

**YOUTH LEADERS
PROCLAMATION**

GLOBAL YOUTH ACTIVATION SUMMIT

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD SUMMER GAMES ATHENS 2011

Whereas, the 2011 Special Olympics Global Youth Activation Summit is a gathering for more than 250 young people, with and without intellectual disabilities, from around the world who are committed to making a difference in their schools and communities through Special Olympics;

Whereas, the 2011 Special Olympics Global Youth Activation Summit was held on the premise to bring together young people aged 12-18 from all the Special Olympics movement's seven regions and from various educational levels including: middle/intermediate school and high/secondary school. The students are paired – one Special Olympics athlete and a peer partner without an intellectual disability from the same community, state or country;

Whereas, participants attend youth-led leadership training programs and interactive sports experiences, they also act as journalists reporting on the World Games, publishing their stories and photos;

Whereas, Special Olympics believes that through sports, young people can make a difference in friendships, schools and communities, increasing therefore their understanding of how to advocate for social justice.

Whereas, the 2011 Special Olympics Global Youth Activation Summit provides a forum where youth participants will acquire and enhance their knowledge and the skills needed to lead themselves, their peers, their schools and their communities forward in promoting effective and safe environments for creating and sustaining positive changes through volunteering and contributing to the improvement of their communities;

Whereas, the 2011 Youth Leaders consider that through Unified Sports, a program which goals to train young people with and without intellectual disabilities together, people learn about inclusion, true friendship and aim to build a society based on respect and acceptance.

Whereas, all participants of the Global Youth Activation Summit are agents of change, they will ensure that all young people, no matter their differences, in their communities play and enjoy games without any discrimination.

Whereas, through the 2011 Special Olympics Global Youth Activation Summit participants will be activated as agents of change – fostering acceptance, respect, dignity and advocacy for all people throughout the world;

Whereas, the Hellenic Parliament is the supreme democratic institution that represents the citizens through an elected body of Members of Parliament;

Whereas, the Hellenic Parliament's Constitution recognize that all Greeks are equal and all persons shall have the right to develop freely their personality;

Whereas, the Hellenic Parliament supports Special Olympics and recognizes its importance in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and hereby recognizes the 2011 Special Olympics Global Youth Activation Summit as a valued and important program where young people with and without intellectual disabilities are agents of change;

Whereas, the President of the Hellenic Parliament and the people of the Parliament are determined to end isolation and stigmatization of people with intellectual disabilities;

Now We hereby proclaim:

That all Youth Leaders from the Global Youth Activation Summit ATHENS 2011 are determined to ensure that for every young person who wishes to make a difference, in his neighborhood, school, community, the Global Activation Summit can provide them with lifetime active participation by showing them how their efforts to build communities that accept, respect and advocate for people with intellectual disabilities come together to form a force for change that will be felt and remembered for our and next generations to come.

MATTHEW WILLIAMS
INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL MESSENGER

STRATIGIS VOUKIDIS
GREEK YOUTH LEADER

RON VEDERMAN
DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

VIVIAN MOURATOU
GLOBAL YOUTH ACTIVATION SUMMIT ATHENS 2011 MANAGER

ATHENS, MONDAY JUNE 27 2011