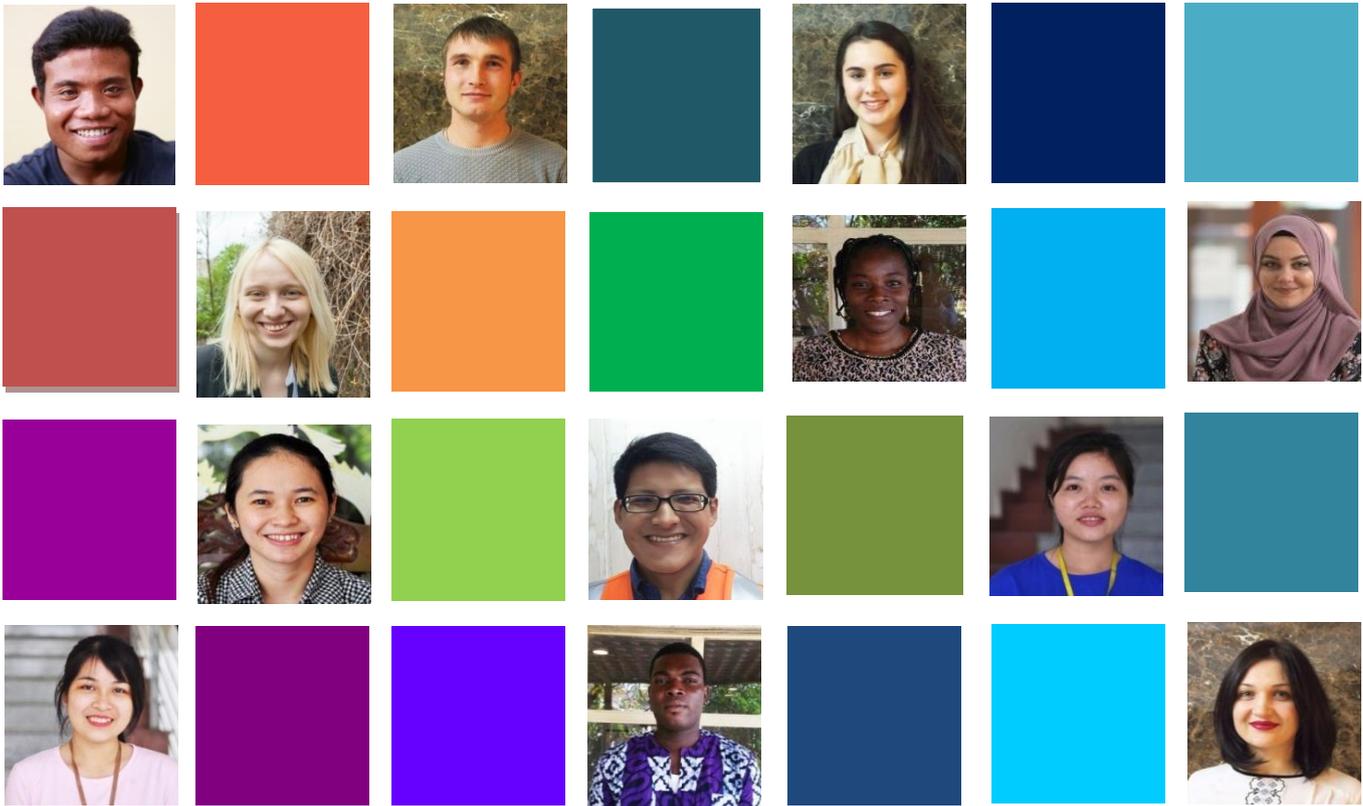




This project is co-funded
by the European Union



The EU-OECD Youth Inclusion project
invites you to

**Delivering on national youth strategies:
A high-level policy dialogue on youth well-being
&
OECD Global Forum on Development**

4-5 April 2018
OECD Conference Centre

Join the conversation on Twitter: @OECD_Centre with #YouthInclusion & #OECDgfd

Delivering on national youth strategies: A high-level policy dialogue on youth well-being (FR/EN/SP)

Wednesday, 4 April 2018, Room D (Château)

Today's world youth population, ages 10 to 24, is 1.8 billion people strong and represents the largest cohort ever to be transitioning to adulthood. The vast majority of these young people - 88% - live in developing countries. That number will practically double in the least developed countries by 2050. These young people are the next generation and a unique asset. If properly nurtured, they can be engines for economic and social progress. However, if policies and programmes fail to reach young people, in particular disadvantaged youth, and give them a voice in decision-making, the youth bulge may well turn into a brake for economic and social development, leading to increasing poverty, illegal migration, failed citizenship or, worse, social conflict.

Evidence from the EU-OECD Youth Inclusion project's *Youth Well-being Policy Reviews* conducted in nine¹ developing countries suggests that a large segment of youth continues to remain outside of mainstream economic and social life. Gaps in initial education and skills policies are forcing too many young people to leave the school system at an early age, unprepared for work and life. Unemployment and vulnerable employment are widespread among youth: young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and this is an important cause of social unrest. Adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs are poorly addressed while new health risks have emerged. Gender-based discrimination in social norms is an important barrier to access SRH. Too many young people remain excluded from decision making processes that affect their lives.

In this context, many countries throughout the world have expressed a growing political will to develop comprehensive policy frameworks that better respond to young peoples' needs and aspirations. Efforts to support more effective policies for young people are mirrored in the fact that today nearly two out of three countries in the world have a national youth policy (or strategy). However more needs to be done to turn these strategies into effective interventions.

With co-financing from the European Union, the OECD Development Centre implemented the Youth Inclusion project (2014-2018), which analysed policies for youth in nine developing countries, using a well-being approach, and carried out global research on youth entrepreneurship, youth aspirations and rural youth livelihoods.

Objectives of the meeting

The objectives of this meeting are to:

- i) present and discuss the main findings and policy recommendations of the Youth Inclusion project;
- ii) share country experiences in implementing national youth policies and programmes;
- iii) identify innovative approaches to improve youth programmes design and implementation, and partnerships.

The meeting brings together high-level policy makers from the project's partner countries and representatives from OECD member countries, international organisations, youth organisations, the donor community and the private sector to exchange good practices and lessons learnt in implementing youth policies and programmes and to identify innovative approaches.

¹ Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Jordan, Malawi, Moldova, Peru, Togo, Viet Nam. For more information about the Youth Inclusion project, please visit: <http://oe.cd/1h0>

Agenda

13:30 – 13:45 Introduction

Mario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Centre

Rupert Schlegelmilch, Head of the European Union Delegation to OECD and UNESCO

Mónica Aspe, Chair of the OECD Development Centre's Governing Board, Ambassador of Mexico to the OECD

13:45 – 14:45 Session 1 – Youth aspirations and the reality of the labour market: How to narrow the gap?

As many as 600 million jobs will need to be created worldwide over the next 15 years to keep employment rates at their current level. The employment challenge comes from both demand side factors, i.e. insufficient formal job creation and supply side factors such as demographic pressure and skills mismatch. However, there is also a large gap between youth employment preferences and the reality of jobs in developing countries. Policy makers are increasingly concerned with the quality of jobs as a factor of sustained development, job satisfaction and productivity. But they have little information about young people's expectations, and how to bring them closer with opportunities in the real world.

This session presents the findings from the global research carried out by the project on youth entrepreneurship, youth aspirations and rural youth livelihoods and discuss policy recommendations.

Moderator **Maria Rosa De Paolis**, Policy Officer, Employment and Social Inclusion, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

Presentation **Alexandre Kolev**, Head of Social Cohesion Unit, OECD Development Centre

Discussants **Niall O'Higgins**, Senior Research Specialist, Youth Employment Programme, International Labour Organisation

Bernd Seiffert, Local Institutions and Rural Livelihoods Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

14:45 – 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 – 17:00 Session 2 – National youth strategies: How to move from paper to action?

Many governments are demonstrating growing political will to develop comprehensive policies that better respond to the needs and aspirations of young people. Nearly two out of three countries in the world today have a national youth strategy. Such promising efforts, however, continue to be undermined by serious challenges: fragmented responsibilities and weak capacity in national administrations, lack of reliable knowledge and data on youth, insufficient financial resources and limited engagement with young people themselves in the policy design and implementation.

This session gathers high-level policy makers from the project's partner countries to share their experiences in implementing national youth strategies, setting priorities and engaging with youth and development partners in the process. The roundtable discussion between government representatives, development practitioners and youth aims to highlight best practices and guide the way forward.

Moderator **Clare Woodcraft**, Executive Director, Woodcraft Associates Inc and Former CEO of Emirates Foundation

Setting the scene **Ji-Yeun Rim**, EU-OECD Youth Inclusion Project Co-ordinator, OECD Development Centre

Roundtable discussion with Ministers and policy makers in charge of youth **Victoire Tomegah-Dogbe**, Minister of Grassroots Development, Crafts, Youth and Youth Employment, Togo

Sidi Tiémoko Touré, Minister for the Promotion of Youth, Youth Employment and Civic Engagement, Côte d'Ivoire

affairs **Nguyen Trong Thua**, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Viet Nam
Tauch Choeun, Director General of Youth Directorate, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia
Ahmad Nawaf, Director of Youth Leadership Development Centre, Ministry of Youth, Jordan
Judith Msusa, Deputy Director of Youth Department, Minister of Labour, Youth, Sports and Manpower Development, Malawi
Ion Donea, Head of Youth Department, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Moldova
Silvia Pedraza, Project Manager, INJUVE, El Salvador
Ken Lohento, Senior Programme Coordinator, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
Christophe Yvetot, Permanent Representative to the European Union, Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Christian Mersmann, Policy Advisor, Global Donor Platform on Rural Development
Mattia Prayer Galletti, Lead Technical Specialist/Rural Youth, International Fund for Agricultural Development
Laura Hurley, Technical Advisor, CSE & Youth Services, International Planned Parenthood Federation
Max Trejo, Secretary-General, International Youth Organization for Iberoamerica (OIJ)
Anna Widegren, Secretary-General, European Youth Forum (EYF)
Marcel Stefanik, Global Coordinator – Youth Engagement, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Desiree Hagenaaers, Policy Coordinator, Trade Facilitation & Regional Integration, Department for Sustainable Economic Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Natascha Skjaldgaard, Danish Youth Delegate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

17:00 – 17:30 Conclusion and closing remarks

Maria Rosa De Paolis, Policy Officer, Employment and Social Inclusion, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission
Naoko Ueda, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre

17:30 – 19:30 Cocktail



OECD Global Forum on Development (FR/EN)

The Power of 4 Billion: Inclusive Agendas for Women and Youth

Thursday, 5 April 2018, CC1

Empowering women and youth – who together make up 62% of the global population – empowers us all. There are currently 4.6 billion women and youth. And yet, in most places, being young or a woman makes you more likely to be at a disadvantage in terms of health, education or jobs and other economic opportunities. Rather than marginalising more than half of the world's people, the international community must heed the call to convert strength in numbers into strong and sustained development for all. It is time to recognise women and youth issues as issues that impact development for all, today, in 2030 and beyond.

Indeed, pro-women and pro-youth policies are prerequisites for achieving the universal ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. While the empowerment of women and youth are important development goals in their own right, the multiplier effect that these policies have on development and economic outcomes makes them essential to the new universal development agenda. A growing body of evidence shows that economies are stronger in countries where women and youth actively participate in all aspects, from education to politics and the job market. Greater female education, bargaining power and earnings also translate into greater investments in children and youth's education and health, leading to more sustainable development and more stable societies for all.

The Sustainable Development Goals provide a roadmap for how to empower women and youth for universal benefits. Now is the time to turn words into action, targets into real results.

This means that everyone has a stake in youth employment. As many as 600 million jobs will need to be created worldwide over the next 15 years to maintain current employment rates, which will have far-reaching negative effects if not achieved. The challenge is that the majority of youth today in developing countries are low-skilled and low-educated, widening the productivity gap. Policies will need to be targeted to address the skills gap of this large group of disadvantaged youth.

This also means that while everyone has a stake in advancing gender equality. Nearly 90% of the world's 143 economies have at least one legal difference restricting women's opportunities. Of those, 79 economies have laws that restrict the types of jobs that women can do. Empowering women drives more peaceful societies, a baseline for universal development. Recent OECD research shows that while women's active participation contributes to peace and resilience, unequal gender relations can drive conflict and violence.

To galvanize the international community, the OECD dedicates its 2018 Global Forum on Development to discussing, debating and determining the best way forward for turning the promise of women and youth empowerment into reality. Experts, youth and government representatives will lead conversations on tailoring jobs for youth, especially rural youth, addressing skills mismatch, increasing women's access to economic opportunities by recognising and reducing women's unpaid care and domestic work, and on understanding the links between gender inequality and conflict.

Agenda

8:30 – 9:30 *Registration and welcome coffee*

9:30 – 10:30 **Opening Session**

Empowering women and youth – who together make up 62% of the global population – empowers us all. There are currently 4.6 billion women and youth in the world and, in most places, they are more likely to be at a disadvantage in terms of health, education or economic opportunities. The international community has a roadmap, enshrined in Agenda 2030, but progress has been slow. The 2018 Global Forum on Development will discuss the way forward for turning the promise of women and youth empowerment into reality.

Keynote speakers **Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark

Opening remarks **Cornelia Richter**, Vice-President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director General for International Co-operation and Development, European Commission
Yemurai Nyoni, Youth Ambassador & Founder, Dot Youth Organisation, Zimbabwe

Moderator **Masamichi Kono**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

10:30 – 12:30 **Session 1 - The Economic Empowerment of Youth and Women in Developing Countries: Which are the Right Policy Levers?**

The economic empowerment of youth and women is about improving their own lives as well as breaking down barriers that prevent them from making the world a better place for all. Indeed, economies are more resilient, productive and inclusive when they reduce gender inequalities and actively support the equal participation of youth and women in all spheres of life. Specific policies to support young people and women's economic empowerment are needed, but are not enough. How can they be better linked with other universal economic policies to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030?

Panel discussion **Sidi Tiémoko Touré**, Minister for the Promotion of Youth, Youth Employment, and Civic Engagement of Côte d'Ivoire (MPJEJSC)

Max Trejo, Secretary-General, International Youth Organization for Iberoamerica (OIJ)

Katja Iversen, Chief Executive Officer, Women Deliver

Elizabeth Aguilung-Pangalangan, Director, Institute of Human Rights, University of the Philippines, Philippines

Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, Chair, Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

Mónica Aspe, Chair of the Development Centre's Governing Board and Ambassador of Mexico to the OECD

Moderator **Gabriela Ramos**, OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 15:15 Session 2 - Investing in Rural Youth: What are the Priorities?

For the coming decades, rural youth around the world will continue to grow in numbers, and face the starkest challenges. New research by the OECD stresses that employment is at the heart of their well-being. Rural youth are often under-employed or employed in low productivity sectors. They depend strongly on household-based activities and informal jobs. The massive creation of off-farm, quality jobs for rural youth is thus a necessity. One promising option is to invest more and better in agro-food industries – including production, processing and marketing. Participants will discuss specific challenges rural youth face and what specific solutions are required.

Panel discussion **Victoire Tomegah-Dogbe**, Minister of Grassroots Development, Crafts, Youth, and Youth Employment (MDBAJEJ), Togo

Awa Caba, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, SOORETUL, Senegal

David Asiamah, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Agro Mindset, Ghana

Hans Jöhr, Corporate Head of Agriculture, Nestlé

Ibrahima Coulibaly, President, National Coordination of Peasant Organisations, Mali

Moderator **Mario Pezzini**, Director of the Development Centre, OECD and Special Advisor to the OECD Secretary General on Development

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 – 17:00 Session 3 - Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Fragile and Conflict Affected Contexts

Nowhere are women at a greater disadvantage than in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. But where women actively participate in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes, the chances for peace and resilience improve. Moreover, such processes can provide opportunities to advance the recognition of women's rights. As recent OECD research shows, this requires addressing the root causes of gender inequalities, conflict and fragility, and the full range of connections between them. How effective are development partners and how can they improve?

Panel discussion **Her Excellency First Lady of Afghanistan Rula Ghani**

Her Royal Highness Princess Abze Djigma, Burkina Faso

Carin Jämtin, Director General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Kawinzi Muiu, Director for Gender, UN World Food Programme (WFP)

Noella Muhamiriza, Girl Ambassador for Peace, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, Democratic Republic of Congo

Moderator **Jorge Moreira da Silva**, Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

17:00 – 18:00 The Way Forward: Inclusive Agendas for Women and Youth

Building on the conclusions and concrete suggestions of the day, participants in this session will discuss a way forward and agree on key messages for policymakers.

Panel discussion **Masamichi Kono**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

Yemurai Nyoni, Youth Ambassador and Founder, Dot Youth Organisation, Zimbabwe

Ahmed Badr, Social entrepreneur and Founder of Narratio, Iraq

Hajer Sharief, Youth Ambassador and Founder, Cordaid and Together We Build it, Libya

Moderator **Clare Woodcraft**, Executive Director, Woodcraft Associates Inc. and Former CEO of Emirates Foundation

The OECD Development Centre

The OECD Development Centre was established in 1962 as an independent platform for knowledge sharing and policy dialogue between OECD member countries and developing economies, allowing these countries to interact on an equal footing. Today, 27 OECD countries and 24 non-OECD countries are members of the Centre. The Centre draws attention to emerging systemic issues likely to have an impact on global development and more specific development challenges faced by today's developing and emerging economies. It uses evidence-based analysis and strategic partnerships to help countries formulate innovative policy solutions to the global challenges of development. For more information on the Centre and its members, please see www.oecd.org/dev.

The European Commission

The European Commission is the executive body of the European Union founded in 1958 by the Treaty of Rome. Its Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG-DEVCO) is responsible for the EU development policy, aiming primarily at the reduction of poverty in the world. The EU has a long history of supporting interventions in the major domains that affect young people to combat social exclusion and poverty. The importance of youth inclusion is acknowledged in the Communication 'Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: An Agenda for Change'. The Communication recommends that the EU support sustainable and inclusive growth, defined as people's ability to participate in, and benefit from, wealth and job creation; it emphasises the youth dimension stating that it is critical for societies to offer a future to young people. Furthermore, the main recommendations of the EU study on Social Inclusion and Youth in EC External Cooperation highlights the need to strengthen support of evidence-based dialogue on youth inclusion through empirical research and analysis and to foster partnerships and dissemination of good practices in the field of youth. Young people are also at the heart of the new European Consensus on Development. The Consensus identifies youth key drivers of sustainable development and calls the EU and its member to take them into account in planning and implementing external development cooperation actions. This means focusing on concrete actions to meet the specific needs of youth by increasing quality employment and entrepreneurship; supporting effective education, vocational training, skills development, and access to digital technologies and services; and fostering youth empowerment and participation.

For more information on EC International Cooperation and Development, please visit https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/home_en