

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Rationale:

From the start, the World Youth Congress (WYC) series has sought close partnerships between youth and government. The aim is to get government to see youth as a resource, not a problem - and to get youth to see government, not as an enemy to be opposed and confronted, but rather as a partner to be worked with and supported. Each WYC is an exercise to explore how young people can work more constructively in partnership with government and vice versa on development issues.

What are Government Partners :

In less economically developed countries (LEDCs), we seek Government Partners who commit to put youth and YLD at the heart of their National Development plans - and back up those commitments with firm budget allocations, not just fine words in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers or National Youth Policies. We seek Government Partners who genuinely see young people as a precious resource and will work with us and civil society organisations in their countries to find the best ways to harness the magnificent energy and skills of youth in the effort to find solutions to the challenges of development.

In Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member states, we seek Government Partners from ministries and departments responsible for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). We want such departments to send representatives to the Quebec City Congress to be part of the policy negotiations on how the contribution of youth can be constructively woven into wider policy frameworks.

We are also interested in collaboration with ministries responsible for youth and education - chiefly to promote the WYC and its opportunities to their schools, universities and youth groups and to support delegates to attend to the Congress.

What they are not:

Government Partners are not, and never can be, “gate-keepers”, requiring all projects and applications submitted for the Congress to pass through them. Though they can help and coordinate National Delegations, but individual young people within their respective countries are free to apply individually without permission from any government department or ministry.

What PCI can offer to Government Partners:

- **Recognition:** PCI will link each Government Partner to this major international youth event by putting the nation's name and national flag on the websites (*with links*), in the Congress book, and on the larger promotional materials prepared for the Congress;
- **Networking:** PCI commits to make available to all delegates and Congress participants any information that the Government Partners may send us relating to the promotion and/or facilitation of an expanded role for youth in the Development Process;
- **Proposing delegates:** In the selection of the delegates for the Congress, PCI will give special attention to the applicants (*active youth who are doing a project*) who present a letter of recommendation from a Government Partner;
- **Exhibition:** PCI will also consider any exhibition materials proposed by Government Partners of genuine YLD work, policy statements or youth leadership it has supported. (*Tourism or other national promotions are not eligible and will not be considered*). In the

Congress Exhibition, the Government Partners will be acknowledged next to any projects they have funded.

- **Participation in shaping the Congress Series:** A representative of each Government Partner will be invited by PCI to attend future planning meetings of the World Youth Congress International Advisory Board. PCI seeks Government Partners who recognise the value of YLD and want to give youth a central role in their national development policies. They are welcome to become a part of the international committee that is shaping the content and development of the Congress series around the world. Also, any application from a Government Partner to host a future congress in the series will be given serious consideration;
- **Face-to-Face Meetings:** PCI would be pleased to arrange a face-to-face meeting with officials of any government serious about developing a partnership with the World Youth Congress series. At such a meeting, PCI senior staff will present the Congress Goals and explain the benefits of youth-led development, then answer any questions the government may have about the responsibilities of partnering with the WYC series. To arrange an appointment, contact the International Director of the World Youth Congress series, David Woollcombe at: david@peacechild.org.

What PCI expects from the Government Partners:

- **To Promote the Congress:** the Government Partners agree to promote the Congress through their different ministries and through the universities, schools, colleges, youth services and other communication channels available to them.
- **To Endorse a letter** welcoming the initiative of the World Youth Congress and its goals. By becoming partner of the Congress, the Governments indicate their support for the goals of this Congress; ie. to recognise their young citizens as a precious resource to be used in the pursuit of national development, to promote youth-leadership in the field of development, and to seek the most effective ways in which youth may be engaged in the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. These principles could be mentioned in the letter.
- **To Attend:** We invite each Government Partner to send a representative of its appropriate ministry to witness the power and potential of YLD, and to explore, brainstorm and negotiate with young people how that potential may be expanded and used more effectively to achieve social and development goals in their own community.
- **To fund and/or facilitate Action Projects:** Several governments already run highly effective youth-led development programmes in the field of public works, business start-ups, social enterprise, etc. Others support civil society organisations to run such programmes. It is vital to win greater support and funding for such projects in order that each Congress has an expanded body of experiential evidence on which to base its future dialogues. Therefore, the most effective path for any Government Partner to follow is either to finance specific YLD projects in their own country or to join the Government of Canada's development agency (CIDA) in making a grant to the central *Be the Change! Action Fund* which will then be distributed by the Congress Organisers to the most promising projects submitted by eligible Congress applicants.
- **To pay for delegate travel to the Congress:** Several of the most deserving applicants to the Congress will not have the resources to purchase an air ticket and the entry visa. To ensure that such delegates are able to make the significant contribution to the congress, and learn lessons that will be invaluable to their own country and community on their return, we would be delighted if Government Partners would pay for the travel costs of such selected applicants.

For more information about partnership opportunities, contact:
david@peacechild.org or visit our site <http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca/>