



#YOUTH2030

6th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum CONCEPT NOTE

Thematic Breakout Session

“End poverty in all its forms and create decent jobs for youth”

30 January 2017

Trusteeship Council Chamber

2:30 – 4:30 pm

United Nations Headquarters, New York

1. Background and Context

In a climate of renewed concerns about global economic growth, the global youth unemployment rate is on the rise after a number of years of improvement, and is expected to reach 13.1 per cent in 2016. As youth unemployment rates remain persistently high and transitions from education into work become increasingly difficult, a growing share of youth are neither employed, nor in education or training, a status which carries risks of skills deterioration, underemployment and discouragement.

Job quality, especially in emerging and developing countries, remains a major concern for youth. Unemployment figures understate the true extent of youth labour market challenges since large numbers of young people are working, but do not earn enough to lift themselves out of poverty. In fact, roughly 156 million youth in emerging and developing countries live in extreme poverty or in moderate poverty despite being in employment (ILO, 2016).

At a time when the global economy is not creating sufficient quality and quantity of jobs, it is essential to understand challenges and identify solutions related to the changing nature of jobs as they will shape the future of work for young people, and their opportunities.

Education of adolescents and youth is a right and a crucial opportunity to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Evidence confirms that the highest returns come from investing throughout the education system, from early childhood to post basic or secondary education, developing strong foundational skills in literacy and numeracy, as well as transferable and job specific skills. Transferable skills are particularly key in helping young people adapt to labour market changes, including new technologies, as well as assist young people in the informal sector to become successful entrepreneurs.



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Young people's contribution and leadership in preventing and resolving conflict, violence and extremism, or in the response and recovery process after crises, represent a rich and largely untapped resource essential to ensuring stability and building sustainable peace. Young people's role as innovators and positive agents of change is in need of stronger recognition and support. The adoption of the groundbreaking UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security in 2015 for the first time acknowledged the positive contribution of young people to peacebuilding.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a unique opportunity to incorporate youth policies into comprehensive sustainable development strategies. After all, improving outcomes for youth through appropriate youth employment and social policies is fundamental to inclusive and sustainable societies and to the achievement of the SDGs, including Goal 1, 4 and Goal 8.

In this context, the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination endorsed the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, the first-ever, comprehensive United Nations system-wide effort to promote youth employment worldwide. Launched at the 2016 ECOSOC Youth Forum, the Global Initiative aims to facilitate increased impact and expanded country-level action on decent jobs for youth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, the dissemination of evidence-based policies and the scaling up of effective and innovative interventions. Thematic areas include digital skills, youth in fragile states, youth in the informal economy, linkages to global markets and investments to improve opportunities for young entrepreneurs, and quality apprenticeships for youth. Thematic areas include green jobs for youth, youth in the rural economy, transition to the formal economy, youth entrepreneurship, youth in fragile situations, transition to decent work for young workers (15-17) in hazardous occupations, and skills for youth, including digital skills and quality apprenticeships.

This breakout session of the ECOSOC Youth Forum will provide a platform for Member States, young leaders and youth organizations and mechanisms to discuss challenges and solutions to end poverty in all its forms everywhere and to create decent jobs for youth.

2. Objectives

To provide a platform for Member States, young leaders and youth organizations to identify innovative solutions and young women and men's contribution to poverty alleviation and the promotion of decent jobs for youth in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Conversations: The breakout session will be divided into three thematic conversations, reflecting today's social and economic challenges faced by young people. These themes have been identified in the strategy of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth.

- *Youth in fragile states: jobs for peace and resilience.*
- *Youth, global markets and entrepreneurship: the business leaders of tomorrow.*
- *Quality apprenticeships: learning for the future of work.*

Expected results: A set of recommendations on actions conducive to ending poverty and promoting decent jobs for youth across three strategic themes reflecting today's challenges and the future of work



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that might also inform discussions on the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Organization: The session will be coordinated by the ILO, with the support and active engagement of other interested entities and youth organizations, including UNDP, UNCTAD, UNCDF, UNDESA, UN Women, UNICEF, IOM and MGCY.

Session structure and format: The session will be conducted using “Ignite talks” and a “marketplace” format to present thematic areas and generate and develop ideas in four individual groups, with one moderator and at least eight facilitators.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The ILO will open the session with a general introduction to the issue of ending poverty and creating decent jobs for youth in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, and will present the objectives of the session. | 10 minutes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Four thematic “Ignite talks” by UNDP, UNCTAD and UNICEF to present current challenges and approaches in the respective thematic area: Ignite is a series of 5-minute presentations, where each presenter must use 20 slides, which auto-advance every 15 seconds. | 15 minutes
(3 x 5 minutes) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Following the presentations, participants will split into three groups, and rapporteurs will be nominated for the marketplaces. Each group then proceeds to one of the three “marketplaces”. | 5 minutes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Marketplace” facilitators have 20 minutes to discuss the respective thematic area, answer questions and receive comments and recommendations. The recommendations (the main output of the session) will be collected by the rapporteurs. After 20 minutes, the moderator asks the groups to move on to the next “marketplace”. After 60-65 minutes, all groups will have visited all “marketplaces”. See facilitators below. | 65 minutes
(3 x 20 minutes, 5 minutes transition) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Back into plenary, rapporteurs present key messages from the interactive discussions and the recommendations. | 15 minutes
(3 x 5 minutes) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moderator closes the session with key overall messages. | 10 minutes |

3. Issues at stake

- a) Youth in fragile states: jobs for peace and resilience (facilitators: UNDP, IOM)
- SDG’s and Youth – Synopsis of UN WB Collaboration on Jobs4Peace;



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- Youth and social cohesion – Examples from Jordan, Pakistan and Syria;
- Migration, Displacement and Youth – Humanitarian and development nexus.

b) Youth, global markets and entrepreneurship: the business leaders of tomorrow (facilitators: UNCTAD, UNCDF)

- Fostering the creation of an enabling entrepreneurial ecosystem for young people, which takes into consideration in a holistic manner the regulatory environment, the need for education, facilitation of technology exchange and innovation, as well as access to finance;
- A key barrier for young entrepreneurs is the lack of competencies and skills to establish their own businesses; thus, there is a need for capacity building efforts in education and skills development, and technology exchange and innovation;
- Enchaining policies and regulatory frameworks that increase access to finance for youth (i.e. legislation that is protective of youth as clients of financial service providers, develop national financial literacy strategies etc);
- Developing policies that create incentives for young entrepreneurs to contribute to sustainable development.

c) Quality apprenticeships: learning for the future of work (facilitators: ILO, UNICEF)

- Expanding investments in youth for quality education and skills development;
- Equipping youth with skills and competencies that are needed on the labour market;
- Enhancing young people’s employability and employment prospects today while supporting their personal development to ensure generations of young people will be equipped for the changing nature of jobs in the future;
- Gender dimensions of the school-to-work transition;
- Promoting skills development in sectors that foster sustainable development to help create sustainable livelihoods for youth;
- Improving livelihoods and addressing multidimensional poverty.

4. Questions for the audience

a) Youth in fragile states: jobs for peace and resilience.

- What is the road to 2030 for youth in fragile states, including in reference to the future of work?
- What can be done to create decent jobs for youth in fragile states?
- What is the role of youth organizations and private sector in supporting decent jobs in fragile states?
- What are best practices and lessons learned in improving youth employment in fragile states?
- How to tap into the capacities and potential of young refugees and migrants?

b) Youth, global markets and entrepreneurship: the business leaders of tomorrow.

- How can linkages to global markets and investments be strengthened to improve opportunities for young entrepreneurs?
- What policies are necessary for simplifying regulatory requirements (such as business registration) and promoting entrepreneurship?



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- What policies can enable an entrepreneurial ecosystem that is conducive for the development of youth-led enterprises?
 - What actions are necessary at the national level to address the lack of competencies and skills to establish a new business?
 - What kind of policies can enhance the access to affordable technology and enable young people to create new products and services?
 - What is the best way to strengthen the partnerships among governments, the private sector, NGOs and international organizations?
 - How can we develop the skills for tomorrow's business leaders, from digital to soft skills?
 - What policies can we promote to increase access to finance for youth?
 - How can social entrepreneurship be promoted to contribute to sustainable societies?
 - How can private enterprises help implementing Sustainable Development Goal 8?
 - What measures can governments and the private sector take to enhance the quality of self-employment among youth at a time when the nature of jobs is changing profoundly?
- c) Quality apprenticeships: work-based learning for the future of work.
- What measures can governments and private sector take to identify and deliver the skills youth need for the future?
 - What is the role of employers in improving learning and quality of jobs among youth?
 - What can be done to support young people's access to their first job – addressing the Catch-22?
 - How can work-based learning improve outcomes of youth in rural areas?



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5. Suggested reading materials

Reports

- ILO World Employment and Social Outlook 2016, Trends for Youth: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_513728/lang--en/index.htm
- Strategy for the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth. Report of the High-Level Committee on Programmes at its thirtieth session (CEB/2015/6). Annex IV: <http://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/High-Level%20Committee%20on%20Programmes/Document/CEB-2015-6-HLCP30-FINAL.pdf>
- The youth employment crisis: A call for action, resolution adopted by the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference, 2012: http://ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/101stSession/texts-adopted/WCMS_185950/lang--en/index.htm
- Report of the ILO's Director-General: The future of work centenary initiative: http://www.ilo.ch/ilc/ILCSessions/104/reports/reports-to-the-conference/WCMS_369026/lang--en/index.htm
- UNCDF: Policy Opportunities and Constraints to Access Youth Financial Services, 2012: http://www.uncdf.org/sites/default/files/Documents/accesstoyfs_1_0.pdf
- UNCTAD and Commonwealth Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/webdiaeed2015d1_en.pdf
- UNCTAD Youth Forum Declaration (TD/517) Moving towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development, Nairobi, 21 July 2016 (http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/td517_en.pdf)
- [Report of the Secretary-General. Entrepreneurship for development 71st Session of the GA](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/210) http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/210
- UNHCR: We believe in Youth Report.

Articles

- 3 Ways We Can Tackle Youth Employment: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/guy-ryder/three-ways-we-can-tackle-b_9019042.html
- Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth brochure: www.ilo.org/decentjobsforyouth