Youth Employment in Sub Saharan Africa - YESSA

International Conference

“Putting youths to work through research and practice”


in collaboration with
YESSA: Putting youths to work through research and practice

The African Youth Charter defines youth or young people as every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years. With close to 70 percent of its population aged below 25, Africa is the youngest continent in the world. The youth population constitutes about 37 percent of the total labour force in Africa and is projected to expand more rapidly than anywhere else in the world (OECD, 2011). In the meantime it is estimated that youths are three times more likely to be unemployed compared to adults (Africa Youth Report 2011). The share of unemployed youth among the total unemployed can be as high as 83% in Uganda, 68% in Zimbabwe, and 56% in Burkina. With youth representing 3 in 5 of the total unemployed and with an average of 72% of the youth population living with less than $2 a day, there is now ample evidence to suggest that positive growth rates in most African countries have failed to translate into more and better employment opportunities for the majority and especially for youth. Available evidence also shows that female youth face particularly much stronger challenges for many reasons ranging from discriminatory social norms to lower human capital levels because of uneven access to health and education.

Faced with the challenge of youth unemployment and the related risks for social unrest African policy makers have been showing concern as illustrated by the Key Priority Area 5 of the Ouagadougou 2004 Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation, which aims at the “Empowerment of women/youth by integrating them in the labour markets and to enable them to participate effectively in the development of poverty reduction strategies, policies and programmes”. More recently the 17th African Union Assembly Summit (Malabo, June 2011) on the theme of “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development” adopted a Declaration on Creating Employment for Accelerating Youth Development and Empowerment and committed to “REDUCE Youth and Women unemployment by at least two percent annually over the next five years as contained in the Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018”. In line with those commitments most African countries, regional and multilateral organisations have implemented many policy and program initiatives all aimed at boosting youth employment and entrepreneurship. Examples include national youth employment programs, UNDP Regional Programme for Youth Employment and Social Cohesion (YERP), and the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) featuring a partnership between the Africa Commission, the Youth Employment Network (YEN), and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In the aftermath of global economic and financial crisis and almost ten years after the Ouagadougou 2004 Plan of Action, there is evidence to suggest that youth employment is more than ever before a major challenge to most policy and development actors on the continent. Various factors may explain the current situation, including limited effectiveness of past or current youth employment promotion and entrepreneurship support initiatives and programs, limited knowledge of labour markets’ demand and supply factors, data availability / quality, limited policy coherence, etc.

With the adverse effects of the global financial and economic crisis lasting longer than expected and the issue of youth employment becoming more pressing than ever before, time may be appropriate to assess knowledge gaps, and revisit current practices and strategies for youth employment. The international conference on youth employment in Sub Saharan Africa will provide a platform for reflection, exchange and experience sharing. The conference will bring together national, regional and multilateral policy actors, African researchers and think tanks, as well as key relevant
stakeholders. Through a combination of parallel sessions with research papers and program initiative presentations, panel discussions and keynote speakers from Sub Saharan African and North Africa will share perspectives, reflect on current opportunities and challenges to youth employment, explore potential policy options and inform the development of a policy-oriented research agenda grounded into local realities.

The conference will serve as a prelude to the special session of the African Union’s Conference of Labour ministers - to be held in Windhoek in April 2014, and which will adopt a new declaration and a new plan of action for job promotion in Africa. The latter will in turn feed into the extraordinary summit of AU’s Heads of States to be held in September 2014 to mark Year 10 of the Ouaga declaration.

The YESSA conference is expected to result into:

(i) A critical review of current programs and policy initiatives pertaining to youth employment in Africa;

(ii) A refreshed perspective on the importance of evidence-based policy informed by quality local research;

(iii) The identification of knowledge gaps for improved youth employment policies;

(iv) Foundations for a strategic alliance of local think tanks / researchers and policy actors on the issue of youth employment;

(v) An African research and policy network on youth employment

(vi) A conference report
YESSA - Programme (provisional)

Location: Pullman Hotel (tbc) – Dakar

January 27, 2014

17:00 – 19:00: Welcome Cocktail

Day 1: January 28, 2014

8:00 – 8:40: Arrival of the guest(s)

8:45 – 8:55: Arrival of Special guest(s)

9:00 – 9:15: Arrival of HE the President of the Republic of Senegal

9:15 – 10:30: Opening ceremony

Facilitator: Dr. Ibrahima Hathie

Welcome Speeches:

- Dr. Jean Lebel / Dr. Stephen McGurk (tbc)
- Mr. Seydou Sissouma (tbc)
- Pr. Mthuli Ncube (tbc)
- H.E. Philippe Beaulne (tbc)

- Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko: AU Youth & Women Employment Pact for Africa (YWEP-A)

- H.E Macky Sall

10:30 – 11:00: Coffee / Photo Shoot
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>11:00 – 12:30:</th>
<th>Panel 1</th>
<th><strong>R2P, African Think Tanks and Youth Employment in Africa</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilitator:</td>
<td>Dr. Amadou B. Diallo, Senior Economist and Coordinator for the Joint Initiative on Youth Employment (AfDB)</td>
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<td>Speakers:</td>
<td>Mr. Kwame Owino, Kenya</td>
<td>Pr. Abdoulaye Diagne, Senegal</td>
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| 12:30 – 14:00: | Lunch Break |

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<tr>
<th>14:00 – 15:30:</th>
<th>Parallel Sessions 1</th>
<th>Session A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair:</td>
<td>Dr. Felix Nzue, Programmes Director, Unit of Economic Policy Analysis (ECOWAS)</td>
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Parallel Sessions 1

**Chair:** Dr. Paul Okwi

**Speakers:**
- Pr. Cally Ardington, Associate Professor & Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit – SALDRU
- Pr. George Kobou, Former Dean, faculty of economics, University of Yaoundé 2 V
- (tbc)

Session B

**Chair:** Senior Programme Officer, IDRC / SIG

**Speakers:**
- Paper, South Africa
- Paper, Cameroun
- Latine American experience (Brésil)

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15:30 – 16:00: **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:30: **Plenary session**

**Facilitator:** H.-Bernard Lecompte

**Speaker:** Oumar Diop, Senior Policy Officer at the African Union Commission

**Topic:** The AUC-AfDB-ECA-ILO joint initiative on youth employment in Africa

18:30 – 21:00: **Dinner**

**Facilitator:** Mr. Oumar Diop, Senior Policy Officer, AUC

**Keynote Speaker:** Pr. Aly Mbaye, Dean, and professor of Economics, Cheikh Anta Diop University, UCAD
### Parallel Sessions 2

**Session A**

**Chair:** Zuzana Brixiova  
Advisor to the Chief Economist and V.-P AfDB

**Speakers:**
- **Dr. Damien Lankoande,** Director of research, CEDRES
- **Kwame Owino,** Executive Director, IEA  
*Does Youth Unemployment require separate policy Responses?*
- **Pr. Kate Philip,** Advisor to the South African Presidency on Short Term Strategies for Job Creation and Sector specialist at the Trade and Industrial Policy Secretariat (TIPS) – Think Tank

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**Session B**

**Chair:** Samson Bel-Aube Nougbohooue  
Statistician, Department of Economic Affairs AUC

**Speakers:**
- **Dr. William Baah Boateng,** Advisor - Minister of Labour & International Institute for the Advanced Study of Cultures, Institutions and Economic Enterprise
- **Cyriaque Edon,** Director of academic affairs, IREEP
- **Pr. Marie Thérèse Mengue,** Vice- Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Management, UCAC  
*Training successful graduate job seekers in Cameroon*
- **Biram Faye,** Director, ANEJ  
*Senegal*

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### 10:30 – 11:00: Coffee Break

### 11:00 – 12:30: Ministerial Panel

*Policy coordination and youth employment in Africa*
Facilitator: Mr. Seydou Sissouma  
Commissioner for Human Development  
WAEMU

Speakers:  
• H.E. the Minister (tbc)  
Panel  
Burkina Faso

• H.E Mr Benoît Sambou -  
Minister of Youth, Employment and the promotion of Civic Values  
Panel  
Senegal

• H.E the Minister (tbc)  
Panel  
Benin

• Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki,  
Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD (tbc)  
Panel  
NEPAD

12:30 – 14:00: Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30  
Parallel Sessions 3  
Session A :  
Youth employment in agriculture

Facilitator: Mr. Augustin Niango  
Director de Cabinet, Département du développement Humain  
WAEMU

Speakers:  
• Dr. S. Mbowa, EPRC  
Opportunities for youth in the agricultural value chain in Uganda: The case for coffee and Maize  
Uganda

• Pr. K. Gyimah-Brempong  
IFPRI Program Leader & University of South Florida  
Agricultural Transformation and Youth Employment in Africa  
Nigeria

• Mr. Ehud Gachugu, Project Director, Kenya Youth Empowerment Project  
Policy Experience  
Kenya

Parallel Sessions 3  
Session B

Chair: Pr. Cally Arlington  
South Africa

Speakers:  
• Dr. Kasirye Ibrahim, EPRC  
Gender and youth employment in Rwanda  
Rwanda

• Mr. Cheikh Baye BEDDY, Dep. Coordinator of MCPA  
Expériences des politiques publiques, programmes et mesures  
Mauritania

-5-
Girum Abebe, EDRI
Policy Experience
Ethiopia

Stijn Broecke
Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs
Tackling graduate unemployment in North Africa through employment subsidies: A look at the SIVP programme in Tunisia
OECD

15:30 – 16:00: Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30: Plenary Session
Regional organisations & youth employment in Africa

Facilitator: Pr. K. Gyimah-Brempong
IFPRI

Speakers:
• Pr. Mthuli Ncube
Chief Economist & Vice President
AfDB

• Mr. Seydou Sissouma,
Commissioner for Human Development
WAEMU

• Dr. Adrienne Diop,
Commissioner for Human Development
ECOWAS

• Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko,
Commissioner for Social Affairs
AUC

• Dr. Anthony Mothae Maruping,
Commissioner for Economic Affairs
AUC

18:30 – 21:00: Dinner

Facilitator: Dr. Ibrahima Hathie, Research Director
IPAR - Sénégal

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Mustapha Nabli, Expert - Former Governor Central Bank of Tunisia & MENA Chief Economist and Director of the Social and Economic Development Group (The W.B.)
Economic Research Forum Board Member
Day 3: January 30, 2014

9:00 – 10:30: Panel 2

**Data, strategic research to policy planning and youth employment in Africa**

**Facilitator:** Dr. William Baah Boateng

**Speakers:**
- Dr. Louise Fox
  - Expert - Former WB Lead Economist, Africa region
  - USA
- Dr. Amadou B. Diallo
  - Senior Economist & Coordinator for the Joint Initiative on Youth Employment
  - AfDB
- Mr. Johannes Jütting, Manager
  - OECD/Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century - PARIS21
  - OECD
- Alexandre Kolev, Head
  - Social Cohesion Unit
  - OECD
- Mr. Henri-Bernard Solignac-Lecompte, Head
  - Africa Europe & the Middle East
  - OECD

10:30 – 11:00: Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30: Parallel Sessions 4 & Session A

**Chair:** Pr. Kouakou Kouadio Clément

**Speakers:**
- Pr. Massa Coulibally, Executive Director, GREAT
  - Paper
  - Mali
- Mr. Momar Sylla, ANSD
  - Paper
  - Sénégal
- Dr. Y. Benabdallah
  - *Youth employment in Algeria: a critical look at current policies*
  - Algeria
- Dr. Gemma Ahaibwe, EPRC
  - *Creating Youth Employment through Entrepreneurship: The Uganda Youth Venture Capital Fund*
  - Uganda
Parallel Sessions 4

Chair: Alexandre Kolev

Speakers:
- Dickson Malunda, IPAR
- Zuzana Brixiova, ADB and IZA
- Aboubacar IDANI, National coordinator, Special program of job creation for young people and women, PSCE/JF

Session B

Head - Social Cohesion Unit

Innovative Approaches to Incorporating Youths into Labour Markets in East Africa

Youth Entrepreneurship in Swaziland: Policy Analysis and Evidence from Swaziland

Policy Experience

12:30 – 14:00: Lunch Break

Parallel Sessions 5

Chair: Johannes Jütting

Speakers:
- Lacina Balma
- Daniel Joloba
- CRES

Session A

Manager

The link between education and the labor market (using a CGE model)

Beyond Technical Skills Training: The impact of Credit Counselling on Entrepreneurial Behaviour of Ugandan Youth

Youth employment in Senegal: the profile of job seekers

PEP

OECD/Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century - PARIS21

Burkina Faso

Uganda

Senegal
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<tr>
<th><strong>Parallel Sessions 5</strong></th>
<th><strong>Session B</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilitator:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dossina Yeo</strong></td>
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<td><strong>• Pr. Kouakou Kouadio Clément</strong>, CRMD, Université Felix Houphouët Boigny</td>
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<td><strong>• Ouissem Ghorbel, CEO, NUMU Consulting</strong></td>
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<td><strong>• Mr. Beit Allah Ahmed Leswed, General Manager, ANAPEJ</strong></td>
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15:30 – 16:00: **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 18:00: **Closing Plenary Session**

16:00 – 16:45: **Louise Fox** | **Youth Employment in Africa (Report)** |
| Expert - Former Lead Economist | The World Bank, Africa region |

16:45 – 18:00: **Closing Panel**

**What are the lessons learned for the Conference of Ministers of Labor of the African Union?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th><strong>Dr. Anthony Mothae Maruping</strong></th>
<th>Commissioner for Economic Affairs</th>
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<td><strong>Speakers:</strong></td>
<td><strong>• Dr. Ibrahima Assane Mayaki</strong></td>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
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<td><strong>• Mme. Josephine Mwuese Washima</strong></td>
<td>Special Adviser to the President of the Republic of Nigeria on employment</td>
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<td><strong>• Pr. Mustapha Nabli</strong></td>
<td>Expert – Former Chief Economist, Middle East and North Africa and Head of Group Economic and Social Development</td>
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MENA

Côte d’Ivoire

Mauritania
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Unit Chief, Africa, Europe &amp; Middle East</td>
<td>OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Arjan de Haan</td>
<td>Head, SIG Program Leader</td>
<td>IDRC</td>
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18:00  CONFERENCE END
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<td>ADB / BAD</td>
<td>African Development Bank / Banque Africaine de Développement</td>
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<td>The National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment</td>
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<td>ANSD</td>
<td>National Agency of Statistics and Demography</td>
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<td>AUC / AUC</td>
<td>African Union Commission / Commission of the African Union</td>
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<td>CEDAR</td>
<td>Centre for Studies, Documentation and Economic and Social Research</td>
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<td>Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa</td>
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<td>Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy</td>
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<td>PARIS21</td>
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<td>PSCE / JF</td>
<td>Special Program of Job Creation for Young People and Women</td>
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<td>Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit</td>
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<td>SIG / CPT</td>
<td>Supporting Inclusive Growth / Croissance Pour Tous</td>
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<td>Trade and Industrial Policy Secretariat</td>
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