

# WORLD COUNCIL REPORT



**19<sup>TH</sup> YMCA  
WORLD COUNCIL**  
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND  
8-14 JULY, 2018

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 19<sup>TH</sup> WORLD COUNCIL

- ✓ Most young people participating at a World Council
- ✓ Three new members welcomed
- ✓ New partnership agreement signed with The Harlem Globetrotters
- ✓ Release of 2018 Blue Book movement statistics with record numbers
- ✓ Release of second global research study – One Million Voices 2
- ✓ Safe Space Report received
- ✓ Life memberships awarded to Johan Vilhelm Eltvik and Peter Posner
- ✓ Election of new Executive Committee, including first female President
- ✓ First time a majority of females elected to Executive Committee
- ✓ Introduction of first African Secretary General designate
- ✓ Cohort 4 of YMCA Change Agents launched
- ✓ Funding for over 40 new Change Agents committed
- ✓ National General Secretaries share their journey of discovery
- ✓ “Youth Empowerment 4 Good” Strategy 2018-2022 approved



*Over 1,300 people from nearly 90 countries celebrate making history at the 19th World Council*

## INTRODUCTION FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

What a week of World Council. A week of history.

A World Council better than Estes Park. I did not think that would be possible, but it was. And it is a reality today and it means we will have a better, a stronger and a more united YMCA movement as a result.

As many of you have reflected as you travelled home, we prepare now for a future with a good and exciting reality. Thank you to all of you who participated, whether in person in Chiang Mai or not.

Thank you to the YMCA of Chiang Mai, ably led by Rachan Maneekarn and all his team for their invaluable support. Thank you to everyone who contributed as a speaker, a workshop leader, a volunteer or in whatever way you contributed.

This Report is designed to share with the movement the key events and business outcomes. It is not to recapture the entire event but to share an insight into the key outcomes of the 19<sup>th</sup> World Council.

The YMCA movement is in good hands for the future. The young leaders, including our YMCA Change Agents, ensure we head towards our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2044 with a commitment for Youth Empowerment 4 Good.

The world will be a better place as a result.



Johan Vilhelm Eltvik  
Secretary General



## WORLD COUNCIL OVERVIEW



*"The world needs to become a friendlier place for Young People. Youth Empowerment means giving young people a platform to take what is theirs. That is real freedom."*

- Johan Vilhelm Eltvik.

Over 1,300 delegates from nearly 90 countries came together for the 19<sup>th</sup> World Council in Chiang Mai, Thailand, representing 120 members and 100,000 staff from across the world.

The World Council is the highest governing body and reaffirms the YMCA as the largest and oldest youth movement and its dedication to empower and support young people. The 7-day event was themed around the strategic ambition of "Youth Empowerment 4 good", an ongoing commitment to the four advocacy pillars for young people of environment, health, civic engagement and employment delivered through research, workshops, elections, excursions and keynote speakers.

Every four years the YMCA movement comes together as the World Council. The first World Council was in 1855 with 99 delegates representing nine countries and history was created with the formation of the Paris Basis. Since then, every World Council has made historical developments as we aim to serve the world's young people. In 2018 history was again made in Thailand under the theme "Youth Empowerment 4 Good".

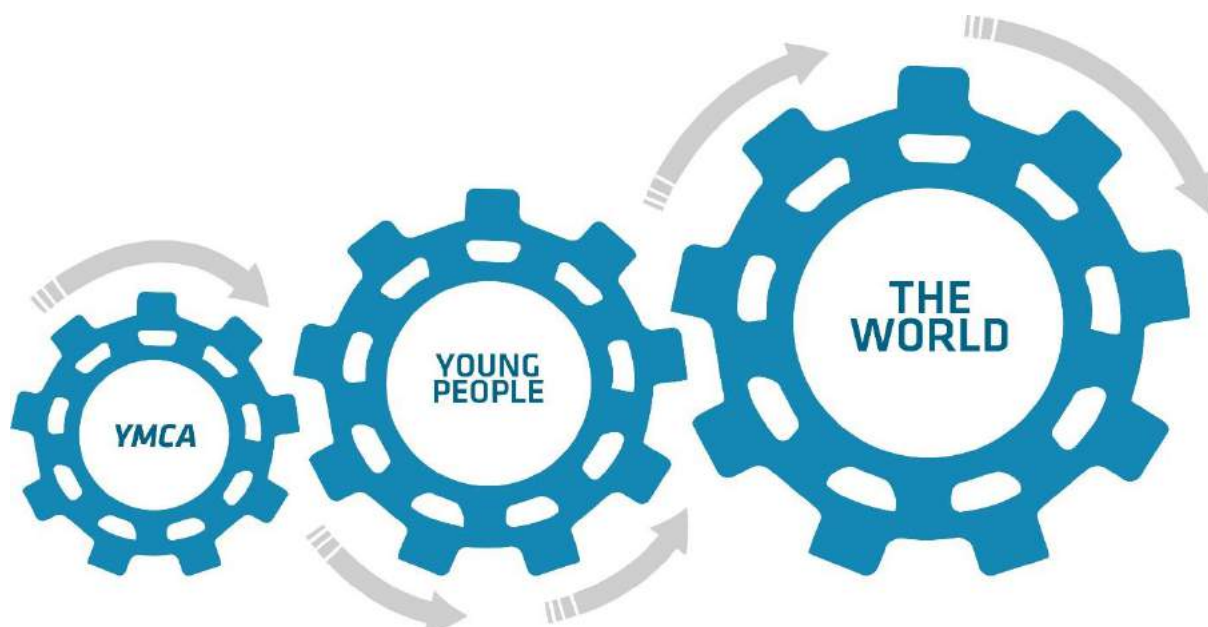
The World Council is "responsible for setting the policies and direction of the World Alliance, electing its Officers and Executive Committee, evaluating the work of the last four years, and deliberating on priorities for the next quadrennial".

We have made great strides in recent years with the sharpening of our focus by coming together under the banner of 'youth empowerment'. This has included developing 700 young leaders from all over the world called 'YMCA Change Agents', who act at a community and global level to ensure that youth injustice is overcome and youth empowerment safeguarded.

This World Council theme built upon the history of the YMCA and adds to its future. Empowering young people is in the DNA of the YMCA global movement and always will be. 'Youth Empowerment 4 Good' is an ongoing commitment to our '4' long-term strategic focus areas - employment, health, environment and civic engagement – that address the biggest needs of the world's young people. '4 good' is an affirmation of 'forever' and also 'for good works', the result of our collective impact.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW 19th YMCA World Council

	SUN 8 JULY	MON 9 JULY	TUES 10 JULY	WED 11 JULY	THURS 12 JULY	FRI 13 JULY	SAT 14 JULY	
7h00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	7h00
7h30								7h30
8h00	REGISTRATION Fri 6 + Sat 7 Yfam - 5pm EH2 Imperial Ballroom							8h00
8h30								8h30
9h00	REGISTRATION (Empress Hotel EH2 Imperial Ballroom)	DEVOTION	DEVOTION	DEVOTION	DEVOTION	DEVOTION	CLOSING CEREMONY	9h00
9h30								9h30
10h00		SECRETARY GENERAL REPORT	GROUP MEETINGS	GROUP MEETINGS	GROUP MEETINGS	GROUP MEETINGS		10h00
10h30		Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	10h30
11h00		BUSINESS AGENDA	GROUP MEETINGS continue	GROUP MEETINGS continue	GROUP MEETINGS continue	GROUP MEETINGS continue		11h00
11h30								11h30
12h00		GROUP PHOTO						12h00
12h30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	12h30
13h00		INFORMAL/AREA MEETINGS	INFORMAL/AREA MEETINGS		INFORMAL/AREA MEETINGS	(Optional 1-2:30pm Working with Indigenous Communities)		13h00
13h30								13h30
14h00		KEY NOTE Peter Barnes	DMV 2018 RESEARCH PRESENTATION	4 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS EXCURSIONS	NATIONAL SECRETARIES - OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER. PARTNERSHIP FORUM Howard Smith	BUSINESS AGENDA: Sec Gen farewell; Speeches - new Pres/SG	DEPARTURES	14h00
14h30								14h30
15h00	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee					15h00
15h30								15h30
16h00								16h00
16h30	OPENING CEREMONY - YE4GOOD President's Speech	Group orientation GROUP MEETINGS	KEY NOTE Nyandzanyi Gumbonzvanda		MOVEMENT STRENGTHENING FORUMS	BUSINESS AGENDA		16h30
17h00			BUSINESS AGENDA: Safe Space, Strategy					17h00
17h30								17h30
18h00								18h00
18h30								18h30
19h00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	(Dinner during excursions)	Dinner	Dinner		19h00
19h30								19h30
20h00	THAI CULTURAL SHOW Chiang Mai YMCA	CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS	YMCA CHANGE AGENTS & HARLEM CLOBETROTTERS SHOW	Free time or NIGHT MARKET VISIT with Chiang Mai YMCA Volunteers	CONCERT Tuning Jazz	ELECTIONS Closed meeting (Voting delegates only)	YMCA CHANGE AGENTS PERFORMANCE	20h00
20h30								20h30
21h00								21h00
21h30								21h30
22h00								22h00
22h30	OPTIONAL 22h00-00h00 Social hub (2nd flr and GJ at Crystal Cave)	OPTIONAL 22h00-00h00 Social hub (2nd flr and GJ at Crystal Cave)	OPTIONAL 22h00-00h00 Social hub (2nd flr and GJ at Crystal Cave)	OPTIONAL 22h00-00h00 Social hub (2nd flr and GJ at Crystal Cave)	OPTIONAL 22h00-00h00 Social hub (2nd flr and GJ at Crystal Cave)	OPTIONAL 22h00-00h00 Social hub (2nd flr and GJ at Crystal Cave)	OPTIONAL 22h00-00h00 Social hub (2nd flr and GJ at Crystal Cave)	22h30



The 3 wheel metaphor used throughout the World Council to explain the YMCAs role in the world

# DAILY SUMMARY

## PRE-EVENT PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THAILAND MEDIA

With microphones and video cameras in hand 30 media captured World YMCA Secretary General Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, the President of Thai Alliance of YMCAs Danuch Yontararak, and NGS of the YMCA of Chiang Mai Rachan Maneeakarn sharing their excitement for the global YMCA movement coming to Thailand for the World Council.

Significant media coverage appeared throughout Thailand as a result.

*“The YMCA global movement is returning to Chiang Mai, and each time we continue to bring more and more people with us. First it was 50 of our National Secretaries, then 250 of our young leaders in 2016, and now it is over 1,300 from every corner of the world.”*

- Johan Vilhelm Eltvik.



## DAY 1 - SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY

*"Welcome to the 19<sup>th</sup> World Council"*

*Śwag̃dī! Hello! Bonjour! Ohayo! Bwanji! G'day!*

With bright lights, talented young people singing and dancing, glittery Thai performances and bikes transformed into tuk tuks the 19th World Council officially opened in fabulous and dazzling style.

During the **opening ceremony** YMCA President Peter Posner presented his thoughts on the key functions of this World Council:

- Meeting the future (what will the YMCA be like in 2044, this should be your focus)
- Shaking hands with the future (by voting for the future strategy)
- Governing for good

A beautiful Thai concert made for a memorable opening event.



*Welcome from the Deputy Governor of Chiang Mai*

### BUSINESS AGENDA

- ✓ Roll call of all members of the World YMCA.
- ✓ Welcome to Honorary Life Member Rev. Caesar Molebatsi and other special guests, including Y's Men International, Retirees and The Harlem Globetrotters.
- ✓ Three new members of the Word YMCA were welcomed: Cameroon, Mongolia and El Salvador.
- ✓ The Steering Committee was announced.



[HIGHLIGHT VIDEO OF THE DAY HERE](#)

## DAY 2 - MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY

The first of the daily devotions followed the week's theme of "Youth Empowerment 4 Good" with the theme "Created 4 Good", reflecting on Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Psalm 139:1-6,13-14.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



#### SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik shared the journey of the World YMCA over the past eight years; a magnificent tale of goodwill, change and Mission alignment.

He opened by saying, "This report is about what we did together, and you have all your own part in this process of change that we have been living through. Today my report will speak of the last eight years, with a special focus on these last 4 years since Estes Park. For it was there that we unanimously embraced this new Strategy. We called it OUR WAY. What a highlight that Rocky Mountain experience was. A moment of joy. A moment of giving, receiving and experiencing love. We listened to you and set out the very next day with your marching orders. You told us – loud and clear – what to focus on. OUR WAY was born and off we went."

He concluded his speech with the optimistic observation that during the past eight years the whole movement has stretched its arms and legs; the giant is waking up. This is real Movement Strengthening!"

Johan also shared the findings from the [YMCA Blue Book of World YMCA Movement Statistics](#) "Young people from all around the world need us more than ever," he said.

Holding up The YMCA Blue Book he reminded us that this is not a single body of work but an achievement by thousands of people unifying as one YMCA. Implementing the Our Way strategy meant that all YMCAs must live by the values and the three turning cogs of young people, empowerment and the world.

There are 1.8 billion young people aged 10 – 24 years old in the world. This is 25% of the worldwide population. Currently the YMCA reach 2% of these young people.

*Did we reach our goals? Have we been successful?* Johan asked the delegates.



*Looking at the world today through George Williams' glasses ...*

**Yes**, we reach 65 million people across 120 countries.

**Yes**, we have increased our reach of young people from 28 million in 2012 to 42 million young people in 2018.

**Yes**, the YMCA Change Agent program has created 700 young leaders across the globe.

**Yes**, we have given a voice and a platform to young people by investing in global research like One Million Voices and further embedded our four strategic directions in our movement as well as adding a 5th one: Safe Space, ensuring we are inclusive to all people of all nationalities, cultures and religions.

**And yes**, most importantly we have, once again, stopped talking and started listening to young people.

**But change still needs to continue.** There is more work to be done as we head into the new and unknown future.

The ultimate goal as a social movement would be when we can support and empower the 1.8 billion young people of the world. Every single one.

Ambitious isn't it? But as long as young people continue to face injustice, the YMCA will continue to expand.

**The YMCA is changing for good."**



[VIDEO HERE](#)



[REPORT HERE](#)



[BLUE BOOK REPORT & VIDEO HERE](#)



## KEY NOTE - PETER BURNS

YMCA Victoria's CEO Peter Burns delivered an inspiring keynote addressing **"Change Lessons Learned Aligning a Local YMCA with the Global Mission"**. He focused on becoming more global and unifying under one message as a social movement.

"We need to ask: how can I create a YMCA to make an impact, more deeply, more often?"

"We are a movement, not an institution. We need to be brave. Young people need YMCAs now more than ever," he said.



*"Be bold. Be on the right side of history"*

### Key messages:

- Alignment and trust are essential.
- We are here to change the world for good.
- We are all movement makers; think locally act globally.
- Plans are useless; planning is indispensable
- Be bold, be on the right side of history!
- Space/transformation/impact
- Self-management – wholeness – evolutionary purpose
- More design thinking; more trust; more experts; more context; more technology.

### Challenges for the future:

- Institutional trust is broken; are we up to the challenge to change?
- Technologies are converging; how will we embrace them?
- We must be love, hope and possibility.



[VIDEO HERE](#)



[SPEECH HERE](#)

## BUSINESS AGENDA

- ✓ Secretary Generals' Report – available [HERE](#) – was received.
- ✓ Positive reports were presented in the Treasurer's Report – available [HERE](#) and Auditors Report – available [HERE](#). Both were received.
- ✓ Governance Policy Agreement revisions were approved – [HERE](#)
- ✓ Amendments to the Constitution wording Article VII, paragraph 1.5 were approved - [HERE](#)
- ✓ Candidate presentations took place for all nominees.



[HIGHLIGHT VIDEO OF THE DAY HERE](#)

## DAY 3 - TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Devotions theme for the day was “enabled for good”.

Today **Group Meetings** commenced. Small group meetings were held every day from Tuesday to Friday discussing the impact of youth empowerment and how we might amplify it into the future. One participant noted her learnings:

*“We’re not so different, you and I.*

*Despite the differences amongst cultures, language and religion, the global problems and disadvantages young face in areas like employment, education and mental illness was apparent in the One Million Voices 2 Research and daily group meetings.”*



### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



#### YOUTH RESEARCH - ONE MILLION VOICES 2

World YMCA released the Preliminary Report from the second global research project on the opinions and concerns of young people. The first report was released in 2016 and is believed to be the world’s largest research project listening to young people aged 15-24, across 55 countries.

Our Research advisor, Professor Marek Rymsza from the University of Warsaw, presented the Preliminary report. The final report will be available later in the year.

Insight into the challenges and possibilities around empowering young people is crucial if we are to genuinely advocate for, and provide the platform for the voices of young people. The results highlight young people’s critical needs in the areas of employment, health, environment and civic engagement and propose solutions on how to address these issues.



*“Despite the differences in cultures and languages – young people across the world face many similar disadvantages in areas like employment, education and mental illness.”*

*- Secretary General Johan Vilhelm Eltvik.*

The research was gathered across 25 countries from over 1,000 young people aged 17 – 20 years old. The preliminary results are eye-opening and will help local and national YMCAs know how to better provide for their young people across employment, health, environment and civic engagement.

The initial findings of this research showed that for many young people across the world:

1. *good social relationships are crucial for personal happiness and wellbeing*
2. *educational systems are not satisfying them*
3. *educational systems need more focus on practical skills, individual and subjective approaches and on mechanisms of personal protection and assistance*
4. *a “good job” should be a place for personal development and wellbeing*
5. *a high salary is not the most important component of wished for work, and a professional career is not worth the risk of permanent stress and psychological pressure*
6. *mental health is a rising health issue and depression is seen as prevalent everywhere*
7. *close family members and friends are the most important people to relate to their mental health challenges*
8. *a healthy life style is too commercialised*
9. *access to good but reasonably cheap sports facilities is an important element of a healthy life style*
10. *campaigns have effectively raised environmental awareness*
11. *despite personal environmental sensitivity, a lack of organized activities at the local level is the obstacle for environmental engagement*
12. *civic engagement at a local level gives more opportunities than national initiatives*
13. *generally, participatory and community-oriented leadership is preferred.*



[REPORT HERE](#)



## KEY NOTE - NYARADZAYI GUMBONZVANDA

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda is the Founder & Chief Executive of Rozaria Memorial Trust. She is former World YWCA General Secretary (2007-2016) and serves as African Union Goodwill Ambassador on Ending Child Marriage.

- The future is young and she is female.
- 12 million girls are 'married' each year. We can prevent child marriage, sexual exploitation, sanitised rape by speaking up; standing up and protecting human values

She noted that the struggle for injustice is the struggle for human rights, the fight against discrimination and inequality. It is the imperative of the movement, to young people, and to such intergenerational movements like the YMCAs. She also challenged us:



1. We must move beyond scaling up the status quo, to delivering a truly transformative agenda.
2. Exploring approaches in which youth empowerment and rights shifts from vulnerability, to leadership and organising. Beyond positional power to influencing.
3. Harnessing the power of local rootedness, global reach, authentic history and massive numbers for impact and structural/systems/policy change.

4. Use of evidence research in policy advocacy on social and global justice which is youth lead, beyond the provision of services
5. Leveraging the power of technology and the media for advocacy and influencing.
6. Deepening the safe and empowering spaces for skilling, organising and engaging.

### **On persistence even in the face of injustice**

“We have the legacy of never giving up, we will never die”



[VIDEO HERE](#)



[SPEECH HERE](#)



## LAUNCH OF COHORT 4 OF YMCA CHANGE AGENTS

The YMCA Change Agents programme makes good things happen.

*"I took the call and it was the longest call of my life. It was 20 seconds and they told me I had got the job,"* Andrew, CEO of Sioux YMCA, who despite having dyslexia became the youngest CEO at a USA YMCA at 23 years old.



This was one of several presentations from Change Agents at an evening sharing event. All who spoke had been positively impacted by the program and how it shaped them. That positivity and life they now give back to their communities. There are currently 700 change agents and this number continues to climb. One day perhaps there will be an alumnus of a million.

The 4th cohort was launched and, pleasingly, fundraising support was provided for more than 40 new Change Agents.

This was followed by a hugely entertaining Harlem Globetrotters Basketball experience.

## BUSINESS AGENDA



### SAFE SPACE

The Safe Space Learning Group shared their report which is part of a resolution from the 18th World Council to promote social inclusion and non-discrimination for all people within the YMCA.

#### **Inclusion and diversity is at the YMCA core.**

The World YMCA aims to empower all young people without discrimination. The group presented the two years of research and consultation on how to facilitate a Safe Space discussion abiding to the UN Human Rights Declaration to strive courageously against discrimination. The Report was received almost unanimously.

A very historic moment for YMCA as we work towards becoming more inclusive to all.



*Aisa reads the World YMCA Value Statement on Inclusion*

The World YMCA Value Statement is not prescriptive and non-binding for any member movement, in accordance with World YMCA Constitution. Each member movement is encouraged to embrace Challenge 21's invitation to engage with their needs according to their local reality - "Each member YMCA is therefore called to focus on certain challenges which will be prioritized according to its own context" - so we demonstrate our Christian and ecumenical position of being open, loving and inclusive of all.

*"That they all be one."* John 17:21.



The Value Statement and Report can be read [HERE](#).

#### **YMCA VALUE STATEMENT ON INCLUSION:**

*Diversity around the globe was accepted in the founding document of the World Alliance of YMCAs in 1855, where it is stated that no issues, however important they may be, shall divide the YMCA. The focus is on unity in Christ – "that they all may be one."*

*Therefore – diversity and inclusion are core to the YMCA movement.*

*Therefore – the YMCA movement is open and inclusive of all people regardless of their ability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic background.*

*However, we admit that we are not perfect in demonstrating God's unconditional love, and that it is an ongoing process to become fully inclusive in order to improve our service to humanity.*

*Therefore the YMCA movement must strive courageously against any discriminatory behaviour and will always abide by the UN Human Rights Declaration."*



## NEW STRATEGY 2018-2022

### **New 4-Year Strategy continues to be about youth empowerment**

*“The only way we know if we are strong is if we try”* said Secretary General designate Carlos Sanvee in response to a challenging question about whether our movement is united enough to make a difference globally.

The long-term strategy for the global YMCA movement continues to be in youth empowerment and to work harder to make a bigger impact with young people. Another aim is to increase our youth research. The strategy was approved at the business agenda.



The Strategy, presented by Chair of the Strategy Committee, Alan Morton, was described as “an invitation for unity.”

The approved global Strategy can be read [HERE](#).



Why was it important? To increase movement impact, growth, visibility and relevance it is important that there is an agreed guiding document that aligns all our different YMCAs and local movements.



## IN MEMORIAM

A time of reflection and appreciation for those men and women who had served the World YMCA and their national YMCAs.



[HIGHLIGHT VIDEO OF THE DAY HERE](#)

## DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Devotions theme was “Challenged for good” and reflected on Jesus’ parable of the Sheep and The Goats from Matthew 25.



In the afternoon twenty excursions took participants to a massive array of differing exposure visits to YMCA programs, local attractions, and natural beauties. The program was drawn together around a theme of environmental awareness.

This also highlighted how strategy can be translated into real life areas in Thailand.

These deeply educational experiences were excursions which tie into the YMCA’s four strategic areas: civic engagement, health, employment and environment.

The workshops were facilitated with the help of YMCA Change Agents and local hosts from YMCA of Chiang Mai.



[HIGHLIGHT VIDEO OF THE DAY HERE](#)

## DAY 5 - THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Devotions theme for the day was “we overcome for good”.

Three separate Movement Strengthening Forums gave participants the opportunity to split into sessions to explore the pillars of Movement Strengthening.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



#### NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARIES ... OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

Nearly 50 NGS took the stage and stood together to share their processes and journey as part of the global YMCA movement focused on Youth Empowerment 4 Good. In 2013, they agreed the YMCA movement was like a “sleeping giant” and came together to be co-owners and co-creators of driving the global strategy to take the movement forward.

In this presentation they spoke of their work towards becoming united under one shared message and working together as an NGS network. This involved the importance of relationships – having a safe space to nurture trust, sharing and learning – building foundations together and a strategic focus.



*Standing together. Our NGS uniting on the long journey*

To help the awakening they invested in research such as One Million Voices and the development of youth leadership programs like the YMCA Change Agents program.

This was a great journey of unity and through this process we are moving closer to becoming a more unified global movement. The NGS are focused on continuing the journey together with the President and Secretary General to help the YMCA grow stronger and have a greater social impact on the world.



## PARTNERSHIP FORUM

This event announced the formal partnership between The Harlem Globetrotters and World YMCA. The YMCA invented basketball. The Harlem Globetrotters are the biggest brand in basketball on the planet.

Globetrotter's President and CEO Howard Smith and Johan Vilhelm Eltvik signed an official partnership agreement, having first met at a Vatican conference on sport as a service to humanity. "Our values fit together. Our history fit together. We both put community first and we both have basketball at our core," Johan said.

Three of the Globetrotters spoke passionately of their experience in the YMCA and how it helped form them and their futures.



## HIGHLIGHT VIDEO



## BUSINESS AGENDA

### ELECTIONS

Part of the formal program of the World Council is to elect office bearers for the coming quadrennial to serve as the Executive Committee of the World YMCA.

An Elections Committee, led by Ken Colloton, had worked diligently for many months to arrange the most democratic process possible within the YMCA. Voting took place on the Thursday evening and results were announced that evening for Officer roles and Friday morning for Members.



[REPORT HERE](#)

Patricia Pelton from Canada was elected as President, the first female in the YMCAs 174 year history. The Deputy President is Agustin Garcia Bolanos Cacho from Mexico and the new Treasurer is Ronald Tak Fai Yam from Hong Kong.



[HIGHLIGHT VIDEO OF THE DAY HERE](#)

## DAY 6 - FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY



Devotions theme was “Transformed for good” and reflected on Jesus’ transformational ministry.

Secretary General Johan Vilhelm Eltvik was thanked and acknowledged by representatives from the movement, including YMCA Change Agents, World YMCA staff, Executive Committee President’s (representing all volunteers) and NGS (representing all members).

The Closing ceremony was a colorful celebration of Youth Empowerment 4 Good and featured a strong message – delivered through song, dance and audience interaction by the Change Agents. The message was that we need to listen to young people’s voices more and

ensure they are heard within the movement at all levels and be making conscious efforts to include them and create opportunities for them. There was also a focus on responding more to social injustice and taking more of a stand and uniting together for important humanitarian issues.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



### INCOMING PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPEECH

Patricia Pelton: the first female President in the YMCAs 174 year history:

*"The women leaders in our movement, past and present, have worked so hard to pave the way and see this day. Inclusion in leadership benefits us all. This. Change. Is. Momentous."*



[VIDEO HERE](#)



[SPEECH HERE](#)



Carlos Sanvee: the first Secretary General from Africa:

*"Our collective and future story now has to be how – as a global movement – we move ahead by tapping in to our great potential through anticipation, innovation and collaboration."*



[VIDEO HERE](#)



[SPEECH HERE](#)

## BUSINESS AGENDA

### RESOLUTIONS

- ✓ The following resolutions were presented during the World Council business agenda:
- 1. A resolution from YMCA Finland for the YMCA's contribution in advancing the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

2. A resolution from YMCA Germany to advance efforts to support the needs of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons worldwide.
3. A resolution from YMCA Korea to support efforts towards de-nuclearization and peace-building in the Korean Peninsula.

All resolutions were approved.



[RESOLUTIONS HERE](#)



## PUBLIC STATEMENT ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

A statement from YWCA YMCA Switzerland encouraging further steps towards youth involvement was read.



[STATEMENT HERE](#)



*A fabulous finale of the Closing Ceremony*



[HIGHLIGHT VIDEO OF THE DAY HERE](#)

## DAY 7 - SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Final devotions called us to “go in the strength of the Lord, empowered for good”.

We also prayed for the incoming Executive Committee.

### BUSINESS AGENDA

- ✓ Honorary Life Memberships were presented to Past President Peter Posner and Johan Vilhelm Eltvik.



#### Onwards and upwards

The 19th World Council will be remembered as an important moment in the YMCA's history as we become more inclusive, diverse and equal. First female president. First African Secretary General. The continued desire and ambition to work better together and move forward with young people and for Youth Empowerment 4 Good.



[HIGHLIGHT VIDEO OF THE WEEK HERE](#)

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION:**

### **WORLD COUNCIL STEERING COMMITTEE:**

Peter Posner, Presiding Officer

Ken Colloton, Past President

Romulo Dantas, World YMCA staff

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, Secretary General

Rachan Maneekarn, NGS YMCA of Chiang Mai

Martin Meisner, Past President

Andrew McKenzie, World YMCA staff

Jose Varghese, World YMCA staff

Vladi Vidlakova, Change Agent representative

Suzanne Watson, World YMCA staff

Selma Zaidi, World YMCA staff

### **WEBSITES:**

<http://www.ymca.int/>

<https://worldcouncil.ymca.int/>

