieve the MDGs as they should be. Our governments, with five exceptions, are not meeting their 0.7% of GDP goal for their ODA budgets. We watch silently as 59 countries grow poorer by the day. We do nothing to halt the widening gap between the rich and poor. In a \$30 trillion global economy, we have the funds and the capacity to meet the MDGs – and we should support the compact proposed by the UN Development Programme between the LEDCs and the MEDCs to ensure that both groups meet their obligations and enter into full and constructive partnerships to achieve these goals.

*Why do we accept that our existing investments and aid are eclipsed by trade barriers? Why do we act as though we should receive accolades for the aid we deliver? With debt repayment levels from LEDCs to MEDCs so much higher than ODA flows the other way, we are taking so much more than we give!*

#### **Priorities:**

- *Time-tables:* All countries should lay out time-tables and budgets to reach the 0.7% of GDP target by 2010. If they are unable or unwilling to do so, they should institute as a matter of urgency innovative financing mechanisms such as the Tobin Tax, the airline fuel tax or the internet Bit Tax to ensure that there is sufficient financing available to achieve the MDGs.

- *Debt*: Redouble the energy put into ending unpayable Developing Country debt. Implement the provisions of the World Bank-led Washington Consensus, strengthen the HIPC initiative and ensure that its limited resources are distributed and replenished in a timely manner. It is absurd that countries spend more than half of its annual budget to service debt, rather than servicing the needs of its peoples.
- *Subsidies*: Remove all subsidies and trade barriers that protect goods produced by the world's richest countries, to allow the industries and agriculture of LEDCs to flourish. End the practise of dumping excesses from the MEDCs industries on developing countries.
- *Jobs*: Find decent, fulfilling jobs for the 500 million young people who will enter the job market over the next decade. Invest in programmes to train young entrepreneurs, provide more work experience, develop marketable skills and employability training. Dedicate resources to apprenticeship and mentoring schemes, more business incubators to enable the one-in-five young people whom statistics show are able to start small businesses to do so. We believe that, if these young people are given the chance to start businesses, the successful ones will employ the others.
- *Technology Transfer*: Young people can and should find ways of transferring appropriate technologies from the MEDCs to the LEDCs so that the benefits of these technologies can be shared by all.
- *Attitudes of International Organisations*: The IMF, World Bank and WTO should acknowledge the influence of sociological, cultural and religious beliefs and traditions, to foster healthy, participating, common discourse and narrative amongst the local communities, the citizenry, and the rest of the world.
- *Approach to Development*: We must approach problems from an anthropological perspective and direct our attention away from the Western world's models and paradigm models for socio-economic development. Within each country lies a vast array of human behaviours, customs and values which can have profound influences on the intended economic trajectory.
- While urging developed countries to fulfill their responsibilities, we recognise the abilities of developing countries to help themselves. Our objective, as stated above, is to enable young people in developing countries to end their state's dependency, and to help them take advantage of normal investment and business developments.

### **YOUTH-LED ACTION:**

- ♥ Young people are raising huge amounts of money for projects in less-developed countries by a variety of means: Car-washes; non-uniform days; bandana days; sponsored runs, walks, swims, bike rides, sleep-overs etc.
- ♥ Broad Meadows Middle School, Quincy, Massachusetts: Iqbal Masih, a Pakistani boy who spoke out against those who employed child labour, visited the school. When he was killed, students raised \$147,000 to build a school in his memory;  
<http://www.mirrorimage.com/iqbal/media/theledger/theledger.html>

## **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

### **1. PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION/PREVENTION:**

No development, sustainable or otherwise, can happen in the absence of peace. We, as a generation, commit to dealing directly with the root causes of conflict, rather than just dealing with its violent symptoms through military means. Conflict prevention involves addressing ethnic and religious differences, poverty, the lack of education and career opportunities, historical baggage, political posturing, disregard for international law, human rights abuse, environmental degradation and other issues dealt with earlier in this declaration. In particular, we need to create an attitude amongst the members of our generation to rejoice and celebrate in our differences rather than find reasons for fear in them. We demand the liberation of sequestered prisoners around the world. We need to engage media, international institutions, the public and private

sectors, NGOs and civil society to work with us to seek out and support the resolution of existing conflicts, the prevention of new ones, and the settling of economic and other differences in a peaceful, constructive way.

**Priorities:**

- We are against the ideology behind the employment of child soldiers. Children soldiers should go through rehabilitation and should be introduced into non-violence techniques. The participation of youth in the military is more than just that of cannon-fodder; they should also be recruited for post-conflict reconstruction.
- Greater communication and networking amongst youth in local and international networks are necessary to assist in the greater promotion of tolerance. This can be achieved through more imaginative use of the internet to create links between existing internet networks, as well as encouraging international exchange and wider attendance at international conferences of this kind – especially between peoples at risk through tensions and long-running conflicts.

**YOUTH-LED ACTION:**

- ♥ Columbia: the Columbian Children's Peace Movement was twice nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for their work in developing a mandate for life and peace in Columbia;
- ♥ Israel: Refuseniks are young Israeli soldiers who refuse to take part in military action that oppress Palestinians. Israeli commander called their refusals 'the mother of all dangers to this nation' <http://www.yesh-gvul.org/english/>

**2. INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND POLITICAL MOBILISATION:**

Voting has steadily declined in rich countries around the world, as people do not think it will make a difference and because they think their governments do not stand for anything. Most people know no other way to input to their governments than to vote, so they then truly believe they have no government access.

**Priorities:**

- Encourage self-discovery through broad and diverse education, including youth exchange, as this will translate into encouraging a mindset of practical global responsibility.
- Realise the power of young people as consumers, and confront corporations that have power in our democracies—we therefore hold corporations also responsible for investing in young people.
- Support international institutions; strengthen their democratic and consensual structures so they are neither international bullying grounds, nor ignored for their previous agreements and targets
- Demand human rights and global issues to be a fundamental part of all education programs starting at primary level. Supporting this we call for resources to establish active political and social outlets within schools, learning centres and communities.
- Have more organisations to engage with political parties, and to encourage youth to run for elective office.
- Young people must be asked by politicians what their concerns are, and be given real opportunities for civic participation.
- We are not naïve to the complexity and power structures of our countries politics, but we want to be listened to. Young people are the ones organising communities, and we are not afraid to tell it like it is. We may have ideas to get deep into the problems to solve them. There are many organisations to support us, but we seek further government recognition.

**YOUTH BASED ACTION:**

- ♥ Scottish Youth Parliament: one of its major campaigns is to get 90% of young people above voting age to vote in the next election;

# CASABLANCA DECLARATION APPEALS

*We therefore, being delegates to this 2nd World Congress of Youth, being convinced of the great contribution that young people can make to the achievement these Millennium Development Goals, do therefore appeal to governments, development agencies and the United Nations for support in the following areas -*

- 1. Institutional:** We endorse the suggestion of his majesty, King Mohammed VI, to set up new institutional arrangement, led by young people in association with governments, the UN and other international institutions, to work in a spirit of solidarity, tolerance and partnership to promote sustainable development and mobilise young people to achieve the MDGs. We further appeal to government institutions, NGOs and corporations to actively collaborate with youth to realise the MDGs at the grassroots level.
- 2. Finance:** We appeal to government development ministries and UN agencies to devote 0.7% of their annual budgets to projects designed, managed, and implemented by young people with appropriate adult mentorship. We appeal to UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP and all UN agencies to set this trend by 2006, and thank the World Bank for their support and interest in youth development.
- 3. Research:** We appeal to governments, UN agencies and universities to commence as a matter of urgency, research into the most effective role for young people in the pursuit of sustainable development and the MDGs. We appeal to governments to acknowledge research performed by young academics and professionals on foreign policy and sustainable development, and suggest the creation and consultation of "young academic think-tanks". We appeal that ahead of the next congress in Glasgow, a thoroughly researched, objective paper on youth in development be prepared to highlight good practice and guide our future actions.
- 4. International Recognition:** Create a series of international "prizes" to be awarded by an international committee of young people which will recognise the youth NGOs that do most to advance the MDGs. Others will acknowledge those heads of state, politicians, governments, private sector, banks, adult-led NGOs and educational institutions that do most to include young people's institutions and young people's opinions in their administration and management.
- 5. Education:** Human rights and global education, along with serious education on sustainable development, must be a part of all national curricula. We call upon all governments and media to devote more attention to communicating how to live sustainably. We insist that governments live up to their commitment of providing free and compulsory education for all as well as ensuring easier access to quality education through properly training teaching staff and adequate facilities. We ask that UNESCO and its member governments use the opportunity of the upcoming Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to mobilise teachers, curriculum planners and youth educators, to draw out the best ideas for instilling in all young people the importance of sustainable development and the attainment of the MDGs.
- 6. Youth in policy-making:** We appeal to governments to change their attitudes towards young people – to see us as a resource not a problem, to adopt youth-friendly policies, to establish Youth Councils with consultative status, and incorporate our ideas into their policies. We appeal to governments to lift restrictions on youth setting up and registering youth organisations. In addition, governments should keep their promises on creating consultative bodies on sustainable development and include greater youth input to these bodies.
- 7. Youth-to-youth Mobilisation:** We appeal to governments and the private sector to engage recent university graduates in leadership positions, while they are passionate and their research is up to date. We appeal to youth to use their consumer power to influence bad corporate policy. Let us mobilise to help achieve the MDGs, to set up networks, and provide opportunities to ensure that, by 2015, every young person will have had the opportunity to participate in achieving these crucial goals.

## **YOUTH-LED ACTION:**

- ♥ We anticipate considerable youth-led action to get these appeals implemented;

