Positive Beats from City Streets
Safer Cities Through Youth Development and Inclusiveness

Networking Event Report
World Urban Forum 2004, 15 September 2004, Barcelona, Spain
The Dutch Youth Panel invites

youth, mayors, youth organisations, urban entrepreneurs, urban managers, local, regional and national governmental representatives, police, NGO representatives and all others interested

to the networking event

Positive Beats from City Streets

*Safer cities through youth development and inclusiveness*

Do you want to know how youth can make your city safer? The Dutch Youth Panel brings you stories from the streets of Bujumbura, Cape Town, Kampala and San Salvador. There, the position, interests, positiveness, dignity and strength of urban youth has been central to improving urban safety. The debate on urban youth is spiced up with films and presentations by young people from Africa and Latin America. Join in our discussion and talk to us if you have ideas about safer cities and how youth can participate in the solution rather than be seen as part of the problem. Amsterdam based DJ Lovesupreme will dish out uplifting music.

Special ingredients: Dutch ‘stroopwafels’ and coffee

**Wednesday 15 September 2004, 10 am – 1 pm**

UN Habitat World Urban Forum, Barcelona

Room 120-121, Barcelona International Convention Center

The Dutch Youth Panel is a partnership of Baobabconnections, Cordaid, Dutch Habitat Platform and Dutch Youth Panel.
Programme

10.00 – 10.05  **Introduction**  
By Dominique Sindayiganza, moderator.

10.05 – 10.20  **Introduction on Youth at Risk & Safer Cities**  
By Juma Assiago, Urban Safety Expert, Safer Cities Programme UN Habitat.  
Content: Introduction on Youth at Risk programme UN Habitat, interventions proposed and new Strategy Paper on Africa.

10.20 – 11.00  **Cordaid: Youth at Risk in cities in Latin America**  
By Margriet Nieuwenhuis, Cordaid Latin America Department.  
Content: Introduction, movie on Maras (gangmembers) in San Salvador and presentation by Maria Santacruz (University of Central America).

11.00 – 11.15  **Dutch National Youth Council: Youth participation and employment**  
By Leontien Peeters, Sayida Vanenburg and Annemarie Frissen.  
Content: Youth participation and Youth Council's activities, YES Spark project (youth employment).

11.15 – 11.30  **Break**, with Dutch ‘stroopwafels’ and coffee

11.30 – 12.00  **Baobabconnections: Youth interventions in Africa**  
By Lyse Tradukunda, Petna Ndaliko Katondolo and Shamiel Adams.  
Contents: films from Uganda / Burundi / South Africa and comments by Baobab partners.

12.00 – 12.30  **Interactive panel disscusion**  
With Clayton Peters (Youth Development Network South Africa), representatives from Cordaid, Dutch National Youth Council, Baobabconnections and public.

12.30 – 12.45  **Conclusions**  
By Shamiel Adams (South Africa) and moderator.
Summarizing report

The Wednesday morning youth event in room 120-121 was an overwhelming success according to many of the more than 100 attendants. The positive beats that came from the films and presentations did attract many. The beats dished out by DJ Lovesupreme, the public and the moderator slipping through the doors did lure many more in.

The Dutch Youth Panel organizing the event showed that youth is part of the solution for urban safety problems, rather than being part of the problem. The films and presentations by young people from South Africa, Uganda, Burundi, El Salvador and the Netherlands illustrated how the position, interests, positivity, dignity and strength of urban youth are central to creating safer cities. In San Salvador, Cordaid supports NGO’s that offer ex-gang members opportunities to re-integrate into a life outside a gang. The Dutch National Youth Council, with partners from various continents, is implementing the YES* project promoting youth entrepreneurship offering employment opportunities for youth. In Cape Town, Bujumbura and Kampala, partners of Baobabconnections.org through media and Internet link up youth to discuss on issues in their life and their community, offering training and social activities in the meantime.

The event attracted many young people, from all over the world: Spain, France, Poland, United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, Mozambique, to name a few, were represented. And not only youth, but also several mayors from African cities attended. The group discussion illustrated the diversity of the public, contributing to an interactive sharing of concerns, comments and ideas on youth inclusiveness and development. The discussion made it clear that the approaches to youth development are important as the best intentions in the past have led to worst results. Therefore, needs of youth should be considered and the local authorities should work with youth. Additionally, it was mentioned that youth development should be integrated in community development and should be mainstreamed in the existing youth culture. The discussion furthermore highlighted that youth all over the globe is confronted with brand products that they cannot afford; youth has extensive knowledge on the new mobile phones but is lacking knowledge on urban sustainability and the vital role they can play in their communities. The perspectives by youth of inclusion come down to having or not having brand products. It was indicated that a mentality change concerning products and brand products must take place in the developed and developing countries. It is therefore important that youth has access to information. Youth should be given the opportunity and the ability to make their own choices. The creative, constructive and positive atmosphere of the event will not be lost and certainly be followed up by the Dutch Youth Panel. Believe in youth!
Question and Answers

Clayton from South Africa (Youth Development Network) indicated that the approaches to youth development are important; the best intentions in the past have led to the worst results. Youth should not solely be seen as a problem instead youth should be seen as an asset with a range of skills. Additionally, with regards to youth development the needs of youth should be considered. It is important to work with youth and not solely for youth; youth is a partner not solely a beneficiary. Clayton indicated that youth development should be integrated in community development. Additionally, it is important to integrated youth development in the culture and sub cultures that exists. It is important to establish youth-adult cooperation. Youth development flourishes on strong youth and adult relations.

The mayor of Kampala (Uganda) indicated that the lack of employment for the youth is the biggest problem. He encourages youth to appreciate all work that is offered to them; “If you are given an opportunity to work do as if your life depends on it” (Booker T. Washington). In his council 2 out of the 31 councillors are youth.

Robert Williams, mayor from Guyana, questions the ability of international institutions in the development of youth. Additionally he questions why the least developed countries should be confronted with implications and applications of the developed world as these countries will not be able to match these implications and applications. In other words why are youth confronted with brand products that they can not afford to buy?

A lady from France indicated that youth in her country can also not afford to buy the branded products.

Shamiel Adams from South Africa indicates that the developed world underestimates the influence of mass-marketing. Ask the youth in South Africa what they know about urban sustainability and apartheid and it remains silence, ask them what type of mobile phone they want and they can mention the model and the features.

In South Africa youngsters created their own cold drink as a result of not being able to afford the branded soft drinks. The youth marketed the product and now the whole township is buying the product.

Stan from Canada indicated that the process of urbanization forced the removal of indigenous people. Additionally, it is indicated that when oppressed one will take the role of the oppressor in a later stadium; it is therefore important to educated youth on lateral violence.
The mayor of Cameroon asks for attention for the poor who do not have access to the marketing publications. Additionally, he indicates that the financial institutions to enter the market are not similar. He calls for secondary machines for youth in least developed countries so that they can start their own business and earn money and transfer the society for the better.

Ewa from Poland indicates that the mentality towards the products and branded products must change in both societies; the developed and developing societies.

Marjolijn from Cordaid indicates that Cordaid initiated a project together with a big advertisement company to create a new “responsible” brand to which youth will feel connected.

A reaction form Imman to this initiative of Cordaid is that first of all youth does not want to have branded products. Additionally, it was indicated that youth should be asked what they like and that youth should be asked to help create the brand.

Robert Williams from Guyana indicates that is not about the branded products but about the price of the products. In addition it was noted by somebody from Ethiopia that the raw products were retrieved from her country, the brand name was added somewhere else and they were charged 4 times the price of their raw products when buying these branded products.

A lady from Ethiopia indicated that youth should be given a chance, we have the potential in us. This should be encourages. One should believe in the youth.

Vin from Norway states that it is important that youth has the information and the capability to make a choice. It is important to train youth in making a well taught of choice.

A question was raised to Juma how the information was filtered down to the youth. Juma indicates that this is done through city to city initiatives and getting the network into place.

Mulico from Uganda indicates that youth is still recruited by governments to fight. Grown up in the same family and village and these youngsters are now fighting with each other. The question is asked to the local authorities what their opinion on this is.

Lia from Save the Children Netherlands indicates that in order to get safer cities it is important to devote more attention to girls. Girls have been ignored too long, it is important to take them in consideration as well, when it comes down to youth development.

The Mayor of Yaounde indicates that youth from his municipal was suppose to be at the WUF but they were not granted their visas as the Spanish government was probably scared of them staying in Spain.
Peace what peace?

Poem by Shamiel X

When respect is a concept most has a superficial understand of? In practice respect is often lip surface – they call it tolerance. Where there is no genuine RESPECT there is NO peace.

Peace what peace?

When relationships have no more integrity. When men obsess, abuse, seduce, violate and conquer. They say its natural. Inflicting unthinkable horror, behind a sweet smile and a shut door. Where is PEACE when we have no true RELATIONSHIPS – FAMILY!

Peace what peace?
When money is power. Possessions are the accepted measure of success. And moral values are for those who are brave enough to live a life of isolation. Where is peace possible when materialism RULES.

Peace what peace?
When our earth is being destroyed for the sake of POWER. How many more scientific reports do you IDIOTS needs? I mean what kind of IDIOTS controls this world?

Peace!

When the weapons of one nation is considered more a THREAT than the exact same weapons of another. When OIL TREATIES are more important than human lives, babies lives…. Democracy sucks. To hell with all you corporate beast making business at the expense of the planet. And to hell with of you who where out shopping when I was marching for PEACE!

In fact to hell with peace!

What peace?
When babies are born into a life with little hope, while others live in golden cradles.

Peace!
When the subtle overtones of racism, and male oppression are ever present, when black on black distrust and violence are tearing apart our families, our continent.

Peace! NO!

War! YES! This I can understand. I am going to kick something.
Peace is not even a thought. Yet.

Pain, Anger, Sadness, Hopelessness, Pain, This I know.

Peace is a middleclass concept possible only after you've been fed, educated, raised in a house with a roof, studied all the theories, walked the street at night to party without the ever-present threat (or stench) of death. Then maybe I can think of PEACE!

PEACE is not a concept for the POOR!

War, pangs of hunger, mis-information (and the call us victims), darkness (loneliness), violence, abuse, debt, dependency, funding, unsafe, unhygienic, unsure, insecure, NEVER GOOD ENOUGH! Hopeless!

While others my age are surfing the INTERNET! clubbing, getting High!

PEACE. What peace?

Do you know what I've seen? Do you know where I have been?
Walk a mile in my moccasins and then lets talk peace.
I think they want us to talk peace because it makes them feel safe.

Peace, Peace, Peace, Peace, Peace, Peace, Peace!

I was a very PEACEFUL before they came.

I have been talking PEACE ever since, they raped my mother, stole our land, and NOW I have to pay taxes (to untrusting governments)? Apply for Visas, be humiliated, treated like dirt. On the land (and riches) that they build from OUR GOLD! With my ancestors sweat and blood. Fuck PEACE!

I don't see PEACE in the eyes of my brothers and sisters.
Look around you. I see PAIN. While they hangout in coffee shops and restaurants.

PEACE it's a tall order!
I need some spirit first before peace!

Keep on fighting the good fight

Shamiel X
Dutch Youth Panel partners

Baobabconnections / Both ENDS
www.baobabconnections.org / www.bothends.org

Baobabconnections is a non-profit internet based media project of Both-ENDS. We encourage youth from across the world to get together on our website and exchange ideas about globalisation and sustainable development. Baobabconnections wants to establish an active online community. We provide information about various issues of globalisation, and we invite everybody to become involved and start interacting with each other. Baobabconnections provides an inspirational online magazine on globalisation and organises various online competitions for its members. Thus we will provide information and interaction to all our members. We want to provide an environment for young people from Africa and the Netherlands to share stories and express opinions about globalisation.

The website will host an extensive information database on globalisation as a useful resource tool for people that want to formulate and share their own ideas on the website. The Baobabconnections project uses the internet to start a worldwide dialogue on globalisation. We think it is possible to establish a foundation for a deeper understanding about the various aspects and effects of globalisation if everybody is allowed to take part in the discussion. That's exactly why we would like to encourage and motivate university departments, students, youth organisations, artists and companies to become involved in this dialogue. Initially we will focus on youth in Holland and Africa. Later on, we wish to open up the dialogue to other countries.

Cordaid
www.cordaid.com

Everyone has the right to a decent human life without poverty. This also includes people living with HIV/AIDS, slum dwellers, and street vendors. Cordaid, an international development organization based in the Netherlands, devotes its heart and soul to the poorest and those who are deprived of their rights in over 40 developing countries. We also play an active role in the Netherlands, in Brussels and towards the United Nations. We want to be a voice for our partners in developing countries. That is why we make a stand against political decisions and developments that impede justice. Cordaid is the moving force behind Memisa Medicus Mundi, Mensen in Nood (Caritas Netherlands), and Vastenaktie (Dutch Lenten Campaign) in the Netherlands. At the end of 1999, Cordaid arose from a merger between these three Catholic development organizations. We can count on half a million donors in the Netherlands who support our work through these funds. Thanks, in part, to them we have a yearly budget of about 150 million euros, which we can devote to projects in developing countries. We achieve concrete results with these projects.
Two of the spearheads in Cordaid's work are *Less poverty in the cities* and *A world without violence*.

Half of all the poor in the world live in major cities. This means around 650 million people, of whom the majority live in illegal slums without any facilities. Their number is growing with every day that passes. Cordaid supports residents’ organisations that are working to improve the quality of life in the neighbourhoods.

Conflicts and peace are frequently discussed by politicians at senior levels. However, what are the prospects for ordinary people in conflict areas? It is on such groups that Cordaid’s work focuses, that is people whose daily lives are affected by war and conflicts. Cordaid supports projects in conflict regions and actively lobbies politicians and governments.

**Dutch Habitat Platform**

[www.habitatplatform.nl](http://www.habitatplatform.nl)

The Dutch Habitat Platform promotes and contributes to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, drawn up in 1996 by the United Nations. The Platform is active in the Netherlands and in the framework of international cooperation. The Platform's activities and the instruments it develops contribute to achieving the objectives of the Habitat Agenda (adequate housing for all and a sustainable living environment) and target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals (significant improvement of the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020). The main media the Platform uses to provide information are its website, www.habitatplatform.nl, and the quarterly 'Habitat Berichten' newsletter.

In addition to raising awareness on Habitat issues in the Netherlands and elsewhere, the Platform also focuses on disseminating knowledge about innovative instruments like the Toolkit Citizen Participation ([www.toolkitparticipation.com](http://www.toolkitparticipation.com), in English, French and Spanish), the Urban Renewal Toolkit ([www.instrumentenwijzer.nl](http://www.instrumentenwijzer.nl), in Dutch), and Cities for People ([www.citiesforpeople.org](http://www.citiesforpeople.org), in English). In collaboration with a number of partner organisations, the Platform hosts two regional Habitat Platforms: the Habitat Platform South Africa ([www.zuid-afrika.habitatplatform.nl](http://www.zuid-afrika.habitatplatform.nl)) and the Habitat Platform Central and Eastern Europe ([www.meno-europa.habitatplatform.nl](http://www.meno-europa.habitatplatform.nl)). The regional platforms stimulate the exchange of knowledge and information between organisations within the Netherlands that are active in the respective countries and regions.
Dutch National Youth Council
www.jeugdraad.nl

It’s up to you
The Dutch National Youth Council started the first of January 2002. Different Dutch Youth umbrella organisations merged to join forces in the work on youth participation. The Dutch National Youth Council is a coordinating organisation that supports the voice of and acts as a focal point for youth between 12 and 30 years old. It gives you the possibility to say what's on your mind and to influence decisions on your own future. If, for example, you are worried about the environment or if you believe that there should be affordable housing, the Dutch National Youth Council is there for you. But also on a lot of other issues the Dutch National Youth Council offers help and support. These issues are divided in the next 6 themes:

- General Youth Policy and Youth Participation
- Education and Social Affairs
- Youth Culture and Leisure Time
- Sustainable Development
- Political Youth Participation
- International Youth Participation
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