

UNESCO



Youth Consultations on UN Post 2015 Development Agenda

Youth Consultations on UN Post 2015 Development Agenda

Akmani Hotel, Jakarta Monday 18 February 2013 Facilitated by UNESCO

On 18 February 2013, UNESCO Jakarta Office in coordination with the UN Office of the Resident Coordinator in Indonesia undertook a consultation of youth on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The consultation was conducted as part of UNESCO Jakarta Office's Youth Programme to support capacity-building for young women and men in Indonesia while ensuring participation and expression of voices in the policymaking process that will determine their own future. Prior to the consultations, UNESCO Jakarta Office, in collaboration with the local NGO Sekitar-kita, hosted a 5-day programme for the empowerment of Indonesian youth. The agenda included training on Youth-led Initiatives and Civic Engagement and research-based discussion on youth policies in Indonesia. This consultation on the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda was positioned on the fourth day. Taking advantage of having youth participants from various provinces in Indonesia, UNESCO took the opportunity to consult youth about their concerns and opinions of the future they want, and conducted a reduced version of the UN Consultation Process.

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

Participants:

The consultation included participation of 42 people representing the voice of the Indonesian youth. Out of the total number of 42, 23 participants were female and 19 male. 36 participants were under 24 years old while 6 were over 24 years old. There was great regional diversity, with 26 participants from Greater Jakarta, and 17 from the outside. Out of the 17, 4 were from Sumatra (Jambi, Riau, Banda Aceh, Lampung), and 2 from Papua. Central, West and East Java had 3, 2 and 1 participants each, while 1 participant from each region of Bali, Timor, Sulawesi and Kalimantan attended.

Facilitator and group format:

The Consultations were conducted in a group discussion format. Participants were divided into 5 discussion groups of 8-9 people that were brought together randomly. For each discussion group, one member of the local NGO, Sekitar-kita, was designated to each group to record, in English, the discussions that took place that may be filtered in the presentations. Each group identified a group facilitator, who kept track of the agenda and direction for discussions, a speaker to present the group's conclusions and ideas, and a timekeeper who was mindful of the time schedule for discussions and group presentations. To encourage participants' interactive and full participation, the consultations were conducted in Indonesian, with the group facilitator recording the flow of discussions in English for the report. Group presentations were conducted in Indonesian, with simultaneous translation.

The Consultations were adopted from the "Youth Consultations for a Post-2015 Framework: A Toolkit" by Youth in Action, European Union. For all 3 sessions, the main facilitator first explained the discussion topic, then designated a sufficient time period for discussion and prioritization of issues among the group. The groups were also given time to prepare for presentation of the group's discussion to the floor. Group discussions were conducted on the following 3 topics: visions and principles, identifying the challenges and issues, and youth solutions to address the identified challenges.

UN Consultation on Youth and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Jakarta, 18 February 2013



MOST SALIENT ISSUES

Poverty burdens: Poverty is an issue of concern to youth as it impedes equal access to education and equal access to basic healthcare services. Unequal access to education due to the “economic gap” leads to a lack of opportunities, perpetuating the poverty cycle.

Poor governance: Development is hampered by poor governance and weak leadership. Youths think that policy-makers lack of leadership skills and work for their own interests, thus, perpetuating power in hands of the elites. There is no political will to change things; and transparency and accountability are also missing. “Corruption” is the most repeated word when talking about the government, and poor enforcement of the law stands as the second most salient issue when discussing governance. All this leads to discontent and apathy among youth.

Lack of spaces for participation: Young men and women feel a shortage of spaces to speak out, to express themselves. They claim a need for channels to convey their needs and concerns to the policy-makers and opportunities to engage with their communities. They feel that they are not provided with the skills and tools to actively participate in the policy-making process and to be engaged with society. The youths claim that they are not provided with the skills and knowledge to participate actively, to develop “critical thinking”. “Media illiteracy” is mentioned as an example of their vulnerability towards mass media messages and “propaganda”.

Conservatism and traditional values: Conservatism and traditional values are perceived as a burden for development and as the origin of discriminatory and intolerant behaviors and attitudes against women and those who are perceived as different (including religious and ethnic minorities, LGBTQs, indigenous people and people with disabilities).

Environment destruction: Consulted youths perceive that inexistence of other options or alternatives to the current industrial production methods or traditional energy sources (such as oil, coal or firewood) leads inevitably to the destruction of the environment and contributes to climate change, impeding at the same time a sustainable development.

Isolation of rural and remote areas: Youths are also concerned about the isolation that certain rural areas and regions suffer. People living in these areas lack access to education and basic health services. High unemployment rates and lack of opportunities in isolated areas are also highlighted as a major challenge that needs to be addressed.

Small group discussions in progress



THEMATIC PRIORITIES

During the consultation 5 thematic priorities emerged:

Education: The way education is addressed should be broader. The focus shouldn't be just on access to formal education, but also on informal; education on human rights and sexual and reproductive health; development of skills that will prepare the young generations for the work market and life. Education understood as a character-building tool, a way for the eradication of poverty, a key that opens the door to new opportunities. To sum up, quality and comprehensive education should be accessible for all.

Governance: Good governance is indispensable to the development of a country. Corruption should be eradicated; transparency and accountability are indispensable pillars for the good functioning of every institution from the local to the global. Promotion of human rights is also a priority, and in line with this, social protection of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups should be ensured.

Engagement and participation: Citizens, including youth, should be and want to be at the centre of development. As such, more spaces for participation should be provided, and active participation and engagement at all levels should be encouraged and facilitated.

Inequalities: Inequalities is a cross-cutting issue that can be found at the origin of many development challenges. Inequalities occur in social, cultural and legal spheres. Poverty, discrimination against women, LGBTQs, people with HIV, indigenous people, people with disabilities and other minorities are just some examples of inequalities. Any development endeavor should have a social inclusive approach, ensuring equal access to opportunities for all.

Free flow of information: This theme goes beyond the concept of freedom of expression. Free flow of information also means access to truthful sources of information and that citizens are able to analyze and evaluate media discourse and create their own messages. The new development framework should consider the importance of traditional media and new Information and Communication Technologies not just as tools for access to information but also as mechanisms of participation and civic engagement.

"The World We Want" Mural, completed with the participation of 42 representatives of Indonesian youth



RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION REQUIRED

A strong partnership should start between young people and adults. Youth also call for a partnership between civil society and government. Partnership between local, regional and national governments.

A more participative and inclusive policy-making process is requested. A process where the youth can actively participate and be consulted. Youth don't feel well-represented in institutions and want to have a real presence and representation in the democratic institutions.

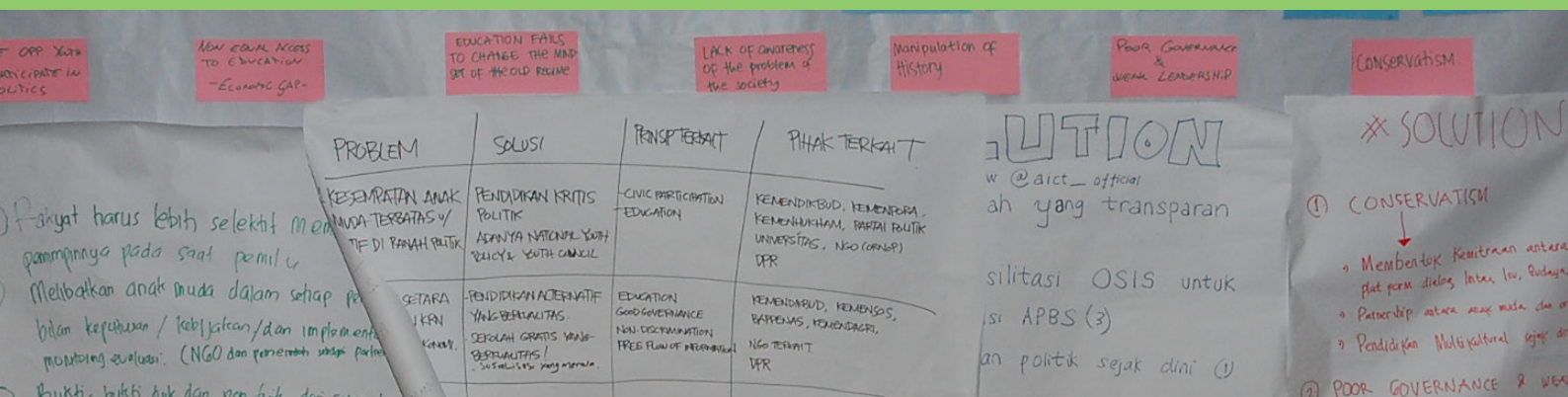
Institutions must be accountable and transparent in their performance and functioning. Funds should be spent wisely and effectively.

Not only basic education, but quality education should be accessible for all.

Formal and informal education should include development of skills for work and life, sexual and reproductive health education and character-building education.

Promote dialogue among religions, ethnic groups, minorities and majorities in order to build a culture of peace and address discrimination and intolerance in society.

Proposed solutions posted in "The World We Want" Mural.



GAPS AND QUESTIONS

Being such a large and diverse country, bringing together in the same room young men and women from all across the Indonesian archipelago is always difficult. UNESCO was able to gain representation from 12 other regions in the country, including Papua, despite the majority of participants coming from Jakarta and Greater Jakarta.

Bringing people from different backgrounds and groups is also a challenge. UNESCO was pleased with the diverse crowd in the room, with participants from rural areas, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ community.

The consultation method had to be reduced and remolded to meet our needs and limitations. From the two-day consultation proposed in the manual “Youth consultations for a Post-2015 Framework: A toolkit” we were required to adapt it to suit our three-hour session, missing in the process some specific discussions on the MDGs and the Post-2015 process itself.

The opinions expressed in this document are those of the individuals that participated in the consultation on the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda and do not necessarily represent the views of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization.

Small groups discuss solutions to the challenges that are preventing “the future we want for all”



For more information, please contact:

UNESCO Jakarta Office
Social and Human Sciences Unit
Jl. Galuh (II) No. 5
Jakarta, Indonesia
Phone : +62-21 7399818
Email : a.amila@unesco.org
www.unesco.org/jakarta

Find us on Facebook and Twitter:

 UNESCO Program Pemuda: The Future We Want For All

 @UNESCOpemuda

 UNESCO Pemuda