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The Hyderabad Blueprint

Last year, representatives from over 140 countries, mostly young people, met in Alexandria, Egypt, and launched a world-wide movement, the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign, dedicated to a decade-long global effort for the creation of hundreds of millions of additional opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for youth all over the world.

In what was to become known as the "Alexandria Declaration" they called for a paradigm shift on Employment, giving quality and skills as much attention as sheer numbers. They said: "We must move from unskilled to skilled occupations, from low paying to high paying jobs, from subsidized public employment to sustainable productive livelihoods."

The Campaign adopted the "6Es", as its overarching theme: **E**mployment, **E**mployability, **E**quity, **E**ntrepreneurship, **E**nvironmental Sustainability and **E**mpowerment. The Campaign has been supporting processes that seek the networking of youth throughout the world, and the sharing of information to empower youth to take charge of their own destinies. YES is promoting coalitions of the caring to support the youth initiatives, for self-employment and employment generation.

Building on the Alexandria Declaration, and on the enormous efforts deployed by the YES Country Networks, the Hyderabad YES Regional Forum met to channel the knowledge gained by the YES Country Networks, and focused on six important areas of concern: renewable energy; rural development (on and off farm); water and sanitation; ICT (bridging the digital divide); HIV/AIDS; and enhancing opportunities for young women.

Over 1000 delegates from 44 countries comprising mainly of young people, representatives from UN agencies, international organizations, the private sector and NGOs met to exchange views and review experiences in small groups, detailed workshops and large plenaries.

The Hyderabad Blueprint emerging from these sessions is one that calls for all the actors to work hand in hand to achieve meaningful results in each of these areas. To make the best practices of the few the standard practices of many. However, we recognize that there can be no single recipe that will work for vastly differing country and local situations. Thus we hope that the delegates will follow the methodologies and explore the ideas broached at the forum to act decisively on these issues in their home surroundings. In so doing, they will draw on the continuing record of success stories being monitored and reported by the YES Process.

The achievements of the Hyderabad YES Regional Forum include the formal coming into

being of the first regional Memorandum of Understanding among the seven YES Country Networks of South Asia, linking their efforts to bring about more effective results.

In Hyderabad itself, the Government of Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and the Education Development Center (EDC), has decided to ensure action on these issues by creating a YES Academy, which would act to launch projects with key agencies, and incubate income-generating enterprises in the areas of renewable energies, ICT, water and sanitation and rural development (on farm and off farm), including addressing the issue of rural infrastructure. The projects will address particularly the needs of disadvantaged and tribal communities.

Let the Hyderabad Blueprint stand for joining actions to words. To move from local to national to regional collaborations, as the seven YES Country Networks of South Asia have done. We recognize the responsibility of all actors and agencies to work together to ensure that an enabling environment exists to nurture the ideas of youth. Let us ensure that economic growth is working for the welfare of people, and that the established private sector brings its talent and energy to work with the young.

Through the incubator function of the YES Academy, we will also promote the empowerment of young people throughout India and inspire others around the world. Empowerment starts with the awareness that one has the responsibility to make a difference, and grows with participation, voice and choice. It is promoted by increased skills and access to resources.

Youth empowerment must be a central priority for our actions. Youth empowerment and employment issues must be carefully addressed in the design of economic reforms. Actions for youth empowerment will serve not just individuals but entire communities. In these actions we are motivated by our belief in the importance of functional communities, driven by ethical and moral values that promote the social good. The costs of inaction on the issues of youth employment are too dreadful to contemplate. The enormous waste implied is unconscionable. Two great sins in our time are: unfulfilled potential and avoidable suffering.

At the Hyderabad YES Regional Forum we have moved from visions to actions, and commit ourselves to do more and to give Youth Employment the high priority that it deserves.

There are those who look at the world as it is and ask "Why?" We look at the world as it could be and ask "Why not?"

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Adopted on the *18th* of December 2003

by

the representatives of the Governments attending the Hyderabad YES Regional Forum