



## Steps to set up a youth delegate in your own country

This is not THE way to do it, but Away how to do it that has worked for previous Youth Delegates. Keep in mind that some of the things listed below may be different for your country, and keep in mind cultural differences.

- Get informed / involved!

Read all the information on how to become a youth delegate. (below)

- Contact others

Don't do this on your own. Find out if your country may have had Youth delegates in the past, or if someone may already be working on it in your country.

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm#former\\_youth\\_delegates](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm#former_youth_delegates)

Definitely contact the following list for more information:

- UN program on Youth
- (former) Youth Delegates
- Your National Youth Council (or similar body if available)

Contact details are listed below.

- Draft a decent proposal

A quality proposal will be taken more seriously. This may take some work. For an example of what a proposal should look like:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ukydpproposal.pdf>

Also enlist the organizations who support your proposal, it will strengthen your point.

- Send your proposal

Send the proposal accompanied by a letter to institutions you want to get on board.

Show in the accompanied letter, how the institutions will benefit from a Youth Delegate.

Institutions you probably will want to work with are:

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
  - National
  - Permanent Mission to the United Nations
- **Ministry for Youth / National Youth Agency/ Department within other ministry**
- **Ministry for Development cooperation**
- **Ministry for Education**
- National Youth Council (if available)
- United Nations Youth Association
- United Nations Association
- **United Nations Information Center/ UNDP in your country**
- **Any other youth organization in your country**



Keep in mind that your National Youth Council (or similar body) may already have good contacts with one or all of the ministries. They probably will want to work together with you, because they have a special interest in Youth participation.

Direct your proposal as specific as possible, so find out who to contact within the institution in advance and also send it to the highest person in the institution. Try multiple channels.

- Follow up

After you sent your letter and proposal follow up on it. So call or email them to ask if they received it and ask when you will get a reply. Be polite yet persistent. If they don't reply or if it takes long, email and call again, and again, and again. Until you reached your goal.

- Get funding

This is not a precondition, but it does make the process a lot easier. If your country doesn't have to pay for the youth delegate, it is easier to bring one along, since the decision has no financial consequences. Once the Youth Delegate program is established in your country, you can try to change this.

- Arrange a meeting to explain in person

This may be relevant for several institutions but especially for your ministry of Foreign Affairs. Personal contact counts!

- Prepare well, and explain your case.
- Don't go on your own. Two people know more than one person, and it shows that more people are involved.
- If possible bring with a list of institutions or people that support you.
- Give an example of an other country where the Youth Delegate program has worked well

- Establish a trial year

The most difficult part is getting your government on board to establish a trial year. Be bold but polite and don't give up. Previous Youth Delegates have done some or all of the following:

- Phone/email almost every day, to keep it on the agenda
- spam blog sites of politicians in the country, including the prime minister
- find out where the politicians in your country will be (debates etc) and talk them, preferably in public, so they can't ignore you
- get other organizations to help you with all of the listed above
- contact media, and try to get an article published about Youth Delegates
- personal contacts count! (Someone from your University for example may know someone in foreign affairs) get them involved as well



- Work hard at the UN

Once you established a trial year, there is no better advocacy for Youth Delegates than when you do a good job at the UN. Work hard, behave and have a great time! Be hard on the content, soft on the person. Offer your help if you have time to spare. Remember that the trial year will set the standard for all the other years to come. Ask questions if you are unsure of something, and make sure that your presence will not go unnoticed. Ask feedback, and get a letter of recommendation, when you go back home. There will be a lot of other Youth Delegates from other countries there as well. Working together makes the youth voice stronger.

- Report back

Once you have had your trial year report back to all the organizations you contacted and especially your ministry of foreign affairs. Prepare well and present your results.

- Institutionalize the Youth Delegate program

Establish open, transparent, clear-cut selection mechanism. For example:

- Representative jury
- Written stage (resumes, essays)
- Open public debate
- Media awareness

Once you have been in New York the youth delegates from other countries can help you along.

### **Extra Information on how to become a youth delegate:**

#### **Internet:**

- UN site on youth

[www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)

- A Brief Guide to Youth Delegates to the United Nations General Assembly;  
Prepared for Member States of the United Nations

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm>

- Info Kit on how to become a Youth Delegate:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm#howto>

- Letter signed by the head of the United Nations program on Youth

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/promoting\\_youth\\_delegates.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/promoting_youth_delegates.pdf)

#### **Contact details:**



If you want to set up a program in your own country, these people are wise to contact and inform about it. They can help you along the rocky road.

- UN program on Youth

(Part of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) )

Contact Anke Green or Patience Stephens

[youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org)

- European Youth Forum:

[www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org)

[christoffer.gronstad@lnu.no](mailto:christoffer.gronstad@lnu.no) (Christoffer Gronstad, Board member of the European Youth Forum)

- Youth Delegates:

Send an email to:

[nisa.yanisa@gmail.com](mailto:nisa.yanisa@gmail.com) (Yanisa the Youth Delegate of Thailand)

[sandravanbeest@gmail.com](mailto:sandravanbeest@gmail.com) (Sandra, the youth delegate of the Netherlands)

### **Websites of youth delegates.**

Australia:

[www.youthrep.org.au](http://www.youthrep.org.au)

Germany:

[www.germanyouthdelegate.de](http://www.germanyouthdelegate.de)

Switzerland:

[www.youthrep.ch](http://www.youthrep.ch)

Netherlands:

[www.vnjongeren.nl](http://www.vnjongeren.nl)

[www.wouternaardevn.nl](http://www.wouternaardevn.nl)

[www.sandranaardevn.nl](http://www.sandranaardevn.nl)

Romania:

[www.unyouthdelegate.ro](http://www.unyouthdelegate.ro)

[www.corinamurafa.eu](http://www.corinamurafa.eu)