

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE I.U.B.E.: THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH

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The ever-increasing threat to the environment and the need for rational decision-making and planning in the use of natural resources are just some of the major global concerns. The evolution of bio-technology led to the introduction of new courses in the university curriculum. The development of genetic manipulation techniques has enabled scientists to interfere with the genetic code. These achievements have revealed the framework of values of modern society as insufficient, and the need to adopt new ethics has been the subject of debate among scientists. The president of the B.I.O. has stressed the need to respect bios and initiate worldwide changes in the educational framework.

Young people can effectively contribute to the promotion of international cooperation, if their great potential is channelled through education towards an inspired and responsible attitude regarding the preservation of the bio-environment. Moral questions arising from human interference in a great number of life forms and abusive environmental exploitation will constitute crucial issues in generations to come.

The sensitisation of young people is a necessary but not sufficient condition for future society to respond effectively to the emerging challenges. The participation of youth in promoting ideas and making decisions could effectively contribute to action.

On the basis of those remarks, the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) considers the participation of students at all levels of education in the joint effort to promote cooperation among universities as being of extreme importance. So far, student exchange programmes between universities of different countries have served as a means of establishing links and adopting an international perspective on the way students think. However, those initiatives have only provided the opportunity of bilateral communication, not allowing for the implementation of the above principles at an international level. The expertise of the Youth Departments of the United Nations Associations and the European Community Youth projects is valuable in promoting the previous dimension.

It is in this spirit that the Youth Department of the B.I.O. espouses the formation of an International Youth Committee, in the framework of the International University for the Bio-Environment (I.U.B.E.), to convene annually and discuss the planning and implementation of common action programmes for youth. The Youth Committee would be responsible for the fundraising and organisation of annual meetings, under the guidance of experienced academicians in all nations. It is our hope that the adoption of this idea would provide young people all over the world with the opportunity to meet and gain experience in international bio-diplomacy, as well as to develop a mutual understanding and increased feeling of responsibility regarding the preservation of bios.

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