

The Conference and Lunch is organised by the Olusegun Obasanjo Foundation and the African Union Commission

WHAT AFRICA CAN DO NOW

"TO ACCELERATE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT"

Draft Agenda

Day 1

Wednesday, 29th January 2014

Time: 9:00 hrs – 17:30 hrs

Venue: UNECA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

African countries have seen tremendous economic growth over the recent years, however Youth unemployment is still a pressing issue that needs to be addressed by policy makers and African leaders. This objective of the gathering will be to discuss how to accelerate youth empowerment in Africa from policy, labour market and Government, Private sector, philanthropic and Young people perspectives.





Background:

- **The Ouagadougou Declaration and its Plan of Action** for the Promotion of Employment and Poverty Alleviation was adopted in September 2004, at an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly, the Heads of State and Government;
- In January 2010 AU Heads of State and Government adopted a Decision to promote youth volunteerism as a tool towards youth empowerment and employability skills;
- In April 2011, the 8th session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission; the Ministers committed to **achieve accelerated reduction in youth unemployment by 2% per annum** through the development, financing and implementation of Multisectoral and crosscutting Youth Employment Action Plans;
- The **Malabo Summit** held in June 2011 on "accelerating youth empowerment" calls on stronger engagement of the Private sector and development partners towards promoting youth Employment. The decision also calls for the establishment of a dedicated Youth Fund for the promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship and skills development
- **The OOF and the Clinton Global Initiative** held a side meeting in New York in September 2013 titled "Creating Jobs for Youth in Africa by Catalyzing Private Sector Investment"
- **Youth and Women Employment Pact** to be presented in Windhoek in April 2014.
- **African Agenda 2063** and the recommendations from the youth in May and November 2013 towards decent employment

Time	Activity Item	Moderator and Speaker
7:30 - 9:00	Arrival and registration	Protocol /ECA
9:00 - 10:00	Opening – Welcome Address – 10 min – by H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo – Introductory Remarks – 10 min – by Deputy Executive Secretary UNECA – Opening Remarks – 10 min – by Commissioner AUC – Setting the ground: what has Africa achieved thus far on youth employment – 15 min - by Youth from AUC and ILO representative	Master of Ceremony: Dr Abdul-Hakim Elwaer
10:00 - 10:30	HEALTH BREAK	
10:30 - 12:00	PANEL 1: PLENARY Presentation 1: What can the Private sector and Business do to promote Youth Employment in Africa – 25min – Realizing the Potential of the youth – Africa's talent gap vs. Youth unemployment – What African Business can contribute/ How can African Businesses do to contribute to Youth employment Presentation 2: What Governments Can Do Now to promote Youth Employment – 25min	Moderator: Jean-Louis Ekra, Chairman, Afrexim Bank Panellists: – Ashish Thakkar – Bridgette Radebe – Andy Roland Nguezi Nguezi



	– Why Africa is not engaged in setting clear Youth Employment policies, programs and action plans? – How can youth be concretely mainstreamed into all Government priorities? – Which Government organ is the most relevant structure responsible for Youth employment and how can youth interact for innovations and initiatives for job creation? Discussions – 40min	– Youssou N'Dour – Kenya Youth (please update) – Zenith Bank – World Bank
12:00 - 12:10	Summary of the morning Session	Rapporteur
12:10 - 13:30	LUNCH BREAK	
13:30 - 15:30	BREAKOUT SESSION – 2 groups Youth responses about Job creation and the role of entrepreneurship in concretely engaging Youth Employment – Government Policies: effectiveness of youth employment policies and action plans; who in government is responsible for youth employment; – Employability: mismatch between labor market demand and skills supply; quality of education in producing skills; role of labor market information systems (observatories) in forecasting skills need; – Entrepreneurship: conducive environment (bank loans, tax breaks, etc); entrepreneurship training and skills development; protecting intellectual property and copy rights; – Private sector: creation of entry level job positions; human resource development and trainings for junior professionals; collaboration with academic institutions; internship/mentorship/aparentship programs	Each plenary session will be chaired by a nominated representative
15:30 - 16:00	HEALTH BREAK	
16:00 - 17:20	PLENARY – Recommendations & Message to Leaders – Discussions – Selection of 20 Youth to attend intergenerational dialogue;	Group reporters will only report on 3 main recommendations or 3 key messages – 5 minutes each
17:20 - 17:30	PLENARY Closing Session	H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo