



International Year of Volunteers  
10th anniversary  
2011

## Regional IYV+10 Consultation Meetings

### A. Introduction: Linking the International Year of Volunteers, tenth anniversary (IYV+10) with Volunteerism for MDGs and sustainable development

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will require the ingenuity, solidarity, creativity and sense of responsibility of millions of ordinary people through voluntary action. MDG efforts on the part of national governments, supported by the international community, can only complement the involvement of people and civil society worldwide. Six billion people have something to contribute to their societies. Recognizing the power of volunteerism is the first step towards harnessing this vast resource in a global effort to achieve the MDG targets and ultimately to contribute to a sustainable future for the people and natural resources of our planet. Whether expressed as volunteer service, mutual aid, self-help, campaigning or other forms of voluntary participation, the willingness and ability of citizens to give freely of their time out of a sense of solidarity and responsibility will have a major influence on the extent to which the MDGs are attained and sustained.

The role and contribution of volunteerism to the sustainable development and peace agenda have been consistently acknowledged in various UN resolutions and reports. Yet its contributions and potential as a development asset have been rarely recognized and exploited. The international community understood this oversight when it designated 2001 as International Year of Volunteers (IYV). In a ground breaking resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) at the end of IYV, Member States concurred that, ***“Neglecting to factor volunteering into the design and implementation of policies could entail the risk of overlooking a valuable asset and undermine traditions of cooperation that bind communities together”*** (A/RES/56/38 of 5 December 2001). Subsequently in 2008, another UNGA resolution reaffirmed the significance of volunteerism for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and called for the marking of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers or “IYV+10” in 2011. UNV was designated as the focal point for IYV+10.<sup>1</sup> The resolution also called on the UN system to integrate volunteerism in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports and encourages the recognition and inclusion of volunteer contributions in future UN international conferences.

To follow up on the Millennium Summit of 2000, in September 2010 on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the MDGs, world leaders from 160 countries came together to assess progress and reaffirm their commitment towards achieving the MDGs by 2015. UN assessments showed mixed results and called for finding innovative solutions and partnerships to achieve the off-track MDGs and to break with past strategies that have not worked. In their **September 2010 MDG Summit Outcome Document** (paragraph 17) world leaders unequivocally stated:

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<sup>1</sup> More background information on IYV+10 is available in annex 2 of the document.



***“We call on civil society, including non-governmental organizations, voluntary associations and foundations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels, to enhance their role in national development efforts as well as their contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and commit as national Governments to the inclusion of these stakeholders”.***

The Outcome Document as well as other UN reports and assessments have identified a number of challenges and bottlenecks hampering achievement of off-track MDGs. Key among them are a lack of attention to sustainability or the ability to maintain MDG gains, weak leadership and ownership of national governments, weak institutional capacity at the local levels resulting in inadequate delivery, and limited utilization of services that are provided. These studies also highlighted poor and uneven participation of CSOs and NGOs in development planning, implementation and monitoring.

On a closer examination of the Outcome Document, it is evident that there are clear synergies and linkages between the strategies and actions outlined under each goal and the added-value that volunteerism can bring for MDG acceleration and achievement. The Outcome Document particularly recognizes the importance of CSOs, including voluntary organizations, in creating an enabling environment for development and preventing and recovering from conflict. The document encourages wide consultations and participation with nongovernmental stakeholders to design and implement development strategies that are tailored to specific situations and to strengthen domestic capacities. It sees a clear role for CSOs, including voluntary organizations, in strengthening national capacities and promoting national ownership and leadership of development effort to improve their sustainability.

## **B. Purpose and Objectives of Regional IYV+10 Consultation Meetings**

One of the primary goals of IYV+10 activities will be to shift the debate on volunteerism from being perceived as a marginal factor to being recognized as a mainstream asset to empower people of all origins and socio economic backgrounds, thereby helping MDGs achievement. Volunteers contribute their share all over the planet to issues related to the social and economic development as well as to the sustainable management of natural resources. Beyond the concrete thematic targets volunteerism contributes to, voluntary action has the power to catalyze the capacity and readiness of people to take action for the sake of their own and their community’s development, to contribute to people’s sense of self-realization and ultimately to the degree of perceived wellbeing in a society that provides its citizens with choices and opportunities for action. IYV+10 provides an opportunity to draw global attention to recognize the role and contribution of volunteers in peace and development towards acceleration of the MDGs for a sustainable future. The key objectives of the consultation meetings are:

- Recognize the role and contribution of volunteering in Peace and Development efforts to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to contribute to sustainable development.
- Strengthen national and regional partnerships for better recognition and promotion of volunteerism during and beyond IYV+10.



### **C. Expected Outcomes from Regional IYV+10 Consultation Meetings**

- Plans for national level celebrations to mark IYV+10 are shared among participants to inspire further actions and consolidation of efforts for regional recognition and promotion of volunteerism.
- Specific national/regional examples of volunteering contributions to the MDGs and other peace and development priorities are highlighted
- Issues/focus areas where the contribution of volunteerism can be strengthened; and how the supportive environment for volunteerism can be strengthened to enhance the power of volunteerism nationally and regionally are identified
- IYV+10 Regional Recommendations are developed. Regional partnerships for better recognition and promotion of volunteerism are forged and foundations for a World Volunteerism Coalition are laid at regional level

### **D. Detailed Description of Regional IYV+10 Consultation Meetings**

Four regional IYV+10 Consultation Meetings will provide regional stakeholders with opportunities to exchange experiences and practices regarding the state of volunteerism in their countries and regions. The meetings will underline the untapped potential of volunteerism to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by highlighting concrete examples of successful volunteer initiatives contributing to national development efforts. The discussions and outcomes of the meetings will lay a solid foundation for formulating and developing a regional vision and a framework of strategic actions needed at regional and global level to accelerate the progress towards achieving MDGs through the recognition and promotion of voluntary actions. The regional meetings are expected to build the momentum for international celebrations to mark IYV+10 in 2011 and to provide inputs to the recommendations, which will eventually result from the Global Volunteerism Conference in Kenya in June and the two planned sessions on the UN General Assembly in New York December.

The regional meetings will be organized in order to dynamise action at the national and regional level, exchange good practices and build the momentum for IYV+10 all over the world. The meetings will take place in Ecuador for the Americas, in the Philippines for Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean, in Turkey for Europe, CIS and the Arab States as well as in Senegal for Africa. All four meetings will bring together a number of stakeholders and partners involved in marking the year.

The meetings will provide an opportunity for representatives of UNV field units, IYV+10 Committees, volunteer involving organizations (VIOs), UN entities, governmental representatives, inter-governmental bodies and donors for networking, sharing best practices, mutual learning and opportunities for cooperation between the various entities in order to share plans, deepen partnerships, learn from and inspire each other and develop synergies for the year. This will be facilitated through plenary sessions, breakout discussions as well as a 'Share Fair' allowing those attending to creatively share their plans for the year and to find points of possible collaboration.



The meetings will also provide a moment for regional consultation in view of the Global Volunteerism Conference planned for June 2011 in Kenya in a tripartite cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as well as the International Association of Volunteer Effort (IAVE).

The framework for the State of the World Volunteerism Report (SWVR), to be released in December 2011, will also be presented during the regional meetings in order to flow into the deliberations with regards to the Global Volunteerism Conference.

The regional meetings will last for two days plus arrival and departure day. During the second half of the arrival day, a training session for field units of the region will be organized by the IYV+10 team, which may make it necessary for some of the UNV national coordinators for IYV+10 as well as programme Officers to arrive already one day earlier. As the African regional consultation covers a bigger number of countries and national UN Volunteers compared to the others, a full day will be allocated to the Training for field units.

The regional IYV+10 consultation meeting in Ecuador will be organised with the gracious support of the White Helmets of Argentina: <http://www.cascosblancos.gov.ar/>. The German government is also providing substantive support to the organisation of the series of regional meetings.

After the IYV+10 regional meetings, separate UNV capacity building workshops for the UNV field units and Portfolio teams will be organised by the UNV Peace and Development Divisions.

#### **E. Regional Consultations – Dates**

- Ecuador 28 - 29 March
- Turkey 18 – 19 April
- Philippines 3 – 4 May
- Senegal 30-31 May (French)  
6-7 June (English)



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Draft Agenda – Manila, Philippines

Monday, May 2	Tuesday, May 3	Wednesday, May 4	Thursday, May 5
<p><b>Arrival Day</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p><b>IYV+10: Background and Overview</b></p> <p><b>Volunteerism for the MDGs and Beyond</b> Panel discussion: <i>Overview of status of MDGs and other priorities for the region.</i> <i>How has/can volunteerism contribute?</i> <i>How can the multi-stakeholder national coordinating bodies for IYV+10 make a difference in 2011?</i></p>	<p><b>IYV+10 Share Fair</b></p> <p>An opportunity for participants to share plans, events and strategies for 2011 and beyond making a lasting impact on the national, regional and global volunteerism agenda</p>	<p><b>Departure</b></p> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p><b>Day 1 of Capacity Development workshop</b></p>
<p><b>12:00 – 1.00 pm Lunch</b> <b>(for UNV Participants only)</b></p>	<p><b>12:30 – 2pm Lunch</b></p>	<p><b>12:30 – 2pm Lunch</b></p>	<p><b>12:30 – 2:00 pm Lunch</b> <b>(for UNV Participants only)</b></p>
<p><b>13:00 – 13:30</b> UN Security Briefing*</p> <p><b>13:30 – 18h00</b> IYV+10 Pre - Briefing *</p> <p><i>*For UNV Field Unit representatives and UNV National Coordinators, IYV+10 only</i></p>	<p>Specific <b>examples of volunteering contributions to national and global priorities:</b></p> <p>Group Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Advocacy and Campaigning</b></li> <li>• <b>Influencing Public Policy</b></li> <li>• <b>Volunteerism with an impact</b></li> </ul>	<p>Summary and presentation of <b>main outcomes and regional recommendations</b></p> <p>Develop <b>plans for continued knowledge sharing and collaboration building</b> nationally and regionally: Compendium of Good Practices, World Volunteerism Coalition and Communication Tools</p> <p>Approve Regional Recommendations</p> <p>Closing</p>	
<p><b>17:00 – 18:00</b> Registration for non-UNV participants</p> <p><b>18:00 – 19:00</b> Registration for UNV participants</p>			
<p><b>19:00 Welcome Reception with Official Opening Speeches</b></p>	<p><b>Dinner</b> <b>Optional Presentations</b></p>	<p><b>Dinner</b></p>	



## Annex 2. Background to IYV+10

### Background:

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

Follow-up reports to IYV were discussed in 2002, 2005 and 2008 by the General Assembly. The 2008 resolution reaffirms the significance of volunteerism for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and calls for the marking of the **tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers or 'IYV+10' in 2011** (A/Res/63/153). UNV was designated as the focal point for IYV+10.

Building on the momentum and success of IYV, the objective of IYV+10 is to highlight the importance and role of volunteerism in accelerating progress toward achieving internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). IYV+10 also offer a platform to celebrate volunteering as an expression of our common humanity, respect, understanding, trust, solidarity and reciprocity; engage the will, positive energy and innovation of millions of people towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and create an enabling environment for citizen engagement.

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has been designated as the **focal point for IYV+10** in order to catalyze action at national, regional and global level. UNV will facilitate spaces for dialogue, create tools and provide advice to strengthen the momentum to deepen and broaden the concept of volunteerism.

IYV+10 will be marked by celebrations and activities on a **global, regional and national level** by volunteer involving organizations, governments, UN agencies, foundations and other stakeholders. **Stakeholder mobilization** will be the key to the success of IYV+10. In collaboration with its field presences as well as on-the-ground and on-line volunteers, UNV will support national IYV+10 volunteerism coordination structures and will bring together diverse stakeholders towards a comprehensive and inclusive volunteerism vision and agenda during IYV+10 and beyond.

UNV will also support **global events including a Global Volunteerism Conference, two UN General Assembly Sessions dedicated to IYV+10 in December 2011, and launch of the first State of the World Volunteerism Report in 2011**. The marking of IYV+10 is expected to lead to enhanced recognition of UNV's critical role in peace and development as well as in volunteerism norm-setting in the United Nations System.

