

**ippf/youth**

**Report of the IPPF  
Youth Parliament**

*Congress Hall, Hilton Atrium, Prague, Czech  
Republic*

*27 November 1998*

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## Executive summary

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**'Young people are not only the future - they are also the present. The real sexual health needs of young people must be heard, understood and met by IPPF and its member FPAs - now.'**

This was the uncompromising message which the participants of the **IPPF Youth Parliament** delivered to the Members Assembly in Prague on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1998. The event united 43 young people from 38 countries world-wide, all under the age of 25, and all actively involved in the sexual and reproductive health programmes of their country FPA. Based on their ideas and experiences, the participants in the Youth Parliament debated and presented to IPPF's Members Assembly the **ippf/youth manifesto** - a five year youth-developed strategy and plan of action for IPPF, developed by IPPF's Youth Committee.

**Participation and Citizenship, Services and Education, and Pleasure and Confidence** were the three key areas to be addressed according to the recommendations of the manifesto. The Youth Parliament endorsed the manifesto and urged IPPF and FPAs to adopt it as a vital instrument for better understanding and better meeting the range of sexual and reproductive health needs of young people as we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. After the Youth Parliament, IPPF's Central Council passed resolutions committing both ideological and practical support to the manifesto.

The Youth Parliament was not an isolated event, but formed part of a consultative process with youth initiated by the formation of IPPF's Youth Committee in 1995. A participatory framework was set in place in order to give youth a voice and a forum for action and influence at the policy-making level of IPPF. The Youth Committee is made up of 12 youth volunteers from FPAs in all 6 regions of IPPF, who meet twice a year, making contributions to different issues concerning young people. Important work already achieved by the IPPF Youth Committee includes the research and development of international publications such as *Mezzo*, *Generation 97*, *Sexual Rights of Young People Charter*.

The Youth Committee's focus of the last year has been on developing the **ippf/youth manifesto**: identifying its mission statement, core values, key objectives and action areas. The Youth Parliament served to widen the scope, validity and relevance of the document. The end document is the result of a global consultation with young people who have experience in the field of sexual health of youth, and reflects their most important shared concerns. The outcomes of the Youth Parliament fed into the preparation of a Background Paper on the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young People, to be presented at the ICPD+5 International Forum in The Hague.

**The Youth Parliament had three key outcomes:**

1. The **ippf/youth manifesto** was fully endorsed by all the members of the Youth Parliament.
2. IPPF's Central Council passed **resolutions**<sup>1</sup> committing human, financial and technical support to promote the goals of the ippf/youth manifesto throughout the Federation.
3. An international and dynamic **network** of young people working in the field of sexual and reproductive health has now been set in place. This will enable them to share information and resources, improve their position as negotiators, and gain strength as advocates for their own issues.

In addition, the **governance structure** of IPPF has been revised so that at least 20 % of the members of the Governing Council, the main decision and policy-making body of IPPF, will be young people under the age of 25.

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<sup>1</sup> For full text see appendix #2

## **ippf/youth manifesto**

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**ippf/youth** is a manifesto for IPPF to meet the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people as we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was developed by the Youth Committee of IPPF between April and October 1998.

### **ippf/youth was developed by:**

Ieva Briska (Latvia)	Maya El Zein (Lebanon)
Christine Jasinski (Belgium)	Nontombi Jujube (South Africa)
Zimanele Magagula (Swaziland)	Shantal Munro (Barbados)
Eleni Neocleous (Cyprus)	Christopher Penales (Philippines)
Bronwyn Rhodes (New Zealand)	Rachel Russell (USA)
Pragya Shah (Nepal)	Leatile Sithole (Botswana)
Misja Speur (Netherlands)	Vallamsetty Sumathi (India)
Robin Teurlings (Netherlands)	Adriana Zumaran (Peru)

### **ippf/youth exists to promote:**

- the partnership of young people and adults to ensure that young people can make informed choices and enjoy their sexuality
- the development of young people to participate in civil society to the best of their ability

### **core values**

- innovative
  - sustainable
  - freedom of sexual expression
  - free from judgement
  - partnership of young people and adults
  - confidentiality
  - informed choices
  - respect for diversity
  - sexual enjoyment
  - access to contraceptive services for all young people
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**goal 1**

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***young people must have information and education on sexuality and the best possible sexual and reproductive health services (including contraceptives).***

- all young people must be able to choose from a full range of contraceptives including the latest advances in contraception.
- sexual and reproductive health services for young people must be:
  - confidential
  - accessible
  - free from judgement
  - and offer a complete range of services
- service providers must make sure that they meet the different needs of all young people, married or unmarried, whatever their age, gender, ability, beliefs and sexual lifestyle.
- sexual and reproductive health education must be accurate, reliable and responsive to the physical and emotional needs of young people of all ages and sexual lifestyles.
- young men must be encouraged to use sexual and reproductive health services which have been designed for them.
- governments and policy makers must be urged to increase their commitment to sexual and reproductive health education and services for young people.
- service providers must make sure that they meet the additional needs of young people living with hiv/aids, survivors of sexual abuse and young sexual offenders.

**goal 2**

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***young people must be able to be active citizens in their society***

- young people must have real decision-making power in all work of ippf/fpas
- young people must receive practical skills and knowledge so they can participate to the best of their ability in society.
- the contribution of young people and the way that they present themselves must be valued and recognised in ippf/fpas.
- youth groups must have direct access to funds and support.
- governments and policy makers must be urged to take action to support and promote youth participation in society.

**goal 3**

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***young people must be able to have pleasure and confidence in relationships and all aspects of sexuality.***

- young people must be supported by laws that allow them to act freely in the way they choose to live their lives.
- obstacles that make young people uncomfortable about themselves, their bodies and their relationships must be removed.
- young people must be encouraged to know their own sexual rights and to respect the rights of others.
- young people's sexuality should have a positive image in society.
- society must recognise the right of all young people to enjoy sex and to express their sexuality in the way that they choose .

*ACTIVITIES***A. Fund-raising & Communications**

- Increase the allocation of human and financial resources to youth programmes.
- Conduct research into resources available for youth projects and youth-initiated projects and share the findings with young people.
- Give rewards (monetary or certificates) for good youth programmes

*Advocacy*

- **Promote:**
  - the core values and mission statement in all aspects of the work of IPPF/FPAs.
  - sexual pleasure as a valid sexual and reproductive health need for all young people including young people living with HIV/AIDS, and young people with disabilities.
  - sexual and reproductive health services including the provision of contraceptives to young people.
  - increased support for youth participation.
- **Lobby governments, either individually or through a coalition of like-minded Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) & Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs):**
  - to increase their commitment to sexual and reproductive health education for young people.
  - to remove legal barriers to sexual and reproductive health services including contraceptive services for all young people
  - to introduce legislation to support and promote the right to freedom of expression
  - to introduce issues of sexuality in the school curriculum.
  - to support youth participation through the selection of young people for national delegations at International meetings
- **Lobby governments and donors:**
  - to provide loans, grants and funds for programmes which involve young people
  - to create special funds for youth-initiated projects and to increase the access of young people to these funds.

***Media & Communications***

- Create an attractive youth identity for the IPPF/FPAs at all levels
- **Conduct media campaigns, either individually or through a coalition of like-minded NGOs & IGOs, using celebrity role-models, innovative media (e.g. T-shirts, serviettes, badges, mugs) and with visibility at youth events and concerts:**
  - to promote male involvement and make programmes more attractive to young men.
  - to increase grassroots support for sexual and reproductive health education and services for young people.
  - to promote positive self-image, self-esteem and diversity in the area of sexuality of young people.
  - to attract young people as volunteers
- **Contact media (TV, Radio, newspapers and magazines) to talk about youth/sexuality issues, including:**
  - participation in radio and television discussion programmes including debates to increase awareness of sexual and reproductive rights of young people.
  - publication of articles and advice columns in national publications and periodicals.
- **Publish, using language which is simple and understandable, and distribute:**
  - the current allocation of funding to programmes that specifically address the needs of young people and youth-initiated programmes.
  - an annual Youth Report to report on IPPF/FPAs work with young people which is appealing and understandable by young people.
  - the IPPF Youth Strategy & Plan of Action
  - youth open file. (Collect relevant papers and recent information on the sexual and reproductive health of young people. Make it youth friendly)
- **Research and distribute findings on:**
  - the latest advances in contraception and their suitability for young people.
  - youth programmes including successful projects, to young people themselves.
  - Successful examples of youth participation.

- Develop a youth web site including information on FPA youth programmes and youth groups for all those who work with young people including young people themselves.

### ***Networking & Partnership***

- **Facilitate networking and partnership:**
    - with the private sector to make services attractive, accessible and sustainable including corporate sponsorship by youth-oriented and health-promoting companies (e.g. The Body Shop).
    - between youth groups.
    - with youth organisations and youth-serving organisations
    - with governments and ministries for youth and other policy makers  
*and by:*
  - **Conducting international and national exchange programmes of youth volunteers and staff within the IPPF network and with other NGOs.**
    - Involve young people in networking at both international and national levels through participation at international and national meetings and seminars.
    - Create/participate in national youth platforms, councils, consensus-creating youth groups to access or be accessed by local/national decision-makers
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## ACTIVITIES

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### B. Programmes

#### *Research*

- **Conduct research in partnership with young people:**
  - to identify the needs of young people including sexual and reproductive health needs and concerns which take into account the diversity of young people i.e. gender, age, education etc.

#### *Education*

- **Develop and conduct sexual and reproductive health education programmes including:**
  - peer counselling and education programmes
  - interactive programmes which are responsive to the physical and emotional needs of young people
  - sexual rights education for young people.
  - life skills education for young people
  - community education on youth issues to increase grassroots support for youth programmes.
  - parent education to provide parents with the knowledge and skills to educate their children on sexual and reproductive health issues and to encourage the open discussion of sexuality issues within the family
  - information and education programmes people in partnership with the private sector which are attractive to young
  - workshops for community leaders including police, lawyers, teachers, parents and social services on sexual abuse issues
- Develop a detailed programme plan for sex education which includes sexuality, sexual expression and sexual pleasure and involves young people in the curriculum development.
- **Develop innovative sexual and reproductive health education programmes including:**
  - entertainment events for young people which incorporate sexual and reproductive health messages.
  - innovative and positive safe sex messages.
  - collaboration with local arts groups (theatre, music, art) to include sexual and reproductive rights issues in their repertoire.

- merchandising such as leisure, pleasure and educational materials

### *Services*

- **Develop and strengthen youth centres & youth clinics providing a complete range of sexual and reproductive health services\* including contraceptive provision for all young people.**
  - Develop telephone (and e-mail if appropriate) hotline counselling and advice services.
  - Provide mobile youth services and outreach programmes for young people.
  - Increase the choice of contraceptives (including Emergency Contraceptive Pills) available to all young people.
  - Develop services specifically for young men
  - Encourage young people to use services with their partners
  - Establish referral network of services (including abortion services) for young people
  - Provide services and support and establish referral links for young people living with HIV/AIDS, survivors of sexual abuse, young sexual offenders and involve young people from the target groups as partners in the development of these services
  - Increase the accessibility (right way, right place, right time, right cost) of sexual and reproductive health services for young people which are affordable for all young people
  - Ensure that young people are aware of the range of services available.
- Develop guidelines for youth-friendly services and quality of care standards in partnership with young people.
- Develop income-generating activities which meet other needs of young people to make sexual and reproductive health services more sustainable (such as providing e-mail/Internet access).

**\*Complete Range of Services** = counselling; contraception; emergency contraception; abortion; smear tests; pregnancy tests; STD/HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and counselling; drug abuse prevention and support; gay/lesbian/bisexual support & services; pregnancy and parenthood support & services; rape support; abuse support; etc.

### *Training*

- **Train young people (and issue nationally-recognised certificates for completion of training):**

- in the planning, implementation and evaluation of FPA programmes.
  - as trainers for life skills education and sexual and reproductive health education and counselling.
  - in fund-raising and business skills
  - youth leadership
  - for outreach programmes.
- **Train service providers:**
    - on youth sexual and reproductive health and broader youth issues and where possible form links to private sector to commercialise training programmes.
    - to provide youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services for young people, with regular in-service training to keep them updated on the changing needs and concerns of young people.
    - to meet the needs of young men.
    - to meet the additional needs of young people living with HIV/AIDS, survivors of sexual abuse and young sexual offenders.
  - **Train all staff:**
    - to recognise the potential of young people and youth groups.

### *Evaluation*

- **Evaluate and assess the impact of all youth programmes and involve young people as partners in the evaluation including:**
  - assessment of services by young people.
  - assessment of educational materials and programmes by young people.

## **ACTIVITIES**

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### **C. Empowerment & Participation**

#### *Decision-Making*

- **Ensure the full participation of young people in the decision-making processes of IPPF/FPAs through:**

- the involvement of young people (elected by youth volunteers) with equal status and real decision power in all the decision-making bodies of IPPF and FPAs.
- specific youth-only decision-making bodies to guide and influence sexual and reproductive health programmes.
- full and equal voting rights for youth volunteers within FPAs.

### ***Youth Participation***

- Involve young people in all activities in the plan of action as partners with real decision-making power, responsibility and accountability.
- **Develop youth groups within FPAs run by young people for young people with specific, outlined areas of responsibility.**
  - provide on-going technical assistance to youth groups.
  - support youth publications developed by youth groups for young people (with advertising space to be sold for sustainability).
  - provide a youth friendly space for the youth group to hold regular meetings
  - make available computers, fax, photocopy, telephone and email/internet and other office resources to youth groups.
- **Develop a youth-friendly identity to encourage young people to work in IPPF and FPA programmes.**
  - Conduct entertainment events to attract new and diverse youth volunteers.
  - Hire young staff to work in all areas of the work of FPAs and IPPF
  - Hire and train young people as interns.
- **Promote and credit the achievements of young people in the work of FPAs and IPPF.**
  - Provide incentives for youth volunteers including stipends (regular monetary allowance) to youth workers for specific youth projects
  - Cover basic expenses for food, travel and other expenses for volunteers
- **Promote the development of youth-initiated programmes:**
  - Create youth activity centres for young people of differing interests, which promote innovation and creativity.
  - Provide technical assistance for the development of youth-initiated projects.
  - Provide funds for innovative youth-initiated programmes.

## Session of the Youth Parliament<sup>2</sup>

*Congress Hall, Hilton Atrium, Prague, Czech Republic, 27 November 1998*

### Opening remarks:

“As the largest generation entering their reproductive years - approximately 1 billion people between the age of 15 to 24 - we are very pleased that our 4<sup>th</sup> plenary session is one in which we will hear your voice, we will learn from you, and we look forward to receiving your strategy and the resolutions you adopt”

Mrs Attiya Inayatullah, President of IPPF

### Introduction by Speaker of the House:

“This House recognises the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people as we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and calls on IPPF to rectify and implement the ippf/youth manifesto to enable young people to make informed choices and enjoy their sexuality.”

Leatile Sithole, IPPF Youth Committee Member, Botswana

### Presentation of the ippf/youth manifesto:

“The ippf/youth manifesto has been developed by young people from diverse culture backgrounds and regions of the world. With us we have brought experiences, knowledge and burning desire for change... The youth manifesto was developed out of the need for clear direction to be established which would empower youth and youth programmes into the next millennium. In this manifesto we intended on changing the reality of young people to make it more responsive to their needs, initiatives and ideas.”

Pragya Shah, IPPF Youth Committee Member, Nepal

### *Key Elements:*

#### ❖ Services and education

Young people are increasingly sexually active at an early age, and therefore need accurate and responsive information and services.

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<sup>2</sup> For agenda of the session see appendix #1

**“We must do something about it now by providing mobile youth services and outreach programmes that will increase the knowledge, awareness about the issue confronting them and also make sure that these services are accessible in every way to all youth.”**

Chris Penales, Youth Committee Member, Philippines

**“It is very important to have youth clinics that provide the full range of services, and that are run by young people – because they have the knowledge about young people’s needs, wants and feelings.”**

Ibid.

#### ❖ **Participation:**

Experience has shown the need for and immense value of full **participation** of young people in youth programmes, their design, implementation and evaluation. Involving young people in research and evaluation is crucial to identifying and meeting the specific, diverse and changing needs of young people.

**“Services and materials (for youth sexual health) must be updated and change on an ongoing basis. IPPF must realise that young people today are changing at this very moment. They are coming up with new statements and this is a challenge for the future to meet these challenges and apply these changes.”**

Adriana Zumarán, Youth Committee Member, Peru

**“We the members of the IPPF Youth Committee call for the participation and empowerment of young people throughout the decision making structure of IPPF and all FPAs. This involvement must be marked by full and equal voting rights and status within these bodies.”**

Shantal Munro, Youth Committee Member, Barbados

#### ❖ **Pleasure & Confidence:**

The ippf/youth manifesto makes a commitment to sexuality education which includes sexuality, sexual expression and sexual **pleasure**.

**“We use a broad definition of pleasure, not solely sexual satisfaction. Pleasure includes self-esteem, self-confidence, knowledge and comfort with one’s body. These things are vital to ensure comfortable and pleasurable relationships of all kinds and for all ages.”**

Bronwyn Rhodes, Youth Committee Member, New Zealand

Referring to her own work as a peer educator in New Zealand, the presenter stressed the need for programmes to be **“innovative and funky – so that they attract both males and females”**, and for them to be set in an environment which is **‘comfortable and non-threatening’**.

**“I have found that the more comfortable young people feel, the more information they take in and the easier they find it to ask questions that they might not normally ask.”**

Ibid.

### **Cultural Diversity:**

Several points were raised about the need to respect cultural and religious diversity, in the implementation of the youth manifesto.

**“I come from an Islamic country. We don’t have the right to sexual relations outside of marriage. It is forbidden, it is prohibited. If somebody acts in that way they are regarded as being outside of normal society. I could encourage people to use contraceptives but this would have to be married couples, if I were to encourage unmarried people to use contraceptives I would be acting in a manner which is prohibited by our religion.”**

Hana Ben Aziz, Youth Participant, Tunisia

**“Keeping in mind that we come from diverse social, religious and cultural backgrounds, I propose to take forward a statement as put in the ICPD Programme of Action. It says that clear recognition is given to the fact that the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with universally recognised human rights. This statement is as valid today as it was in Cairo four years ago.”**

Zakeesh Khan, Youth Participant, Pakistan

**“Now of course we must realise that there are cultural differences, but we have got to realise what is going on and what is hazardous to**

**young people's health. We want to inform them and then they can decide what options to go for."**

Chris Penales, Youth Committee Member, Philippines

### *Plan of Action*

#### ❖ **Networking, advocacy and fund-raising:**

These are vital skills to ensure the success of youth-managed youth programmes.

**"Advocacy is the key to strengthening the voices of young people. We need young activists who will speak out and promote the sexual and reproductive health rights of young people."**

Rachel Russell, Youth Committee Member, USA

The presenter gave examples from her own work in creating and strengthening global partnerships between different youth organisations world-wide, and also with the private sector.

**"The partnerships promote global awareness and they allow for an exchange of expertise, and that expertise can be anything from technical programme assistance to strategies for advocacy, fundraising and how to mobilise grassroots support."**

Ibid.

#### ❖ **Resource mobilisation:**

Providing resources such as space, access to information technology, technical and financial support for youth-managed groups can lead to the development of innovative, responsible, sustainable and independent programmes.

In the Latvian FPA youth programme, funding from an external donor enabled the training of 46 educators and hot-line workers, the publication of brochures and leaflets, and the mounting of a national 'Cool Condom Campaign'. This youth-managed campaign made effective use of the media to make sexual health messages attractive and accessible to both young men and young women.

**"We would like IPPF and FPAs to increase money for youth programmes as well as give rewards and recognise good youth work."**

Ieva Briska, Youth Committee Member, Latvia

### Open debate:

**“I am a member of the Arab Islamic Group. Young people in the Arabic Islamic world are the ones that were the leaders in the victory. It was young people who were at the forefront of the youth struggle. The young people should be members of the decision-making bodies, they should be members of the IPPF committees, they should be members of the regional councils. Young people have got to play a major role when it comes to deciding what their needs are, what activities are going to be undertaken and how they are to be assessed and evaluated - if we are going to achieve the best possible result. It is better to forestall problems than to seek to cure them once they have arisen.”**

Marwan Salah Moitah, Youth Participant, Jordan

**“We are calling on the governments, we are calling on the IPPF and the local FPAs: if you have them, commit funds, if not, link us with the donors, if not, help us to solicit for these funds. The ideas are good but we lack finances, and that is what we are asking for.”**

Andrew Meme, Youth Participant, Kenya

**“I would like to tell you of some experience from my country in Peru concerning communication and empowering young people. We have got a radio programme that is called ‘Growing with Sexuality’. It is an outreach programme to reach young people in rural areas who cannot go to schools to hear about sex education. The financial support from IPPF was cut so the point I am trying to say is that if you don’t help, if you don’t continue supporting us we won’t be able to develop our projects. Basically what I am asking for is more help.”**

Elizabeth Espinoza Portilla, Youth Participant, Peru

Apart from financial assistance and full participation, the members of the Youth Parliament made calls for technical training, and the adequate occupational environment to promote young people’s participation in FPA youth programmes. For example, hiring young people, as paid staff or partly-paid interns, and treating them equally to other workers, would make it possible and beneficial for them to work with and for FPAs.

**“Encouraging young people not just with work but technical resources to work with computers and other equipment young people will need to learn how to work with them and with these resources.”**

Robin Teurlings, Youth Committee Member, Netherlands

Creating a youth-friendly identity for FPAs was another priority for increasing youth participation.

**“We need to get rid of this stigma that is attached to FPA and youth. We need to get a new name for our youth groups.”**

Josephine Gregg, Youth Participant, St. Lucia

#### **Questions from the Youth Parliament to IPPF Members Assembly:**

These questions ranged from the issue of contraceptive provision for all young people, to the recognition of sexual pleasure as a right – for young people, as well as for older people.

**“In our country, our tradition and our religious barriers don’t allow us to have any type of sexual pleasure, even not any type of sexuality before marriage - but it is our right. Is IPPF prepared to fight against our tradition or our religious barriers that can gain us the right to have this pleasure or this sexuality?”**

Nobonita Chowdhury, Youth Participant, Bangladesh

**“What I would suggest is that the right to pleasure be added to the charter of the IPPF sexual rights We are talking about sexual rights and I think that our charter which sets out rights should include the right to pleasure of all human beings whatever their age.”**

FPA Senior Representative, Mexico

Other senior FPA representatives did not agree that the focus on sexual pleasure was a useful or desirable one for the Federation.

**“If this revolution which you advocate, the revolution of youth, is only for the mere sexual pleasure, I believe we will not have attained much.”**

FPA Senior Representative, Sudan

### **Questions from Members Assembly to the Youth Parliament:**

▪ Aren't youth already represented at the regional council level of IPPF? This is the case in South Asia Region, but not so in other IPPF regional councils, or in every country FPA.

**“We do not only want token representation in a token area – it must be at all levels of FPA, the regional and international level”.**

Shantal Munro, Youth Committee Member, Barbados

▪ Consider why in countries where sex is culturally contained within marriage, HIV/AIDS and STDs are virtually non-existent?

**“This is not true, I am absolutely sure that in your countries as well there are people walking around with diseases like that, they are just too scared to admit it.”**

Robin Teurlings, Youth Committee Member, Netherlands

**“In the Philippines women are being raped but nowadays they come out because they believe that there is somebody who is going to help them.”**

Chris Penales, Youth Committee Member, Philippines

Another respondent stated that India was fast becoming a capital of HIV/AIDS due to this attitude and tendency to deny the problem.

### **Closing remarks: the future of ippf/youth**

How to ensure that the momentum gathered during this meeting is not lost, but to build on it?

**“43 young people are here and we are networking, but it mustn’t stop here, it must continue.”**

Lee Chean Wei, Youth Participant, Malaysia

**“I am in support of my colleague from Malaysia. I think we have to think about the establishment of a committee. For example in Mozambique we have a national committee for youth and this is working very well and we have a better co-ordination among organisations and groups dealing with reproductive health for youth. Why don’t we establish a regional youth committee?”**

Estevao Marima, Youth Participant, Mozambique

Youth Advocacy Movements (YAMs), a project initiated by the Western Hemisphere Region of IPPF, could be developed in other regions. This movement links up to other youth bodies in the region, sharing ideas and programmes.

**“I am asking you all here today to think seriously of forming these youth movements or these youth bodies whatever you wish to call it, and develop it in regards to your own culture and religion and so on.”**

Ozzi Warwick, Youth Participant, Trinidad

### **Call for Action:**

**“You have heard the voices, you have heard the views, you have heard the call for action. IPPF youth is a global vision and the people from the youth parliament are from all over the world ready to take up the struggle of implementing the challenges locally. IPPF was set up as a pioneering movement. It is now time to be pioneering again. We need reproductive health programmes for all young people and we need to do this now.”**

Chris Penales, Youth Committee Member, Philippines

## After the Youth Parliament... Building the Future:

The Youth Parliament had the following direct outcomes:

- **The ippf/youth manifesto was endorsed by the Youth Parliament participants.** They were able to share their ideas and experiences to identify key action areas for the future of youth programmes and youth networks in IPPF. These are aimed at ensuring that young people are fully involved in every stage of youth programmes; can participate fully at the policy-making level of, FPAs, IPPF, and civil society, and; are able to advocate effectively for their own issues.
- **The ippf/youth manifesto was reviewed by IPPF Members Assembly and was recommended for the earliest possible adoption and implementation.** IPPF, through its Central Council resolutions<sup>3</sup> committed itself to:
  - adopt the ippf/youth manifesto as presented at the Youth Parliament.
  - earmark funds for youth programmes
  - encourage donors to prioritise youth
  - encourage FPAs to increase youth participation in their programmes and policy-making.
- **An international and dynamic network of young people working in the field of sexual and reproductive health has now been set in place.** The resolutions made by IPPF Central Council are indicative of the fact that IPPF takes young people and their active participation very seriously. The revised governance structure gives young people real decision-making power to shape and guide programmes developed for young people. This active network of young people is the key to carrying forward the commitments made by IPPF.

It is encouraging that the Central Council in Prague also accepted the report of the Governance Task Force which recommended that **at least 20% of the main governance structure of IPPF should be composed of young people under the age of 25.** Central Council is to be replaced by one Governing Council - comprised of 5 representatives from each Regional Council. Under this new structure, *at least* one of the five members elected from each Region to the Governing Council must be under the age of 25.

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<sup>3</sup> See Appendix #2

***Key Action Areas***

- **Advocacy: Raising the profile of IPPF's youth activities**  
Workshops on ippf/youth manifesto at the Hague International Forum (ICPD + 5).  
Manifesto road shows to sell and develop the ideas of the manifesto to local communities.
  - **Networking: Strengthening links with other youth organisations**  
Creating Youth Advocacy Movements (YAMs) to link up regional and national youth-related groups and provide a strong platform for voicing youth issues.
  - **Communications and Partnerships: Increasing information and resource sharing between those who work on youth within IPPF and FPAs**  
Develop interactive web site on Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young Adults.  
Production of international/regional Youth newsletter.
  - **Governance: rethinking the structure of IPPF Youth Committee**  
At least 20% of main IPPF Governance structure comprised of young people under 25 years old.  
Suggested regular regional Youth Committee meetings, with occasional international meetings on specific issues.  
Youth consultant database of youth with expertise in specific youth sexual health issues.
  - **Training: Practical Skills for Sustainable Youth Programmes**  
Regional YAM workshops to help set up national YAMs.  
Workshops for diverse groups -e.g. health professionals and parents.  
Provide practical skills training for FPA/YAM youth workers in key areas: fundraising, Internet use, advocacy, and networking.
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***Appendix 1: Agenda for the Session of the Youth Parliament***

*Congress Hall, Hilton Atrium, Prague, Czech Republic, 27 November 1998*

14.30            **YOUTH PARLIAMENT: SESSION I**

Opening Speech: *Speaker of the House, Mr. Leatile Sithole*

**Presentation & Debate of the ippf/youth manifesto**

*Proposed by the IPPF Youth Committee*

- **Introduction to the manifesto:** *Pragya Shah & Rachel Russell*
- **Resource Mobilisation, Networking & Partnerships:** *Rachel Russell, Robin Teurlings & Ieva Briska*
- **Programmes:** *Bromwyn Rhodes, Adriana Zumaran & Chris Penales*
- **Empowerment & Participation:** *Shantal Munro, Pragya Shah*

**Open Debate**

15.50            **BREAK**

\*[Members Assembly can submit questions for the Youth Parliament, in writing, to the Speaker of the House during the interval.]

16.20            **YOUTH PARLIAMENT: SESSION II**

**Question half-hour**

The Honorary Officers of IPPF field questions from the Youth Parliament.

**Questions from Members Assembly\***

The Youth Parliament will respond to questions from Members Assembly

**Matters Arising**

**Closing Speeches:** *Bromwyn Rhodes, Christopher Penales*

**Final Resolution and Adjournment of Proceedings**

*Speaker of the House*

17.30            **CLOSE**

***Appendix No. 2: Resolutions passed by Central Council during Members Assembly, Prague, November 1998***

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- ***Resolution (A)***

**The undersigned FPA representatives coming from donor countries;** together with the representatives of the Youth Committee and the Youth Parliament recognising the need for support as brought forward by the Youth Parliament to Member's Assembly on November 27<sup>th</sup> 1998, Prague;

**recognising the responsibility felt by FPA representatives coming from donor countries to influence their government's policy in a way that priority will be given to the need for policy change and programmes for young people**

**RECOMMEND** to Central Council to  **earmark a substantial fund for youth programmes** within the budget.

- ***Resolution (B)***

**We the undersigned countries;**

Urge Central Council **to adopt the Youth Manifesto**, as represented by the Youth Parliament, and accepted by the IPPF President at Members Assembly 98, as the new strategic plan for the involvement of young people in the IPPF.

**We urge** the Central Council to invest in research and action orientated strategic planning in order to ensure that each Region is empowered to adopt this manifesto, with cognizance for cultural differences.

**We urge** the Central Council to devise a strategy to ensure that young people elected to RC and GC are fully supported in order to ensure that they can participate on an equal footing with other representatives.

- ***Resolution (in original MA Report of the Resolutions Committee)***

**MA WELCOMED** the energy and commitment expressed by participants at the youth Parliament, and **URGES** FPAs to redouble its effort to increase youth participation in IPPF policy and programme development, and to ensure that young people are fully supported in order to participate on an equal footing with other representatives.

**MA URGED** IPPF at FPA, regional and international levels to encourage governments and donors to give priority to the needs of young people in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

**MA URGED** Central Council to review the Youth Manifesto presented to MA by the Youth Parliament, with a view to ensuring that each region is empowered to adopt this manifesto, with cognizance for cultural differences, and mobilizing resources for the priorities and programme objectives it outlines.

## Appendix No. 3: List of Participants

<i>Participants in the Youth Parliament</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Contact</i>
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