LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Letter from the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights Chair of the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am proud to invite you to read the 2012 Annual Report of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR).

While looking back at 2012, a feeling of excitement surrounds me; not only was it a year full of many successes, it was a year of change and new opportunities. With this introduction letter, I would like to give you a glimpse of what 2012 was for us as YCSRR members.

Our first major activity in 2012 was the 45th session of the Commission on Population and Development on “Youth and Adolescents,” which concluded with an amazing resolution that included language on evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education and safe abortion. We feel proud that, together with many of our close partners, we have contributed to this historical step and hope to build on this for increased recognition and respect for youth and adolescent sexual and reproductive rights.

Mid-2012, the YCSRR, together with partners, was heavily engaged in the Rio+20 process in the Children and Women’s Major group and played a leading role in the discussions related to sexual and reproductive rights. Unfortunately, the outcome of Rio+20 was a backlash for many and a step down with regards to the recognition of women’s reproductive rights. Nonetheless, we kept standing strong and have since been very engaged in the various discussions and consultations in the Post-2015 process. Internally, our engagement in the Post-2015 process and ICPD Review process also became a lot clearer as we shifted our working structure to better fit these important development processes.

It cannot go without mentioning that we had a staff transition early 2012 as the YCSRR recruited a new Executive Coordinator: Mari-Claire Price, who has played an essential role in ensuring the financial sustainability of the organisation.

For us, 2012 will go into the history books as the year in which the ICPD Operational Review really started. In order to contribute to this process and to ensure that young people will be participating meaningfully at the national and regional levels, the YCSRR began Regional ICPD & Post-2015 trainings. The first training was held in Asia & Pacific region and was followed by another held in Latin America and the Spanish speaking Caribbean (LasC). Both will be followed by trainings in the Africa region and the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region in 2013.

As a constantly changing and growing organisation, we recognize the importance of continuous capacity building of the YCSRR members. During the Annual General Meeting in 2012, we spent three full days discussing the thematic areas of our work: the linkages...
with sexual and reproductive rights with respect to abortion, HIV and sexual orientation and gender identities.

The year ended with a major success, the first Thematic Meeting within the ICPD Operational Review: the Global Youth Forum. The YCSRR was one of the co-chairs in the lead up to the Forum. We were part of a unique Forum that resulted in the Bali Declaration, which includes language on the sexual rights of all young people, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identities, decriminalizing abortion and evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education. This Declaration is a solid start for the other components of the ICPD review coming up next year.

It is important to recognize that 2012 did not pass without challenges for the YCSRR either. We are a small member-led organisation and count on the continuous engagement of our volunteers. Above, you have read about some of the major achievements that we have made as an organization; those achievements were the visible ones; however, it is crucial that we recognize that the daily work that all our staff and members carry out is what shapes the YCSRR and makes us into a sustainable organization that we can count on in the future.

The YCSRR Board of Directors would like to end this letter by recognizing that the YCSRR cannot be successful without the support and contribution from all of our partners, donors, staff and members. With the ICPD Operational Review and Post-2015 discussion running at full steam, we are looking forward to our collaborations in the exciting times ahead.

Sincerely,

Sara Vida Coumans
Chair, Board of Directors
Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR) greatly appreciates all of the organizations and individuals with whom we have worked throughout 2012. 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
Summit Charitable Foundation; Ford Foundation; MacArthur Foundation; and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Our Partners
Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD); Advocates for Youth; Asia-Pacific Alliance for ICPD (APA); Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW); CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN); EuroNGOs; Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA); Global Youth Forum International Steering Committee Members; the High Level Task Force for ICPD; International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC); Ipas; International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF WHR); Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA); Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ); Rutgers WPF; the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Platform; Sexual Rights Initiative; UN Major Group for Children and Youth; UN Major Group for Women; YouAct; and Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER).

ABOUT US

The YCSRR is an international organization of young people (ages 18-29) 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.

Our Structure
The YCSRR is a member-led organization. Our members contribute to the overall success of the YCSRR, while fulfilling its mission. The work of the YCSRR is overseen by its Board of Directors, which is made up of eight members and the Executive Coordinator. Each Director completes a two-year term on the Board, up to a maximum of two terms. In addition to the Board of Directors, the YCSRR has a Membership Committee, which oversees the recruitment of new members and the membership renewal process, assesses skills and experiences of members and manages the alumni engagement program. The substantive work of the YCSRR is carried out by two task forces (ICPD and Post 2015) and three thematic working groups (HIV, Abortion, and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)). The day-to-day functions of the YCSRR are supported by its staff, based in Ottawa, Canada, which is comprised of the Executive Coordinator, Program Officer and Logistics and Administrative Officer.
THE YEAR IN ADVOCACY

Since its inception during the ICPD+5 review process, advocacy has been a central component of the YCSRR strategy. This is a key part of our strategic plan 2012-2015 and an important objective towards our goal of ensuring young people’s Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRR) and the ICPD agenda are safeguarded and advanced in key policy making processes.

As the ICPD+20 and MDG+15 milestones approach, various discourses and opportunities to engage within the review processes have emerged. These spaces are a crucial part of civil society’s engagement in the process, as they are key points of entry for discussions around funding allocation, multinational cooperation and global and national policy direction, among others. Youth participation in these spaces is critical to ensure that young people and adolescents’ priorities are central and that young people are engaged meaningfully. For SRR youth activists, this means ensuring that the SRR agenda is protected and advanced within these key spaces and processes.

The current review processes of ICPD+20 and MDGs+15 along with the Sustainable Development process are very extensive. The YCSRR has built the capacity of members, partners and young people to be able to navigate the processes effectively and impactfully.

BOX 1

At this time in history it is not acceptable that many adolescent girls and young women across the world still lack access to comprehensive sexuality education, that empowers young women and girls, and integrated sexual and reproductive health services.

We must remove all barriers, including legal barriers, that keep adolescents and youth from their wellbeing and health. We don’t understand why today young women and adolescents still need parental, partner, or husband consent for deciding over their own bodies and lives in many countries.

Extract, Joint Youth Oral Statement 45th CPD

Initially, we focused our involvement in the ICPD+20 review process as co-chair of the International Steering Committee for the first of three ICPD thematic forums, the Global Youth Forum, that took place in Bali, Indonesia on 4-6 December, 2012. The outcome of the Global Youth Forum was the Bali Youth Declaration. The Declaration now serves as a fundamental document for young
advocates and young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) globally, with its focus on Comprehensive Sexuality Education, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities (SOGI), young people’s sexuality and access to legal and safe abortion among other important issues on decent employment, meaningful civic engagement and education.

Throughout 2012, the YCSRR has played a key role in positioning the SRR agenda within the health, youth and inequality millennium development goals (MDGs) through its involvement with the UN Major Group on Children and Youth, the Youth Leadership Working Group (which emerged from the Global Youth Forum) and the youth working group for Post 2015 development agenda. Through YCSRR strategic intervention, young people’s SRR issues were emphasized within the civil society organization (CSO) and government advocacy agendas of relevant processes, including the Open Working Group, the regional economic and social council meeting, the global thematic meeting of ICPD+20 and the UN General Assembly.

45th Commission on Population and Development

The 45th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), focusing on Adolescents and Youth, was a priority space to strengthen commitments to youth SRHR, adolescent SRHR commitments and make youth SRHR a key topic and priority within the ICPD Operational Review process.

Building on YCSRR-led activities at the previous CPD session, YCSRR members took a key role in a broader strategizing space, made up of a number of SRR organizations from across the world and chaired a youth strategizing working group in the lead up and during the 45th session. YCSRR members were key actors in these groups and took a significant role in coordinating efforts within the youth working group, as well as ensuring that priority issues were central within the other working group’s activities and plans. Prior to the event, the YCSRR responded to the report of the Secretary-General on Adolescents and Youth and Monitoring of Programmes Focusing on Adolescents and Youth.

BOX 2

“The rates of unsafe abortions among young women and adolescent girls and the number of maternal deaths due to unsafe abortion is unacceptable, and will only be reduced if governments commit to young women’s rights and guarantee access to safe abortion, thus embracing and respecting our bodily integrity, autonomy, freedom, and dignity.”

Extract, Joint Youth Oral Statement 45th CPD
The response welcomed the report’s recognition of the importance of ensuring that young people are free from barriers to gender equality and that their rights are realized but also highlighted the failure of the reports to recognize key priorities towards ensuring that the rights of young people are respected and protected, in particular, the elimination of laws that restrict or prohibit access to safe and comprehensive services, including abortion services.

YCSRR members took part in the 45th session as part of delegations and hosted a 50 youth caucus with 50 young people as well as co-authored a written statement submitted by Action for Population and Development Canada (ACPD).

A joint youth oral statement was delivered by a YCSRRRR member (Boxes 1 and 2), a number of YCSRR Watchdog publications were produced on a diverse range of SRHR and youth topics (Boxes 3 and 4) and members took part in various panels including panels hosted by UNFPA and UNAIDS.

The outcome of the 45th CPD session was a landmark resolution, a strong commitment to adolescents and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights that will pave the way for strengthened support and increased momentum towards the realization of all young people’s human rights.
This CPD is one of the most important events to take place - to talk about young people, for young people and with young people. All too often, the needs and wants young people, in particular adolescents, are misrepresented in political spaces, therefore it is essential to support the participation of young people in these processes. Here, we are telling you what we want. We are fighting for a world where every adolescent and young person has access to comprehensive sexuality education that gives them the skills and information to know that their bodies belong to them and nobody else, that they can enjoy their sexuality, that they have the right to access comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health services including contraception.

- Watchblog, ‘NO COMPROMISE’ Civil Society Demands an Outcome!
Calls upon Governments, with the full involvement of young people and with the support of the international community, to give full attention to meeting the reproductive health-service, information and education needs of young people, with full respect for their privacy and confidentiality, free of discrimination, and to provide them with evidence-based comprehensive education on human sexuality, sexual and reproductive health, human rights and gender equality to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality;

- CPD45 Outcome Document paragraph 25

 Calls upon Governments, United Nations agencies, and others, as appropriate, to actively support and invest in increased participation of young people and in youth-led and youth-focused organizations, taking into account gender equality and representation of youth of various backgrounds, in the formulation, decisions about, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of, as appropriate, international, regional, national and local development strategies and policies that affect young people;

- CPD45 Outcome Document paragraph 31
Why do we need to talk about abortion and young women?

The most common reason to choose an abortion among all women, from any social condition and region of the world, is having an unwanted pregnancy. The number of unwanted pregnancies in young women and adolescent girls is strongly linked with gender norms and inequity in education and work opportunities. In many cases, as adolescent girls and young women, we are not allowed to have control over our bodies, we are often not allowed or it is very hard for us to make decisions, and it is difficult for us to have control over household resources.

Unwanted pregnancies among young women happen because:

- We don’t have access to comprehensive sexuality education
- We don’t have (sufficient or complete) access to modern contraception
- We have unplanned, and therefore unprotected, sex
- We have non-consensual sex, (almost 50% of sexual attacks in the world happen to women under 16), therefore we have unprotected sex
- We don’t have access to counseling on contraception, therefore we don’t use it correctly or consistently
- Contraceptives are not 100% effective

According to the WHO, between 2.2 and 4 million young women around the world choose to have an abortion every year and near 35,000 young women under 25 die due to complications related to unsafe abortions. In developing countries 70% of all unsafe abortions happen among women under 30, that’s why we need to think about age when we try to understand barriers for access to services and contraception to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Many times, a young woman or adolescent girls’ first attempt at accessing a reproductive health service is in the case of a miscarriage or for an abortion. This often makes it hard to determine if the procedure is being done in safe or unsafe conditions. Young women and girls are more exposed to having unsafe abortions even when it is legal because we have less access to information, less access to education which includes decision making skills, there are limited services available and medical staff often have negative attitude towards young women and adolescent girls.

In countries where abortion is heavily restricted or is completely against the law, young women and adolescent girls are left with only two options: to have a backstreet abortion, that could be unsafe, or, to continue a pregnancy that we didn’t choose or plan for. Both options bring social and health consequences that demonstrate ongoing inequality between women and men.

References:

Oriana López Uribe, (Mexico), Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Pobreza, embarazo y maternidad en la Adolescencia, El desafío para la gran transformación

Actualmente en el Perú la población mayoritaria la constituyen las y los adolescentes quienes representan un 20% de la población total, constituyendo un grupo que sobrepasa los 5 millones de personas según el Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI,2008). Ante este grupo de personas nuestras autoridades electas han adquirido retos y compromisos históricos que deben cumplir, compromisos como el Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Población y Desarrollo - CIPD y los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio - ODM desde los cuales se insta a los Estados a respetar y garantizar los derechos humanos (incluyendo dentro de estos a los derechos reproductivos) de las y los adolescentes. Para el Estado peruano esto aún constituye un gran conte'd on p6
Rio+20

In late-2011, the YCSRR joined the UN Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY) and the Women’s Major Group (WMG). Through these groups, and other partnerships with youth organizations in the sustainable development movement, the YCSRR drew 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. Chairing the Gender Working Group within the Children and Youth Major Group, the YCSRR was focused on developing themes and objectives on gender equality that became part of the core messages of the Major Group within the Rio process.

The YCSRR engaged initially in the 64th UN DPI NGO Conference during which stakeholders from multiple sectors came together to put forward initial inputs into the zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome document. Working with partners, the YCSRR secured the incorporation of references to comprehensive sexuality education and meaningful youth participation in the document.

YCSRR members attended and led advocacy activities within the Rio+20 informal negotiations and intersessionals from January-May 2012. Then, in June 2012 the YCSRR worked with other young people and youth organizations focusing on a diverse range of issues at the Rio Summit. The YCSRR worked on a variety of advocacy activities throughout this process, such as speaking on panels, including one led by the government of Sri Lanka; facilitating a youth-led workshop at the Summit Youth Blast; and developing blog articles, social network messages and statements that led to increased recognition of the linkages between sustainable development, SRHR, gender equality and young people within the Major Group on Children and Young People.

The launch of the YCSRR advocacy video Get G.R.E.E.N and related factsheet built young people’s awareness of the linkages between gender, SRHR and sustainable development. Overall, the final outcome document’s Health and Gender Equality sections retained clear commitments to achieving the full implementation of the ICPD and Beijing agreements and maintained a human rights perspective.
With a strengthened and comprehensive Rio+20 outcome document, that recognizes the rights of young people, especially those of young women and girls, the Agendas of the ICPD PoA and Beijing PfA can only be strengthened. It is therefore unacceptable that the Rio+20 Summit mark a step back in young people’s rights, our access to information and services. Young people cannot afford to have our rights ignored, nor our access to information and services; within the context of sustainable development, and our common futures.

- Watchblog, The Rio+20 draft Outcome Document is about us, it is about our rights.

Let us work together to make sure that the Rio+20 Summit guarantees our rights, the rights of young women, girls, and all people. Sustainable development is about us, it is about our rights.

- Watchblog, The Rio+20 draft Outcome Document is about us, it is about our rights.
MGCY Interventions

January 26, 2012: Member States must guarantee that all proposals concerning the green economy follow the principles of sustainable development and poverty eradication. The outcome document must recognize gender equality and human rights’ protection, including sexual and reproductive rights of women and young people, as a central component of sustainable development.

May 31, 2012: The Major Group for Children and Youth urges Member States to pay particular attention to the needs of young women and girls, as well as adolescents, as was discussed in the Gender section of the text last night. It is essential that the Outcome Document address their sexual and reproductive health and rights, as fundamental to their livelihood and well-being, in the context of sustainable development—as agreed to by governments just a few weeks ago during the 45th Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

June 20, 2012: We must affirm that even as resources become strained, rights to food, water and health are basic principles of justice as are our sexual and reproductive rights.

ICPD Operational Review and Global Youth Forum

The YCSRR took a leading role throughout 2012 in the lead up to the ICPD Global Youth Forum that took place in December 2012, and co-chaired the International Steering Committee (ISC) for the Global Youth Forum. The ISC was comprised of global and regional youth-led and youth-serving Civil Society Organisations with expertise and experience in a diverse range of youth issues and, alongside the UNFPA and other UN agencies, was responsible for organizing the Global Youth Forum and ensuring it was a youth-led space. The forum created a space for the input and recommendations from over 3000 onsite and virtual delegates through forum and virtual world cafes, including young people, UN agencies, governments and the private sector.

The forum itself resulted in a strong outcome declaration, the Bali Global Youth Forum Declaration, which recognizes the multi-stakeholder process through which it was developed and will be recognized as part of the ICPD Operational Review. The outcomes of the forum will be incorporated into the Secretary General’s report to UNGASS on ICPD and will be part of the recommendations made to the Post 2015 process in relation to the ICPD Operational Review outcomes.

A landmark document, the Bali Declaration highlights a number of our key issues including the sexual rights of adolescents and young people, commitments pertaining to LGBTQI, MSM, sex workers, young people and adolescent girls; calls for action on enabling environments; SRHR services, access quality; removal of regulatory and legal barriers; CSE; ending discrimination and stigma; decriminalizing abortion; meaningful youth leadership and
participation; and gender equality. It includes some of the most progressive language and calls seen in the outcomes of a UN process in recent years.

**High-Level Task Force for ICPD**

On the 5th of December 2012, alongside our co-chair of the International Youth Steering Committee for Global Youth Forum, Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), the YCSRR together with the High-Level Task Force for ICPD hosted a Youth Consultation for the HLTF for ICPD, bringing together 17 participants from 16 countries.

During the Youth Consultation there were three group discussions on themes important for the HLTF and decided in collaboration with the co-hosts. These themes were SRHR; the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality; and the rights of adolescents and youth: ensuring comprehensive sexuality education. These group discussions led to a set of recommendations, which will be shared for approval with the participants and afterwards with the members of the HLTF on ICPD. The participants will also be brought into contact with HLTF members of their country to ensure continued communications on national levels.

As part of this basic package governments must provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services that include safe and legal abortion, maternity care, contraception, HIV and STI prevention, care, treatment and counselling to all young people. [p. 4]

Cultural and religious barriers such as parental and spousal consent, and early and forced marriages, should never prevent access to family planning, safe and legal abortion, and other reproductive health services – recognizing that young people have autonomy over their own bodies, pleasures and desires. [p. 9]
Other Events

YCSRR participated in the Family Planning Summit in London 2012, a parallel event to the ICPD+20 review process that specifically addressed issues of unmet needs for contraception, where a YCSRR member met UK Prime Minister David Cameron and Melinda Gates to discuss adolescent and youth SRHR.

YCSRR Members also participated in the AWID Forum 2012 on Transforming Women’s Economic Power to Advance Women’s Rights and Justice with attention to issues related to the Post-2015 and Rio+20 processes, in particular in mobilizing women’s movements and the CSO community in ensuring governments prioritize gender equality in all pillars of the Rio+20 process.

International AIDS Conference

YCSRR members had several opportunities to highlight how SRR must be mainstreamed into the global HIV response: the Youth Pre-Conference organized by the Youth Force, the MSM Pre-Conference organized by the MSM Global Forum and the International AIDS Conference itself. The members who participated at the conference were speakers and moderators of different panels focusing on most-at-risk youth, including the Global Village, the main Conference, receptions and parallel events.

International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development

YCSRR members participated in the International Dialogue on Sustainable Development, the theme of which was Population Dynamics in the 21st Century – Transforming Challenges into Opportunities. YCSRR members participated in the event to advocate for a stronger perspective on young people’s SRR in the context of the sustainable development discussion. The YCSRR voiced the linkage between young people’s SRHR and sustainable development especially as concerns governance, food security and environmental issues. As a responder in the opening session, the YCSRR member on the panel stated the importance of addressing youth SRHR in a holistic manner given our diversities.
ILGA Conference

The ILGA Conference is the largest LGBT event in the world. It was held in Stockholm, Sweden, the theme of the 2012 conference was Global Rights, Global Respect. A YCSRR member participated and spoke on a panel to share the importance of ICPD+20 and key activities; the Universal Periodic Review; the Post-2015 development agenda; and how the LGBT communities should own the processes. YCSRR joined the youth pre-conference and drafted a youth document that focused on the involvement of young LGBT activists in ILGA. The document received positive feedback and was presented in the ILGA plenary session. The YCSRR was able to connect with LGBT activists around the world and position ourselves as a youth-led organization with a strong SOGI focus. The YCSRR is now connected with IGLYO in support of planning for the SOGI Stakeholders Meeting (Mexico City, February 2013) as well as with UNDP New York on co-funding the activity.

THE YEAR IN TRAINING

In 2012, two of the four YCSRR regional workshops on ICPD and Post-2015 took place in the Latin America and the Spanish speaking Caribbean (LAsC) and Asia & Pacific regions. The workshops, delivered in collaboration with regional partners and regional youth experts, aim to build the knowledge and capacities of young activists to advocate and mobilize themselves nationally to strengthen the human rights of young people, in particular their SRHR, within the ICPD+20 review, the MDG review process, the national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.

The workshops built the capacity of national youth-led networks to effectively advocate for youth SRHR, to create a network of youth...
leaders and to ensure that review processes recognize and address emerging issues and priorities related to youth SRHR. In LAsC, 23 young people from 9 countries participated in the workshops, including young people from Nicaragua, Columbia, Argentina, Mexico and Bolivia. The workshop was delivered in Spanish by regional YCSRR members making it accessible to a number of participants who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to participate in such a workshop. In Asia & Pacific, 20 young people participated from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia, Vanuatu, Bhutan and Mongolia.

Participants of the workshop reported increased awareness of young people’s SRHR issues, including comprehensive sexuality education; gender equality; young women’s empowerment; adolescents’ access to information and services; gender-based violence; and abortion, all discussed within the regional context. The capacity of participants on upcoming international processes (including the ICPD operational review and the Post-2015/SGD process) was increased and participants gained new knowledge related to international rights-based frameworks.

Participants brought together their knowledge and skills to develop national-level advocacy strategies. Following both workshops, participants were supported by YCSRR and regional partners to further develop their advocacy strategies and engage in the ICPD review process. Advocacy strategies from Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and Guatemala and Afghanistan, Fiji and Indonesia were selected to receive YCSRR Youth Leadership Awards. In Asia & Pacific, shadow reports were developed by award recipients following the workshops, which were also used in national and regional advocacy efforts including in submissions to the ICPD Operational Review Global Survey.
THE YEAR IN KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

In 2012, knowledge generation continued to be a central objective of the YCSRR’s work. The publication and dissemination of resources is an important component of our advocacy, in particular addressing the intersection of SRR into changing contexts and new and emerging trends, including sustainable development, and supporting the youth movement and its allies with relevant and up-to-date information on SRR.

Having built upon its role online, the number of YCSRR Facebook page likes has nearly doubled in the last year, while @youth_coalition Twitter followers continue to grow. YCSRR is now equipped with the knowledge and capacity to be a leading voice in the online youth SRHR community. Similarly, the YCSRR's subscription-based listserv (YCNews) continues to provide young people with a platform to share information related to upcoming advocacy and capacity-building opportunities, job openings and news related to young people’s SRR.

Online Presence

Twitter
The number of @youth_coalition followers is growing every day. Twitter has become an important communication strategy, bringing diverse youth constituencies into international-level discussion and advocacy.

Facebook
The YCSRR Facebook page reached 1,837 likes in 2012, with an average of 21 new likes a day. Facebook is a useful tool to engage with young people from around the world in our advocacy, our dissemination of key resources and our movement building efforts across an international network of young sexual and reproductive rights advocates.

YCNews
The listserv is another communications channel the YCSRR has used to disseminate information relevant to young people and SRR. 109 posts were sent in 2012 through YCNews to 600 subscribers.

Watchdog
The YCSRR produced 3 issues of the Watchdog at CPD45 covering comprehensive sexual education, religious fundamentalisms and the Program of Action with content in both English and Spanish available in print and online.
Press Releases
The YCSSR issued 2 press releases: on the announcement of 5 key recommendations for themes to be addressed throughout the ICPD review process and on the Bali Youth Declaration.

Internal Training AGM 2012
As part of the YCSRR Annual General Meeting (AGM), an internal training for members was conducting on the organization’s three thematic areas of the 2012-2013 work plan: SOGI; HIV and abortion. The 3-day training addressed inter-linkages between each of the thematic areas and youth SRR.

YCSRR Website
The www.youthcoalition.org continues to receive record numbers of views, averaging over thousands of hits a month.

Publications
In keeping with new trends and engaging our audience through different means of communication, the YCSRR produced an info-graphic video and factsheet on young people, sexual and reproductive rights and Rio+20, entitled GET G.R.E.E.N.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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 bi-annual in-person Board of Director Meeting, which took place in Mexico City in February 2012.

The 2012 AGM was held in Bangkok from 1-7 August. The meeting touched upon key issues such as the new structure of the YCSRR; the strategic plan and a review of past activities; office and staff matters; financial procedures and practices; YCSRR task forces and working groups; planning upcoming YCSRR activities; and the Board of Director elections. The new structure of the YCSRR was created to support the work of the membership and task forces.
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

In 2012, the YCSRR took part in a number of strategy meetings related to the ICPD and Post-2015 processes, including a strategy meeting for the Global South feminist movement in Manila in late-2012 and a strategy meeting for Northern SRHR organizations at the Strategic Options for Non-Government Organizations (NGO) meeting in mid-2012.

The YCSRR participated in the regional Asia-Pacific Alliance conference focusing on ICPD and Post-2015, in which a YCSRR member spoke on a panel related to youth and adolescents, as well as participating in the international dialogues on population and sustainable development that took place in mid-2012.

In September 2012, the YCSRR participated in the Sexual Rights Initiative meeting in Geneva. The meeting focused on increasing awareness and strengthening partnerships among a broader range of key stakeholders in the ICPD review processes and on potential opportunities for advocacy, generating greater awareness of what key organizations were doing to engage in the ICPD review process from the perspective of strengthening SRR within the key processes.

Two YCSRR members participated in the Civil Society platform to promote SRHR beyond 2015, representing a youth-led perspective. The ambition of the platform is to firmly anchor SRHR into the Post-2015 development agenda, including a visionary goal on SRHR.
2012 YOUTH COALITION MEMBERSHIP & STAFF

Ricardo Baruch, Mexico
Muge Cevik, Turkey
Emily Hagerman, USA
Nur Hidayati Handayani, Indonesia
Nickie Imanguli, USA
Rachel Jacobson, USA
Sarah Kennell, Program Officer, Canada
Samuel Kissi, Ghana
Nyimbili Kulije-ku-Suzyika, Zambia
Oriana López Uribe, Mexico
Sergio López, Paraguay
Talal Maarouf, Egypt
Jessica Main, Logistics and Administrative Officer, Canada
Liping Mian, China

Nida Mushtaq, Pakistan
Babu Ram Pant, Nepal
Mari-Claire Price, Executive Coordinator, UK
Ivens Reis Reyner, Brazil
Rinaldi Ridwan, Indonesia
Maria Ines Romero, Paraguay
Lynda Saleh, Executive Coordinator, Canada
Wissam Samhat, Lebanon
Kokou Senamé Djagadou, Togo
Namakando Simamuna, Zambia
Prateek Suman, India
Sara Vida Coumans, The Netherlands
Wieke Vink, The Netherlands
2012 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Gross Fundraising Revenue
465,294.00 USD

Total Activities Expenditure
465,078.00 USD

Funding Breakdown

- General and Administration: 164,648.00 USD
- Communications and Publications: 52,138.00 USD
- Programmes and Advocacy: 165,903.00 USD
- Internal Activities: 81,167.00 USD
- Coordination: 701.00 USD