



Jwara Building, West Field
Serrekunda
Banjul, GAMBIA

Note: Please attach a detailed description of the event in not more than 3 pages, including all organizing partners, thematic focus, speakers and potential contribution to the 3rd Pan African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development.

Side Event title:	<i>Roles of Youth in Creating Urban Decent & Sustainable Jobs in Africa</i>
Name of organizing partnering Institution(s), Contact Person, email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Chamber of Commerce, The Gambia Contact: Baboucarr Kebbeh, ryankebbeh11@gmail.com 2. Habitat Thursday, Nigeria Ruth Agbor Contact: ruthagboro1@yahoo.com 3. Salimatou Education Foundation, The Gambia Contact: Salimatou Fatty, salimatoufatty@gmail.com 4. Kanifing Municipal Council, The Gambia Contact: Kemo Bojang kemobaa@gmail.com

1. BACKGROUND:

With 1.8 billion people between the ages of 15 and 29, the world is home to more young people today than ever before. Close to 87 percent of them, live in developing countries. More than 200 million young people are either unemployed or have job but live in poverty¹. Youth accounts for 60 percent of Africa's jobless². A World Bank Survey in 2011 showed that about 40 percent of those who join rebel movements were driven by lack of jobs. Youth unemployment remains a global challenge and top concern meeting the Global Goals and Africa Agenda 2063.

The global unemployment rate in 2017 was 5.6 per cent, down from 6.4 per cent in 2000. The decline has slowed since 2009, when it hit 5.9 per cent. Youth are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults, with the global youth unemployment rate at 13 per cent in 2017.³

Since 2008, more than half the world's population has lived in urban areas, a proportion expected to rise to 60 per cent by 2030. African countries face a daunting challenge of high urban youth unemployment, and suspected to climbing into crisis level. For most African countries, rates of unemployment are above global average of 12 percent. The cause is not far from unprecedented rural-urban migration, spatial disparities, low youth policy implementation, skills mismatch

¹ ILO: Employment <https://bit.ly/2FOo5X4>

² Worldbank: Data

³ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018



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between the labor market and education and training systems; leading to socio-political and economic problems in urban societies including crime, poverty, violence, juvenile delinquency, substance use, depression, suicides, etc.⁴

In 2010, 47% of youth in sub-Saharan Africa were unpaid workers. Issues like low levels of education, the lack of job creation and insufficient social protection means that many youth are also under-employed, engaged in low-income self-employment and informal jobs. Youth in developing countries account for 23.5% of the working poor and more than 200 million youth are working-poor, earning under US\$ 2 a day, mostly employed in the informal sectors of developing countries.

RATIONALE

The ten countries with the lowest youth development are all from sub-Saharan Africa, which, according to the United Nations, is the only region that will have a more youthful population in 2050 than it does currently. The next few decades, therefore, are an unprecedented window of opportunity for the world and developing countries, Africa in particular, to reap the promise of demographic dividend if properly harnessed.

Cities are engines of growth, generating nearly 80 per cent of global GDP. Cities also face mounting problems: increasing air pollution, unplanned land use, growing slum-hubs and lack of basic services. Opportunities to gain employment in secured and meaningful jobs, or pursue financial independence, are a key feature of well-functioning urban residents. Without access to employment or dignity of labour young people are unable to develop skills, and become established independent citizens.⁵

Young urban dwellers (including all citizens) have the right to safe drinking water; adequate sanitation; affordable and clean energy; safe transport; quality and affordable education, healthcare and housing; access road and security. All these go hand-in-hand with economic growth, social inclusion, poverty reduction and equality.

Notably, the right to safe, decent and sustainable jobs play pivotal role in enabling the achievement of most rights of urban citizens. Almost all the other services are dependent on a function of the consumers' ability to afford the services. Of course, young people count for high proportion of users. Therefore, to cope with urban stress, maintain an adequate standard of living and quality of life, young people need decent jobs and good wages to be able to afford these services. Not only as job seekers but as well as job creators.

⁴ Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences: Urban Youth Unemployment in Africa: Whither Socio-Economic Problems; Stephen Mago (PhD) 2014.

⁵ Fast Facts: The Youth Development Index. The Commonwealth 2016



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Recognizing that African governments –regionally and nationally are confronting unemployment in different ways, to reduce the biggest hurdles of incessant political instability, slow structural transformation, skills mismatch between the labor market and education and training systems, lack of innovation, technology transfer, markets, mentors and networks, jobs without rights and entitlement, business conditions and slow pace of policy implementation.

Transitioning towards more sustainable and resilient urbanization (SDG 11, 6, 7, 4) requires an integrated approach that recognizes that the challenge of youth unemployment and the solutions (SDG 8) thereof are interrelated. Furthermore, key aspects of decent work are widely embedded in the target of the 16 goals of the United Nation’s new development vision and Africa Agenda 2063.

The proposed Side Event, which focuses on “Roles of Youth in Creating Urban Decent & Sustainable Jobs in Africa,” will engage young people and stakeholders, and seek to scale up action on youth-to-youth employment, encourage innovative and evidence-based action, showcase existing interventions that are locally and regionally youth-owned and promote investments that create sustainable benefits for the African youth. Its resolution will feed into the conference outcome document.

OBJECTIVES:

- i. Examine the implementation level of member states policies and commitments to job creation.
- ii. Evaluate how governmental and international collaborations can assist in addressing challenges of decent jobs creation.
- iii. Build capacity of young Africans with knowledge, needed partnerships and opportunities to function as job creators.
- iv. Highlight existing initiatives that promote inclusive youth leadership, strengthen gender equality and cooperation.

CONTRIBUTION TO AYC CONFERENCE:

Following from the theme of the conference calling on youth action, the side event is organize to unveil opportunities and challenge youth as actors in creating urban decent & sustainable jobs in Africa. The Side Event will explore from experts and stakeholders the challenges staggering employment opportunities for African youth and seek workable and systematic solutions.

“Uniting Youth in Action for African Unity and Development”



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THEMATIC FOCUS:

1. Generating Sustainable Urban & Decent Jobs for African Youth: Case Study
Speaker: -Talib Bensuda, Mayor of KMC
- Rep. of International Labour Organization, the Gambia
2. Stakeholders' commitments and Youth employment policy implementation in African member states.
Speaker: - Lamin Daboe, Executive Director NYC, the Gambia;
3. Why urban youth employment matter: Role of Youth & Experience sharing
Speaker: -Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce; -
Alieu Jallow, Start-up Incubator; -
Rohey M. Bah; Rep.,
4. Funding Sources for Youth-led Decent and Sustainable Jobs:
Speaker: -Mustapha Njie -CEO, Taf Global Company,
-Rep of International Organization for Migration (IoM), The Gambia

OUTCOME OF THE SIDE EVENT;

At the end of the Side Event, it is expected that participants are able to conceptualize decent jobs as means of integration, growth and development of young people in Africa. Furthermore, obtain requisite knowledge, guidance and partnership to engage as decent job beneficiaries but more so, as creators.