



Youth Employment in Sub Saharan Africa - YESSA
International Conference

“Putting youths to work through research and practice”

The Pullman Hotel (tbc). Dakar, Senegal: 28 - 30 January, 2014

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	Director of Research	IPAR - Senegal
❖ Welcome Speeches:	 Dr. Jean Lebel / Dr. Stephen McGurk (tbc)	President / Vice-President	IDRC
	 Mr. Seydou Sissouma (tbc)	Commissioner for Human Development	UEMOA
	 Pr. Mthuli Ncube	Chief Economist & Vice President	AfDB
	 H.E. Philippe Beaulne (tbc)	Canadian Ambassador to Senegal	Canada
	❖ Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko: <i>AU Youth & Women Employment Pact for Africa (YWEP-A)</i>	Commissioner for Social Affairs	AUC
❖ H.E Macky Sall		President of the Republic of Senegal	






10:30 – 11:00:

Coffee / Photo Shoot

11:00 – 12:30: **Panel 1** ***R2P, African Think Tanks and Youth Employment in Africa***

Facilitator: **Dr. Amadou B. Diallo,** Senior Economist and AfDB
Coordinator for the
Joint Initiative on Youth
Employment)

Speakers:

-  **Mr. Kwame Owino** Kenya
-  **Pr. Abdoulaye Diagne** Senegal
-  **Dr Cheikh Oumar Ba** Senegal
-  **Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye** Uganda
-  **Pr. Kate Philip** South Africa
-  **Pr. Idrissa Ouedraogo** Burkina Faso

12:30 – 14:00: **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:30: **Parallel Sessions 1** **Session A**

Chair: **Dr. Felix Nzue** Programmes Director, ECOWAS
Unit of Economic Policy
Analysis

Speakers :

- **Ibrahima Hathie** Research Paper Senegal
Director of IPAR – Senegal
- **Ebere Uneze**, Executive Paper Nigeria
Director, CSEA
- **Asclépiade Mufungizi**, Policy Experience DRC
Support Unit for Youth
Insertion / Diobass
Plateform, at Kivu
- **Dr. Ibrahim Abba**, Policy Experience Cameroon
Cooperation Head, Division
of Research, Trend and
Cooperation, Ministry of
Employment and
Vocational Training.

	<u>Parallel Sessions 1</u>	<u>Session B</u>	
Chair:	Dr. Paul Okwi	Senior Programme Officer	IDRC / SIG
Speakers :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 √ • (tbc) 	Paper Paper Latine American experience (Brésil)	South Africa Cameroun

15:30 – 16:00: Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30: Plenary session

Facilitator:	H.-Bernard Lecompte	Solignac-	Head of Africa, Europe & the Middle East	OECD
Speaker:	Oumar Diop , Senior Policy Officer at the African Union Commission		<i>The AUC-AfDB-ECA-ILO joint initiative on youth employment in Africa</i>	

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

Day 2: January 29, 2014

9:00 – 10:30:	<u>Parallel Sessions 2</u>	<u>Session A</u>	
Chair:	Zuzana Brixiova	Advisor to the Chief Economist and V.-P	AfDB
Speakers :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Damien Lankoande, Director of research, CEDRES • Kwame Owino, Executive Director, IEA • 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 	Paper <i>Does Youth Unemployment require separate policy Responses?</i>	Burkina Faso Kenya South Africa
	<u>Parallel Sessions 2</u>	<u>Session B</u>	
Chair:	Samson Bel-Aube Nougbohoue	Statistician, Department of Economic Affairs	AUC
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Biram Faye, Director, ANEJ 	Paper Paper Training successful graduate job seekers in Cameroon	Ghana Benin Cameroun Senegal

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. the Minister (tbc) • H.E Mr Benoît Sambou - Minister of Youth , Employment and the promotion of Civic Values • H.E the Minister (tbc) • Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD (tbc) 	Panel Panel Panel Panel	Burkina Faso Senegal Benin 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. S. Mbowa, EPRC • Pr. K. Gyimah-Brempong IFPRI Program Leader & University of South Florida • Mr. Ehud Gachugu, Project Director, <i>Kenya Youth Empowerment Project</i>) 	<i>Opportunities for youth in the agricultural value chain in Uganda: The case for coffee and Maize</i> <i>Agricultural Transformation and Youth Employment in Africa</i> Policy Experience	Uganda Nigeria Kenya

Parallel Sessions 3

Session B

Chair:	Pr. Cally Arlington		South Africa
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kasirye Ibrahim, EPRC • Mr. Cheikh Baye BEDDY, Dep. Coordinator of MCPA 	<i>Gender and youth employment in Rwanda</i> <i>Expériences des politiques publiques, programmes et mesures</i>	Rwanda Mauritania

*en faveur de l'emploi des
jeunes en Mauritanie*

- **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

<u>9:00 – 10:30:</u>	<u>Panel 2</u>	<i>Data, strategic research to policy planning and youth employment in Africa</i>	
Facilitator:	Dr. William Baah Boateng		Ghana
Speakers :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Louise Fox • Dr. Amadou B. Diallo , • Mr. Johannes Jütting, • Alexandre Kolev, Head • Mr. Henri-Bernard Solignac-Lecompte, Head 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert - Former WB Lead Economist, Africa region Joint Initiative on Youth Employment OECD/Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century - PARIS21 Social Cohesion Unit Africa Europe & the Middle East 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA AfDB OECD OECD OECD

10:30 – 11:00: Coffee Break

<u>11:00 – 12:30:</u>	<u>Parallel Sessions 4</u>	<u>Session A</u>	
Chair:	Pr. Kouakou Kouadio Clément	Centre for Micro-Economic Development Research	Université Felix Houphouët Boigny
Speakers :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pr. Massa Coulibally, Executive Director, GREAT • Mr Momar Sylla, ANSD • Dr. Y. Benabdallah • Dr. Gemma Ahaibwe, EPRC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper Paper <i>Youth employment in Algeria: a critical look at current policies</i> <i>Creating Youth Employment through Entrepreneurship: The Uganda Youth Venture Capital Fund</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mali Sénégal Algeria Uganda

	<u>Parallel Sessions 4</u>	<u>Session B</u>	
Chair:	Alexandre Kolev	Head - Social Cohesion Unit	OECD
Speakers :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dickson Malunda, IPAR 	<i>Innovative Approaches to Incorporating Youths into Labour Markets in East Africa</i>	Ruanda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zuzana Brixiova, ADB and IZA 	<i>Youth Entrepreneurship in Swaziland: Policy Analysis and Evidence from Swaziland</i>	AfDB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboubacar IDANI, National coordinator, Special program of job creation for young people and women, PSCE/JF 	Policy Experience	Burkina Faso

12:30 – 14:00:

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30

Parallel Sessions 5

Session A

PEP

Chair:	Johannes Jütting	Manager	OECD/Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century - PARIS21
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacina Balma 	<i>The link between education and the labor market (using a CGE model)</i>	Burkina Faso
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Joloba 	<i>Beyond Technical Skills Training: The impact of Credit Counselling on Entrepreneurial Behaviour of Ugandan Youth</i>	Uganda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRES 	<i>Youth employment in Senegal: the profile of job seekers</i>	Senegal

	<u>Parallel Sessions 5</u>	<u>Session B</u>	
Facilitator:	Dossina Yeo	Sen. Officer, Economic Policies, Research & Statistics Department of Economic Affairs	AUC
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pr. Kouakou Kouadio Clément, CRMD, Université Felix Houphouët Boigny • Ouissem Ghorbel, CEO, NUMU Consulting • Mr. Beit Allah Ahmed Leswed, General Manager, ANAPEJ 	<p><i>Effects of active employment policies on the life of urban youth unemployment Cote d'Ivoire</i></p> <p>Field experience</p> <p>Policy Experience</p>	<p>Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p><i>MENA</i></p> <p>Mauritania</p>
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15:30 – 16:00:	Coffee Break		
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16:00 – 18:00:	<u>Closing Plenary Session</u>		
16:00 – 16:45:	Louise Fox Expert - Former Lead Economist The World Bank, Africa region		Youth Employment in Africa(Report)
16:45 – 18:00:	<u>Closing Panel</u>		
<i>What are the lessons learned for the Conference of Ministers of Labor of the African Union?</i>			
Facilitator:	Dr. Anthony Mothae Maruping	Commissioner for Economic Affairs	AUC
Speakers :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki • Mme. Josephine Mwuese Washima • Pr. Mustapha Nabli 	<p>Executive Secretary</p> <p>Special Adviser to the President of the Republic of Nigeria on employment</p> <p>Expert – Former Chief Economist, Middle East and North Africa and Head of Group Economic and Social Development</p>	<p>NEPAD</p> <p>The Republic of Nigeria</p> <p>Economic Research Forum Board Member</p>

- **Alexandre Kolev** Director, Unit for Social Cohesion OECD
- **Mr. Henri-Bernard Solignac-Lecompte** Unit Chief, Africa, Europe & Middle East OECD
- **Dr. Arjan de Haan** Head, SIG Program Leader IDRC

18:00

CONFERENCE END

ACRONYMS

ADB / BAD	African Development Bank / Banque Africaine de Développement
ANAPEJ	The National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment
ANEJ	The National Agency for Youth Employment
ANSD	National Agency of Statistics and Demography
AUC / AUC	African Union Commission / Commission of the African Union
CEDAR	Centre for Studies, Documentation and Economic and Social Research
CSEA	Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EDRI	Ethiopian Development Research Institute
EPRC	Economic Policy Research Center
GREAT	Research Group Theoretical and Applied Economics
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IEA	Institute of Economic Affairs
IIAS	Institute for the Advanced Study of Cultures, Institutions and Economic Enterprise
IPAR	Institute of Policy Analysis and Research
IREEP	Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century

PSCE / JF	Special Program of Job Creation for Young People and Women
SALDRU	Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit
SIG / CPT	Supporting Inclusive Growth / Croissance Pour Tous
TIPS	Trade and Industrial Policy Secretariat
UCAC	Catholic University of Central Africa
UCAD	University Cheikh Anta Diop
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WB/BM	World Bank / Banque Mondiale