GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH AND ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT
Youth and ICT as Agents for Change

Geneva, Switzerland
24-26 September 2007

In an increasingly globalized world, the impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the economic, social, cultural, political and individual spheres of life has dramatically transformed societies. Today, the role of young people in shaping their societies is becoming increasingly evident, particularly in terms of challenging the mores and practices that have redefined traditional concepts of social interaction, means of communication and participation, development of ideas, and involvement with issues of global significance.

The outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) have charted a clear path to a people-centred and development-oriented information society. The Summit placed particular emphasis on youth and ICT as agents of positive change in societies. It recognized that young people are the future work force and leading creators and earliest adoptors of ICT. They must, therefore, be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, enrtrepreneurs and decision makers.

In this context, the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) are organizing a *Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development: Youth and ICT as Agents of Change,* that will help harness the creativity and dynamism that the youth has in exploring and exploiting ICT for their own benefit and for the benefit of their peers and communities in advancement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Forum aims at actively engaging youth in debates and discussions with their peer representatives, policy makers, private sector, technology and thought leaders and others in exploring ways to empower the community and to participate more fully in society through the appropriate and responsible use of ICT.

In order to generate a global dynamic leading up to the Forum, we are launching a worldwide consultation with young people, as well as other stakeholders. To provide feedback or for further information on the Forum, please visit http://www.un-gaid.org/gfyouth or contact:

GAID Secretariat, e-mail: gaid@un-gaid.org

The meeting is being co-organized by GAID and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) through its Division for Social Policy and Development, Division for the Advancement of Women, and Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination; International Labour Organization (ILO); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT); United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); World Health Organization; Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA); Friends of the UN (FOTUN); ATHGO Foundation; Committee for Democracy in Information Technology (CDI); Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC); Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO); Education Development Center, Inc (EDC); International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC); NABU-Knowledge Transfer Beyond Boundaries; IBM; Xfresh.com; Universal Education Foundation (UEF); TakingITGlobal; One World Youth Project; and Pace University.