

# United Nations Framework Approach

“The International Year is about advancing the full and effective participation of youth in all aspects of society. We encourage all sectors of society to work in partnership with youth and youth organizations to better understand their needs and concerns and to recognize the contributions that they can make to society.”

The United Nations system’s approach for the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding (12 August 2010 – 11 August 2011) aims to provide a concrete framework for collective efforts during the Year. The UN system’s approach for the Year focuses on the three key areas outlined below. In each of these areas, collaborative partnerships with young people are fundamental.

The progress achieved during this Year in each of these areas will lay the foundation for further work in youth development, including the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

## **1. Create awareness (increase commitment and investment in youth)**

- Increase recognition of youth development as a smart investment by the public and private sectors
- Advocate for the recognition of young people’s contributions to national and community development and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals
- Promote understanding of inequalities amongst youth and how to effectively address the needs of the most disadvantaged
- Foster research and knowledge building on youth to better inform youth policies and programmes

## **2. Mobilize and engage (increase youth participation and partnerships)**

- Institutionalize mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making processes
- Support youth-led organizations and initiatives to enhance their contribution to society
- Strengthen networks and partnerships among Governments, youth-led organizations, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, the media and the UN system, to enhance commitment and support for holistic youth development

## **3. Connect and build bridges (increase intercultural understanding among youth)**

- Promote youth interactions, networks and partnerships across cultures
- Empower and support youth as agents of social inclusion and peace