



## ICMYO Guidelines for Participating Organisations

### What is ICMYO?

The International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) gathers membership-based, democratic, representative, and accountable International Youth NGOs (INGYOs) with a global outreach and Regional Youth Platforms (RYPs). ICMYO is not an organization but a meeting of individual international youth organisations who come together to collaborate. The main objective of ICMYO is the strengthening of the cooperation of youth organisations at the regional and global levels in order to coordinate policy inputs to UN and other global youth policy processes.

### Who is ICMYO?

The ICMYO organisations have agreed to the following goals and principles for our global cooperation.

#### ► Goals

*Why do our organisations believe in cooperating and with which purpose?*

- *To share information about ongoing global youth issues and processes.*
- *Increase our access to UN and other international and intergovernmental institutions working/impacting on youth issues.*
- *To influence political processes and decisions of UN and other international and intergovernmental institutions working/impacting youth issues.*
- *To work together in our common thematic priorities.*
- *To exchange best practices.*
- *To become stronger and overcome individual limitations (financial, geographic...).*



## ► Principles

*With which youth organisations should we engage in political dialogue/processes?*

- Youth NGOs.
- Democratic processes and structures.
- Membership based youth organisations (assuring a link between the local, the national, the regional and the global levels).
- Accountability and transparency.
- Legitimacy and credibility.
- Constructive, positive common goals.
- Effectiveness and efficiency impacts.
- Sustainability of the global cooperation.
- Respect of cultural and ideological diversity, including Human Rights.

These criteria provide a framework of mutual recognition and thus give a basis for joint advocacy actions among organisations that share these characteristics.

Our strength lies in the fact that we consciously retain our informal and 'light' ways of gathering and working. Our requirements for taking part in ICMYO rest in the description above.

New organisations wishing to participate in ICMYO are invited to present themselves to the annual ICMYO; if they fulfill ICMYO's principles and goals and if no major objections are raised by the participating organisations, they become an established participant of the ICMYO.

We recognize, and celebrate, the diversity among us and do not seek to become homogenous. We do not expect to have the same priorities, or to always be in agreement.

We also recognize that there are many common concerns among us. A common goal shared by all ICMYO organizations is to integrate youth fully into the debates and decision-making processes at the UN and elsewhere and to have an influence on global youth policy processes. ICMYO organizations seek to mainstream youth perspectives into all fora and ultimately seek full partnerships between youth organizations and institutions.

While our primary purpose in coming together is to strategise around common goals and priorities, we also seek to make space in our meetings, in person and virtual, for information-sharing and relationship-building so that synergies can develop among us in a variety of ways. We believe that the basis for our common work is a confidence and



trust in one another. We are thus committed to continue building and strengthening our relationships with each other as we at the same time seek to build and strengthen them with other partners.

We also seek to be welcoming to newcomers, always remembering to explain our process and help new members find their unique voice and contribution to the community.

### **How do we cooperate globally?**

#### Yearly Meeting

ICMYO meets annually in a non-formal coordination space, allowing the participating organisations to share their priorities, discern common priorities, and plan effective, coordinated actions together. These activities will only be as good as what the participating organisations bring to the table and commit to.

Informal networking and capacity building are important benefits of our in person meetings but not their primary purpose.

Participating organisations use ICMYO to engage in processes and external relationships and seek to use the meetings also to inform new members about these and build on relationships with partners. We welcome and encourage representatives of UN and other partner organisations to attend the annual ICMYO in order to hear the concerns, perspectives and ideas of ICMYO participating organisations, to share information, and to build partnerships. We are receptive to ideas and opportunities that the UN and other partners may suggest to us as a part of our common discernment.

To have the most effective meetings ICMYO will seek to prepare people well in advance by giving participating organisations the opportunity to give input on the shape of the agenda and by giving briefing and background information on the final agenda so that people are connected to the process and prepared.

ICMYO will work to articulate and record its history on an ongoing basis to orient new participants and other partners.

We will try to set meeting dates well in advance for maximum participation.

Travel reimbursements cannot be guaranteed, but we seek sponsorship to cover the costs, especially for participants from the global South.

#### Ad hoc initiatives

Our community will only be effective in joint advocacy if the members creatively make

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use of its potential. The heart of our work together between meetings will be in joint initiatives that develop around areas of common interest.

The annual meetings will help us determine our common interests and organise ourselves, but we are not limited to meetings. If anyone has an area of interest and would like to seek collaboration, they are free to propose it to the community and see what interest is there.

If a small group of participating organisations is working on an issue or at an event or process, they should remember to inform the community of their work in case someone wants to join. We will become stronger if we open up opportunities for each other and allow others to benefit from our work.

If a participating organisation wants to begin working on a new advocacy platform or issue, they should feel empowered to ask for orientation, contacts, and help from others in the community who have experience. Those with experience will be open to basic questions. We will mentor each other in our areas of experience.

If we cannot attend a certain event, we can ask other organisations in our community if they are able to represent our priorities in their advocacy. The participating organisations can also feel free to say no if these priorities do not match with their own priority advocacy area.

## Taskforce

A taskforce of several participating organisations (ideally representing the variety of our participating organization) will be agreed upon by consensus in each year's meeting.

The work of the taskforce is to:

- Organise the yearly meeting, including preparing the invitation list for both the participating organisations and observers, making sure to ensure input in the process from the members
- Encourage active participation and communication between the network
- Take initiative to maintain our ongoing partner relationships as well as informing participating organisations about these relationships and opportunities

## External representation

When an external partner offers one or more seats to ICMYO, an open call shall be made to the participating organisations. When possible the decision will be made at the annual ICMYO meeting, by consensus. If there is a need for a rapid response, the taskforce will make by a decision, after giving time for participating ICMYO organisations to respond.

## Communication



Good communication is crucial to our effectiveness. We want to keep our internal communication efficient and not bombard each other with overwhelming amounts of information.

Participating organisations are free to use the list serve at their discretion, keeping the above principle in mind. Participating organisations will try to distill information and present it in a simple, manageable way for the community, pointing to where people may go for more information.

Email can be used effectively to:

- Advertise opportunities that may be of interest to ICMYO organizations
- Inform people of advocacy work participating organisations are doing that others may want to join (signing on to statements, gathering a caucus at different platforms, working together in more depth in advance of a process)
- Report an achievement, or a disappointment, so that we are resourcing each other with information and analysis

When anyone makes a request of the community, we will try and respond; at the same time, there is never any pressure to participate in a given initiative or idea.

We will continue to work to make the website a helpful advocacy tool and information source for participating organisations and partners.

## **What does ICMYO seek to accomplish?**

- We have strength, together, to do strong political advocacy, which we have only begun to tap into and utilize. We will promote the core guiding principles of ICMYO when engaging with the UN and other external partners. Together we can better demonstrate our expertise and credibility as organisations doing transforming work and reaching millions of youth around the world; in so doing we will help institutions identify us as legitimate, essential youth partners and form the channels for better collaboration
- By being organized, it will be easier for institutions to come to us with opportunities, thus better opening up opportunities for the wide diversity of youth organizations and better achieving our advocacy goal of bringing youth representation into decision-making processes
- We are forming more effective partnerships, with each other and institutional partners, which we all believe the way forward for maximum transforming change.
- It is an effective use of limited resources to share them. In this community we are embodying our principles of sharing information and building relationships of trust to best

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use the resources available to us and make the best difference we can together. This model itself will form youth into prophetic leaders of today and tomorrow and will be an example to other communities working for positive change in the world.

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