We, the youth from different provinces of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, have come together for the First National Youth Summit in Port Moresby from the 25th-29th of September 2006 to share and discuss the issues affecting youth and our communities and what we can do to achieve development.

We seek the partnership and support of our leaders at all levels of government to fulfill our vision for Papua New Guinea to implement sustainable programs and activities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) by 2015 and beyond. As active responsible citizens of PNG, we pledge to take lead roles in innovative and positive action to achieve these goals.

Unified in our rich diversity and national solidarity, we do:

- Affirm the UN Millennium declaration and its six core values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility endorsed by all UN member states in September 2000.
- Believe that the achievement of the MDGs in PNG require direct and meaningful involvement of youth in all sections of society; we believe in the power of youth to make a big difference;
- Recognize the progress and efforts made to date in the area of MDG in Papua New Guinea.
- Recognize and appreciate the differences and dynamics of our beliefs, norms, values, languages and cultures
- Affirm the PNG constitution (the mama law), the national goals and directive principles as a vision for development of Papua New Guinea.
- Acknowledge the Medium Term Development Strategy as the guiding framework for prioritizing at the government expenditure program.
- Welcome the opportunity to work hand in hand as youth of Papua New Guinea in ongoing partnership with faith-based, political, civil societies, business organizations and associations.

We commit ourselves in taking ownership and active roles in promoting the MDGs and MTDS through:

- Building awareness and community action
- Building youth organizations and networks
- Creating a database on youth information
- Encouraging collaboration among youth, youth organizations, communities, government and civil society
- Promoting youth participation at all levels
- Strengthening provincial youth councils as information link and coordinator between local youth organizations and national structures such as NYC

We can do all these in a supportive environment. We therefore urge the government and civil society to:

- Ensure necessary systems, policies, resources and infrastructures are in place that will facilitate youth participation
• Promote Informal Sector Law that will harness the potential and build capacity of all youth, particularly out-of-school and impoverished youth  
• Strengthen the NYC Act to fall in line with the MDGs and MTDS  
• Build up the capacity of district and provincial youth office and youth organizations  
• Create and build the capacity of provincial monitoring and evaluation committees (including the NYC) to follow-up the progress on MDGs and MTDS, ensuring youth representation  
• Assist youth organizations to affiliate and link-up with the other organizations and agencies – both government and civil society  

**Re: National Youth Commission**  

We commit ourselves to work hand-in-hand with the National Youth Commission to:  

• Establish ward, district, and provincial youth councils  
• Ensure registration of youth groups to NYC for link up in youth activities and programs at the provincial, national and international level  
• Lobby for the increase of budget of programs to achieve MDGs  
• Create NYC office in respective provinces; ensure issuance of NYC directive to the technical division in all provinces advising on how youth can benefit from provincial government and create NYC office in each respective province  
• Create proper channels of communication and information network where programs are decentralized at the provincial and local level governments (LLGs)  
• Put policy in place to facilitate youth participation in all levels of society; advocate for youth representation in planning and decision-making bodies in provincial, district levels and LLGs  
• Advocate for holding annual national youth convention  

We recognize that the issues affecting the youth and communities of PNG are closely related to the issues being addressed in the MDGs and MTDS. We therefore recommend the following options for action:  

**MDG 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER**  
**Strengthening the economic capacities of families and communities:**  

• Encourage the Agriculture and Livestock/NARI to introduce new cash crops that suit the vegetation and appropriate agri-technology  
• Explore community-based credit scheme and micro-finance projects  
• Promote community-based skills training programs for youth – equipping them with skills such as building, baking, sewing, etc. – for self income generation  
• Support youth-based entrepreneurship  
• Initiate community discussions on food security  

Youth must take the lead role in implementing these.  

**MDG 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION**  
**Increasing the participation of children in formal education:**  

• Promote affordable education for all  
• Increase awareness on children’s right to education in rural areas, especially among parents  
• Advocate for the establishment of more schools and facilities, especially in rural areas  
• Advocate the inclusion and strengthening of technical skills education in the school curriculum  
• Promote compulsory technical education for all youth who drop out  
• Capacitate the teachers on effective teaching methods that will encourage students to stay in school  
• Establish community-based support mechanisms for school drop-outs (such as tutorials)
**MDG 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN**

*Narrowing the gap among men and women, boys and girls:*

- Establish women’s office to address women’s issues at the community level
- Raise awareness on gender equality and women empowerment targeting not only women and girls but men and boys as well
- Support women and girl-children’s participation in planning and decision-making processes
- Build the capacity of women and girl-children through skills development training, income-generating projects, personal viability courses

**MDG 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY**

*Ensuring all children are immunized and building the capacities of health workers and volunteers to save the lives of children:*

- Establish more health services and aid posts in remote areas, revitalizing those already in existence
- Conduct comprehensive training for village birth attendants on pre and post delivery care
- Promote mobile and complete immunization programs
- Advocate for increasing the number of community health worker-patrols
- Create youth midwife’s education program
- Promote awareness raising programs on child mortality, teenage pregnancies, safe motherhood, family planning through peer education, seminars, road shows, workshops and door-to-door campaigns
- Advocate for the improvement of government health facilities and services
- Produce and disseminate locally-appropriate information materials such as pamphlets, brochures, posters, etc.

Youth to collaborate with government and NGOs and help conduct awareness on MDG4, and to participate in training and facilitating other youth in carrying out the MDG targets.

**MDG 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH**

*Promoting the health and wellbeing of mothers:*

- Increase and strengthen maternal health awareness programs for rural and urban areas
- Promote the immunization extension program
- Increase midwife/village birth attendant training and services program at community level
- Establish health clinics, especially ante-natal clinics, in areas where needed
- Increase maternal health training for males
- Provide peer group counseling
- Conduct training of Trainers for youth to implement awareness on maternal health

Youth can advocate to disseminate information on maternal health in the community through workshops, video shows, pamphlets, etc. We can establish dialogue with relevant agencies as partners in improving the maternal health status in the community.

**MDG 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES**

*Promoting community health:*

- Conduct awareness raising and advocacy campaigns on disease prevention in the community
- Conduct community-based training of youth peer educators and counselors
- Create and strengthen youth networks and partnerships with organizations working to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Promote volunteer counseling and testing among youth
MDG 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
Promoting sustainable development that is protective of the environment

- Mobilize and network with youth, government, NGOs, faith-based and business sectors for more community-based environmental awareness programs and projects that are sustainable
- Provide venues for dialogue to flag environmental issues and find sustainable solutions at community level
- Review, monitor and evaluate programs and policies for existing mining, logging and fishing projects/activities and other larger development projects causing environmental damages with the active participation of environmental sectors, including the youth
- Promote the practice of sustainable methods of livelihood, agriculture, and development at the community level
- Explore ecologically friendly development projects such as eco-forestry, large-net fishing, waste recycling etc.
- Advocate for increased support and resource allocation for both urban and rural youth environmental projects

MDG 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT
Acknowledging the importance of linking our efforts with other youth groups in the world that similarly act to achieve the MDGs:

- Establish and explore all possible linkages such as through internet forum and direct partnership with international agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP, etc.
- Promote sharing, access and exchange of information on youth action at national, regional and international level; this can be through independent body; support from government and aid agencies are most welcome
- Actively participate in international forum or summit such as World Youth Festival
- Affiliate with relevant regional and international youth organizations such as the Pacific Youth Council
- Support the initiatives of other organizations (locally or internationally) that work on achieving the MDGs

OUR COMMITMENT

To achieve the recommendations articulated in this declaration, we call for continuous collaboration among individual youths and youth groups in the country to dialogue between youths in the provinces and around the country.

As advocates for positive development in the country using the MDGs and the MTDS:

- We are honored to be Youth Advocates and we will strive to contribute in the encouraging concrete actions by youth and communities towards making progress and achieving the goals by 2015 and beyond
- We are committed to spread the message that youths can make a great difference in achieving recommendations by mobilizing National and Local resources, raising awareness and ultimately as agents and advocates of positive change in our provinces.
- We call for the incorporation of the aspirations of this declaration into the provincial and country plans

We propose to conduct provincial summits in our provinces to echo what we achieved in this First National Youth Summit. We propose also for a second national youth summit in two years time to follow-up on the achievement and progress on all the points we recommended. This summit can have the theme: ‘Youth Voice and Action for Achieving the MDGs: Phase 2.’ Youth and volunteers from host province will coordinate the summit with the support of the national government, the
Provincial Government, the National Youth Commission, National Events Council, the UN agencies, and more importantly, youth organizations throughout the country.
(Note: proposal Madang)

With our voices and collective action, we, the youth of PNG, can make a huge positive difference! We are committed to fulfill the aspirations of this declaration.