

**BUILDING CAPACITY TO ASSESS NATIONAL
YOUTH POLICIES IN AFRICA:
FIVE COUNTRY EXPERIENCES**

Workshop Report

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Division for Social Policy and Development

In collaboration with

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Young people, defined by the United Nations as those aged 15 to 24 years, constitute a substantial share of the population of most African countries and of the region as a whole. Failure to have policies in place that support young people to contribute to development processes could have negative political and socio-economic consequences.

The Governments of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda are addressing this need by enacting youth policies to promote effective development and inclusion of young people. The workshop “Assessing National Youth Policies in Africa” brought together representatives from these countries, as well as the UNDP, UNFPA, and the African Union Commission, to share and evaluate youth policies and related programmes. The meeting also served to strengthen commitment to the African Youth Charter and the related 2008 Year of African Youth.

Each country came to the workshop prepared to illustrate a programme of activity operating in support of their national youth policy. This report shares these examples and captures the resulting discussions on lessons learned from these experiences. The workshop also applied tools for monitoring and evaluation in the context of logical programme frameworks (log frames).

Pre- and post- workshop evaluations point to some of the meeting’s outcomes. The answers suggest that participating Ministries increased their knowledge of the World Programme of Action for Youth, the African Youth Charter and other youth policies in the region. Participants also increased their ability to plan and evaluate activities in support of their youth policies.

The recommendations from the workshop point to four areas for potential next steps:

- 1) There is immediate value in sharing experiences across youth ministries to build upon and learn from each other’s implementation of policies. DESA and ECA should continue to facilitate this kind of exchange.
- 2) Participating ministries require further support and assistance to mainstream youth development initiatives across government structures.
- 3) There is a collective need to strengthen national platforms of youth organizations to provide ministries with strong partners for all stages of policy implementation.
- 4) There is a need to promote the harmonization of the various international, regional and national commitments to youth development that currently operate.

The report further elaborates these recommendations. At the request of the participating ministries, further discussion will take place in advancing these recommendations.

DESA and ECA will integrate the outcomes of the workshop into various aspects of their technical cooperation activities, such as the development of a knowledge management system to promote capacity building for youth development as a contribution to the Year of African Youth in 2008.

BACKGROUND

Africa's demographic profile makes it strikingly clear that effective youth development policies are essential for national development and the regional achievement of international commitments, including the Millennium Development Goals. Young people, defined by the United Nations as those aged 15 to 24 years, constitute a substantial share of the population of most African countries and of the region as a whole. In 2005, young people accounted for one fifth of the total population of sub-Saharan Africa.¹ Using the African Union's definition of youth as those aged 15 to 34 years, the percentage increases to almost 35 per cent.

Failure to have policies in place that support young people to contribute to development processes could have grim political and socio-economic consequences. Moreover, the barriers to effective youth development relate to the region's most acute challenges. Too often, the formative years of African youth are characterized by exposure to deep-seated poverty, limited access to education, health care, and opportunities for decent employment, poor governance, and deficiencies in basic needs. These challenges are even more severe for particular subgroups within the youth cohort, including girls and young women, those living in rural areas or regions suffering from on-going conflict, and those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Many governments are addressing these challenges by revising existing youth policies and creating new strategies that aim to increase the support available to young people to participate fully in their societies. The Governments of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda are prepared to share, strengthen and evaluate their youth policies, with an emphasis on discussing lessons learned and addressing obstacles to achieving desired outcomes. There is also an aspiration to advance the regional commitment to youth established by the African Youth Charter adopted in July 2006.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The main objective of the workshop served to support five youth ministries in Africa to review and assess the status of implementation of their national youth policies and to monitor and evaluate its outcomes and results. More specifically, the workshop aimed to:

- Review progress in the implementation of the national youth policies and programmes of five countries that have significantly advanced their work on youth issues in the last year.
- Support a discussion of lessons learned to date in the implementation of national youth policies and analyze obstacles to achieving desired youth development outcomes, including mobilizing resources to scale up and replicate successful activities.
- Identify tools, activities, and approaches in support of effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth development policies and programmes.
- Identify and record further capacity-building needs and knowledge gaps for future work.
- Foster inter-regional collaboration for youth development in Africa and encourage the alignment of national youth policies with the regional commitments encapsulated in the African Youth Charter.

¹ United Nations (2007). World Population Prospects, Online Database, 6 July 2007 www.unpopulation.org.

PARTICIPANTS AND THE PROGRAMME

The workshop involved the following participants:

- Two government representatives and one youth representative from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria as well as one government representative from Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.
- UNDP's representative to the African Union & Liaison to the ECA and a representative of UNFPA's Liaison Office in Addis Ababa.
- Two representatives of the African Union Commission were invited to attend the workshop to elaborate on progress with the implementation of the African Youth Charter and assist in the discussion on aligning national action to regional commitments.
- One staff from the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and one staff from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) facilitated the workshop.

A list of participants and an annotated agenda are included in the Annexes of this report.

The programme was structured around the following topics:

Review of five national youth policies: The national youth policies were reviewed using an overview chart of the framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). Participants also circulated copies of their national youth policies. For many, this was a first time access to another country's policies and an open exchange ensued.

Implementation activities - Lessons Learned and Obstacles Encountered: Each country came to the workshop prepared to describe an activity operating in support of their national youth policy. A facilitated discussion explored the obstacles encountered and lessons learned from these experiences.

Tools for monitoring and evaluation: Specific sessions of the workshop examined tools for monitoring and evaluation in the context of logical programme frameworks (log frames). In working groups, participants applied log frames to specific sections of their national youth policies in order to evaluate results and to identify improvements in programme design.

Building greater support, identifying further needs: The workshop concluded with a closer examination of areas for further support and capacity-building needs, drawing reference to commitments such as the African Youth Charter to strengthen national efforts. There was also a session on resource mobilization for youth development work.

SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Review of the national youth policies:

The following table approximates the wall chart used to provide an overview of the national youth policies of the five participating countries. Checkmarks indicate those topics addressed in the policy and shaded squares indicate the areas from which implementation examples were more closely examined.

Priority issues in WPAY	Ethiopia	Ghana	Kenya	Nigeria	Uganda
Year of NYP	2004	Draft - 2007	2007	2001 – under review	2004
Education	✓ includes training	✓ includes training	✓ includes training	✓ includes training	✓ includes training
Employment	✓ section 5.2 economic development	✓ inc. entrepreneurship	✓ e.g. Youth Development Fund	✓ 4.2.2. inc. entrepreneurship	✓ section 2.3 youth employment and productivity
Poverty					✓ section 2.3 notes poverty
Health	✓		✓ section 3.2 & 8.2	✓ section 4.3.1	✓ section 2.5
Environment	✓	✓	✓ section 8.5	✓ section 4.3.4	✓ section 2.10
Drug Abuse				✓ reference in health	✓ section 2.5
Juvenile Delinquency	✓ section 5.6 on social evils	7.0 target group of youth affected by crime and violence	✓ 9.2 target group of street youth, section 3.4 on deviance	✓ 5.7 target group of youth in crime, delinquency	✓ section 2.9 youth and crime
Leisure-time	✓ section 5.7 on culture, sports and recreation	✓ arts and culture, sports and recreation	✓ 8.4 sports and recreation; 8.6 arts and culture	✓ 4.3.2 sports and recreation; 4.3.3 arts and culture	✓ section 2.7
Situation of girls & young women	✓ section 5.10 youth that need special attention	✓ 6.1 gender mainstreaming	✓ 9.4 target group of female youth	✓ 5.5 target group of female adolescents	✓ section 2.11 and 5.3
Participation	✓ capacity-building	✓ empowerment	✓ 8.8. empowerment and participation	✓ Section 4.4 public participation	✓ section 2.6
Globalization	✓ section 5.9 internationalism				
ICTs	✓ touched on in employment	✓	✓ section 3.9	✓ section 2.31	
HIV/AIDS	✓	✓	✓ under health	✓ section 4.3.1 & 5.6	
Conflict	respect for diversity			✓ section 5.7	respect for diversity
Intergenerational issues		6.1 mentoring	Section 7.3 obligations of adults & parents	✓ obligations of parents-guardians – section 3.3	
Other priority areas * each policy refers to provisions for youth with disabilities	democracy and good governance, family responsibilities	science and technology, agriculture, leadership, governance and democracy	housing, abuse and exploitation,	Civic and citizenship training, community development	Migration, accessibility, good governance

Implementation Activities/ Lessons Learned/Obstacles Encountered:

Each country team came to the workshop prepared to describe a programme being used to advance a priority area contained in the national youth policy.

Ethiopia: The representatives from the Ministry of Sport and Youth shared their work in the area of preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS among youth. The national youth policy (section 5.5) lists five proposed actions in this area, including the creation of favourable conditions for youth to undertake peer-to-peer outreach and to promote access to counselling services on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The Ministry has found it difficult to determine the degree to which their work has led to behavioural changes in youth. There is also a need to scale-up the reproductive health and information dissemination services currently offered through governmental organizations and NGOs. Moreover, the services do not specifically focus on youth and are often not easily accessible in terms of time and place. A lesson learned from the work includes the need to have a viable national youth platform. Currently Ethiopia lacks a body such as a National Youth Council, making it difficult to collaborate and form partnerships with youth organizations. Obstacles encountered included mainstreaming concern for the needs of youth in other line ministries and resource mobilization.

Ghana: The Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment shared Ghana's Youth Job Corps Programme in support of the national youth policies priority of education, skills training and employment. The programme is a special national exercise embarked upon by a Presidential directive to ensure a significant proportion of youth are actively engaged in some of productive employment. It builds upon previous programmes, such as Skills Training and Employment Placement Programme (STEP) and the National Youth Fund (NYF).

The programme functions as a ten-module (sector) programme to form the first phase of a two-phased initiative. Phase I focuses on short-term activities, similar to "quick-wins", to create employment opportunities for youth in ten sectors. These include: Youth in Agri-Business; Youth in Trades and Vocations (non-agricultural); Youth in ICT, Community Protection Systems; Waste and Sanitation Management; Rural Teachers Assistants; Paid Internships and Industrial Attachments; Vacation Jobs and Volunteer Services.

Phase II of the programme will examine initial results and strategize on youth employment issues within the context of Ghana's Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS). The Ghanaian representatives shared a set of implementation guidelines for the Youth Job Corps Programme. These guidelines address many of the lessons learned from the programme, such as the need for clear guiding principles and standard requirements, management structures and sustainable funding. Some of the obstacles encountered include difficulty in securing cooperation from relevant Ministries and Departments for programme implementation; ineffective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, poor dissemination of the NYEP to youth and difficulties with land acquisition and other requisite inputs.

Kenya: The Ministry of Youth Affairs in Kenya discussed the implementation of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. The Fund aims to facilitate youth employment by providing loans to existing micro-finance institutions, registered non-governmental organizations, and savings/credit co-operative organizations for lending to youth enterprises. It also supports youth-oriented small and medium enterprises to develop linkages with large enterprises, helps to market products and services from youth enterprises in both domestic and international markets, and facilitates young people's access to the international labour market.

The government set aside 1 billion Kenya shillings (approx. 15,000 USD) in the 2006/07 budget to fast track the initiative and provided the necessary legal framework to govern its use and operations. An 11-member Advisory Board of the Fund was created in January 2007,

with significant private-sector involvement. The Fund was officially launched in February 2007, which marked the start of the disbursement process to the youth enterprises through two channels: Financial Intermediaries and the Constituency Youth Enterprise Scheme.

Financial intermediaries manage funds to which individuals or organized entities of youth can apply. To date, the loan repayment through the intermediaries is quite impressive at close to 98%. Young women receive a significant portion of the funds. The second channel, the Constituency Scheme, aims to decentralize funding through Divisional and District funds. More than 4,500 groups have been funded in over 70 districts in Kenya.

Some of the lessons learned to date include: the need to have clear structures to administer the funds (e.g. using references and guarantors); the necessity of an efficient disbursement mechanisms (in this case, the Fund uses the Postapay service of the Postal Corporation of Kenya to deliver checks to the youth groups); and the importance of business planning and training alongside access to funds. Obstacles encountered include: difficulty to gain cultural acceptance to the fund at the local level (i.e. approval of village chiefs for young people to take out loans and incur temporary debt); attracting the necessary partners (e.g. negotiations are underway with the Tourism Trust Fund to finance information kiosks for young people to conduct their business with greater ease), and popularising the fund among young people. More information is available on the Ministry's website at: www.youthaffairs.go.ke

Nigeria: The Federal Ministry of Youth Development started with an overview of several initiatives underway in support of a National Youth Development Agenda. This includes a review of the National Youth Policy created in 2001, reform of the National Youth Service Corp, the inauguration of a Youth Parliament, strengthening of the National Youth Council, creating a Youth Development Index, and the release of a Youth Development Report.

The specific activity discussed was the establishment of Youth Development Centres. There is currently one functional centre in Owode Egba, Ogun State. It provides functional, non-formal education to both in school and out of school youth. The Government aspires to increase the number of youth centres to include a minimum of 37 centres (one in each States and the Federal Capital Territory). Between 2008 and 2011, the Government aims to establish six model centres (in the States of Osun, Cross River, Katsina, Borno, Kebbi, and Bayelsa). Each youth centre will have an area of focus and specialization to meet and address the challenges of its immediate vicinity and catchment areas.

The areas for training include agricultural ventures (crop production, harvesting, processing, and preservation; animal husbandry, farm management, food processing, packaging and marketing); vocational skills (fashion and garment making, computer and handset repair, production of household items and metal fabrication); and entrepreneurial skills (cooperative development, marketing and sales, ICT use).

The existing centre at Owode Egba has not fully produced desired results. Some of the obstacles encountered include: difficulties in forging partnerships and collaborative funding arrangements with development partners, States and the private sector; developing the types of training programmes that are relevant and best serve the labour market; equipping the centre with adequate facilities and good management; and replicating best practices such as the model agricultural training centre in Songhai, Benin.

Uganda: Within the government, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development coordinates the national youth policy of Uganda in cooperation with other youth-serving

ministries and youth organizations, especially in partnership with the National Council of Voluntary Services (NCVS), the major national non-governmental youth-serving body. Uganda also has youth councils starting at the village-level and representation of youth in the national parliament. A priority of the Ministry is working on youth unemployment. The programme presented by the Ministry focused on Youth Enterprise Development Strategies and combined entrepreneurial support with vocational training.

A lesson learned has been the need to ensure the relevance of training, as Uganda has a number of universities producing educated graduates with little uptake by the labour market due to skills mismatch. The Ministry also underscored that the strategy of enterprise development is linked to youth participation and empowerment. The Government of Uganda has established the Uganda Vocational Qualifications Framework (UVQF), a programme that aims at bridging the gap between what is taught in training institutions and what actually happens in the world of work. The UVQF Secretariat produces occupational profiles, assessment standards, and training modules that are employment-driven and competence-based. Another challenge has been to foster inter-ministerial relationships. For example, work in this area has necessitated a collaborative arrangement between the ministries of Education and Sports, and of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

Common elements to the presentations

In addition to the lessons and challenges outlined above, discussions ensued to identify common issues and concerns expressed by all five participating countries.

General lessons learned include:

- Youth participation is key at all stages of programme design and implementation
- All aspects of youth development must be considered e.g. education is linked to employment is linked to poverty is linked to HIV/AIDS and risky behaviour, etc.
- Partnership enhances implementation and support
- Need to have grassroots support and implementation of the policies
- Need to build up support from the ground, bring key stakeholders on board and support cultural acceptance of youth programming
- Need to acknowledge and face cultural norms, find creative ways not be restricted by them e.g. getting local chiefs not to discourage youth from accessing youth development funds.

Obstacles to fully implementing and advancing national youth policies include:

- There needs to be competent youth counterparts – the issue of strengthening national youth councils or similar platform structures was a common need in all countries
- Mainstreaming youth issues in other line ministries and building collaboration was also a fundamental concern among countries
- Political considerations, need to “de-link” youth policies from political processes
- Weak political will, poor governance and lack of transparency undermines processes
- A lack of resources for youth development work
- Inexperience in implementation of effective programmes, especially on a large scale (beyond community-based interventions); knowledge gaps on certain aspects of youth development programmes
- Youth officers lack capacity – especially at the district/states/municipal level
- Often confront negative perceptions of youth on the adult side; mistrust and apathy on the youth side.

Tools for Monitoring and Evaluation:

Monitoring and evaluation are an important part of the implementation of national youth policies. Both are necessary tools to inform decision-making and demonstrate accountability.

The workshop reviewed tools for monitoring and evaluation in the context of a logical framework (commonly referred to as a log frame), a tool that helps to implement strategies such as those included in national youth policies. Following an overview of log frame concepts participants applied the tools to selected parts of their policies.

Both the ministries from Ghana and Kenya had examples of logical frameworks to support the implementation of their youth policies. Participants circulated and discussed these documents in terms of elements that make up a well-designed project and help to improve planning by highlighting the impact of factors that are outside the control of the project team.

Building Support- The African Youth Charter and 2008 Year of African Youth:

The workshop concluded with a discussion on using the African Youth Charter and the designated Year of African Youth in 2008 to further leverage commitment towards implementation of national youth policies. Dr. Raymonde Agossou of the African Union Commission confirmed that, to date, seven countries have signed the Charter: Burundi, Benin, Mali, Rwanda, Togo, Nigeria, and Gabon. Fifteen countries must ratify the Charter for it to come into force and three have done so, namely Mali, Rwanda and Gabon.

A constructive discussion ensued on some of the concerns shared by the Ministries about the Charter and its processes. Participants agreed that the Charter needs to become better known and more widely understood as a tool for youth development in the region. The discussion clarified that the reason for declaring 1 November as African Youth Day was in relation to the founding of the Pan-African Youth Union, which is under evaluation to strengthen its role in implementing the Charter. The Conference of Ministers felt the continent needed a specific day in recognition of its increasingly strong commitment to youth development.

The representatives were supportive of the Charter and value its implication to their work; however, they equally understand the challenges to pass the Charter through parliamentary processes and to harmonize it with existing policies and programmes at the national level. The AU Commission, representatives of Ministries and youth organizations, and the UN agencies present at the workshop agreed to work together as much as possible to this end.

It was confirmed that the 2nd Conference of AU Ministers in Charge of Youth (COMY II) will take place from 12-15 February 2008, following AU the Heads of State Summit. At this meeting, the Ministers are expected to approve a plan of activities to mark 2008 as the Year of African Youth. The Conference will take place every two years unless there is an extraordinary meeting called by the members.

OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

There are several outcomes to the capacity-building workshop on assessing youth policies. The first is a practical review of five national youth policies and their related implementation efforts. The participating Ministries also increased their knowledge of the World Programme of Action for Youth, the African Youth Charter and other youth policies in the region.

The results of a pre-and post-workshop questionnaires support this outcome. The following charts are results collected from the thirteen participants at the beginning and end of the workshop, in response to the following questions.

How well would you rate your knowledge of the World Programme of Action for Youth?													
	Government representatives									Youth representatives			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DAY 1	little bit	little bit	little bit	good	little bit	good	little bit	good	little bit	little bit	little bit	good	little bit
DAY 3	very good	good	little bit	good	very good	very good	good	very good	very good	very good	very good	very good	good

How well would you rate your knowledge of national youth policies and programmes <u>outside your own country?</u>													
	Government representatives									Youth representatives			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DAY 1	good	none at all	none at all	good	none at all	good	little bit	little bit	little bit	none at all	good	good	little bit
DAY 3	very good	good	little bit	good	good	very good	good	very good	very good	good	good	very good	very good

Another outcome is the increased capacities of governments to monitor and evaluate the implementation of their youth policies. This includes a better understanding of the lessons learned through experiences and obstacles to scaling up and replicating successful activities.

How well would you rate your knowledge and understanding of tools, activities, and approaches to implement, monitor, and evaluate youth development programmes?													
	Government representatives									Youth representatives			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DAY 1	little bit	good	little bit	good	little bit	good	little bit	good	little bit	good	little bit	good	good
DAY 3	very good	good	good	very good	very good	good	good	very good	good	good	very good	good	very good

How well are you able to identify lessons learned to date in the implementation of your national youth policy and to analyze obstacles to achieving desired outcomes?													
	Government representatives									Youth representatives			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DAY 1	good	good	good	very good	good	very good	little bit	good	little bit	little bit	good	good	good
DAY 3	very good	very good	good	very good	very good	very good	good	very good	good	very good	good	little bit	100%

In general, the workshop strengthened the ability of the participants to undertake programme activities in support of youth development. It added to a better understanding of the capacity-building needs and information gaps for effective youth policies and programmes in Africa. It also strengthened collaboration between DESA, ECA, the African Union, and participating ministries and organizations in the area of social policy and youth development.

How useful was the workshop in terms of strengthening your work as a government or youth representative:													
	Government representatives									Youth representatives			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Not at all													
A little bit													
Good							X					X	
Very good		X	X	X	X			X	X		X		
Excellent/100%	X					X				X			X

Some of the written feedback collected on the evaluations includes the following comments:

“I intend to apply the monitoring and evaluation tools I learned at this workshop to the national youth policy in Nigeria. I am better able to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the National Youth Policy (NYP) based on the overview of the policies of other countries. These lessons learned will be very useful as we will undertake a review process in 2008.”

“We will take many of the ideas discussed here on board in the next phase of the Ministry’s action plan. Ghana is currently in the process of reviewing our national youth policy, thus making this workshop very timely. It has strengthened our capacity to identify priorities and structure programmes for maximum impact. It has also brought home key elements that must be addressed for holistic youth development.”

“As a program officer, the tools for monitoring and evaluation will help me with effective program design. Additionally, the country experiences shared provided me with a broader perimeter for my work.”

RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS

The closing discussions of the workshop identified several outstanding needs for effective youth development in the five participating countries. The group proposed the following four recommendations to encapsulate areas identified for potential follow-up:

- 1) There is real value in sharing experiences across youth ministries to build upon and learn from each other’s implementation of youth policies. DESA and ECA should continue to facilitate this kind of exchange. At the request of ministries, they should support knowledge-sharing resources and networks on specific activities that cut across several youth policies (e.g. youth development funds and loans, effective youth employment generation projects, successful skill development centres, etc.).
- 2) Each of the participating ministries requires support and assistance with strategies to mainstream youth development initiatives across government structures and departments. It

is felt that DESA and ECA can assist in bringing other line ministries on board and propose impartial strategies at how ministries can work together on mutual priorities.

- 3) There is a collective need to strengthen national platforms of youth organizations, either by reforming existing national youth councils or by creating new structures, in order to provide ministries with strong counterparts for policy implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Youth participation is integral to the successful implementation of national youth policies, but virtually impossible in the absence of a strong, transparent, and effective umbrella structures representing the diversity of youth organizations. Ideally, these structures should be largely autonomous from the ministries. DESA's assistance could include compiling models of effective youth-led structures as well as leadership and organizational training for youth organizations developed and delivered in cooperation with the ministries.
- 4) There is a need to promote the harmonization of the various commitments and youth policy and programme guidelines developed to date. This includes, for example, the World programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) and the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2007-2015 at the international level; the African Youth Charter and NEPAD's Plan of Action for Youth at the regional level; and the ECOWAS and SADC youth policies at the sub-regional with the national youth policies. Given that DESA and ECA have a broad knowledge of these agreements, their support could help to promote initiatives that are mutually reinforcing and add value to these various initiatives.

Participating ministries agreed to put forward a written request to DESA and ECA should they wish to follow-up and advance these recommendations. They may also identify other areas for assistance that relate to the effective development, implementation, monitoring, and review of the social policies.

DESA will integrate the outcomes of the workshop into various aspects of its technical cooperation activities. This includes on-going assistance to ministries responsible for youth development, the integration of youth issues into national policy frameworks such as Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers and the need to strengthen knowledge networks between countries. This overlaps with several of the proposed activities for the 2008 Year of African Youth launched by the African Youth Commission, for example, to develop a knowledge management system to promote capacity building among youth stakeholders in Africa.