

Bios Brazilian Adolescents participants of J8 2009

Santiago Plata Garces, is 15 and lives in Goiás Brazil, and is attending his last year of Highschool. For the last 7 months he has been involved in the municipal forum against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and he is also part of the Scholarship Program Pro-Jovem, granted by the Brazilian Federal Government, which aims to offer opportunities for adolescents to enter the job market. Through this program he has had the opportunity to learn contents related to law and rights and has also led and participated in cultural activities. He has recently started with his peers an organized group called Ação Jovem, which aims to engage adolescents in social projects that will make the difference in their communities.

Mayara Tavares, is 17 and lives in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro Brazil. She inherited from her grandmother and father a passion to take part in community action and social movements and has been an activist in her community fighting for children and adolescent rights. She has recently acted as a community researcher interviewing other adolescents in the community about their lives and how does it feel for them to be growing up in the shantytowns of Rio de Janeiro. Through this work she became part of a National Platform for the improvement of poor communities situated in large urban centers, a initiative carried by UNICEF in Brazil. She also became a member of the Youth Forum in her municipality and hopes that she can continue to engage her peers in this work.

Fagner Lima is 14 and goes to school in a very small municipality in the state of Bahia in a sub region which is severely affected by drought. He is part of the governmental scholarship program for the eradication of child labour(PETI) because he has himself worked in plantations during his childhood. He has taken part in municipal and state conference for children rights and hopes to participate this year at the national conference. He wants to be a journalist and is very much involved in the students committee in his school. He is extremely concerned about issues related to climate change since they affect his community in a daily basis.

Rosicléia Silva is 15 and lives with her family in a remote area of the Amazon region in Pará state called Tailandia and goes to a community rural school. She has been engaged in youth environmental movement called Coletivo Jovem pelo Meio Ambiente. She has developed environmental initiatives in her community and has been chosen as a representative to take part of the municipal, state and national environmental conference for children and adolescents.