



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS TENTH ANNIVERSARY **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION – IYV+10**

BACKGROUND

The year 2001 was proclaimed as the International Year of Volunteers or 'IYV' in order to enhance the **recognition, facilitation, networking** and **promotion** of volunteer service (United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/Res/52/17 of 1997). The year was dedicated to increasing awareness of the achievements and further potential of volunteerism.

Follow-up reports to IYV were discussed in 2002, 2005 and 2008 by the General Assembly, the last of which called for the marking of the **tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers or 'IYV+10' in 2011** (A/Res/63/153).

The objective of IYV+10 is to consolidate the successes attained and build on the momentum created by the International Year of Volunteers. UNV was designated as the focal point for the 10th anniversary, which will be launched on 5 December 2010.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIP

At the global level

To mark the 10th anniversary of IYV, governments, volunteer-involving organizations (VIOs), the UN system, civil society organizations, businesses, academic institutions and other partners are called upon to join together to highlight and increase the breadth and depth of volunteerism schemes and opportunities.

In October 2009, UNV hosted a Consultative Stakeholders Meeting on IYV+10 at its Bonn headquarters to discuss ways to mark this 10th anniversary. The meeting brought together a diverse group of civic, business, governmental and inter-governmental actors and resulted in the adoption of a **Global Action Plan** to guide stakeholders including the UN system. A **Vision Statement** and a **Global Call for Action** were also produced as tools for stakeholders to promote their strategies and disseminate ways to exploit the potential of voluntary action. In 2011 UNV will continue to convene multi-stakeholder discussions and facilitate the involvement of UN agencies.

Throughout 2011, UNV will partner with different stakeholders to exchange and develop ideas and actions for raising awareness about the contribution of volunteerism to peace and development; acknowledging the importance of the work already accomplished by the various stakeholders and identifying areas where greater efforts are needed. To provide more in-depth understanding of the value and breadth of volunteerism and its contribution to development, UNV is preparing the 'State of the World's Volunteerism Report' (SWVR). Its preparation should stimulate debate on volunteerism during IYV+10. The report will be launched in December 2011.

Together with all partners, UNV will highlight volunteerism as a means to address diverse issues, such as poverty reduction, sustainable development, climate change, health, disaster prevention and management, and social integration. UNV will **liaise with the UN entities** responsible for these themes in order to highlight the contribution of volunteerism to their focus areas. Particular attention will be paid to the contribution that volunteerism makes to internationally agreed development targets, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration; the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



At the national level

The success of IYV+10 will largely depend on the initiative and involvement of national actors. UNV will work with them in **national coordinating structures**, national committees and multi-stakeholder **focal points**, which will aim at bringing together the different actors responsible for the advancement of the volunteerism agenda during the year and beyond. UNV Country Office Teams will encourage and support the creation of such structures with the assistance of UNV Headquarters where appropriate.

These national structures will facilitate consultations with governments, other UN agencies and volunteer-involving organizations, as well as with the private sector at the country level. The global agenda of IYV+10 will be driven by national celebrations and activities, each country being encouraged to develop its own strategy and to identify its specific volunteerism priorities.

Communication, promotion and recognition

With the input of partners, UNV will provide IYV+10 branding tools such as templates, logos and guidance notes for stakeholders at different levels. Based on stakeholders' inputs, UNV will prepare regular communications about the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteerism. Specific attention will be paid to presenting the diversity of existing volunteerism schemes and volunteer profiles.

To present background information and tools about IYV+10, and for the stakeholders to communicate about their events, share tools and trigger debates on relevant themes, UNV administers www.worldvolunteerweb.org with the support of various civil society partners and is being revamped with private sector volunteer contributions. Different social media will be used to mark IYV+10 all over the world. A global network of online volunteer supporters will be mobilized via www.onlinevolunteering.org to help mark IYV+10 and monitor its advancement.



Global events

- IYV+10 will be launched at UN Headquarters New York on **5 December 2010**
- In **March 2011**, a summit on volunteerism and the MDGs will be organized in New York.
- A number of events will be organized by **stakeholders all over the world such as** International FORUM on Development Service (**FORUM**), International Association for Volunteer Effort (**IAVE**), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (**IFRC**) and World Organisation of the Scout Movement (**WOSM**). A full **calendar of events** is available on worldvolunteerweb.org and will be updated by the stakeholders themselves.
- UN agencies are encouraged to include a focus on volunteerism in the celebration of **UN Days** under their responsibility in order to raise awareness of volunteerism as an approach to a large variety of issues.
- National actors all over the world will brand campaigns and actions in the frame of IYV+10.
- The European Union has declared 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering with a number of flagship events taking place in different countries coinciding with the overall frame of IYV+10.
- The **State of the World's Volunteerism Report** will be launched in **autumn 2011**.
- Around **5 December 2011**, two plenary meetings of the 66th session of the General Assembly will be devoted to follow-up to the International Year and the commemoration of its tenth anniversary.
- In December, an **exhibition** will be organised at **UN Headquarters**. 'Volunteers of the World' will showcase actions in the frame of the anniversary and images of volunteerism approaches and schemes.