



**Report on Youth Caucus Participation during WSIS Phase 2
Prepcom I
June 24-26, 2004 Hammamet - Tunisia**

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1. Engagement in Civil Society Bureau meetings and debates (who represented the YC? what (youth) issues were raised? what key decisions were made? etc)

As I was the representative of the Youth Caucus during the informal meeting which took place in March, CSB Members invited me to join them to the bureau meetings to replace Nick in the debates.

In general, all the content of the debates was related to these topics:

- Differences of the way of working of CS and CSB between the 2 phases and the solutions of the lack of fundraising.
- CSB constitutions and way of working of different caucuses/families
- Solutions to the problem of Human Rights caucus conflict
- Teams constitution to take care of writing/editing CS procedures texts to avoid some new conflicts happened during this phase.

As you can see, there was no debating about the content of each caucus statements. Only 2 working groups were discussed related to this phase vision (Financing Mechanisms and Internet Governance). That's why my position as an youth caucus temporary alternate, with a non clear position of the youth caucus inside the forthcoming WSIS disallowed me to rise any questions related to us. All my interventions were related to the topics I already said and most were adopted on the CSB final report.

2. Participation in plenaries, side events/meetings

Since the 1st day, youth caucus was "officially" represented by 5 Tunisian persons (4 TIG members + the youth Tunisian CS responsible), when our meeting was announced by the chairman of the plenary, we found ourselves 9 persons (Anne Christin and Julia - 2 German girls from the Lutheran world federation, Andy from the Digital Divide Network, and Lionelle from Cameroon). All these last persons attended the 1st meeting not as Youth caucus official representatives but found our caucus the most close to them.

After presentations, we started the discussion with Youth Caucus news such New Facilitator assignment. Second point was Youth Caucus participation inside the WSIS, it was obvious that we were not as enough as prepcom 3 for example to take decisions about that point. So we preferred trying to find new ideas. And there is the result (thanks to Andy's summarize):

- Reaffirm ongoing youth involvement in the prepcoms through various publicity efforts
- Organize youth consultations at a national level to collect youth input on relevant issues being discussed through WSIS
- Identifying practical ways youth can be involved in implementing aspects of the Declaration and Plan of Action to reach the MDGs (such as youth involvement in running telecenters, etc.)
- Organize an officially recognized youth summit within the Tunis WSIS phase

These points were presented by Andy on the 2nd official CS plenary as the result of YC first meeting.

During the next 2 days, the youth caucus meetings were always scheduled at 10 o'clock, the same time of the prepcom's plenary sessions and especially the CS speakers' interventions and that was the reason why we were not able to have more meetings during that prepcom. Moreover, most of us attending the prepcom for other reasons than the YC were busy with other caucuses meetings. Anyway, they proved the solidarity of youth members of CS family.

3. emerging developments and opportunities pertinent to youth (ie. Proposed UNDP Task Force on Financial Mechanisms, new funding commitment from the Tunisian Gov't for CS participation...which mentions of youth, among others).

About the financial point, I don't have a lot to say but that the Tunisian CS promised to help us (at least on a local level) when we will need it. But I don't have more information about the use of the CS fund started by Tunisian 400.000 TN Dinars (about 270 US\$).

There are other points I want to focus on:

As Tarek said, Tunisian Minister of transport and Communication Technologies presented the willing of Tunisia to host the Youth Summit inside the WSIS on Tunis 2005. This project was the proposal of an ONG called Mileset (<http://www.milset.org>) to the Tunisian government. This ONG was asked by the CS Tunisian side to be in touch with the YC facilitator to see how this event can be organized. I don't know if it was done or not but what is sure is that we need an urgent response of the YC Facilitator concerning this point.

4. Personal reflection/assessment on the process so far

Personally I think that YC participation was acceptable as the outcome of the other caucuses wasn't so important considering the issues faced and the short period of this prepcom. What it must be done for the next prepcom is to guarantee the participation of more important number for the YC as it will be in Geneva.

During the first meeting of the YC, we tried to find solutions to reach the two WSIS official working groups related to the two issues proposed by Mr. Anan in case we want to help them by making a youth world wide consultation. Now I think that it can be done through the CS working groups related to these topics (the reports of these WG are linked to a strict timeline to be respected).

Youth Caucus is much respected as it was very active during the first phase! Despite funding issues, we are supposed to keep the same level of participation during this phase.

5. The road ahead after PrepCom 1 (i.e strategy for continuity of participation, potential project partnerships)

- We (Tunisian YC representatives) had a nonofficial meeting with Mr. Alain Clairc who explained us how the YC was born and how it was working. He also explained why the facilitator should be from the North. As the first phase is not like the second one, he advised us (on a local and global scale) to stay active and to plan on or two international events in Tunisia related to the YC.

- A personal contact I had with Viola Krebs, from voluntarism Caucus and director of the International Conference Volunteers NGO, about events we can organize together (as she's convinced that the voluntarism and Youth Caucus are linked in several points). She also wanted to be present to a YC meeting to speak further about this partnership but it was unfortunately possible.

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