Breakfast Side Event
International Youth Voices on Post-2015

24 September 2013, 08:15 – 09:45 am
Westin Grand Central Hotel (212 East 42nd Street, NY)

New York. Young people want to take more responsibility and they want to be heard. To strengthen their voice, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Foreign Ministry of Mexico and further UN Member states organized, with facilitation support from the United Nations Children’s Fund, the Breakfast Side Event “International Youth Voices on Post-2015”.

The Side Event took place on the occasion of the UN Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and is part of a global consultation process with and for young people to bring a youth perspective into the ongoing post-2015 negotiations.

This global consultation is based on a variety of national consultations that have been held during the last months: In Germany, the BMZ and UNICEF Germany initiated a national consultation process, the WorldWeWant.de campaign. More than 500 young people enjoyed the opportunity to discuss their visions of the future and engage in the international process of formulating a new development agenda. Two of the participants, Kira Lena Zerwer and Kim Ly Lam, were chosen to represent the German youth voice in New York. Both of them took an active part in the Side Event, as well as their Mexican colleague, Silvia Dalí Ángel Pérez.

Mexico co-hosted the event as the country took an active role in the post-2015 consultations, organizing several regional conferences and meetings to develop a mutual Latin American voice in the negotiations.

The youth consultations brought forth a huge variety of topics and showed that young people do care about politics, education, the environment, justice and health.

“The most important thing is that everyone has equal rights. There are too many countries where people are oppressed and deprived of their civil rights and liberties.”

(Dalí Ángel, Mexico)
“... the situation regarding equal opportunities in education is much worse in developing and emerging countries. It’s like a huge cycle – the rich are educated so they can get even richer, while the poor are left with almost nothing. That’s why it’s important to keep on trying to carry out school projects in these countries.”

(Kira, Germany)

“All goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda should be inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities!”

(Mohammed Ishan, Sri Lanka)

The Event brought together youth representatives from Germany, Mexico, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan and other countries. The young voices were accompanied by those of Gudrun Kopp, Parliamentary State Secretary at the German BMZ, and Dr. Roberto Dondisch, the General Director for Global Issues at the Mexican Foreign Ministry.

The Side Event was moderated by Ahmad Alhendawi, the United Nations Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth.