



World Scouting participates in the UNFPA's Youth Advisory Panel

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New York, 20 December - Secretary of the Africa Scout Youth Forum Steering Committee (2007-2010) Ms. Nikitta Dede Adjirakor from Ghana represented the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) at this year's annual meeting of the Global Youth Advisory Panel (GYAP) of the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA), which took place this week in New York.

The Global Youth Advisory Board was established by the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) and is comprised of young people from all over the world between the ages of 15 and 24 who meet annually to give advice on promoting the needs and rights of youth within UNFPA. The panel members make comprehensive recommendations to UNFPA on policy making, programming and planning. Participants at this year's meeting were from various youth organisations and country offices of the UNFPA.

The goals of this year's 2007 GYAP Meeting were given as:

- To review progress on last year's recommendations, in light of the implementation of the UNFPA Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth.
- To provide inputs to identify strategies and outputs for the implementation of Regional Plans for 2008 ? 2011.
- To provide inputs and feed back as to how the coordination between different UNFPA supported youth networks and programs at the regional and global level be improved.
- To draft, agree and to finalise the GYAP guidance on youth participation in UNFPA committed to in the 2006 GYAP Recommendations and provide strategies for optimal dissemination and implementation of the guidance.

Throughout the three day meeting, the participants deliberated on issues affecting youth ranging from education, community service, youth involvement, population development, in gender equity, sexual and reproductive health, abortion and the voice of the excluded in war torn areas.

Presentations were made on the work done in the various regions and challenges that were faced in the past twelve months, and this enabled the participants to explore the best ways to overcome these obstacles and get more work done. They also worked extensively on programming, policy and decision making and advocacy. These were the three aspects of the guidance policy on youth participation.

Speaking of the event, Ms. Adjirakor said "I enjoyed this trip so much as it gave me the opportunity to share ideas to improve the situation of youth in the world with others from various organisations."