I. LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is our pleasure to introduce you to the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights’ (YCSRR) 2011 Annual Report.

2011 was full of exciting opportunities and critical moments for the YCSRR, and the youth Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRR) movement. Namely, 2011 marked the 2nd half of the International Year of Youth (IYY), the YCSRR took the lead on coordinating a youth-led advocacy strategy aimed at promoting and protecting young people’s SRR, while creating spaces for young people to meaningfully participate in decision-making at national, regional and international levels. Throughout the year, we advocated for our SRR during the UN High Level Meeting (HLM) on Youth, UN HLM on HIV, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). We also facilitated a series of regional trainings to build the capacities of young people to effectively engage in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), resulting in participants joining their country coordinating mechanisms and NGO Delegations to the GFATM Board. The YCSRR also took steps to launch an Alumni Engagement Programme and innovative communications channels through which past members and staff, partners and young people can engage in our activities, thereby building our network allies and partners.

Reflecting on our accomplishments, 2011 was a year of many challenges and opportunities for the SRR movement. We experienced the impacts of the continuing movement of opposition to youth SRHR. Due to the political climate and financial crises, we’ve seen changes in funding patterns, marking a shift away from advancing a youth rights-based agenda. Alternatively, we’ve seen diverse youth constituencies and youth-led organizations mobilizing together in support of each other and our rights. Moreover, we’ve seen increasing opportunities for young people to meaningfully participate in decision-making at national, regional and international levels.

In response to these realities, the YCSRR took active steps to position itself as a leader in the youth SRR community. In 2011, the YCSRR membership developed its 2012-2015 Strategic Plan, creating direction and identifying priorities that will guide the organization in the next three years. This new Strategic Plan aims to strengthen the respect, protection and promotion of young people’s SRR. The Plan prioritizes five channels through which this can be achieved, which include: advocacy aimed at protecting and promoting young people’s SRR in policies and programmes; building capacities to advocate for SRR; engaging in strategic communications in support of our advocacy; increasing our knowledge; and building upon the YCSRR’s internal efficiency and sustainability.

With the upcoming reviews of the International Conference on Population and Development Program of Action (ICPD PoA) in 2014 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, the YCSRR is well positioned to ensure that the post-2014/2015 development framework prioritizes the SRHR of young people.

With an exciting year ahead, we invite you to celebrate with us highlights and accomplishments from the year. We also take this time to thank all of our supporters, partners, funders, members and staff for an amazing year. Our work cannot be done without your support!

Liping Mian
Chair, Board of Directors
II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR) greatly appreciates all of the organizations and individuals with whom we have worked throughout 2011. Thank you to the following funders and organizations for all of their generous support, without which we could not have achieved so much:

OUR FUNDERS
ActionAID: Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD); Advocates for Youth; AfriYan; Asia-Pacific Alliance for ICPD (APA); CHOICE for youth and sexuality; Coalicion de Jovenes por la Educacion y la Salud Sexual (COJESS); Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era DAWN Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP); Secretariat of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM); Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+); Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA); HIV Young Leaders Fund; International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA); International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC); Ipas; International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA); Plataforma Nacional de Juventud; Plataforma de Juventud por la Salud Sexual; Programas de Planificación Familiar (COJESS); Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era DAWN Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP); Secretariat of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM); Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+); Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA); HIV Young Leaders Fund; International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA); International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC); Ipas; International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA); and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

OUR PARTNERS
Summit Charitable Foundation; Ford Foundation; Ford HIV Initiative; Ipas; and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

OUR STRUCTURE
The YCSRR is an international organization of young people (ages 18-29 years) committed to promoting adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive rights at the national, regional and international levels. We are students, researchers, lawyers, health care professionals, educators, development workers, and most importantly, we are all dedicated activists.

OUR MISSION
The YCSRR aims to ensure that the sexual and reproductive rights of all young people are respected, guaranteed and promoted, and strives to secure the meaningful participation of young people in decision-making that affects their lives, by advocating, generating knowledge, sharing information, building partnerships and training young activists with a focus on the regional and international levels.

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES
- Sexual and reproductive rights are human rights, and therefore apply equally to young people.
- All human rights are universal and must not be limited on the grounds of conflict with religion, culture or tradition.
- Sexuality and sexual expression are integral parts of the personal identity of all human beings, including young people.
- Youth participation is essential to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights’ programmes and policies address the realities, concerns and priorities of all young people.
- Young people have valuable contributions to make to society and must have recognized and respected voices in all policy and decision-making processes.
- Young people’s access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights information and education is vital for safeguarding and promoting the life, health, and well-being of all young people.
- Young people’s access to comprehensive, affordable and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including emergency contraception, is vital for safeguarding and promoting the life, health, and well-being of all young people.
- All women, irrespective of age, have the right to access legal, safe, and affordable abortions.
- The sexual and reproductive lives of young people must be free of coercion or the threat of violence.
- Programmes and interventions that safeguard and advance young people’s sexual and reproductive rights must be fully funded and supported with adequate resources.
Advocacy plays a central role in the YCSRR’s mission and mandate. Striving to influence decision-making processes at the international level, the YCSRR advocates for strengthened respect, protection and promotion of young people’s sexual and reproductive rights. In collaboration with our partners, the YCSRR adopts a long-term and strategic approach to advocacy in order to achieve positive outcomes for youth SRHR. For example, in the months leading up to key advocacy events, the YCSRR creates spaces for young people within official country delegations, strengthens young people’s ability to effectively lead advocacy in high-level spaces nationally, regionally and internationally, facilitates strategizing spaces and shares information regarding key political shifts - all in order to ensure that the voices of young people are heard in international decision-making processes.

With 2011 marking the latter half of the International Year of Youth (IYY), the YCSRR collaborated with other youth-led and youth-serving organizations to ensure that youth SRHR issues were integrated into various international decision-making processes. In 2011, the YCSRR brought a delegation of young people to the 55th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the 44th Session on the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, and the High Level Meeting on Youth. The YCSRR collaborated closely with other young people, and although these spaces proved challenging due to the presence of many conservative organizations, it was still possible to safeguard gains made in 2009 in the areas of gender equality, women’s empowerment and access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, and the type of commitments to adolescents and young people’s SRHR needed during negotiations.

In the follow-up to the CPD, the YCSRR continued co-chairing the ‘International Sexual and Reproductive Rights Coalition (ISRRC)’ CPD Youth Working Group, a group of youth SRHR NGOs working alongside International Year of Youth (IYY) strategy partners, the International Women’s Health Coalition and RESURJ. The YCSRR was able to safeguard gains made in 2009 in the areas of gender equality (the definition of which was contested), the human rights of women, SRHR services, HIV and AIDS, financing, civil society participation and adolescents and young people.

Recognizing 30 years into the AIDS epidemic, the High Level Meeting on HIV set out to develop concrete targets to address the epidemic. In this space, the YCSRR advocated for protecting and promoting young people’s SRHR, recognizing the diversities of youth, including young people in decision-making related to the HIV response and ensuring young people have access to information and services related to effective HIV-prevention strategies. Leading up to the HLM, the YCSRR attended the Civil Society Hearings where members had the opportunity to work closely with other civil society organizations in order to develop a set of comprehensive and targeted advocacy messages.
V. THE YEAR IN TRAINING

For over 10 years now, the YCSRR has been working to ensure that young people working in the field of SRR have a full understanding of their sexual and reproductive rights, and are empowered to exercise and advocate for their human rights. The YCSRR has become a recognized leader in the delivery of trainings, workshops and youth caucuses that increase the knowledge and capacities of young people working in the SRR field. As a result of these trainings, we’ve not only contributed to building advocacy skills and knowledge of youth SRR advocates in a number of regions and countries, but we have also supported the building of coalitions and regional networks of young leaders around the world. These networks and coalitions are essential in ensuring youth-led change, nationally and regionally, and in developing youth SRR strategies and setting the agenda for the youth SRR movement.

In 2011, 3 regional trainings were held to increase young people’s understanding and involvement in decision-making related to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). Through these trainings, the YCSRR built the capacities of over 70 young people, representing diverse youth constituencies, in over 50 countries around the world, while also building strategic relationships with national and regional-level youth organizations. Moreover, these trainings have allowed young leaders to join delegations of the Board of the GFATM, be nominated to attend the GFATM Partnership Forum, join Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM), and demand greater accountability with increased knowledge of decision-making processes related to the HIV response in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition to issue-specific workshops, the YCSRR organized 3 youth caucuses leading up to the 2011 CSW, CPD and the HLM on Youth. Over the past several years, the YCSRR has become a recognized leader in the organization and delivery of youth SRR caucuses at the international level. The caucuses throughout 2011 focused on building advocacy skills, raising awareness of the International Year of Youth (IYY), strategizing, drafting language recommendations for Permanent Missions to the UN, drafting official oral youth statements, and developing collaborative youth advocacy strategies.

December

Youth Rights Strategy Meeting

With support from UNFPA, the YCSRR hosted a 2 day meeting that brought together regional, international and national youth SRHR partners to develop plans for the YCSRR-led Youth Rights Strategy for 2012. The meeting provided a space for organizations to share plans for their participation, capacity building and engagement in the ICPD Operational Review, Rio+20 process and CPD 2012, as well as other national and regional level advocacy initiatives. Following the meeting, the YCSRR liaised with UNFPA to further discuss and input on the draft Global Survey, a key part of the ICPD Operational Review.

RESURJ & DAWN strategizing meeting

In December, IWHC, RESURJ and DAWN convened an inter-generational meeting of key feminist activists from the SRHR community. Two YCSRR members attended the meeting that aimed at developing a common vision and strategy towards the 2012-2015 milestones, including Rio+20, Cairo+20, and the MDG review in 2015. The meeting resulted in the development of an outcome document calling for comprehensive SRR services and the protection and promotion youth and adolescents SRR.

UNFPA CSO Consultation on the Operational Review

The YCSRR attended the CSO consultation hosted by UNFPA as it was an important space where CSOs were updated on the plans for the ICPD Operational Review, inputted into the strategy and shared information and opportunities. The YCSRR took part alongside other key youth SRHR organizations. As a result of the CSO Consultation, the YCSRR was able to identify key entry points for youth in the review process and develop its strategy to engage in the process in the coming months and years.

Rio+20 Process

The YCSRR made the decision to engage in the Rio+20 process during the 2011 Annual General Meeting as it was identified as a key space leading to the framing of the post-2015 development agenda, and as a space requiring greater focus on young people’s SRHR, gender equality and young women’s empowerment. In late 2011, the YCSRR joined the Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY) and the Women’s Major Group. Through these partnerships, the YCSRR began drawing critical attention to the intersections between gender equality and sustainable development, as well as furthering a rights-based approach to the SRHR of young people and adolescents within the Rio+20 process.

By the end of 2011, the YCSRR was chair of the Gender Working Group within the MGCY, where we focused on developing themes and objectives on gender equality that would be part of the core messages and objectives of the Major Group.

Advocacy holds a prominent position in the Youth Coalition’s recently approved 2012-2015 Strategic Plan. Reflecting on its advocacy success throughout the year, the YCSRR views the coming three years as a strategic moment to influence key decision-making and review processes, in order to ensure that youth SRR be at the center of the next development agenda.
In 2011, knowledge generation was a central objective of the YCSRR’s work. The YCSRR views the creation of resources as an important component of our advocacy work, specifically as it relates to understanding the intersections between SRR and new and emerging issues, such as sustainable development, and supporting an evidence base of relevant and up-to-date information concerning youth SRR. Looking ahead, knowledge generation features prominently in the YCSRR’s 2012-2015 Strategic Plan, which will undoubtedly result in the development of resources for youth advocates on a variety of issues that will increase our knowledge of issues related to SRR and strengthen our advocacy work.

In 2011, the YCSRR reviewed and re-printed some of its more prominent publications. The YCSRR also contributed to joint publications including the GFATM’s Youth Guide. Moreover, the YCSRR returned to trends from years past in the regular production and dissemination of watchdogs, the YCSRR’s event-based newsletter containing articles written by young people, for young people. Four editions of the multilingual watchdog were produced throughout 2011 at major events including the CSW, CPD, and the HLM on Youth.

VI. THE YEAR IN KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

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VII. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

With voluntary members from over 14 countries, the YCSRR prioritizes organizational development as a means of maintaining value, effectiveness, staff and members’ motivation and recruiting new, skilled members. Therefore, the YCSRR invests in key mechanisms and strategies to ensure the organizations’ sustainability and growth. Such mechanisms and strategies include our Annual General Meeting (AGM), monthly virtual Board of Director Meetings, and biannual in-person Board of Director Meetings.

16 members and staff attended the 2011 AGM where 4 new members were elected to the Board of Directors. During the 2011 AGM, members approved the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan, laying out the YCSRR’s plans to strengthen its position as leader in the international youth SRR movement, and signaling shifts towards greater organizational efficiency, transparency and accountability.

Similarly, the YCSRR regularly invests in internal knowledge and skills building, through internal trainings during the AGM, among other opportunities throughout the year. During 2011, members attended an internal skills-building workshop, facilitated by YCSRR members and staff, on the principles of results-based management (RBM), and applied newly acquired skills in the development of the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan.

Since January 2011, the Membership Committee has...

- Welcomed 7 new members & renewed 5 memberships.
- Initiated an alumni engagement program, liaising with over 60 members from around the world, in support of the youth sexual and reproductive rights movement.
- Check out an interview with former member, Nadia van der Linde

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

In 2011, the YCSRR initiated a coordinated shift towards a more impactful approach to communications, in line with the objectives of the newly approved Strategic Plan. Based on an extensive review of the YCSRR’s existing communications channels in 2010, the YCSRR moved into the world of social media. Throughout the year, we strengthened both our internal communications while continuing to build a strong external support base.

With a relatively young Facebook page, the YCSRR now has well over 1,400 followers, which continues to grow at a steady rate. Similarly, the YCSRR’s Twitter feed has proven to be an effective means of engaging young people on issues related to youth sexual and reproductive health and rights, drawing attention to key international-level decision-making processes, while also reaching out to diverse youth constituencies. In an increasingly interconnected and ‘live’ world, the YCSRR is increasingly equipped with the technology and capacity to be a leading voice in the youth SRHR community. Similarly, the YCSRR News, the YCSRR’s subscription-based newsletter, continues to provide young people with a platform to share information related to upcoming advocacy and capacity-building opportunities, job openings for progressive young people, and news related to young people’s sexual and reproductive rights, among other issues.

Online presence

Since its launch in 2010, the YCSRR has 1,400+ followers from around the world. The YCSRR regards Facebook as an effective channel to engage young people in our advocacy efforts, disseminate resources and build an international network of youth SRR advocates.

The YCSRR’s twitter handle, @youth_coalition, has 540+ followers. Twitter has proven to be an engaging way of bringing diverse youth constituencies into international-level advocacy spaces.

In 2011, the YCSRR website received a record number of 1,365,734 hits, up 18% from 2010.

YC-NEWS continues to grow, with over 500+ subscribers. During 2011, 55+ updates were sent out.

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YC-NEWS
"Understanding the Global Fund: Panama training"
- UNAIDS article ‘Empowering young people in Latin America to participate in Global Fund processes through national mechanisms’

High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS
- Roundup: United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) Serving the UN and NGOs

Other external press
- Lancet article “Is there enough Roundup: United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) Serving the UN and NGOs

Publications
During 2011, the YCSRR prioritized the external dissemination of its existing publications to wider audiences, including diverse youth constituencies. Leveraging international-level advocacy events taking place within the scope of the International Year of Youth, the YCSRR distributed its hard and soft copies of:

- Meaningful Youth Participation
- Young People and Universal Access to Reproductive Health
- Young-Led Organizations and SRHR
- Learning to Speak the MDGs, 2nd ed.
- MDG Factsheet Series

Advocacy Campaigns
COMMIT 2 Youth is a collaborative advocacy and communications campaign launched during HLM on Youth to ensure that young people be at the heart of the next development agenda. The campaign prioritized 4 key messages which served to unite young people during the International Year of Youth under a common strategy.

- Collaboration among the International Year of Youth strategy partners, the 44th CPD Youth Caucus, International Women’s Health Coalition, and RESURJ
- Official Youth Statement, on Meaningful Participation delivered to the Chair of the CPD and the country delegations in plenary
- Official Youth Statement, on Young Women’s Health, delivered to the Chair of the CPD and the country delegations in plenary

Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition Meeting
THE RHSC Meeting was attended by the YCSRR’s Executive Coordinator in order to generate increased knowledge on the issue of reproductive health supplies, while also developing strengthened partnerships with existing funders, and exploring the establishment of new funding relationships. The Meeting was a critical space for the YCSRR to bring a human-rights based lens to these spaces, while emphasizing the rights of young women and girls.

EuroNGOs Conference and YouAct’s Changemakers Workshop
Attended by YCSRR member from the Netherlands, Wieke Vink, the Conference and Workshop drew increased visibility to the YCSRR at the regional level, bringing together leading SRHR organizations and young SRHR leaders from the European Region. Topics covered included youth advocacy in relation to the rising movement of conservation organizations, sexuality education, and female genital mutilation. During the Conference, Wieke received positive feedback from our partners regarding the YCSRR’s publication Freedom of Choice: A Youth Activist’s Guide to Safe Abortion and its use in practice.

IX. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Creating Partnerships, Strengthening Knowledge
The YCSRR recognizes, and highly values a collaborative approach towards the realization of our mission while maintaining sustainability and overall success, particularly as it relates to advocacy-related initiatives. Throughout 2011, the YCSRR built critical relationships with country Missions to the UN, as well as youth-led and youth-serving civil society organizations working at national, regional and international levels. Critical to the YCSRR’s advocacy efforts at the UN are not only relationships with governments, but also UN agencies and development organizations. The YCSRR also built relationships with non-traditional partners, including the World Association of Girls’ Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS), Amnesty International, Taking it Global, World Student Christian Federation, Restless Development, ActionAid International, Women=Men, and Bahai International Community (UN office).

Committed to growing the network of youth SRHR allies, the YCSRR attended a number of events and conferences with the objective of establishing partnerships and strengthening relationships with strategic actors. Throughout 2011, the YCSRR attended the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition Meeting, EuroNGOs Conference & YouAct’s Changemakers Workshop, the Mali Youth Summit, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria’s (GFATM) Partnership Forum.
Mali Youth Summit

The Global Youth Summit on HIV brought together over 150 youth activists from around the world to discuss the HIV response, exchange experiences and develop a ‘Call to Action,’ uniting the voices of young people in the lead up to the UN High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. Three YCSRR members attended the Summit and took a leadership role in the drafting of the Call to Action, while also drawing attention to critical issues including ensuring young people have access to SRH information and services.

Biennial GFATM Partnership Forum, Brazil

The Forum brought together various stakeholders in the HIV response in order to receive input on the GFATM’s new 5-year strategic plan. Having facilitated a number of regional ‘Understanding the Global Fund’ trainings in the months leading up to the Forum, the YCSRR was well situated to input into the strategic direction of the GFATM with a strong understanding of GFATM’s internal structures and funding mechanisms.

2011 Youth Coalition membership & staff

Vincent Abrigo, Philippines
Tina Andriamehefa, Madagascar
Tanya Baker, Canada/Trinidad
Ricardo Baruch, Mexico
Víctor Bernhardt, Sweden
Rosario Castro, Sr. Logistics and Administrative Officer, Canada
Muge Cevik, Turkey
Katie Chau, Canada
Stephen Chukwumah, Nigeria
Sara Coumans, Netherlands
Emily Hagerman, USA
Joe Hammoud, Lebanon
Sarah Kennell, Programs Officer, Canada
Imane Khachani, Morocco
Samuel Kissi, Ghana
Oríana López, Mexico
Talal Maarouf, Egypt
Jessica Main, Logistics and Administrative Officer, Canada
Liping Mian, China
Igor Mocorro, Philippines
Nida Mushtaq, Pakistan
Luka Oreskovic, Croatia
Ivens Reyner, Brazil
Kokou Senamé, Togo
Wissam Samhat, Lebanon
Remmy Shawa, Zambia
Nadia Ribadeneira, Ecuador
Maria Ines Romero, Paraguay
Lynda Saleh, Executive Coordinator, Canada
Veeha Singh-Bryar, Fiji
Neha Sood, India
Nino Susanto, Indonesia
Prateek Suman, India
Daniel Townsend, Jamaica
Emily Turk, Sr. Communications Officer, Canada
Wieke Vink, Netherlands

X. 2011 Financial Highlights

Gross fundraising revenue
$594,765

Total activities expenditure
$586,643

Expenditures

Sources of Revenue

* Audited financial statements available upon request.