

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS

Rationale:

Civil Society Partners are our main partners: the Congress is a civil society-led initiative. We want to learn how civil society groups working on youth issues can work more effectively together so that the support and empowerment we give to young people is more helpful to them. Partnerships are hard - especially amongst NGOs competing for a small pot of funds: however, as the number of NGOs proliferates, our strength lies in our ability to work and collaborate with each other and deliver the best possible services to our constituencies. The World Youth Congress provides an excellent opportunity for Civil Society groups to come together in pursuit of the wider goals of youth empowerment and poverty eradication: please join us!

What are Civil Society Partners:

These are legally registered, youth-led or youth-focused Civil Society Organisations who share our passion for Youth Led Development. They seek the empowerment of young people to make a difference in their communities. Within their nations, they should have links to groups and branches across the country or at least an important part of it - and the ability to mobilise action projects and interest in the Congress amongst young people.

They should be able to assist securing institutional, government, media, higher education, school, cultural and individual partners. We seek several Civil Society Partners for the Congress in each country and shall encourage them to work together to secure powerful government, media and other partners within their country.

What they are not:

Civil Society Partners are not, and never can be, "gate-keepers". They cannot require all projects and applications to the Congress to be submitted through them. A good Civil Society Partner must have a well established network across the whole country or, at least, in an important part of it, so, if you are a small, community-based organisation with a local or regional focus, please promote the Congress through your members, realise action projects and encourage the leaders of these projects to apply as delegates to come to the Congress in Quebec City.

What PCI can offer to the Civil Society Partners (CSPs):

- **Recognition:** PCI will link each CSP with this major international youth event by putting the organisation's Name and logo on the websites (with links), in the Congress Book, and on the larger promotional materials prepared for the Congress;
- **Networking:** PCI commits to make available to the concerned delegates and Congress participants any information that the CSPs send us relating to the promotion and/or facilitation of an expanded role for youth in the Development Process;

- **Proposing delegates:** In the selection of the delegates for the Congress, PCI will give special attention to the applicants (active youth who are doing a project) who present a letter of recommendation from a CSP;
- **Exhibition:** PCI will consider any exhibition materials proposed by the CSPs of genuine YLD work, policy statements or youth leadership it has supported. In the Congress Exhibition, the CSPs will be acknowledged next to any projects they have funded.
- **Workshops:** PCI will invite the CSPs to propose skills workshop(s) about your organisation's approach to, or experience of, working on YLD at the Congress;
- **Participation in Shaping the Congress Series:** any CSP is welcome to become a part of the international family shaping the content and development of the Congress series around the world. They will be kept updated with regular news updates about the Congress Series and be invited to contribute their thoughts to international planning meetings.
- **Co-Promotion Opportunities:** The International Congress Secretariat is keen to develop promotional opportunities with its CSPs. For example, if there is a conference or a major youth event, we would be pleased to send a representative to speak or run a workshop to support our Partners in explaining/promoting the Congress; or, if you secure a meeting with your Government to discuss their participation in the congress, we would be happy to send one of the Congress Leadership team to support you in this conversation, explaining the background of the Congress and its wider aims.

What PCI expects from CSPs:

- **To Promote the Congress:** the CSPs will promote the Congress and the Virtual Congress through all possible civil society channels - schools, NGOs, youth groups, youth newspapers, TV, radio, faith groups etc.
- **To Engage with Government:** One of the principal task of every CSP is to work to get Governments involved as a Government Partners and make them recognise the importance of the Congress, of YLD and to convince them to send representation to the Congress.
- **Delegation Leadership:** If appropriate, we may, on a case-by-case basis, arrange for an officer of our CSP to act as a National Delegation leader, coordinating the input from their national delegations, travel plans, Pre- and Post-Congress press conferences, liaison with Government etc.
- **To Endorse:** a letter welcoming the initiative of the World Youth Congress and its goals.
- **To Catalyse/facilitate Action Projects:** The best thing a CSP can do is to fund some good Youth-led Development projects - either as part of its own general programme, or as a Congress related part of the Pre-Congress Action Festival via special fund-raising. Eg: an HIV-AIDS charity might want to raise funds for Youth-led AIDS projects; a water charity might want to specify projects that offer innovative approaches to the provision of clean water and sanitation;

- **Sponsor Delegate Travel:** CSPs are invited to sponsor travel of selected delegates who have worked on projects they have supported;
- **Taking Part in the Virtual Congress:** Each CSP is invited to link in to the Virtual Congress, both to display their work on the website, and to invite the youth of their community to join the Congress dialogues and negotiations.
- **To Follow-up the WYC-4 with a continuum of activity:** the great strength of the WYC Series is that as soon as one ends, we start preparing for the next: so we look to our CSPs to keep the YLD flag high on their community's radar - so that the activity continues, through debates, sponsored action projects, overseas visits, web-chats etc.
- **FOR CANADIANS - To sponsor a local Action Project:** If you are in the province of Quebec, there will be about 50 local action projects on which delegates will work. If you are active within 250km of Quebec City, please host a 3 days local action project with international delegates of the Congress and then become an important part of the wider global event. CONTACT: christian.robaille@wyc2008.qc.ca for more details.
- **FOR CANADIANS - To sponsor a Provincial Post-Congress Action Project:** If you are active outside that narrow radius around Quebec City, or in another province, please host a post-Congress action project. These are projects where communities will host overseas delegates to work with local Canadian youth on community projects that will benefit whole communities, the local environment and/or schools or local institutions. It is an important way of making the Quebec Congress a Canada-wide event, and allowing young people - who will have crossed the world to come to the Congress - experience more of this wide and diversified country!