



- Partnerships – We will develop partnership activities to inform our peers about the MDGs that include training and capacity building as well as youth empowerment.

SOME OF THE INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS:



Lorena Gudino
Mexico

- To promote capacity of young people at national level by sharing information with them on the MDGs and to work with them to develop local action projects.
- To continue with capacity building of my organizations (Mision Rescate, Scouts, Red Ambiental Juvenil, Red Ambiental Scout, etc.) encouraging youth participation and decision making (national and international level).

photos: UNEP

THE ROAD to Bangalore

Frozen paths in Russia rarely lead to dry Kenyan highlands – or India’s steaming tropics. But for three days in February 2005, UNEP hosted young veterans of its 2003 Tunza International Youth Conference in Dubna, Russia at a Tunza Global Youth Retreat in Nairobi – on the way to Bangalore.

The 44 youth leaders from 35 countries looked at how young people could contribute towards achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in their own countries. They had a roundtable discussion with environment ministers and senior UNEP officials to talk about getting young people more involved in implementing them.

They made both collective and individual commitments that they aim to achieve between now and the 2005 Tunza International Youth Conference in Bangalore in October. These commitments – the ‘Road to Bangalore’ – are based on the Ten Tunza Commitments adopted in Dubna to promote sustainable lifestyles.

THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS ARE:

- Peer-to-peer education – We will inform our peers about the MDGs and what we have learnt during

the Retreat and the roundtable discussions. With peer-to-peer education we are able to generate public awareness regarding all the issues involved in the MDGs.

- Public awareness campaigns – We will develop campaigns in our communities on the MDGs. However, we need support from our governments and the other stakeholders in order to be able to reach more people, particularly young people, most of whom are not aware of the MDGs.

Focus on solutions

Tunza Youth Advisors asked Professor **Jeffrey D. Sachs**, UN Special Advisor on the Millennium Development Goals, how young people can be part of the MDG process



photo: United Nations

Youth organizations have tremendous energy and initiative to offer, and young people can get involved in a number of ways. You can engage in public advocacy, contribute to policy design, monitor your governments for accountability, and share best practices in solving problems.

The key is to be very focused in identifying problems and gaps that need to be resolved, and then to be very clear about how you can help solve them. If you can develop

innovative solutions using the dynamic and creative energy of youth in your community, you will be making a real contribution to the achievement of the goals. And as you begin to organize your own efforts and deliver results, opportunities for you to engage in critical decision-making processes will grow.

We are always looking for new ways to involve more young people – please send your ideas to Albert Cho (albert.cho@unmillenniumproject.org).



Mirza Delibegovic
Bosnia and Herzegovina

- To carry out a workshop on MDGs for university and college students.
- To develop a course on sustainable consumption for youth in the United States.
- To create and coordinate a peer-to-peer education initiative for young people on line.



Ahmed Alhammedi,
Qatar

- To create and publish a flyer to introduce youth to the MDGs and to distribute it through schools and youth organizations.
- To get more youths to join and participate in our activities and to promote the UNEP Tunza International Youth Conference among youth in my country.

Catherine Candano
Philippines

- To run a national Filipino Youth Conference on the MDGs.
- To get concrete project commitments on the MDGs from conference delegates.
- To compile youth feedback on MDG issues from the Philippines and share this with academic/research/policy agencies as well as participants of the Tunza Youth Conference.



Lars Rosendahl Appelquist
Denmark

- To organize a youth seminar for 50 young people in Tanzania about poverty eradication and sustainable development, in cooperation with Tanzania Youth Coalition.
- To organize a workshop in Denmark about youth involvement and sustainable development in Tanzania.



Jessica Kamugira Mbabazi
Uganda

- To follow up on what used to be 'The Environment Club' of secondary schools working together in Uganda.
- To speak to local government officials, students and my community about the role they can play in achieving the MDGs.

At the next Tunza International Youth Conference in Bangalore in October delegates will report back on their success in achieving their commitments.

To view the commitments of all the participants of the Retreat, please visit our website www.unep.org/tunza

We would also like to know what you are doing to make the MDGs happen in your community. Write to children.youth@unep.org with your commitments and ideas on the implementation of the MDGs.

New leaf

Bangalore, the 'Garden City of India', becomes an urban jungle when the leaves fall each autumn. Residents burn them, releasing toxic fumes into the air.

Five students from the National Public School, Indiranagar, have found a way of turning a problem into a solution. Their winning recipe - using cow dung and earthworms - also provides incomes for poor women throughout the city and neighbouring villages.

They taught the women to make organic fertilizers by mixing the leaves with manure in a tank - and adding earthworms to speed up the composting. Selling the resulting 'worManure' boosts family incomes, gives women a greater voice in their villages, and supplies cost-effective, eco-friendly fertilizer to local farmers to enrich their crops. It is truly a win-win-win solution.

The project - called 'Turning over a New Leaf: from Environment to Empowerment' - won first place at the 2004 Volvo Adventure Environmental Awards, held by Volvo in partnership with UNEP. The team

received \$10,000 to expand their project and a trip to the 2004 UNEP Children's Conference in the United States.

Akhil Chainwala, one of the team, said he hoped this would be the start of a vermicomposting revolution throughout India. He added, 'If charity begins at home, so does your bit to help out the environment.'

Judging is now under way for the 2005 awards - but check out the website at www.volvoadventure.org and have your ideas ready for next year!



photos: National Public School, Indiranagar