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**PROCLAMATION OF 2010 AS THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE YOUTH**

(Item Proposed by the Republic of Tunisia)

**Summary presentation on the proposed Declaration of 2010
International Youth Theme of the year:
“Towards a Greater Deepening of Universal Values Among World Youth”**

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia has called for the proclamation of 2010 ‘International Youth Year’ during which an International Youth Conference will be held under the auspices of the United Nations Organization in collaboration with the International Organizations concerned and with the participation of Youth from different parts of the World to adopt an International Charter which will serve as a solid foundation linking world youth to universal common values.

The current situation is undoubtedly, a source of concern, particularly to the Youth in the face of widespread poverty, marginalization and increased manifestation of hatred and growing conflicts between civilizations. These difficulties, however, should not distract attention from the great development in communication and information technologies which provide greater capabilities for dialogue and joint efforts for the benefit of humanity at large.

Thus, and to ensure an efficient participation of youth in international affairs and fora, it has become clearly necessary to adopt a new approach in which Youth, wherever it may be, will actively participate. It has become equally necessary to endeavour resolutely to guarantee to Youth all its rights, particularly in terms of health, education, employment, culture, entertainment, security and healthy family environment.

The United Nations Organization has accorded particular attention to youth concerns and aspirations. It has worked towards the promotion of communication channels with the youth and adopted numerous programs and mechanisms for their benefit. Today after six decades of sustained national and international efforts, Youth in various parts of the World have made numerous important achievements.

The central objective of the Tunisian Initiative is not confined to providing World Youth with the opportunity to express their concerns and reiterate their demand for the right to a decent life and participation in public life, but goes beyond these aspects, important as they certainly are, to raise the consciousness of the future generations to their immense responsibilities for the promotion of universal values which will in turn enhance peace, security and stability around the World and guarantee development for all nations.

There is no doubt that World Youth despite the diversity of their conditions, culture, belonging and orientation, are capable of drawing inspiration from the United Nations

Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other Charters and Conventions, to identify a number of universal values and noble human principles on which cultures and civilizations converge.

In this context, this Initiative aims at achieving a higher degree of consciousness among World Youth around universal values such as tolerance, moderation, the rejection of violence and extremism, the embracing of the culture of solidarity, peace and dialogue and the promotion of the spirit of innovation, creativity and voluntarism.

The Initiative also seeks to emphasize that specificity does not prevent World Youth from converging around a set of noble values and principles. It also endeavours to enhance consciousness among World Youth of their historic and civilization-related responsibilities and of the importance of their role and contribution towards building a new future for humanity.

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Proclamation of 2010 as the international year of the youth (Item proposed by the Republic of Tunisia)

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