



Message from Mrs. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman, Director, UN Information Centre for India and Bhutan

It gives me great pleasure to send this message to Rhetorica Model United Nations by Mody University, Lakshmangarh. An essential part of the outreach of the UN is directed to the youth, for the achievement of *universal human rights, peace and security, and sustainable development*. UNIC, as the focal point within the UN system for Model UN collaboration, constantly endeavours to enable young people to understand these issues and their inter-linkages, thus strengthening these ‘three pillars’ of the United Nations.

Your conference in 2015 comes at a very significant time: the 70th anniversary year of the UN, for which the global slogan is “Strong UN. Better World.” We at UNIC Delhi are marking the year with a focus on India’s youth, through our YoUNg@70 campaign, because you can’t spell ‘young’ without the UN! Youth is naturally the focus of our campaign, as a key demographic vital to a strong post-2015 development agenda, as well as to the work of the UN as a whole. We also encourage, therefore, the exploration and adoption of the UN4MUN approach, that more accurately reflect the structure, function, and aims of the United Nations. As George Bernard Shaw puts it, “Progress is impossible without change and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything”.

You have a powerful opportunity to realize your potential by ramping up cooperation with the United Nations. The post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals will be in December, and your voices must be a part of it. I urge you to make your voice heard on www.myworld2015.org, to think about some of these global challenges, not merely during the Conference but also beyond it, and to come up with innovative ideas and suggestions. The global community must conceptualize, create and walk into our sustainable future, the Future We Want, hand-in-hand.

Through Model UNs, India’s youth can gain tremendous inspiration from the work of the UN, and the UN is always aiming at greater diversity and representation. It is our aim at the UN Information Centre to facilitate that.

I would like to congratulate Secretary-General Kirti Gena, and am certain that this conference will encourage students to embrace universal UN values, enabling them to become global citizens.

My very best wishes,

Kiran M-Kerpelman

Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman

