

Agenda Item: Youth Update

Summary:

The Secretariat has been guided by the 2022 Youth Board Resolution to advance the youth engagement in the implementation of the Strategy Coming Together based on the recommendations made by the youth delegates of the General Assembly. During the GA 2025, youth delegates confirmed their recommendations. The Secretariat is now doing a streamlining process to consolidate priorities to be fulfilled by 2028.

Action Required:

- The Board to note actions developed to advance and provide recommendations on how to better mainstream youth engagement in the Federation.

As presented in the last meeting of the BoT, youth delegates have been consistent on their recommendations to achieve meaningful youth participation. Some of these recommendations have also been expressed in the Secretariat Accountability Mechanism (SAM).

As we move to the second half of the implementation of the Strategy, we have consolidated the priorities in 5 themes to facilitate analysis:

- 1- Enable platforms of collaboration and learning between the six regional youth networks
- 2- Enhance meaningful participation of youth in governance
- 3- Access to funds to strengthen the six regional networks and implement youth led projects and programs
- 4- Strengthen youth led accountability through clear commitments to the implementation of a meaningful youth IPPF strategy, including through concrete goals to evaluate improvement
- 5- Create a mentorship program at the global and national level, so that we enable intergenerational growth and sustainable development of the Federation.

Progress

Regional Youth Networks

IPPF ESSEAOR and Youth OCEANS launched two important youth-led regional tools: the Pacific SRHR Youth Strategy and Pleasurenesia at Women Deliver in Naarm. Both are grounded in the lived realities of Pacific young people and shaped by their voices,

experiences, leadership, and years of work in the sexual and reproductive health and rights space. Most importantly, they were developed by young people, for young people.

Together, these tools represent a shift towards approaches that are youth-led, culturally rooted, inclusive, and responsive to the realities of the region. They challenge us to rethink how we approach SRHR conversations, leadership, partnerships, and systems change across the Pacific.

Youth in governance

A report (included as Annex) with learnings on youth participation in governance based on the experience of the Governance Reform Initiative has been developed by the Governance and Accreditation team and shared with Youth Networkers. A webinar will be developed to profile best practices and have honest conversations with youth board members to identify solutions and support needed from the Secretariat.

Concrete actions have been planned as part of the SAM's management response, such as tailored information sharing and knowledge sharing between youth board members, support identification of youth representatives for governance opportunities and leadership pathways, facilitate engagement between youth representatives, regional youth networks, and Federation governance structures.

Youth led accountability

Youth Network Officers have developed the Management Response to the recommendations received on youth engagement through the SAM to address: Governance, youth investment vouchers and budget allocation to youth as part of the Business Plan of Affiliates and participation in advocacy and partnerships.

Intergenerational growth

The mentorship programme (YEP+) will start the pilot in the Secretariat during the second semester of the year.

Recommendations

Progress has been unequal against the five priorities identified and amongst the six regions. We see greater impact in the strengthening of the six regional networks mainly thanks to the Youth Network Officer role that is dedicated to organizing the youth participation in the networks. However, as the priorities need inter secretariat and inter Federation action, we need to ensure and nourish ownership, accountability and collaboration at the different levels. Progress could be accelerated through clear communication, coordination and investment to enable stronger interventions and documentation of models that are working with affiliates and can be replicated.

We need to also remember that the Youth Consortia implemented in 2021-2022 did not fulfill its mandate. Therefore, we did not build the platform in the Federation for youth to engage in learning programmes both across those regional networks and across Member Associations.