

## Contribution to the End of Decade Report on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non- Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

### **Friendship Ambassadors Foundation**

**Disclaimer:** In resolution 64/80, the General Assembly requested UNESCO to prepare a summary report on the activities carried out over the past ten years of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) by UNESCO, other United Nations entities, Member States and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to promote and implement the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. This report will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly at its 65<sup>th</sup> session in 2010. This contribution towards this report was received from the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation a NGO with consultative status with UNESCO. The contents of this document are those of the author(s) and the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization.

Dear Ms. Starke,

Thank you for requesting our input.

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation (FAF; [www.faf.org](http://www.faf.org)) has been involved in the International Decade for the Culture of Peace since its inception as the *Year* in 1999. As an NGO in Operational Relations with UNESCO, FAF is proud of what we have been able to accomplish in support of this important effort.

During the initial IYCP, the foundation worked with youth from throughout the Balkans. At the end of the Balkan Wars, we created the Balkan Youth Reconciliation Seminar Series. The series brought together hundreds of youth from throughout the region. They met with counterparts, 16-21 years old, from the United States and Russia. Our focus was cultural exchange so, rather than focus on debate, our successful programs revolved around dance, theater, and music sharings. The foundation believes that culture, as opposed to business, religion, and politics, is a great uniter among all young people worldwide. The outcomes were available and covered by the international media; the event in Bulgaria can be viewed at: [feed://alanabramowitzreel.blip.tv/rss](http://feed://alanabramowitzreel.blip.tv/rss).

The first event gathered in Plovdiv, Bulgaria in August 1999 and was considered a Flagship Program of the IYCP by UNESCO.

The second gathering took place in Budapest, Hungary in January 2000 and was perhaps the first project of the Decade.

The Third portion took place in Timisoara, Romania in August 2000 and culminated in a live, outdoor presentation of the *Tempest*, based on the work of William Shakespeare. The *performance art* piece was performed by nearly 100 political science students; it contained no language and included a parade through the downtown area of the city. The *Tempest* deals with isolation and the reconciliation of brothers. Both elements were important to the reconciliation of the young people we served.

All three events can be viewed on the foundation's website, at: <http://www.faf.org/Archives/byrss/index.htm>

Finally, after 2002, we returned to our work on the Decade by creating the annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations. This was the foundation's attempt to achieve two goals:

- a. bring more young people into the United Nations structure by introducing them to headquarters in a meaningful way;
- b. focusing our gather on 1000 youth leaders from around the world. Each year the topic and focus is: Youth and Success of the 8 UN Millennium Development Goals.

We believe that the annual Youth Assembly, now endorsed by dozens of Permanent Missions and produced in partnership with the UN Department of Public Information is one of the largest, free annual youth events on the UN's calendar at Headquarters.

Information is attached on the Youth Assembly for your review.

We thank you for this opportunity to share our work in support of the International Year and Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.

Warm regards,

Patrick Sciarratta  
Executive Director  
Friendship Ambassadors Foundation

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UNESCO  
NGO in Operational Relations

Member ACDA, IATA, NBA, Greenwich Arts Council



NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE FOLLOWS

8 June 2009

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS**  
**Organized by Friendship Ambassadors Foundation**  
**and The International Institute for Culture and Peace**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations will take place at UN Headquarters from 5 to 7 August 2009. The Youth Assembly has been held at the United Nations for the past five years with the sponsorship of various Permanent Missions to the UN. It is organized by the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation and the International Institute for Culture and Peace (both NGOs associated with DPI). Its primary sponsor this year is the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations. The Outreach Division of DPI, as well as the United Nations Programme on Youth of DESA, are involved in the planning and organizing of this year's event.

This is the first year that DPI is playing a collaborative and supportive role in the Youth Assembly. This partnership falls in line with DPI's continued outreach efforts to enhance and diversify its range of educational programmes, products and services aimed at a youth audience, which the UN defines as ages 15-24. The Youth Assembly is particularly important in engaging youth in the area of MDGs, a priority issue for the UN and an area of considerable interest and relevance to young people.

Participants will focus on Youth-Led Development toward the success of the Millennium Development Goals. They will participate in discussions and workshops with specialists in the eight Millennium Development Goals. They will take away from the experience a greater understanding of and appreciation for the work of the Organization in this important area, and they will gain practical knowledge of ways they can make a difference in their own communities.

In August 2008, approximately 600 youth leaders representing countries from each continent participated in the Youth Assembly. It is anticipated that there will be hundreds of youth leaders in attendance again this year. A particularly large group of youth will travel from China to attend this year's programme.

For more information, please contact the Group Programmes Unit of the Department of Public Information, at (212) 963-1361 or (212) 963-6019, or visit the Friendship Ambassadors website at: [http://www.faf.org/unyouthassembly/ya\\_home.htm](http://www.faf.org/unyouthassembly/ya_home.htm). Applications can be sent directly to: [yaapplications@faf.org](mailto:yaapplications@faf.org).

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE FOR YOUTH ASSEMBLY AT THE UNITED NATIONS****New York, 5 August 2009**

It is a great pleasure to greet the participants in the 2009 Youth Assembly at the United Nations. I thank the Permanent Mission of Hungary, the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, the International Institute for Culture and Peace and all others involved in making this event possible.

The world needs you to make the most of this gathering. We face multiple, interconnected crises with severe impacts that fall disproportionately on the young.

In 2007, for example, youth comprised 25 per cent of the world's working age population yet accounted for 40 per cent of the unemployed. The global economic downturn means that, in the near term, youth unemployment will continue to climb. Unemployment rates tell only part of the story, especially for the vast majority of youth who live in developing countries. For them, informal, insecure and low-wage employment is the norm, not the exception.

Climate change, meanwhile, continues to threaten tremendous upheaval, saddling young people with a crushing, unjust "ecological debt". At the same time, I am encouraged by the contributions that young people have made to the debate on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Their views and proposals can help build the momentum necessary to "seal the deal" in Copenhagen later this year.

Indeed, young people have proven themselves to be dynamic actors in our work for sustainable development. They have gotten involved in international forums such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, and have helped their Governments and communities to formulate poverty reduction strategies, entrepreneurial schemes and many other policies and initiatives.

Young people often lead by example: practicing green lifestyles, promoting innovative uses of new technologies such as social networks. They -- you -- deserve our full commitment -- full access to education, adequate healthcare, employment opportunities, financial services and full participation in public life.

This Youth Assembly offers a timely opportunity to learn from and inspire each other. I urge you to see your time here as a call to action. The world needs each and every one of you to do your part in transforming our world and building a more sustainable and equitable future for all. Please accept my best wishes for a successful and rewarding experience.



# FRIENDSHIP AMBASSADORS FOUNDATION

CREATING GLOBAL EVENTS FOR NGOs AS PEACE BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT TOOLS SINCE 1973

Associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information

and an NGO in Operational Relations with UNESCO

*For over 35 years, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation (FAF) has been a pioneer in facilitating cultural sharings among diverse communities ... in order to promote mutual understanding, volunteerism, and global development. FAF's service to the community of civil society NGOs affiliated with the United Nations is a part of that mission.*

## The Annual Youth Assembly at the U.N.

In 2009, the annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations (YA) was produced in full partnership with the UN Department of Public Information, and with the involvement of the UN Programme on Youth. The YA is supported by a host of Permanent Missions, UN officials, and the NGO community affiliated with the UN. **The purpose of the event is to promote youth led development in support of the Millennium Development Goals.**

In 2009, nearly 1100 youth leadership delegates registered from dozens of countries. The annual Youth Assembly has featured speakers such as Arun Gandhi, Kathy Ireland, Angelique Kidjo, and Reverend Jesse Jackson. The event is participatory, involving young people with civil society in real and meaningful ways while training them in how to make their *own* successful NGO campaigns when they return home.

**2010: FAF offers the Millennium Development Leadership Programme with the UN-Mandated University for Peace, in Ciudad Colon, Costa Rica, a partner in the new venture.**



**"If you saw the impact you have had on the youth (and young at heart) attending the Assembly you would have to shade your eyes from the brightness of hope."**

- Paulette Schatz, Project Manager, United Nations Development Programme, Afghanistan, Participant

**"It is due to these Global Youth Leaders that I met at the Youth Assembly at the UN that will enable me to pursue my passion even further."** - Esperanza Garcia, Philippines, Participant

## FOUNDATION OFFERS SUPPORT TO NGO DPI COMMUNITY ~

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE; FUND  
DEVELOPMENT; PLANNING AND TRAVEL  
ARRANGEMENTS TO THE DISARMAMENT  
CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 2009,  
MEXICO CITY, MX**

As part of its formal affiliation with the U.N. Department of Public Information (DPI), the foundation assigns staff and project time to contribute specifically to the success of the Executive Committee of the NGOs Affiliated with DPI, its goals and mission.

Currently, and for the past several years now, that volunteer service has included participation on the Planning Committee for the annual UN Department of Public Information, NGO Sector (DPI NGO) conference, the largest public gathering on the annual UN calendar. FAF offers safe travel at NGO rates - and a portion of each trip cost benefits the conference.

FAF's Executive Director is a volunteer co-editor of the *NGO Reporter*, the quarterly e-journal of NGO DPI news, published by its Executive Committee.

**FAF is also collaborating with other Missions and UN-related NGOs associated with DPI/ECOSOC:**

- *The Virginia Guildersleeve International Foundation's* Conference (Women, Water, and Food Security, in Calcutta, India) includes all travel facilitation through FAF.
- *Children International*, a new DPI affiliate, primarily based in Latin America, sent local youth leaders to the 6th annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations.
- *Convocation on the Rights of the Child*, an April conference at the UN, led by the Permanent Mission of the Holy See and facilitated by FAF.
- FAF is a voting member of the UNA/USA Council of Organizations; and has been repeatedly selected as a member of its prestigious National Council.

## FAF's INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGES & VOLUNTOURISM

### AS A MEANS OF PEACEBUILDING

Since its inception in 1973, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation (FAF; [www.faf.org](http://www.faf.org)) has followed a vision that intercultural exchange opportunities, especially those including the arts or service, promote mutual understanding and global cooperation. FAF creates, manages, and facilitates all aspects of international, cultural exchange, service opportunities, and facilitation of other types of gatherings for the organizations it serves – at no cost to the organizations, with tax deductions and insurance coverage for most travelers.

#### In Response to the Mission

*I appreciate your time, am grateful for your support, and am quite overwhelmed with pride to read the amount of effort you made on behalf of our trip. You have a true concept of what diplomacy involves and effect it repeatedly.*

- John McIntyre, Coordinator,  
Vienne-Greenwich Sister City Project, 2008

"I am pleased to learn of the efforts of Friendship Ambassadors Foundation ... The United Nations applauds and supports such efforts." – Shashi Tharoor, Former Under Secretary General, United Nations

"Friendship Ambassadors Foundation ... its mission is so important, and ... you are accomplishing remarkable things. Best wishes to you and everyone at the foundation!"

- Former President William Jefferson Clinton

"I commend FAF's efforts to work with young people ... to help them find possible means and ways to peace and reconciliation. *I would also wish to stress the importance of generous support for this project.*" –President Martti Ahtisaari, Former President of Finland and 2008 Nobel Peace Prize Winner

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"God love you for the love you give through the joy you spread." - Mother Teresa

"What you are doing couldn't be closer to my heart. ... Keep opening new doors of friendship wherever you travel and perform. Godspeed!"

- Leonard Bernstein

"It's been a joyful pleasure for me to encourage and financially support this work ... I predict continuing success for this vital program!"

- Eleanor Roosevelt

## YOUNG PEOPLE FOCUS ON GLOBE'S PROBLEMS

BY: TRACY HERBAUGH

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Young leaders from around the globe are spending three days focusing on some of the world's most demanding problems ranging from world hunger to protecting the environment. About 450 young people aged 16-28 from 50 different countries are taking part in the third annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations which ends Friday. "I think it's our responsibility to empower young people and to show young people that ... change can happen because of their efforts," said Elaine Valdov, an NY-based psychotherapist who represents voluntary organizations at the United Nations.

The conference is focusing on promoting the eight U.N. millennium goals: eradicating world hunger and poverty, universal education, gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating disease, environmental sustainability and developing global partnerships for development. The Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, a nonprofit organization promoting international ties, hosts the annual conference at the U.N., which attracts youth with an interest in international policy work. Ozgur Madak, former president of the Intercollegiate Turkish Students Society, which is a co-sponsor of the event, urged global support for the conference saying, "bringing young generations together is the long-term solution to reach the global peace." Maria Mandova, Project Director for Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, said participants are encouraged to form lasting relationships with the professionals they meet, and carry the experience back to their communities all over the world.

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## RECENT RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS

2010

The UN Mandated University for Peace partners with FAF for MDG related training course in Costa Rica (January 3-9, 2010)

2009

Programmatic collaboration with the annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations includes the U.N. Department of Public Information, among others

2008

UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL KOICHIRO MATSUURA names FAF an *NGO in Operational Relations with UNESCO* (FAF is currently also an NGO formally associated with UN DPI)

Executive Director Patrick Sciaratta invited to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Petra Conference of Nobel Laureates, by King Abdullah II and Elie Wiesel

2004-2007

As part of its national service after 9/11, FAF receives \$3.1M in awards from Lions Clubs International Foundation, American Red Cross, Rotary International, Hitachi USA among others to create and facilitate art therapy programs for 9/11 victims' families, in the United States and elsewhere in the world. After Katrina hit New Orleans, Mayor Ray Nagin names a day in honor of FAF for its reclamation efforts. The US Senate, as a body, recognizes FAF, too, in a formal proclamation.

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# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations

Millennium Development Goals

August 4-6, 2010  
@ U.N. Headquarters, NYC

Youth Led Development

Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Lead Sponsor 2010:  
Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN

Co-sponsored by United Nations Member States

With participation by International NGOs and a variety of U.N. departments

YA Leadership Seminar @ Fairleigh Dickinson U. July 30 - August 2, 2010

YA Orientation & Pre-registration August 3, 2010 Pace University, NYC

Youth Assembly (YA) @ the UN: 4 - 6 August '10

YA China / US Teen Leadership Exchange: August 7 - 12, 2010 Fairleigh Dickinson U.

A project of Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Inc.



Patrick Sciaratta  
Executive Director

## Among the Endorsers of the Annual Events at U.N. Headquarters

In 2009, the United Nations Department of Public Information and Programme on Youth (DESA) assisted with the planning and presentation of the Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations

### Current & Previous Endorsing United Nations' Permanent Missions:

Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Grenada, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

### Endorsing/Participating NGOs and Individuals have included:

AIIESEC, Art of Living; Beyond Borders; Caring 4 Kids; Child (Not) Soldier; Children International; Common Ground Mediation Center; Congress of Racial Equity; Bernard Amadei, Engineers Without Borders; Do Something; Executive Committee of NGOs Affiliated with the UNDP; Engineers Without Borders; Give Them A Hand Foundation; Global Goods Partners; Global Youth Action Network; Go Green; Harvard International Relations Council; International Institute of Integral Human Sciences; Jesse Jackson, Rainbow Coalition; Kathy Ireland and Kathy Ireland International; Keep a Child Alive; Arun Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence; Microcredit Summit Campaign; Oxfam-NYU; Johann Koss, Right to Play; Save the Children; SESFAR India; Taking IT Global; TeenAIDS; TCC Group; Temple of Understanding; UNA Hawaii; WFUNA; WISER

### Among Hundreds of testimonials:

*"If you saw the impact you have had on the youth (and young at heart) attending the Assembly you would have to shade your eyes from the brightness of hope. We applaud you for your good work. On behalf of the Deputy Youth Minister Taimoor Shah Es-haq zai, I send heartfelt thanks to you"* – Paulette Schatz, UNDP Kabul-Afghanistan

*"Simply Fabulous!, the youth assembly set the tone for a future set up for humanity. It was most amazing for me meeting youths of my age, who have done so much even with all the constraints."* – Aduragbemi Ogunbanke, Nigeria

*"It is due to these Global Youth Leaders that I met at the Youth Assembly in the UN that will enable me to pursue my passion even further."* – Esperanza Garcia, Philippines  
**Ms. Garcia is a leader of the International Youth Council, founded at YA 2007**

YA Media: U.N. Radio, AP, ABC, USA Today, UNICEF, The Guardian, and many local outlets

To apply or learn more online: [yaapplications@faf.org](mailto:yaapplications@faf.org) • [www.faf.org/nyouthassembly/ya\\_home.htm](http://www.faf.org/nyouthassembly/ya_home.htm)

Office contacts: [friendlyam@faf.org](mailto:friendlyam@faf.org) • Fax: +1-203-542-0661

Post: Annual Youth Assembly at the UN, c/o FAF, 299 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830





**A Call to Youth Leaders Worldwide**  
Become involved with programs at the United Nations  
Join People with Vision and Motivation like your own  
Make a difference in your lifetime



## **7th ANNUAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY at the United Nations**



The Youth Assembly at the United Nations is a gathering of hundreds of young people from all around the world (16-25 years old) who seek future involvement with the United Nations, civil society, and ways to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The YA events at the United Nations are free (after registration). The assembly is an intensive, three-day program providing direct access to the UN, NGO career and volunteer opportunities, and introduction to independent service, too.

*Acceptance by application, only.*

**August 4–6, 2010**  
**United Nations Headquarters,**  
**NYC, USA**

Associated with the United Nations  
Department of Public Information

Co-sponsored by United Nations  
Member States, International NGOs, and  
with participation by United Nations agencies



Delegates are encouraged to take part  
in the intensive Leadership Seminars  
pre- and post- Assembly

**July 31—August 3, 2010**  
**August 7—August 11, 2010**

**INFORMATION AND APPLICATION:**

**[www.faf.org/unyouthassembly/ya\\_home.htm](http://www.faf.org/unyouthassembly/ya_home.htm)**

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