

Joint Statement issued at the YIMD partnershipday
(as part of the NIMD partnershipdays)
in The Hague, The Netherlands, September 13, 2007.

At the invitation of the Young Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (YIMD) young politicians from Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania shared experiences and views with members of PYOs from the Netherlands.

Conclusions:

1. The future of developing democracies depends crucially on the contribution of countries' young people to the advancement of their institutions and ideals.
2. Youth participation should be part of any plan for democratisation for it is very important.
3. Youth participation involves the development of skills. Developing skills in negotiation, campaigning and other political skills, is of great benefit for the youth. It will prepare them to fully participate in the political arena because they are familiar with political organisations and because they are aware of the major policy problems in their country. This is important for the long-term development of political parties in general.
4. Young people have a large interest in long-term planning. The involvement of youth will not only stimulate attention for youth issues, but will also create an incentive to take long-term consequences into account.
5. Youth participation stimulates young people at an early stage to resolve conflict by means of discussion and negotiation. Due to the non-involvement in politics, young people do not always trust in the political system. They do not always see a way to participate (properly). Youth participation may have the effect that young people will not use violent means of showing their interest, because they've learned other ways to participate in the decision-making process.
6. Healthy criticism is of high value, and this is very good facilitated by political youth organisations. The possibility of a political youth organisation to be critical towards the policy of the mother party is very important and is stimulated by a somewhat independent youth organisation, because this creates more space for innovative thinking and the development of critical reflections. Innovative ideas, critical reflections, and long-term planning are deemed necessary to keep the mother party alive.

Thursday September 13, 2007
The Hague

Kenya

Shirikisho Party

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Yusuf Abubakar Mahmoud

Ford Asili

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Jane Florence Njiru

Ghana

New Patriotic Party

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Charles Asuako Owiredu

Convention Peoples Party

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Susan Adu-Amankwah

Tanzania

CCM

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Mwvita Makamba Gray

Chadema

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John John Mnyika

The Netherlands

YIMD

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Marije van Schaik