

**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME
REGIONAL CENTRE FOR AFRICA (CYP RCA)**

**REPORT OF THE
REGIONAL YOUTH CAUCUS (RYC) AND
REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
MEETINGS**

**16 – 20 OCTOBER 2005
MASERU, LESOTHO**



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DAY I - RYC PROCEEDINGS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The report covers the 2005 Regional Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting held in Lesotho from 16th to 20th October 2005. The Regional Youth Caucus Meeting (RYC) was held on the first two days from the 16th – 17th October. The remaining three days were accorded to the Regional Advisory Board process that brought together RYC representatives and government officials.

The report includes annexes with some of the major RAB documents.

1.1 Opening Remarks

The Regional Director of Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa (CYP RCA), Mrs. Valencia Mogegeh formally opened the RYC 2005 Meeting by welcoming all the delegates present. She stated the purpose of the meeting and stressed the important role of each delegate in ensuring the success of the meeting.

Present at the opening session were Mr. Maile Masoebe, Youth Director, Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation, Lesotho, youth representatives from Botswana, Cameroon, Cyprus, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, UK, and Zambia. Representatives from The Gambia, Sierra Leone and South African were still awaited. Shortly after the welcome remarks, housekeeping issues were discussed.

2.0 PROCEEDINGS OF THE RYC MEETING

The house welcomed the proposal for the host country to chair the meeting. Ms. Nthoesele Shoeshoe Letao, a youth from Lesotho, chaired the RYC meeting and welcomed all delegates and acknowledged all countries present.

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda as presented was proposed by Kenya, seconded by the UK and adopted by the house.

2.2 Presentation on Structure, Operations and Responsibilities of RYC

The facilitator briefed delegates on the background of the Commonwealth and its Secretariat as well as the CYP structure with focus on CYP RCA. The purpose was to share information on their role as RYC members and to equip them with adequate information that would enhance their effective participation in the deliberations. Amongst the key issues that were outlined were the objectives, goals and activities of the CYP RCA for the 2003 – 2006 strategic period. The facilitator also explained the concept of youth empowerment from the Commonwealth perspective and linked it up with youth participation at the different operational levels, which included the national, regional, and Pan-Commonwealth levels.

The roles and responsibilities of the RYC, the criteria for selecting the RYC Regional Coordinator and the sanctions for non-performance of duty were explained. Discussion then focused on the relationship between the RYC and the CYP RCA as well as amongst RYC members themselves at the national,

sub-regional and regional levels. Additionally CYP RCA has a dedicated point of contact for RYC representatives.

2.3 Meeting outcomes

The main outcomes of the RYC meeting were outlined as follows:

- Review of the CYP 2003 – 2006 Strategic Plan and its relevance to the RYC and to youth empowerment, and
- Identification of priority areas
- Development of the 2005 – 2007 RYC Plan of Action.
- Development of a Communiqué to RAB

2.4 Delegates' expectations

Delegates raised their expectations of the meeting which included: sharing of experiences in youth development, establishment and strengthening of National Youth Councils (NYCs), networking, partnership building, implementation of operational plan of action, understand CYP programme operations, enhance skills in youth development delivery, linkage between past and current RYC representatives, review of the current RYC operational plan, development of ICT, enhancement of youth participation and strengthening youth economic empowerment as well National Youth Policy formulation processes.

A question and answer session followed to clarify the roles and relationship between RYC members and CYP RCA.

3.0 Summary of in-country RYC Reports

RYC delegates were given an opportunity to present best practice(s) in youth empowerment as a way of sharing experiences and exchanging ideas. On the whole, the session dwelled on identifying youth involvement in various activities in member countries.

3.1 Identified Areas of Youth Involvement

Areas of youth involvement identified by the youth representatives were:

- HIV and AIDS
- Youth structures e.g. National Youth Councils (NYCs)
- Education and training
- Youth Parliament
- Publicity of CYP RCA programme areas
- Poverty alleviation programmes
- National youth policy processes
- Sexual and reproductive health programmes
- Preparations towards the 2006 World Youth Employment Summit in Nairobi, Kenya.

3.2 Challenges

Challenges identified included:

- Pressure from population growth
- Unemployment/underemployment
- Brain drain/mass exodus of professional young people to the west
- HIV and AIDS
- Teenage pregnancy

- Gender disparities (female illiteracy)
- Poor infrastructure
- Absence of contact between outgoing and incoming RYC representatives
- Absence of dialogue between RYC representatives and governments
- Unclear definition of roles and responsibilities of RYC, National Youth Council, government and CYP RCA
- Global economic crisis

3.3 Emerging issues

The following issues were identified as priority areas needing immediate attention:

- Communication challenges (Absence of effective strategies)
- Inadequate skills to undertake tasks effectively (Leadership/reporting)
- Lack of continuity
- Poor implementation, monitoring and evaluation of RYC Action Plan
- Inadequate operational guidelines

4.0 CAPACITY BUILDING SESSION

Day One ended with a session that aimed at familiarising delegates with capacity building strategies and participatory approaches to youth development.

The session aimed at initiating discussions on the importance of communication, lobbying and networking skills for leaders in development through a practical oriented session.

From the exercise the delegates identified additional skills necessary for them to perform their roles effectively as RYC representatives. These were presentation, facilitation and planning skills.

Members were also informed that the position of the RYC Coordinator was open for contest.

DAY II - RYC PROCEEDINGS CONTINUE

5.0 REVIEW OF RYC ACTIVITIES

The meeting reviewed the RYC operational plan (April 2004) which is comprised of the:

- external focus aimed at strengthening the work of the RYC;
- internal focus aimed at building the Regional Youth Caucus.

5.1 Accomplishments

- Communication amongst the RYC members and with CYP RCA was improved through:
 - the establishment of a Chat Group;
 - production of the RYC brochure;
 - release of the first RYC e-newsletter: "In Spirit of Guru-hood";
 - submission of the RYC reports;
 - information dissemination and
 - facilitation from CYP.
- Development of skills database.
- Contribution towards the production of a Youth organisations directory.
- Commemoration of the Commonwealth Day at country level.

5.2 Challenges

Challenges faced during the period under review (2004 – to date) were identified to include inadequate commitment of most RYC members; communication difficulties; inadequate reporting skills and inability to prioritise and handle all the responsibilities appropriately.

6.0 IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY AREAS TO PRESENT TO THE RAB 2005

To combat the above challenges, RYC representatives through group discussion identified:

- Relevant strategic priority areas and outcomes,
- New strategic priority areas,
- Broad issues for the communiqué, which they would present as youth representatives to RAB

6.1 Identification of strategic priority areas and outcomes (including new strategic areas)

A comprehensive plan of action was developed and strategic priority areas identified as follows: building relationships and networks; reporting and mandate; information dissemination; advocacy, defining and clarifying on the roles and responsibilities of RYC and associated structures; capacity building, good governance and management; and reporting.

6.2 Plenary session

After the various groups completed amendments of the action plan, these were presented to the plenary. RYC representatives shared their views and concerns on the following key areas:

- Term of office

- Promoting gender equality and increase in the number of in-country RYC representatives
- Strengthening of the NYCs
- Improving communication
- Commitment of RYC members

The representative from Malawi proposed that two years in office was sufficient time to allow other young people the opportunity to participate in RYC. In his opinion, gender balancing should be encouraged and practiced; in which case if an outgoing RYC representative was male then his successor should be female. The majority of the representatives did not agree with this view.

The representative from Lesotho remarked that gender balancing ought to start at the country level with an increase in the number of delegates from one to two, which would give room for the nomination of female and male representatives.

The next key issue concerned the establishment and involvement of young people in the NYC process. It was agreed that in their work the RYC would focus on lobbying their governments to put in place the necessary statutory instruments that should enable the involvement of young people in NYC processes. They also recognised the fact that Commonwealth countries were at different levels in NYC processes and thus they agreed to be diplomatic in their approach to the enhancement of youth involvement in the NYC at country level. They planned to advocate for political will to promote youth participation. The session ended with the sharing of experiences and ideas about potential partners and websites that promote youth communication.

6.3 Drafting Committee

A committee was constituted to consolidate the plan of action and draft a Communiqué to RAB. The Committee comprised of representatives from Botswana, Cameroon, Cyprus, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.

6.4 Adoption of the RYC Plan of Action and the Communiqué

Namibia proposed the adoption of the plan of action and the house unanimously adopted the proposal. The issues for communication to the RAB were then identified as follows:

- Commitment to promote and develop partnerships and promoting youth empowerment in the Africa Region
- Pledge to commit to work with other young people especially through national bodies.
- Commitment to lobby respective National Youth Councils to provide ex-officio positions to RYC members in their executive committees/boards.
- Pledge to execute RYC mandates, implementing programmes and reporting on time.

A final communiqué to the RAB was prepared and adopted (For details please refer to annexes viii and ix).

7.0 CLOSING REMARKS

The Regional Director heartily thanked all the RYC members for their hard work through out the process of reviewing and adopting the plan of action and communiqué. She particularly thanked Patrick Gamedze, the out-going RYC member from Swaziland for the sacrifice he made to be present for the session and his commitment to the entire process.

Mrs. Valencia Mogegeh also reminded the RYC that governments and young people rely on them to contribute towards advancing youth empowerment. She urged them to negotiate and collaborate with governments, NGOs, private sector, NYCs and other stakeholders for balanced programming and consolidation of resources as well as the successful implementation of the RYC plan of action. She encouraged them to identify their areas of comparative advantage as well as common areas where they can perform effectively. As youth leaders, they were to be proactive and keep communication alive. Networking with other institutions should be beneficial in terms of, for instance, training and skills development.

Mrs. Mogegeh encouraged them to be dynamic young people, who were willing and capable to use the tools at their disposal to drive their dream of sustaining the RYC and ultimately promoting youth empowerment in the Africa region. Finally, she wished them a successful term of office as RYC representatives.

DAY III - RAB PROCEEDINGS

8.0 OFFICIAL OPENING OF RAB

The Deputy Prime Minister of Lesotho the Honourable Lesao Lehohla officially opened the 2005 RAB meeting. Present at the opening were the Minister of Gender and Youth, Sport and Recreation, Honourable 'Mathabiso Lepono, Assistant Minister of Gender and Youth, Sport and Recreation, Honourable Hlonpho Nt'sekhe and senior government officials. Also present were the Commonwealth Director of Youth Affairs Division, Mr. Ignatius Takawira, the CYP RCA Regional Director Mrs. Valencia Mogegeh, delegates and invited guests. The Commonwealth appreciated the efforts of Lesotho to undertake the task of hosting the RAB Meeting. The Commonwealth Director Youth Affairs Division outlined the strategic objectives of the CYP as well as the purpose of the RAB meeting.

The Minister of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation advised on the urgent need to protect young people from conditions that increase their vulnerability such as HIV and AIDS, drug and substance abuse.

She strongly encouraged delegates to exchange ideas and learn from one another and develop networks as an effective strategy for promoting youth empowerment. She appealed to RYC members to make adequate use of the resources at their disposal to achieve the objectives of RYC.

The Deputy Prime Minister expressed the Government of Lesotho's gratitude for hosting RAB 2005. He emphasised that RAB provided an opportunity for professionals to come together and discuss regional plans that should set the agenda for building a solid foundation that would prepare young people as partners in development. He further challenged delegates to develop a

realistic strategic plan that would address issues that affect youth in particular. He advocated for joint effort in addressing issues related to HIV and AIDS, poverty and gender inequality.

8.1 OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Theko, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation chaired the meeting. In his opening remarks, the chairperson welcomed all delegates to the meeting and acknowledged all countries present.

Member countries represented at the opening session included Botswana, Cameroon, Cyprus, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, UK, and Zambia.

8.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE RAB MEETING

Mr. Ignatius Takawira, Director, Youth Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, briefed the meeting on the objectives of RAB/RYC Meetings as follows:

- To provide governments, young people and partners the opportunity to review, and evaluate CYP programmes and work done so far
- To identify priorities for the next operational period
- To advise CYMM on priorities of youth in development work
- To share best practice(s)
- To provide opportunity for networking

8.3 MINUTES OF THE 2002 RAB MEETING

The Regional Director (RD) presented highlights of the 2002 RAB meeting in Cyprus whose theme was “Unlocking Young People’s Potential”. Questions raised included clarification on how CYP ensured payment of pledges. The Director of Youth Affairs explained that CYP’s programmes were funded through pledges. CYP was also engaged in consultations to encourage member governments to honour their pledges. A request for reminder to motivate governments to fulfill pledges was made.

In response the RD said CYP had written two letters advising on the pledge status of member countries. Some delegates requested the review of financial statements based on recent payments made by their governments. Two countries appealed for review of level of pledge. Botswana regretted the non-payment of pledges by member countries and went ahead to urge delegates to make it a point of duty that their governments honour their pledges. It was suggested that correspondence should be copied and forwarded to all relevant structures involved in youth work at the country levels, to ensure appropriate follow-up and subsequent action. Member countries promised to honour their pledges in future.

8.3.1 Discussions

Some delegates were of the opinion that the YWET programme should be expanded to meet the increasing demands of youth empowerment.

The Director Youth Affairs Division highlighted the criterion for allocating amount of pledges to be paid by the different countries. He warned that failure to pay promptly negatively impacts on programme delivery.

9.0 CYP RCA PROGRAMME REVIEW

9.1 Director's Report

In her remarks, the RD briefly introduced the CYP RCA, its structure, programme areas and activities undertaken within the period under review; as well as challenges and interventions. The three programme managers provided highlights on the four strategic programme areas, which are:

- Youth Enterprise and Development (YED)
- Youth Work Education and Training
- Youth Network and Governance (YNG) and
- Youth Participation (YP)

They stated the strategic goals and objectives, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats experienced during the period under review. Nonetheless, they also explained that limited human and financial resources continued to threaten the effective delivery of services in all programme areas. In spite of challenges faced, CYP RCA provided member countries with appropriate technical and financial support. Strengthening partnerships, networking, sharing experiences and exchanging ideas were identified as having great potential in effective programme implementation.

The CYP RCA Finance and Administration Officer, presented the financial report for the period under review, which highlighted the financial position of all member countries in relation to their pledges. He explained how CYP RCA generates and spends its income, and that CYP RCA accounts were regularly audited to ensure appropriate spending. He appealed for payment of pledges so that programmes could be effectively delivered.

9.2 Discussions on the programme updates

The following issues were identified during the discussions:

- Governments need to prioritise youth development at national level
- Development of M&E mechanisms across programmes.
- Harnessing of opportunities in YNG programming.
- Inadequate information on the delivery of short courses.
- Additional resource mobilization to support programme delivery.
- Inadequate human and financial resources that threatened the enhancement of youth empowerment programmes due to the thin spread of CYP RCA programme activities on the ground leading to limited impact.

10.0 COUNTRY BEST PRACTICES

Individual country delegates shared best practice in youth development. The examples ranged from youth involvement in development programmes, the training of youth workers, skills training, the establishment of the NYC, youth role in the fight against HIV and AIDS, environmental protection, peace building, tourism and agriculture. Young people were portrayed as partners and contributors at all levels of development. However, major challenges were faced promoting youth empowerment programmes, especially due to limited financial and human resources and sometimes absence of political will to enhance youth development.

Best practices included:

- **Botswana** National Youth Awards scheme, a youth empowerment initiative modeled on the Commonwealth Youth Development Awards.
- The creation of a youth workers association and the drafting of the code of ethics for the professionalisation of youth work in **Cameroon**
- **Cyprus** briefed the meeting that the youth in Cyprus were working towards strengthening relations with the European Union. This was intended to offer opportunity to address some of the youth development challenges in the country.
- Peace building campaigns to resolve conflicts resulting from land disputes and chieftaincy and traditional rites issues in **Ghana**.
- Youth promotion training (Sungura) that aims at building expertise and professionalism of youth workers in **Kenya**.
- Youth participation in development focusing on the herd boys and girls who engage in a variety of developmental schemes in tourism, artisan, environmental protection, protection and maintenance of the law in **Lesotho**.
- Commonwealth Credit Initiative (CYCI) scheme in **Malawi**, from which 186 (128 males and 58 females) have been trained in business and management skills since 2003 and which has increased repayment rates.
- Youth Initiative in **Mauritius**, which has helped young people to set up small and medium size enterprises.

DAY IV – RAB PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED

- **Mozambique** reported on Sexual Reproductive Health Programme, a programme that provides youths with skills that help them delay the age of sexual debut thus contributing towards HIV and AIDS prevention, reduced teenage pregnancy as well as development of life skills.
- **Namibia** through the newly created ministry responsible for youth has regularised support in its annual budget for the delivery of the Diploma in Youth in Development Work.
- Establishment of the National Youth Development Fund in **Nigeria**. The aim was to strengthen the capacities of youth serving organisations, reduce youth involvement in risky behaviour, equip and empower young people. The general goal was to reduce youth poverty and unemployment in Nigeria.
- Youth Action Plan Team in **Seychelles** provided young people with the opportunity to discuss topical issues. It also enabled them to participate meaningfully in the creation of a vision for the development of Seychelles.
- Promoting ownership and participation from the grassroots in **Sierra Leone**, which empowers young people to participate in decision making at all levels. This process is facilitated through a well-established NYC, which informs and guides youth activities.
- Diploma in Youth in Development Work in **South Africa**, which is fully institutional within University of South Africa (UNISA) and fully recognised by the government. It has an established curriculum within the university. UNISA is working towards elevating the programme to a degree status by the year 2007.

- Youth enterprise development in **Tanzania**, which has an objective to mobilize and facilitate the economic development of young people. The Youth Development Credit Fund (YDCF) under the Ministry of Labour Youth Development and Sports provides capital to support youth enterprise development. The fund has soft conditions that would enable young persons to easily access.
- The **Uganda** country presentation was based on the NYC, which is established by an Act of Parliament with activities, spanning all levels from the grassroots (village) to national. Its functions and composition were shared, as well as networks involved that enhance the work of the NYC.
- The **UK** presentation focused on the British Youth Council (BYC) operations. The BYC operates as an overseer of the overall implementation of youth development programmes. The challenges faced by BYC include underachievement of boys in education, teenage pregnancy and low female participation in youth development processes.
- **Zambia** National Youth Policy Review Process. Launched in 2003, the process enabled the government to consult with young people on youth and development issues at local and national levels. A National Youth Conference on the theme 'Let the Youth Talk' was organised to ensure effective youth participation. The process brought together stakeholders and galvanised national youth development efforts.

DAY V

11.0 REVIEW OF THE 2003 – 2006 CYP STRATEGIC PLAN

11.1 Focus Group Discussions

Working in focus groups delegates reviewed the 2003-2006 Strategic Plan and assessed the extent to which expected programme outcomes were achieved. In addition, delegates made recommendations and identified emerging priority areas for the next programme cycle.

11.2 Review of the 2003-2006 Strategic Plan

The consolidated group inputs are presented in the following tables:

YOUTH NETWORKS & GOVERNANCE

Expected Outcomes:

1. Increased participation of young people in networks including National Youth Councils at all levels of governance.
2. Increased participation of young people in public policy development and implementation including National Youth Policies.
3. Increased transparency, accountability, ownership and legitimacy of youth networks to young people.
4. Enhanced facilitative role of the Commonwealth and other development agencies to advocate for young people to influence governance processes.
5. Increased influence and centrality of young people in governance and other networks as active and empowered citizens exercising their rights and responsibilities.
6. Enhanced youth outreach programmes resulting from youth led, peer education and training.
7. Enhanced capacity of governments, youth organisations, networks and other development agencies to use youth specific monitoring and evaluation tools as a benchmark for good youth development practice.

Programme Strengths

- Capacity and resources to assist member countries in implementation of youth development programmes.
- Documentation and sharing of experiences and Best Practices in youth development.
- Presence of National Youth Councils in most member countries.
- Presence of National Youth Policies or guidelines in all member countries.
- Increased understanding and participation of young people in Public Policy processes.
- Collaboration with existing networking structures.
- Enhanced participation of youths in decision-making and development processes.
- Availability of opportunity for young people to contribute to issues that affect their lives and their communities.
- Governments increasingly transparent and accountable to youth development.
- Increased facilitation of youth development in member countries.

Programme Weaknesses

- Absence of NYCs and NYP action plans in some member countries, which limit delivery of youth development programmes.
- Poor relations between Governments and NYCs in many member countries.
- Lack of continuity in youth programming due to frequent changes and poor hand over procedures.
- Inadequate instruments to evaluate youth participation in development processes.
- Delayed implementation of youth development programmes in member countries due to limited resources.
- Inadequate networking structures in rural areas to facilitate information sharing.
- Non-implementation of National Plans of Action due to weak youth structures.
- Exclusion of young people in the development of poverty reduction strategies.
- Low participation of member countries in programme initiatives.
- Most NYCs in member countries are not autonomous entities.
- Insufficient understanding of public policy issues by young people.
- Insufficient consultation with stakeholders in policy drafting and implementation.
- De-prioritisation of youth participation issues by some Governments.
- Inadequate M&E mechanisms to capture programme experiences and lessons learnt.

Recommendations for improvement and emerging issues:

CYP to:

- Assist establishment or strengthening of NYCs.
- Lobby governments to identify focal point for youth issues in all ministries.
- Develop M&E mechanisms to track progress on youth participation in NYP and NPA processes.
- Encourage member countries to develop or review NYPs, National Action Plans and youth structures.
- Facilitate and enhance young people's involvement in governance processes.
- Document NYC experiences to promote best practice on establishment and management of NYCs.
- Provide financial and technical support.

Governments to:

- Ensure National Youth Structures are enacted by an Act of Parliament.
- Encourage young people to increasingly and proactively engage in decision-making processes.
- Honour their pledges and increase national youth budgets to enhance implementation of youth development programmes.
- Introduce quotas for youth participation to further youth influence in decision-making and national development processes.

- Develop National Plans of Action to facilitate youth development implementation.

Development Partners to:

- Provide financial and technical support as well as simplify their funding criteria and procedures.

RYC to:

- Lobby governments for support towards implementation of youth development programmes.

YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased opportunities for marginalised young people in collaboration with all stakeholders to establish youth enterprise schemes, skill building and other socio-economic and political activities thereby raising their standards of living.
2. Increased number of youth entrepreneurs and enterprises at various levels of society, with more young people in gainful employment, economic leadership, achievement and championship roles.
3. Increased access to knowledge through Information and Communication and Technology and other communication tools as a strategy for social, economic and political development through utilisation of the Internet, web-based technology, training materials and other resources.
4. Enhanced collaboration among governments, private sector, NGOs, donor agencies and other stakeholders in the development, implementation and delivery of entrepreneurial and economic development programmes as a means of reducing poverty among young people.
5. Enhanced social, political, economic, educational, and legal environment for youth entrepreneurs and enterprises to flourish.
6. Increased networks, leadership opportunities, training, mentorship and outreach to support youth entrepreneurship and enterprise development.

Programme Strengths

- Relevance of programme and reliance on implementing agency to deliver programme on behalf of partners.
- Existence of institutional framework for programme delivery.
- Collaboration between partners – CYP, government, NGO and youth.
- Economic empowerment of youth and increase in employment opportunities for youth.
- Enhanced capacities of youth officers and young people to engage in business enterprises.
- Increased support for enterprise development.

- High programme demand – countries and beneficiaries.
- Enhanced livelihoods of the beneficiaries at the individual, family and community level.
- Promotion of use of local resources by young people and their participation in the micro-economic sector, including establishment of small enterprises.
- Involvement and participation of youth in CYCI programme development and delivery.
- Availability of technical expertise and support from CYP.
- Adequate publicity of programme.

Programme Weaknesses

- Default in loan repayment.
- Limited coverage - not all countries have embraced the initiative.
- Lack of management and business skills and access to ICT.
- Poor monitoring and evaluation.
- Limited resources – financial and technical.
- Inadequacies in programme coordination.
- Marginalised youth who are unable to benefit from facility.
- Limited participation of young women.
- Absence of mentoring scheme to support youth entrepreneurs.
- Small loan size.
- Business enterprises engaged in tend to be seasonal in nature.
- Programme responding to undue political pressure in some cases.
- Although this is a prerequisite, needs assessment is not always undertaken prior to programme implementation.
- Lack of entrepreneurship culture among youth in the region.
- Absence of linkages with existing stakeholders.
- Limited input from governments, CYP and other stakeholders.
- Slow programme roll out and lack of mechanisms for marketing of products and services.
- Inadequate consultations with relevant stakeholders including youth.
- Attitude of adults towards youth entrepreneurs remains a challenge.
- Programme not taking advantage of ICT in order to enhance entrepreneurship skills.
- Programme demand exceeds supply and sustainability strategies are limited.
- Information gap between rural and urban youth.
- Inadequate support to youth entrepreneurship efforts.
- Administrative, legal, educational and political barriers disenfranchise some youth leading to limited participation.

Recommendations for Improvement/Emerging Issues

CYP to:

- Institute proper guidelines for programme development and coordination.
- Development of monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Develop and implement a mentoring scheme and review eligibility criteria to be more inclusive.
- Provide Training of Trainers in YED and ensure regular monitoring of performance based on skills acquired through training programmes.
- Establish linkages with other regional initiatives.
- Develop appropriate strategies to support programme delivery e.g., mentoring scheme, build capacities of partners.

Member countries to:

- Establish partnerships in order to attract additional resources for programme delivery.
- Encourage the participation of marginalised youth.
- Increase participation/establishment of partnerships with the private sector and other micro-credit schemes.
- Undertake country needs assessment prior to programme delivery.
- Make direct funding available and increase loan size.
- Develop youth friendly regulations and incorporation of entrepreneurship in school curriculum.
- Encourage participation of younger youth.
- Encourage the promotion of incentives to offer internships.
- Provide support for programme delivery.
- Honour pledges on a timely basis and establish funds to support youth businesses.
- Create conducive political, socio-economic as well as administrative and legal environment, to enable youth businesses thrive.

Private Sector to:

- Provide technical, financial and other forms of resources.

All Stakeholders to:

- Support the establishment of the CYCI programme in all member countries.
- Promote gender sensitive planning and implementation of programmes.
- Use female role models to encourage female participation.
- Facilitate increased access to funding and technical resources.
- Promote learning and sharing of experiences and best practices through exchange programmes.

Development Partners to:

- Provide financial and technical support whilst simplifying funding criteria.

YOUTH WORK EDUCATION & TRAINING

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased opportunities for youth workers, youth leaders and those who work with young people to practice professionally within a variety of sectors as agents of change and transformation.
2. Increased number and quality of youth workers through access to formal and informal education and training programmes for the delivery of qualitative services that enhance young peoples participation in national development.
3. Increased access to knowledge through information and communication technology and other communication tools as a strategy for enhancing youth development work.
4. Enhanced collaboration among key stakeholders to develop a code of ethics, practice and regulatory mechanisms to professionalise youth work.

Programme Strengths

- There is great demand for YWET by member countries.
- Availability of stakeholders and willingness of Partner Institutions to run the programme and student willingness to be trained.
- Support for training available from CYP RCA and Governments.
- Capacity building of youth workers enhanced within a short period of time at low cost in existing facilities.
- Availability of human resource.
- Raised the profile of and professionalised youth work in the participating countries.
- Increased the knowledge base of youth workers in participating countries.
- Distance learning reaches out to more people and there is wide coverage.
- Scientific approach, well structured modules, existence of programme framework and defined principles.
- Increased opportunities for youth workers and leaders to train and practice professionally.
- Collaboration and increased partnership among stakeholders and a lot of networks created in some countries.
- Recognition of the Diploma.
- Interest of students in exploring ICT.

Programme Weaknesses

- Delayed response and feedback from institutions.
- Limited funds for the programme.
- Programme restrictive in terms of numbers admitted (especially women and persons with disabilities) and duration.
- Delayed counterpart contribution.
- Fewer countries offering the course directly as Partner Institutions.
- More member countries are yet to start delivering the programme.
- Inaccessibility of ICT services.
- Limited opportunity to participate due to inadequate requisite qualifications.

- Low recognition of youth work as a profession.
- Inadequate quality assurance, follow up and tracing of graduates.
- Low programme awareness at country level.
- Absence of placement activity in the diploma programme.

Recommendations for Improvement

CYP to:

- Encourage member countries to start the YWET programme.
- Provide financial and technical support.
- Deliver short courses regularly to all member countries.
- Assist member countries to set up ICT programmes for youth in collaboration with development partners.
- Adapt the programme as a vocational skill as well as an academic diploma
- Engage in discussions with national qualification authorities to accredit the diploma.
- Support the elevation of the diploma into degree and postgraduate levels.
- Develop and support ongoing programme monitoring and evaluation.
- Develop a comprehensive outreach programme.
- Simplify administrative procedures for delivery of the programme.

Member countries to:

- Accredit the CYP Diploma in youth work.
- Pay their pledges on time.
- Create enabling environment.
- Simplify their policies in regard to YWET.
- Create an access programme to bridge the gap between vocational and academic training and give priority to those who already have experience in the field.
- Develop a comprehensive and transparent student recruitment plan.
- Encourage more women and persons with disability to participate in the programme.
- Increase learning centres.

All stakeholders to:

- Expedite response among government institutions and CYP and youth development institutions such as NYCs.
- Provide support for increased intake.
- Encourage all institutions aligned with the programme to be Partner Institutions.
- Contribute to the Commonwealth Youth Development Journal.
- Promote short courses and ensure multi-stakeholder participation.
- Focus on YWET oriented programmes.
- Encourage cooperation and sharing of best practices.
- Encourage establishment of a youth workers associations involving civil society, government and other stakeholders.

Development Partners to:

- Provide financial and technical support.
- Simplify funding criteria and procedures.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased knowledge, awareness of and practice in democracy and voter education, human rights, civic education and public policy, leadership training and Commonwealth fundamental values.
2. Increased involvement, participation and recognition of young people at community, national, regional and international levels.
3. Increased opportunities for exposure to and exchange of knowledge, skills, and experiences for the development of young people and their communities.
4. Increased awareness and resource provision for the Youth Ambassadors for Positive Living (YAPL) programme across the Commonwealth Regions.
5. Increased participation of young people in national development efforts to prevent HIV and AIDS and reduce poverty through their knowledge, experience and skills transfer.

Programme Strengths

- Prioritisation of programme by governments.
- Increased involvement of young people.
- High programme awareness and publicity.
- Most countries now participating in the Awards scheme.
- Administration and selection criteria of Awards scheme in place.
- YAPL strategy increasingly integrated into national youth development programmes.
- The Internet and E- Group (chat forum) initiative enhanced communication and networking.
- Interest of young people in exploring ICT.

Programme Weaknesses¹

- Limited evidence of increased knowledge of and practice in democracy.
- Overall objectives too broad.
- Absence of monitoring and evaluation tools to assess extent of youth participation.
- Gender imbalance in youth participation.
- Discrimination of young people based on age, disabilities, gender and HIV status.
- Intergenerational gaps and adult oriented methods and approaches hinder young people from participating fully in programmes as equal partners.
- Limited technical and financial resources.
- Youth structures not well defined in many countries.
- Language barrier hinders some countries from participating in programme activities e.g. Mozambique.
- Commonwealth Youth Development Awards selection process not transparent.
- Sustainability of Commonwealth Youth Development Awards threatened.

¹ While some aspects of the programme area were identified as strengths they were also deemed as weaknesses.

- Lengthy time frame for the selection of awards winners leading to loss of enthusiasm by young people.
- Low monetary Commonwealth Youth Development Award prize.
- Inadequate information and knowledge of the rights and obligations of young people.
- Low involvement of young people in the selection process for the awards scheme, especially at government level.
- Slow dissemination of programme information to young people by some governments.

Recommendations/Emerging Issues

CYP to:

- Urge and support member countries to:
 - Initiate award schemes or reinforce existing ones, and
 - Institutionalise the YAPL strategy.
- Recognise and encourage countries that participate in the awards scheme, even if they do not emerge winners, to sustain their participation.
- Provide financial and technical support for the development of monitoring and evaluation tools.

Member countries to:

- Honour their pledges on time.
- Create an enabling environment.
- Simplify their youth participation policies.
- Initiate award schemes or reinforce existing ones.
- Promote visibility, enhance knowledge of and practice in democracy.
- Support and explore partnerships with other stakeholders to implement the YAPL initiative.
- Translate the Commonwealth Youth Development Awards scheme documentation for all non-English speaking member countries (for specific countries).
- Provide care facilities for youth living with HIV and AIDS.
- Encourage and strengthen youth involvement in political processes.
- Involve YAPL in mobilisation of resources at national level.

Development Partners to:

- Provide financial and technical support.
- Simplify their funding criteria and procedures.
- Support youth oriented development programmes to facilitate youth participation.
- Promote cooperation, the sharing of best practices and ideas.

All Stakeholders to:

- Involve development partners in initiatives on time.
- Research on youth development initiatives.
- Integrate/mainstream issues of gender and HIV and AIDS.
- Encourage youth-led participation programmes and projects.
- Encourage young people to take on positions of responsibility.
- Facilitate the establishment of effective youth structures.
- Scale up awareness campaign.

Young people to:

- Develop shadow reports and recommendations.

How can Commonwealth Africa member countries and CYP RCA enhance programme delivery? Identify 3 areas and propose what each party could do.

Issues/Areas (Not listed in any order of priority)

1. Collaboration and coordination
2. Financial support to the Commonwealth member countries
3. Political commitment of member countries
4. Monitoring and evaluation
5. Youth Employment Summit
6. Resource mobilisation
7. Effective communication
8. Technical Cooperation
9. Development of national programmes based on the strategic areas identified
10. Extending stakeholder base through a holistic approach
11. Direct Networking and exchange programme between member countries
12. Provision for human resource given the ratio of youth officers/youth workers
13. Strategic partnership development

What should CYP do to address the identified issues?

1. Increase its financial resource base support
2. Disseminate information
3. Provide financial and technical support
4. Train members on ICT including IEC material
5. Develop tools and provide training support
6. Emphasise the need for financial commitment
7. Establish exit plans for pilot projects
8. Develop and strengthen strategic partnerships
9. Enhance communication and feedback mechanisms - Correspondence must reach all concerned stakeholders simultaneously for better coordination (responsible government departments, government contact persons, national youth councils and RYC representatives)
10. Undertake needs assessment prior to programme implementation

What should Governments do to address the identified issues?

1. Provide financial and technical support.
2. Demonstrate more programme ownership.
3. Ensure prompt payment of pledges.

4. Provide facilities for communication.
5. Increase collaboration.
6. Enhance communication and feedback mechanisms.
7. Respond promptly to CYP correspondence.
8. Submit country annual work/action plans to CYP.

What could be done by Commonwealth Africa member countries and CYP RCA to strengthen partnerships with other stakeholders?

1. Sign memorandum of understanding between member governments, CYP RCA and other stakeholders.
2. Enhance collaborative efforts.
3. Develop efficient monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms.
4. Encourage existing and potential partners to integrate youth issues and promote youth involvement.
5. Facilitate replication and implementation of CYP programmes by stakeholders.
6. Create awareness on Commonwealth Youth Programme and increase lobbying and advocacy efforts.
7. Create partnerships with the private sector.
8. Facilitate inter-country exchanges to promote sharing of best practices.
9. Member countries identify needs in order to facilitate support by CYP and development partners.
10. Convene annual CYP development partners meeting.

Are there any other issues for consideration?

1. CYP to continue exploring possible partnerships.
2. CYP to consider merging **Youth Participation** and **Youth Networks and Governance** programme areas due to the over-lap between them.
3. Governments to continue supporting RYC members and engaging them in all youth programmes.
4. Governments to consider appointing a young person or an individual who understands and is empathetic about youth issues to lead Ministries responsible for youth.
5. Governments should ensure the sustainability and continuity of initiatives.

12.0 PRIORITY PROGRAMME AREAS

12.1 Summary of the priority areas ²

The following is a summary of the recommended Priority Programme Areas for 2006 – 2008.

Youth Enterprise and Development

- Youth Employment Creation

Youth Networks and Governance

- Youth Leadership Development
- National Youth Council Capacity – Building

² Some of the identified priority areas are cross cutting.

Youth Participation

- Youth Counselling
- Youth Exchange
- Youth with Disability

Youth Work Education and Training

- Skills Development

HIV and AIDS Among Youth

- Mitigating the Impact of HIV and AIDS Among Young People
- HIV and AIDS
- HIV and AIDS (including Adolescent Reproductive Health)
- Youth, Family and Community

Conflict Management and Resolution

- Youth and Sustainable Development/Environment
- Youth and the Environment

ICT for Development

Therefore the three additional areas of priority identified for consideration in the next programme cycle were:

- **HIV and AIDS among Youth,**
- **Conflict Management and Resolution, and**
- **ICT for Development.**

13.0 HOST COUNTRY FOR THE 2007 RAB MEETING

Seychelles offered to host the 2007 RAB meeting while Mauritius offered to be the alternate host.

14.0 CYP RCA RYC COORDINATOR ELECTIONS

The RYC elections were contested by four countries as shown below:

Country	Name
Botswana -	Mr. Batsho Elite Nthoi
Cameroon -	Mr. Sanyi Emmanuel Sanyi
Ghana -	Ms. Phyllis Andoh
Lesotho -	Mr. Ramahooana Matlosa

The four candidates were given an opportunity to present their manifesto before the election was conducted. Casting of votes was by secret ballot. All RYC representatives took part through a one vote per delegate system. The total votes cast were 20 and there were no spoilt votes.

The election results were as follows:

- Botswana - 8 votes
- Cameroon - 5 votes
- Ghana - 5 votes
- Lesotho - 2 votes

There was an independent elections observer who verified that the election process was free and fair.

Mr. Bathso Elite Nthoi of Botswana was declared the RYC Coordinator after receiving the highest votes. Ms. Phyllis Andoh, the Ghanaian RYC representative, was declared the Deputy RYC Coordinator.

15.0 CLOSING OF THE RAB MEETING

The closing session of the RAB included an award giving ceremony. Two youth groups were respectively honoured for scooping the Commonwealth Youth Development Awards. The youth groups were Adolescent Reproductive Health Advocates (ARHA) of Zambia winners of both the 2004/05 Silver and Gold awards, and Selibeng Youth Centre of Lesotho one of the 2004/05 Silver Award winners.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Brian Kayongo, the ARHA representative, indicated that the young people were grateful and motivated by the Commonwealth recognition. Mr. Kayongo explained that a rural group of young people like ARHA stands to benefit from the money gained through the Awards. He explained that ARHA had already embarked on agricultural activities through the funds.

During her closing remarks, CYP RCA Regional Director Mrs. Mogegeh noted that the meeting had not only brought together delegates from the Africa region but had also made it possible to share experiences and best practise in youth development. She recognised the achievements of the many youth initiatives that governments had submitted for the awards scheme and more specifically the winners of the 2004/5 period which were:

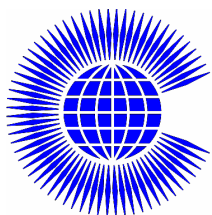
Lesotho - Selibeng Youth Centre of Lesotho
Malawi – Mitigation of HIV/AIDS through Agriculture
Tanzania - Milambo Tinsmithery and Furniture Production and
Zambia – Adolescent Reproductive Health Advocates

Mrs. Mogegeh expressed delight at the fact that African governments had made strides in overcoming the various challenges in development, the fight against the spread of HIV and AIDS, combating and overcoming corruption and providing access to education. She noted that even when the battle was still being fought and more young people were enrolling in school, there was still the issue of unemployment among trained and skilled youth. She closed her remarks by quoting Mahatma Ghandi: ***“You must be the change in the world you wish to see!”***

In her closing remarks, the Minister of Gender and Youth, Sport and Recreation, Honourable Mathabiso Lepono, on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho, expressed her gratitude to all the delegates for their valuable time and effort to re-examine the ground so far trodden in youth development with a view to improving upon strategies in place and building on priority areas of development.

The Honourable Minister noted that the constructive manner in which all the delegates, including the youth themselves, responded to the concerns during the deliberations showed maturity and determination to achieve the best, using all means at their disposal as individual member countries and family of Commonwealth nations in the region. (For details please refer to annex X.)

ANNEXES



Annex I

**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME AFRICA REGIONAL CENTRE
REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD AND
REGIONAL YOUTH CAUCUS MEETINGS
MASERU, LESOTHO
16-20 OCTOBER 2005**

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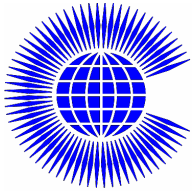
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Annex II

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME REGIONAL CENTRE FOR AFRICA

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

REMARKS BY VALENCIA K. MOGEGEH ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME
REGIONAL CENTRE FOR AFRICA REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD METING

Salutations.....

It gives me great pleasure to deliver these remarks on behalf of the Commonwealth Secretariat – Commonwealth Youth Programme at this memorable occasion of the Regional Advisory Board meeting.

Please allow me to first start by registering my indebtedness to the Governments of Lesotho – specifically the Ministry of Gender and Youth Sport and Recreation for the support rendered.

As you may be aware, during the last three years, the Commonwealth Youth Programme has been implementing four strategic programme areas identified by the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in Gaborone in 2003. These are:

- Youth Enterprise Development,
- Youth Work Education and Training,
- Youth Networks and Governance, and
- Youth Participation.

We hope the discussions and outcomes from this Regional Advisory Board meeting discussions and outcomes will therefore include the following:

- Review of the CYP 2003- 2006 Strategic and Operational Plan comprised of the 4 current strategic programme areas during the current programme cycle.
- Feedback from member countries and the young
- Identification and consensus building on emerging issues and perspectives from member countries and the young people
- Proposals for new priority areas for programme implementation within the 2006 to 2008 programme period.
- The Budget and Resource base of CYP and the level of support through pledges.

With the youth population in Africa representing over 60% and the development challenges that bedevil them, it is only right that consolidated efforts are made by Commonwealth member governments to formulate effective interventions for youth challenges and opportunities.

We therefore trust these deliberations will contribute towards a realistic CYP Strategic and Operational Plan for the next programme cycle.

I am very happy to report that the just ended RYC meeting has led among others to the adoption of critical recommendations that will be presented to RAB.

As all of you are aware Africa is on the threshold of change and the custodians of this change are the youth. They should realise the dream of equality, democracy, rule of law, good governance, education for all, economic stability and an acceptable level of sustenance for all.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme works towards ensuring that international cooperation is facilitated as a means of realising our goals of sustainable economic development, good governance and improved quality of life.

African governments have made strides in overcoming the various challenges to development, the fight against the spread of HIV and AIDS, access to education, and combating corruption. However, the battle still continues. The need for education and focussed skills training/development remains a challenge to many Commonwealth countries on the African continent.

CYPRCA through the guidance and support of Commonwealth member governments and strategic partners has continued to provide a platform through which youth issues are addressed and capacity built to achieve set targets.

While we look back over the past three years with a view to derive lessons and therefore enhance implementation, we should also be mindful of the measure of success.

The programme has continued to achieve its objectives of: promoting youth enterprise development and sustainable livelihoods to share among ourselves and authenticate our celebration of victory in youth development; facilitating the development and effective operation of youth networks and structures for good governance; developing and promoting youth work education and training for the professionalisation of the youth sector; assisting governments in creating an enabling environment for young people's participation in economies, societies and governance; disseminating and communicating experiences, results, lessons learned and best practices in youth development; and providing opportunities for young people to develop critical knowledge and skills in the use of information technology to create employment and share experiences.

It is my sincere hope that the deliberations during this meeting will be beneficial and of substance, to see not only the initiation in the process of developing the next cycle of programme activities but also provide an opportunity to enhance efforts in the promotion of youth empowerment.

Annex III

**REMARKS BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF GENDER,
YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION, LESOTHO ON THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF THE COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING HELD IN LESOTHO
MASERU, ON 18 OCTOBER, 2005**

On behalf of the Regional Advisory Board and of the Regional Youth Caucus, who have been meeting here over the past two days, I wish to extend our warm welcome to the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs and Public Safety and express our profound gratitude for the honour bestowed upon this meeting by the presence of your high office.

We are, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, humbled and indeed inspired by your esteemed gesture of giving recognition to a group of young men and women who are engaged in putting together foundation blocks for upholding and promoting the vision and core values of the commonwealth family of nations. We request you, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs and Public Safety, to convey our gratitude to the rest of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho for making it possible for us to hold this meeting in Lesotho.

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, as a regional body, our focus is on the Africa Region. Our concerns and our mandate are consistent with the aspirations of our esteemed leaders of the African continent and leaders of other commonwealth countries of the Africa region. Accordingly, our programmes are anchored on the commitments of our national governments as enshrined in the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Poverty Reduction Strategies and the Millennium Development Goals. The apparent difficulty with overcoming the prevailing problems is not that they are intractable but it is perhaps a question of how well we have applied our efforts to tackle them.

We are concerned with the welfare and development of young people and on how the young people can participate in the development of their communities and nations. The last meeting held in Cyprus in 2002 produced a strategic programme prioritizing the following for 2003 - 2006:

- ❖ Youth Enterprise Development
- ❖ Youth Networks and Governance
- ❖ Youth Participation
- ❖ Youth Works, Education and Training

The above programmes are consistent with policies and programmes of our national governments, and our countries are at various levels of implementing them.

Of significant importance about the youth sector is that it brings aboard two-thirds of the population into the development matrix. Engaging

the youth unveils new energy, enabling us to build the critical mass of human capital essential for action against poverty.

The youth are available. They are ready to learn, and they can do so in large numbers. They are ready to participate in development at all levels, and they can do so in large numbers.

There is a great deal of need to create opportunities for the development of a self-reliant, healthy youth, an HIV/AIDS competent youth, a resilient and productive youth. The youth should work together with governments to create youth friendly institutions, whether these are health related, life skills related, resource distribution or financial institutions. The challenge is equally that of governments and of the youth themselves.

This meeting presents an opportunity for dialogue among the youth, for a broad-based exchange of views and best practices, virtually dealing with all issues of development as the reports of this meeting will demonstrate.

I thank you.

M. Theko

Annex IV

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

*OFFICIAL OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SAFETY,
HONOURABLE LESAO LEHOHLA*

'MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTRE

18 OCTOBER, 2005

His Majesty King Letsie III

The Right Honourable the Prime Minister

Honourable Minister of Gender and Youth, Sport and Recreation

Honourable Assistant Minister

Director, Youth Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mr

Takawira

Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, Africa Centre,

Mrs Mogegeh

Principal Secretaries of Commonwealth Countries here present

Directors of Youth Departments

Presidents of National Youth Councils

Commonwealth Programme Managers and other officers

Representatives of Youth Organisations

All invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Master of Ceremony, on behalf of the Government and people of the Kingdom of Lesotho, I wish to express our sincerest gratitude for the honour bestowed upon Lesotho for choosing her as host to this auspicious event, the Commonwealth Regional Advisory Board meeting. The convergence of these eminent representatives of at least 21 countries of the Commonwealth in Lesotho over these few days fills us with profound gratitude and will indeed leave us with lasting honour in the annals of the Commonwealth family of nations.

Here, you will benefit from the sharing of collective experiences,
Here, you will determine policies and programmes that can be adopted in the Regional Centre to address specific problems and challenges as identified,
And here, you will have the opportunity to discuss the regional work plans so that you can better advise the Ministers responsible for youth in the region.

Above all, this meeting will set the agenda for the young people of this country as they prepare themselves to increase their participation in the governance of the country, in the pursuit of the ideals of the national vision and in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals.

Master of Ceremony, Ladies and gentlemen, history has brought us together into one family. The cohesion we have maintained so far should serve as a source of strength and synergy to triumph over our contemporary challenges, HIV and AIDS; poverty; unemployment; human rights violations and a myriad of other social, economic and political tribulations.

The challenge to maintain and nurture the unity of our nations now lies with you ladies and gentlemen, as emergent leaders of your people. In many of your countries, the nationalist leaders emerged from youth movements. This is your time. This is the beginning of the future for you. It is important therefore that you start this mission with unwavering vision.

Another challenge of our times and of your times as well, is gender equality. The world has changed much since creation. The roles of men and women have drastically shifted and consequently, the erstwhile gap in the demands of society on men and women is no longer valid. The contemporary challenge is for policies and programmes we espouse to address gender inequalities in resources, rights and the voice of women. This is also true of the youth.

We should create conditions that enable youth to get jobs, to access resources, to access adequate shelter, education and health services and indeed to be heard. Things that we will do in the future manifest themselves today. The people judge you today and mete their sentence tomorrow.

Lesotho acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism under the AU. The process was launched in this country on the 27th September, this year. This is a challenge to the National Youth Councils and groups affiliated to them to cultivate a new culture and new spirit of governance. The test, ladies and gentlemen, is to embrace the peer review mechanism.

The greatest virtue you have today is that you develop your strategic plans and come back after three years to check how well you have done. It means you know where you are starting your journey from, where you are going and you always remember where you came from. This process, I hope, permeates the national organizations and has become a way of life for these organizations. Even more important is the participation of those you lead in the decision making processes, for indeed the story of development begins with the people and ends with the people.

Needless to emphasise, the youth constitute a large proportion of our populations in most countries. How do we then leave the majority of our people in a lurch, in poverty, in joblessness and afflicted by ill-health. Our plans should therefore unequivocally address issues that are of national concern and those we lead should lead the way in identifying the challenges and strategies to tackle them.

Let me take this opportunity, Master of Ceremony, to mention a few issues that I wish to make sure they do not evade us. Some of our young women and men are today victims and addicts of drugs and substances abuse. Some of these young women and men are lured to travel to foreign countries under the guise that they will get employed and lead a better life but unfortunately end up as sex slaves. It is even worse for young women who have been denied life skills education so that they can protect themselves from the risks of sexual abuse. HIV and AIDS is devastating families, communities and the society at large. As youth leaders, you are invited to join the war against the HIV/AIDS pandemic to ensure that our efforts together overcome its wrath.

We in Lesotho have declared total war against HIV and AIDS. HIV/AIDS has been placed at the top on the list of Millennium Development Goals for Lesotho. We have established Child and Gender Protection Unit. Parliament has passed the Sexual Offences Act. We have introduced free primary education, which is intended to be compulsory in the near future. We are currently engaged in developing a programme to expand the schooling of herdboys to enable them to be a competent part of our society.

We have also engaged, in partnership with UNAIDS Lesotho, a programme on Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS. These initiatives can only succeed with the full cooperation of all stakeholders, including the youth.

The youth of this country have engaged in a consultative process to develop a National Youth Policy. Based on this policy framework, a bill for the establishment of a National Youth Council is under preparation. We will soon have the National Youth Council for Lesotho.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished youth leaders and delegates, the Commonwealth Africa Region Secretariat have given us much encouragement and support in youth development and this deserves our greatest appreciation, gratitude and continued support. Your presence here, in these great numbers, is testimony to the high level collaboration between the centre and your respective countries. I would like to request all development partners and stakeholders at the local, regional and international levels to work with us in our endeavor to lift the youth out of poverty, ignorance and the HIV/AIDS trap.

With these remarks, I wish all guests a memorable stay in Lesotho. I wish all of you fruitful deliberations. This Commonwealth Advisory Board Meeting is declared officially opened.

I thank you.

Khotso!

Pula!

Nala!

Annex V**Minister for Gender, Youth, Sport and Recreation, Lesotho
Opening Remarks**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES, ALLOW ME TO PASS MY RESPECTS TO:

HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III
 THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
 HONOURABLE ASSISTANT MINISTER
 DIRECTOR, YOUTH AFFAIRS DIVISION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
 SECRETARIAT, MR. TAKAWIRA
 REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME,
 AFRICA CENTRE, MRS. MOGEGEH
 PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES OF COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES HERE
 PRESENT
 DIRECTORS OF YOUTH DEPARTMENTS
 PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS
 COMMONWEALTH PROGRAMME MANAGERS AND OTHER OFFICERS
 REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS
 ALL INVITED GUESTS
 LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO YOU FOR MAKING TIME TO ATTEND THIS COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WITH A VIEW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUTH SECTOR. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CHALLENGES AND CRISES FACING THIS IMPORTANT SECTOR.

THE EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE THAT YOU COLLECTIVELY BRING TO THIS MEETING REPRESENTS ONE OF THE CLEAREST SIGNS OF HOPE IN OUR STRUGGLE FOR YOUTH EMANCIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT. THE JOINT FRONT OF YOUTH, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH AFRICA REGION BEARS TESTIMONY TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH OUR GOVERNMENTS ARE DEVOTED TO THIS SECTOR. ABOVE ALL, IT IS THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF MEETINGS SUCH AS THIS ONE, THAT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO.

THE URGENCY OF PROTECTING OUR YOUTH FROM HAVOC CREATED BY PANDEMICS SUCH AS HIV AND AIDS AND OTHER YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ISSUES REQUIRES ACTION, NOT JUST MERE TALK. WE INDEED HOPE

THAT THIS MEETING WILL LEAD TO IMMEDIATE AND URGENT PRACTICAL OUTCOMES. THIS THEREFORE MEANS WE NEED TO DO CAREFUL DELIBERATIONS AND PLANNING ABOUT ACTIONS WE SHALL TAKE AND, FURTHERMORE, ENSURE THAT EVERY MOMENT SPENT IN OUR DELIBERATIONS LEADS TO A DECISIVE **MASERU AGENDA FOR ACTION**. WE ARE THEREFORE CONFIDENT THAT ALL GATHERED HERE TODAY NEED NO REMINDER OF THE NEED TO FOLLOW UP THIS MEETING WITH CONCRETE AND PRACTICAL STEPS ACROSS THE REGION. ALSO IMPORTANT WILL BE OUR

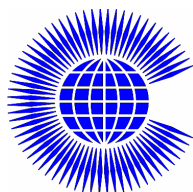
READINESS TO STRENGTHEN OUR NETWORKING AND MAINTAIN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICES. I IMPLORER THE REGIONAL CENTRE TO CONSIDER PLAYING A CENTRAL ROLE IN PROMOTING AND FACILITATING THE BEST PRACTICE EXCHANGE NETWORKING.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ALSO WISH TO REQUEST OUR YOUTH TO CAPITALIZE ON OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS THIS WHEN THEIR GOVERNMENTS INDEED SHOW COMMITMENT TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT. NOT ONLY DO COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS EXPECT YOUTH TO APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT AFFORDED THEM, THE YOUTH SHOULD ALSO PROPERLY UTILIZE THE RESOURCES GIVEN IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN THEIR LIVES AND THAT OF CO-OPERATING WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

LASTLY, I ONCE AGAIN WISH TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE OF THIS MEETING AND, FURTHERMORE, PAY TRIBUTE TO THE IMPORTANT WORK YOU ARE DOING FOR FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS, INTELLECTUALS AND LEADERS OF OUR COUNTRIES.

KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!

Annex VI



**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME
REGIONAL CENTRE FOR AFRICA**

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

REMARKS BY VALENCIA K. MOGEGEH ON THE OCCASION OF THE
AWARDS PRESENTATION & CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE
COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME REGIONAL CENTRE FOR AFRICA
REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING & REGIONAL YOUTH CAUCUS

HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
HONOURABLE ASSISTANT MINISTER,
HONOURABLE ASSISTANT MINISTER
DIRECTOR, YOUTH AFFAIRS DIVISION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARIAT
REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME,
AFRICA CENTRE
PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES OF COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES
DIRECTORS OF YOUTH DEPARTMENTS
PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS
REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS
ALL INVITED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

As we draw to the close of the Regional Advisory Board Meeting, there is still so much work still left to be done.

The meeting has not only brought together delegates from the 20 of the 21 member countries but has also made it possible to share experiences and best practise in youth development.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme is not an office somewhere in Africa! CYP is you, each and every individual here, citizens of the Commonwealth striving for a better future for all, and this meeting forms the basis of the future of the Commonwealth.

One key component of the Programme is youth Participation and under this area falls the Commonwealth Youth Development Awards. Tonight we recognise the achievements of the many youth initiatives that governments

have submitted for the awards scheme and more specifically the winners of the 2003/4 period.

Namely:

Lesotho - Selibeng Youth Centre of Lesotho
Malawi – Mitigation of HIV/AIDS through Agriculture
Tanzania - Milambo Workshop and
Zambia – Adolescent Reproductive Health Advocates

From this meeting many challenges and priority areas have been identified in youth development. In the face of drought, HIV and AIDS, poverty, oppression and a changing culture it is encouraging to see young people taking up the initiative to not only help themselves but also make a positive contribution to national development.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme and more specifically the Commonwealth, works towards ensuring that international cooperation is facilitated as a means of realising our goals of sustainable economic development, good governance and improved quality of life.

African governments have made strides in overcoming the various challenges to development, the fight against the spread of HIV and AIDS, access to education, overcoming and combating against corruption. However, the battle is still being fought with more young people enrolling to school there is now a question of unemployment amongst trained and skilled youth.

CYPRCA through the continued guidance and support of Commonwealth member governments and strategic partners have continued to provide a platform through which youth issues are addressed and capacity built to achieve the overall goals.

I would also like to announce that CYP and the Government of Lesotho are in the process of establishing the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative.

I would like to believe, that as we leave here, each and every delegate is of the conviction that there is need for change and that this change can only be brought about through clear and constant communication and a unified vision.

In the words of Mahatma Ghandi: ***You must be the change in the world you wish to see!***

Annex VII

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING

CLOSING SPEECH BY THE HON. MINISTER OF
GENDER AND YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION

HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III
 THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
 HONOURABLE ASSISTANT MINISTER
 DIRECTOR, YOUTH AFFAIRS DIVISION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
 SECRETARIAT
 REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME,
 AFRICA CENTRE
 PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES OF COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES
 DIRECTORS OF YOUTH DEPARTMENTS
 PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS
 COMMONWEALTH PROGRAMME MANAGERS AND OTHER OFFICERS
 REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS
 ALL INVITED GUESTS
 LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE AND OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR THE SACRIFICE OF YOUR VALUABLE TIME AND EFFORT TAKEN TO RE-EXAMINE THE GROUND SO FAR TRODDEN IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING UPON STRATEGIES IN PLACE AND COMING UP WITH NEW AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FACT THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IS INDEED DYNAMIC AND REQUIRES, APART FROM REFLECTIVE PRACTITIONERS, COLLABORATION AND CO-OPERATION THAT YOU DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT THE DELIBERATIONS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS.

THE YOUTH HAD THEIR OWN CAUCUS IN THE FIRST TWO DAYS AND THE OUTCOME OF THIS, AS INDICATED IN THEIR OWN PLAN OF ACTION, IS INDEED A GENUINE REFLECTION OF THEIR CONCERNS AND EXPECTATIONS REGARDING WAYS IN WHICH THEIR INTEREST AND WELFARE SHOULD BE IMPROVED, AND WAYS IN WHICH THE COMMONWEALTH AFRICA REGION AND MEMBER STATES SHOULD CREATIVELY RESPOND TO THESE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS.

THE CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER IN WHICH ALL THE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING THE YOUTH THEMSELVES, RESPONDED TO THE CONCERNS DURING THE DELIBERATIONS SHOWED MATURITY AND DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE THE BEST, USING ALL MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL AS INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES AND FAMILY OF NATIONS IN THE REGION.

DESPITE THIS, AS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE DELIBERATIONS, THE QUESTION OF MEETING OUR PLEDGES IS VERY CRUCIAL AND HAS TO BE ATTENDED TO IF WE HAVE TO CHART OUR WAY FORWARD WITHOUT OBSTACLES.

BUT WE SHOULD ALWAYS BEAR IN MIND THAT FOR EVERY STEP FORWARD NEW CHALLENGES WILL STILL CROP UP WHICH REQUIRE US TO BE INNOVATIVE AND BRAVE. FURTHERMORE, AS SHOWN BY THE PRIEST DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT OUR DELIBERATIONS SHOULD ALWAYS FOCUS ON THE NEGATIVES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE POSITIVE.

THE POTENTIAL AND PROGRESS REPORTED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF UNAIDS, UNDP, CROSS BORDER YOUTH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND THE ORGANIZATION DEALING WITH AWARDS IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH YOUTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL SHOULD INSPIRE US WITH HOPE AND ENERGY REQUIRED WHEN WE LEAVE THIS MEETING. IN ACTUAL FACT AT THIS JUNCTURE I WISH TO CONGRATULATE THE YOUTH WHO HAVE WON THE AWARDS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO MORE FOR OUR REGION.

FURTHERMORE THE REPORTS ON THE BEST PRACTICES ACHIEVED BY DIFFERENT MEMBER STATES IN SPECIFIC AREAS SHOULD INDEED BE USED TO SHED MORE LIGHT ON WHAT ALL OF US SHOULD DO TO FURTHER ENHANCE OUR YOUTH. IN ACTUAL FACT WE SHOULD STRIVE TO TRANSCEND THE BEST WE HAVE ACHIEVED NOW IN OUR STRIFE FOR PERFECTION.

AS FOR THE GENERAL COUNTRY REPORTS, THEIR CIRCULATION AMONG MEMBER STATES WILL INDEED GIVE US EVEN A BROADER PICTURE OF WHAT WE AS A FAMILY OF NATIONS SHOULD DO IN TERMS OF PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIVITIES, ALLOCATION OF FUNDS, AND AREAS REQUIRING INCREASED AND IMPROVED COLLABORATION WITH UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES WHICH ARE DETERMINED TO ASSIST IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT NOW RE-EXAMINED AND FURTHER REFINED. WE HOPE WE SHALL BENEFIT FROM THE ENVISAGED ASSISTANCE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN I ALSO WISH TO APPRECIATE AND GREATLY THANK THE COMMONWEALTH AFRICA REGION OFFICE IN ZAMBIA, DELEGATES FROM MEMBER STATES AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES, AND ORGANIZERS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING.

HAVING SAID THIS I WISH TO OFFICIALLY CLOSE THE MEETING AND WISH ALL THE PARTICIPANTS SAFE JOURNEY BACK TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.

Annex VIII**RYC COMMUNIQUE TO THE RAB**

WE the Commonwealth Youth Representatives for the Africa Region commit ourselves

- To promote and develop partnerships promoting youth empowerment in the Africa Region
- To work with other young people in our respective countries especially through our national bodies
- To lobby our respective national youth councils to provide ex-officio position to a RYC member in their executive committee/board
- To execute our mandates and implement our programmes and report in a timely manner to the regional coordinator, government and constituency

We recommend GOVERNMENTS

- To support, through pledges made by the Youth Ministers, Commonwealth youth programmes and the implementation of the CYP strategic programme areas at national level.
- To ensure an enabling environment for partnership in the implementation of youth based development programmes between government, Commonwealth and other development agencies.
- To promote gender mainstreaming in all aspects of youth participation and programs.
- To create focal points for youth strategies/programmes in all government bodies.
- To increase their annual budgetary allocation for Youth policies, in line with growing youth population as a percentage of their total population in their respective countries.
- To consider quotas for youth participation in all programmes and all levels of decision making
- To use Objective Performance Indicators to evaluate the extent and quality of youth participation in all programmes and at all levels of decision making.
- To submit an annual report to CYP on the progress and contribution to youth development.

- To promote the implementation of their respective National Youth Policies or facilitate the compilation of one if none exists as yet.
- To fully support their respective National Youth Councils or proceed to the creation of such councils if none exist.

We recommend TO CYP

- To emphasise the importance of the RYC to our respective governments, including participation in ongoing national development processes that relate to youth affairs in order to improve the support that RYC members receive.
- To encourage member governments to form, improve and sustain National Youth Councils, draw up and review National Youth Policies and enact Youth Councils through acts of Parliament.
- We recommend that all outgoing RYC's to be awarded with a token of appreciation.

Annex IX

CYP AFRICA REGIONAL YOUTH CAUCUS Action Plan

Strategic Objective One: Strengthening The Work of the RYC (External Focus)

Strategic Priority	Outcomes	Activities	Performance indicators	Time frame	Responsible	
Relationships and Networks	New partners	Identify reputable and active partners	CYPRCA has list of potential organizations	July 06	CYPRCA, RYC members	
	Improved relationships and networks with; Commonwealth Secretariat, Youth Ministries, CYP, NGO's, Donor agencies, National youth structures	Meet other stakeholders.		ASAP		
	Establish a working relationship with other organizations/institutions	Individual RYC members meet partners in their respective countries and present work of CYP them. Report to CYP RCA	RYC members serve on Commonwealth observer teams		ASAP	
	Internal Strengthening of our organization and combine activities with other partners e.g. UN, AU, NEPAD, EU, European Youth Forum, Latin America, CONFEJES, World Assembly of Youth	Undertake exchange programs	Invitations to address the other organisations or present CYP to their members.		Ongoing	Sub-groups within RYC
		Make contact with and develop joint program with NEPAD and other economic agencies and define Common Objectives and be helpful to each other	RYC members participate in exchange programs within and outside region. Report submitted		Ongoing	
		Common presentations/work plans to be submitted to organizations that do not have a youth programme/forum		November 2006		
			Feedback from other organisations		Ongoing	

	<p>constituencies</p> <p>RYC members well networked with national and local stakeholders for support</p> <p>RYC members kept informed of activities of Youth Ministers/Heads of Government</p> <p>Improved communication to and from CYP</p> <p>Improve communication between RYC members</p> <p>Receive communication allowance</p>	<p>Enhance communication between RYC member and government officials responsible for Youth affairs and especially Commonwealth issues</p> <p>CYPAC reports to RYC members on what took place at the Heads of State and the Youth Minister meetings</p> <p>CYP Secretariat to ensure that documents are sent to RYC members at same time as governments</p> <p>Produce quarterly newsletter</p> <p>Update mailing list</p> <p>Lobby for a Communication allowance.</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p> <p>Improved support of RYC activities</p> <p>RYC members know what has happened at Heads of Government and Youth Minister meetings Everybody receives mail</p> <p>Everybody contributes and receives newsletter</p> <p>Everybody receives mail</p> <p>Communication allowance for all RYC member provided</p>	<p>By beginning of 2007</p> <p>By beginning of February 06</p> <p>Every three months</p>	<p>RYC members</p> <p>RYC members</p> <p>RYC coordinator and deputies and CYP RCA</p>
Information dissemination	<p>Better information disseminated to youth structures at national and international level</p> <p>Innovative communication</p>	<p>Develop our existing website or build on the Commonwealth website</p> <p>Create subgroup of RYC in charge of keeping website up to date and discussing issues with professionals</p>	<p>Web site active</p> <p>Youth organizations receive information about CYP and regional interpretation</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>	<p>RYC members and CYP RCA</p>

	<p>methods with coordinator/other RYC members</p>	<p>Distribute youth friendly and attractive information on the Commonwealth and other youth issues to young people in youth groups in our respective countries and regions</p> <p>Engage Mass media and electronic media</p> <p>Contact other regional and international fora and disseminate information</p> <p>Update RYC brochure</p> <p>Produce RYC banner</p> <p>Produce Youth Development Partners directory.</p> <p>Contribute to the UN Annual Africa Region Youth Report</p> <p>Produce a thematic report on the status of the African youth</p> <p>Raise awareness with debates and press-kits about an issue</p> <p>Assist countries with technical resources for conducting research</p> <p>Create Youth Journal with Academic Contributions</p>	<p>The CYP and its regional programmes get coverage in the media</p> <p>Members submitting articles</p> <p>Area on website with resources/logos etc</p> <p>New Brochure available CD with a copy of banner info with all RYC members Directory distributed to all RYC members</p> <p>Supply information which National Youth Councils can use to put pressure for change on governments</p> <p>Publish report and launch it each country</p> <p>Create inventory of resources available and skills bank</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
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		Create blocks on RYC members activities			
Advocacy	<p>The CYC has an improved standing as representative of civil society</p> <p>Increased youth participation in Good Governance implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation of youth development projects and programmes</p> <p>Sustainability of existing National Youth Councils</p> <p>Establishment of National Youth Council in countries that do not have one</p>	<p>Commemorate Commonwealth Day</p> <p>Create an identification card</p> <p>Create business cards for RYC members</p> <p>Offer services in M & E of youth Programmes</p> <p>Dissemination of youth structures in other countries and of good practices</p> <p>Promote exchange programs between youth councils</p> <p>Link National Youth Council websites to RYC's own website</p> <p>Identifying key days and activities and sharing them with other RYC members on world themed days</p> <p>Promote Commonwealth youth clubs</p> <p>CYP should continue urging member governments to establish NYC's</p> <p>RYC members to lobby among the members of parliament to urge the state to establish NYCs</p>	<p>Commonwealth Day (1st Monday in March) commemorated and other international celebrations for youth</p> <p>RYC members promote good governance through M & E of youth programmes</p> <p>Sustainability of National Youth Councils</p> <p>Uploading on website Activities in countries according to calendar drawn up by a working group</p> <p>Commonwealth youth clubs formed</p> <p>Report from RYC members</p>	<p>Next Commonwealth Day</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	RYC members

Strategic Objective Two: Building the Regional Youth Caucus (internal focus)

Strategic Priority	Outcomes	Activities	Performance indicators	Time frame	Responsible
Define and Clarify Roles and Responsibilities of RYC and associated structures.	Clearly defined roles for CYC members and CYPAC that are understood and accepted by all	Develop task and responsibility descriptions Develop induction programs	RYC and CYPAC working according to agreed job descriptions All new members inducted into RYC	End of 2005	CYP RCA CYP RCA
Capacity Building	Improved capacity amongst CYC members to carry out their mandate	RYC members to attend relevant courses on Commonwealth Youth Programmes RYC members to attend relevant conferences, workshops and seminars. Disseminate Commonwealth existing training/working tools to all RYC members (e.g. HIV/AIDS game)	Skills Capacity needs report completed At least two training course for RYC members held during mandate A roster of events with proposed attendees in place All RYC reps have tools	January 2006 First within 6 month, next within mandate June 2006 December 2005	RYC & CYP RCA CYP RCA CYP RCA CYP RCA/AYA Ghana
Good governance	RYC members participate with honesty, integrity, transparency and trust Improved Gender balance	Honest, trustworthy, reliable and transparent participation by RYC members. Ensure increased representation from women Integrate Gender mainstreaming into all RYC activities	Consistent attendance RYC members serve only one term Attendance at meetings to be gender balanced Gender mainstreaming enforced	Ongoing RAB 2008 ongoing	RYC members RYC members RYC members CYP RCA, RYC members

Management and Reporting	Good management and reporting	Preparation of adequate and timely reports	Quarterly reports	Ongoing	RYC members
		Management systems and procedures in place	Work plans submitted	February 2006	
		Have proper hand over procedures	All administrative procedures in place	End 2005	CYP RCA
			Proper hand over taking place amongst delegates	ongoing	RYC members
Communication – internal	Improved communication between RYC and CYPAC	Develop new and use all available hard and soft print material to communicate	All newsletter, material and brochures relating to work of the Commonwealth and CYP specifically received by all members	End 2005	Coordinator and regional coordinator and deputies
		Develop a web page for the RYC. Develop an e-newsletter Upscale the use of the E-group	Web page active First newsletter out	End 2006 or every quarter	
Knowledge management	Skills of RYC members well deployed	Develop a database of RYC skills.	Database with profiles available	December 2005	
		Create a RYC alumni and use alumni skills	The alumni is formed	January 2006	
		Develop a marketing strategy for RYC members.	Marketing strategy in place	June 2006	
Diversified resource base	The RYC is funded from a range of donors	Identify government and non-government financial and non-financial resources	The RYC 2006 budget reflects diverse income sources	December 2006	CYP, RYC and Commonwealth Secretariat staff
		Market and sell consultancy services of CYPAC and RYC	A marketing strategy in place and services sold with income generated	2008	