

UNDP launches National Human Development Report: Youth Building Nicaragua

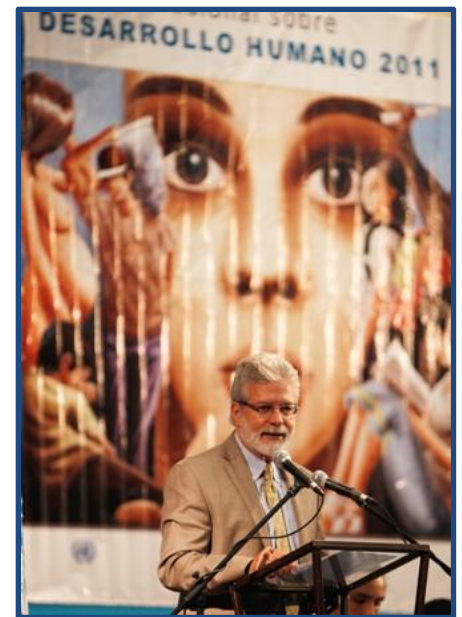


Managua, Nicaragua/ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented (Thursday November 23, 2011) the 2011 National Human Development Report: *Youth Building Nicaragua*, with its core message that *"The majority of adolescents and youth have capacities, but not all of them have the same opportunities to contribute to human development in Nicaragua."*

Crowne Plaza Convention Center's Gran Darío Hall seemed to shrink at the influx of more than one thousand people, predominantly adolescents and youth, who participated in the launching of the interesting report, compiled by an independent group of qualified national consultants.

The study is published at a unique moment for the country. Whereas in 1980, for every two persons of working age there were two dependents (below 15, and 65 or older), it is estimated that for 2030, for every two persons in working age there will only be one dependent. Beyond the economic development this process could imply, it represents a unique opportunity to increase the life options of the Nicaraguan population, giving them a chance of reaching their aspirations and expanding their human development capacities.

Mr. Pablo Mandeville, UNDP Resident Representative in Nicaragua, recognized the support received by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme as well as other agencies, such as the Panamerican Health Organization (PAHO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the International Labour Organization (ILO). *"The truth is that all the UN agencies lent support to the technical team, sharing their analysis and providing feedback to the initial assertions. We are also thankful for the collaboration and financial support of the Spanish Agency for Cooperation and International Development (AECID) and the Norwegian Development Cooperation. Without their contribution, this report would not have been possible. MS ActionAid Denmark also supported our efforts"*, explained Mandeville in his speech.



Mr. Pablo Mandeville

According to the presentation of the report's National Coordinator, Mr. Donald Méndez, a quantitative as well as qualitative analysis of adolescents and youth was made in four human development dimensions: education, employment, physical and emotional well-being, and participation.



Mr. Donald Méndez

"This is precisely one of the Report's novelties: the Multidimensional Poverty Index, assembled for the first time in this country", said Méndez, adding that a multidimensional analysis was carried out based on the information obtained from a national survey on the perceptions of adolescents and young people (ENAJ-INDH 2009), the largest of its kind (by number of interviewed persons) ever carried out in the country. This survey allowed the construction of typologies of adolescents and youth which facilitated the identification of inequalities among these.

Speaking in representation of the Government of National Unity and Reconciliation, Mr. Bosco Castillo, Executive Director of the Nicaraguan Youth Institute, recognized the professionalism and methodology with which the research team compiled the Report, and mentioned the government policies for the benefit of the development of young people in Nicaragua.



Mr. Bosco Castillo



Ms. Xochilt Ocampo

Xochilt Ocampo, young member of the National Assembly, and member of the Parliament Committee for Justice and Tourism, expressed that the report will be a valuable tool for the drafting of future laws in favor of social and economic improvements for youth groups. Previously, Ms. Ocampo enumerated the efforts of the Legislative branch to open spaces for human development of young people and adolescents in Nicaragua over the last 10 years.



Karen Rebeca Hidalgo Castro, young lady from Estelí, and the best student of the Human Development Virtual Course, emotively thanked God for having been given the opportunity to participate in the consultation process of the National Human Development Report: *Youth Building Nicaragua*.



On the other hand, George Hazerd Martínez, member of the Bluefield's Center for Adolescents and Youth (run by UNFPA), urged the United Nations Agencies to keep up their support for afro-descendent youngsters of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast.

Young Elvis Daniel Gómez, Chair of the Nicaraguan Youth Council, emphatically declared that, as a plural organization *"The boys and girls accompanied the entire consultation process for the Report"*. He also expressed the readiness and political will to participate in the effort to make the National Human Development Report 2011 known at the regional and municipal levels.



Mr. Elvis Gómez



Theater: "Tecum Umanii Group"



Music: "La Cuneta son Machín Group"

The theater group "Tecum Umanii", whose members are adolescents and young actors - with great talent - from rural areas of the departments of Matagalpa and Boaco, contributed cultural spark and wit to the event. They jointly produced the play "*The dreams of rural youth*" and presented a 15-minute fragment, which was very well received by the public. At the end, "*La Cuneta son Machín*" closed the event with its unmistakable youthful sound, bringing on joy and making the audience dance.

The 2011 National Human Development Report: *Youth Building Nicaragua*, offers a comprehensive view, hindsight and look forward towards the future, which allow the recognition of structural obstacles, and it presents a proposal for actions by adolescents and youth, based on fundamental values such as honesty, respect, responsibility, trust, reciprocity, tolerance and transparency. This agenda calls for the action of Nicaraguan youth themselves, the State at its various levels of power, the private sector, universities and society as a whole.

For more information:

www.indhjuventudes.org.ni / www.undp.org.ni

2011 National Human
Development Report *Youth Building Nicaragua*