

Nairobi Action Plan
Recommendations of the
Regional Consultative Meeting on
Investing in Youth Development

Nairobi, Kenya 11 - 14 April 2011



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**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME CONSULTATIVE MEETING
INVESTING IN YOUTH (IIY) MEETING- AFRICA REGION
NAIROBI ACTION PLAN**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The investing in youth meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 11-14 April, 2011. The meeting comprised two distinctive consultative processes; Strategy meeting and Youth employment meeting.

1.2 The meeting was officially opened by Kenya's Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Paul N. Otuoma on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt. Honourable Raila Odinga and graced by the presence of Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General Ms. Mmasekgoa M. Mwamba. The IIY meeting was attended by delegates from 19 Commonwealth member countries. The delegates comprised senior government officials, youth leaders, youth enterprise practitioners, representatives from intergovernmental organizations, micro-financial institutions as well as staff from the Commonwealth Secretariat.

1.3 After the official opening ceremony, delegates were taken on a conducted tour of a project exhibition by the Kenyan Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Youth Enterprise Fund and the National Youth Service (NYS) engineering laboratory.

2.0 Meeting Recommendations

2.1 Strategy Meeting

Participants discussed a wide range of issues relating to youth development in the region. Sequel to the discussion, the following issues and recommendations were made:-

- Ministries/agents, of youth are under resourced. There is the need for advocacy and intensive lobbying to revert this trend. There is the need to show consequences of inaction in allocating more resources to youth development.
- The need for implementation strategies for resolutions of such meetings at country level.
- Participation- It was agreed that member states should make the best use of structures available to them such as National Youth Councils (NYCs), United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) to ensure meaningful participation of young people.
- It was also revealed at the meeting that some Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) members who are meant to be representatives for the youth lack basic facilities required to make their work more RYCs.
- Sports should be embraced as a formidable strategy for enhancing peace and development
- The need to harmonise the definition of a youth was also emphasised.
- All countries must have youth policies translated into legislation to ensure compliance.
- The need to professionalise and prioritise youth work by member states

2.2 A presentation was made on the integration of sports for peace and development: strategies and actions. The presentation gave more insight on the programmes in place in the region, models, challenges and country experiences. Key issues highlighted in the presentation included the following:-

- The need to use sports to uplift human kind from difficult situations and conflict
- The need to use sports for peace and development as a tool for youth development

2.3 The meeting further discussed opportunities in youth development programming. Participants identified strategy areas and partnerships necessary for promoting youth development. Several interventions were identified:-

- Lobbying member governments to establish/strengthen ministries exclusively dedicated to youth development.
- Develop public private partnership frameworks
- The need to establish/strengthen national youth funds
- Establish and strengthen national youth councils

- Strengthen the RYCs
- Engaging youth in mainstreaming processes and promote accountability
- The need for setting broad bench marks
- Promoting Youth volunteerism as a strategic intervention to ensure that youths get experience in order to be attractive to the job market
- Need for governments to set up youth economic summits
- Need for corporate mentorship across the commonwealth countries
- Aligning youth empowerment to National strategies
- The need to establish/strengthen NYCs and establish a Network of Commonwealth NYCs
- Creative industries like music, dance and drama to be used as formidable field and alternative areas for youth employment
- There should be consideration for training unskilled youth – need for vocational training centres
- CYP to build Strategic partnership with other relevant stakeholders such as International Labour Organisation (ILO) and also disseminate the information to member countries
- CYP to have a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating of what is being done in member countries in relation to youth empowerment
- Need to harmonise the definition of youth among Commonwealth countries
- CYP – to emphasize and prioritize youth work as a profession and scale up the CYP Diploma to Bachelors and Masters Degree levels.

The above stated interventions were presented in a matrix (see annex)

3.0 Youth Employment Meeting

3.1 The meeting deliberated on the situation of youth employment and trends in the region. Selected countries made presentations on the situation of youth employment in their respective countries.

The following issues and recommendations were highlighted:

- CYP should supplement government efforts to fund youth programmes
- Public/private sectors are constrained in absorbing all job seekers
- Need for CYP to strengthen youth networks
- Need for CYP to support Youth Funds
- Need for governments to give tax holidays and single business permits to young entrepreneurs
- Mismatch between skill of the youth and market requirement was also noted
- Need to take care of marginalised youth that do not have formal education but are skilled.

3.2 Presentations were made by some enterprise/fund schemes notably; National Youth Employment Programme-Ghana, East Africa Social Entrepreneurship Network, Swaziland Youth Enterprise Fund, MOLIKO Micro-Finance Trust-Lesotho, YES-JUMP-ILO, Kenya Youth Enterprise Development Fund, and Namibia Youth Credit Scheme. This was meant to afford participants the opportunity to familiarise themselves with youth employment interventions and approaches in other countries.

3.3 In order to deepen understanding on youth employment interventions in the region and to get a framework for action for youth employment, participants deliberated and came up with the interventions stipulated in the attached matrix.

Annex: Action Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STRATEGY MEETING			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY/ACTIVITY	LEAD INSTITUTIONS	TIME FRAME
To lobby member countries to increase funding for youth development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish/strengthen exclusive ministries for youth development Develop a resource mobilization strategy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase budget allocation for the youth Create/strengthen youth fund Develop public and private partnership frameworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member countries CYP Regional Youth Caucus representatives 	By 2015
To establish and strengthen the National Youth Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and review legal framework Operationalize youth councils Strengthen the Regional Youth Caucus representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministries responsible for youth CYP, MEMBER STATES 	By 2012
To mainstream youth development in the national agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstream youth development issues in line Ministries/Agencies. Establish youth focal point in line Ministries. Allocate budgetary provisions in line Ministries for youth development. 	Respective Ministries/agencies	By 2013
To establish monitoring and evaluation mechanism for youth intervention programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop M&E framework Compile status of the youth reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member countries CYP to evaluate 	1st quarter of 2012 Every three years
To establish and enhance mentoring programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of incubation centres Facilitate placement, apprenticeship, internship and exchange programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministries responsible for youth Private sector Youth 	Immediate
To establish a network of Commonwealth Youth Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the formation of National Youth Councils Strengthening the existing Youth Councils. To establish the network 	RYCs in partnership with Ministries responsible for youth CYP Youth	Immediate
To harmonise the definition of employment in all Commonwealth member countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct a study on the definition of employment 	CYP	2012
To establish and benchmark best practices for youth programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct a study on best practice for youth programmes Set benchmark for the best practice 	CYP	2012

<p>To establish and strengthen youth funds in each member country of the Commonwealth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To lobby Governments, donor organisations, and the private sector to contribute funds to the establishment of the youth fund facility. • Favourable criteria as compared to commercial lending institutions (low interest rates, grants, favourable collateral, etc) 	<p>Governments Partners Relevant stake holders</p>	<p>2013</p>
<p>To strengthen and modernise skills development programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set standard curriculum • Capacitate implementing institutions/agencies • Establish a regional institute or academy for youth development • Professionalise youth work 	<p>Governments CYP RYCs Youth</p>	<p>Immediately</p>
<p>To identify, establish and promote market linkages for young entrepreneurs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby Governments, development partners and the private sector to ring fence/set aside opportunities • To facilitate participation of the youths in trade fairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Private sector • Development Partners • Youths and Youth Ministries 	<p>2013</p>
<p>Promote and strengthen National Youth Programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work abroad programme • Internships and Attachments • Job Placements • Volunteerism • Disaster Management programs • Career Guidance and Counselling • Vocational and Technical Training • Leadership and Entrepreneurial skills training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments • Donors • Relevant stake holders 	<p>2012-2015</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUTH EMPLOYMENT MEETING

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY/ACTIVITY	LEAD INSTITUTIONS	TIME FRAME
Develop labour market information system and data base for unemployed youths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research • Develop data bank system • Disseminate to all relevant stakeholders 	Ministries responsible for youth, Labour, National Bureau of Statistics and ILO	2012-2016
Promote creative industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish talent academies • Identify eligible youths • Nurture young people's talents i.e. music, arts, drama, sports • Talent awards and youth competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • Ministries responsible for youth • Private bodies • Development partners • Ministries of Trade and Industry 	2013
Modernization of agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of equipment for summit • Establishment of centres for agricultural support in rural areas • Provision of subsidized seeds and poultry products • Research into the rate of increase of food prices across Africa • Research based lobbying of member countries on the relevance and opportunities of promoting agriculture in Africa. • Provision-acquisition of land. • Promote value addition to agricultural production/agro processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries responsible for youth • CYP • NYC and CSO+ • Ministry of Agriculture 	2012-2016
Develop Entertainment, sports and creative industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and enhance an enabling environment for sports development • Establish/strengthen entertainment industries as an alternative and reliable source of engagement for young people • Establish talent academies • Establishment of studios and national film institutes • Promotion of local film industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments • The youths • CYP • Member states • CYP • Development Partners 	Immediate 2012-2016
Promote environmental management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of waste recycling centres • Research and invest in green economy and promote member countries to direct investment towards promoting this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments • The youths • CYP • Partners 	2012 2016

Support Youth enterprise initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of youth friendly loans • Creation of special youth funds • Technical support through BDS/ training and counseling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments • Financial institutions • NGOs • CYP • Partners 	2012 Ongoing
Promote public and private partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an enabling environment • Mobilize Resource • Build Capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments • Financial institutions • Business associations • Development partners • CYP 	2012 onwards
Enhance employability of youths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate/review employment related laws and policies • Labour market surveys • Strengthen Internships, Industrial attachments, volunteerism, apprenticeship and placements • Establish a youth labour database • Review of employment related laws and policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments • Financial institutions • Business associations • Development partners • CYP 	2012-2016
Youth empowerment funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and strengthen Youth empowerment funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments • Stakeholders 	2015 2012-2016



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