



DECENT WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Youth Employment Network

The Youth Employment Network (YEN) was created within the framework of the Millennium Declaration where Heads of State and Government resolved to “develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.”

Youth employment is both an integral part of the Millennium Declaration and a key contribution to meeting other Millennium Goals, including those relating to poverty reduction. Youth employment is key to the broader agenda on employment and the fight against poverty.

This is a partnership between the UN, the World Bank and the ILO, the latter hosting the Secretariat, to bring together leaders in industry, youth and civil society representatives, and policymakers to explore imaginative approaches to the challenges of youth unemployment.

The process is underpinned by a UN General Assembly Resolution on Promoting Youth Employment (A/RES/57/165). Member States are encouraged to prepare National Reviews and Action Plans on youth employment by March 2004. The ILO, the UN Secretariat, the World Bank, and other relevant specialized agencies are invited to assist Governments in these efforts.

Senegal, Egypt, Indonesia, Hungary, Sri Lanka, Namibia and Azerbaijan have stepped forward to be lead countries in this process and to showcase successful youth employment practices that others can learn from.

The Network is also working to be a catalyst for action at the country level. One example is the launch of the Youth Business Foundation in Manila in March 2003, a joint initiative developed in partnership with YBI.

The YEN includes a High Level Panel of twelve experts and practitioners on youth employment which have produced a set of policy recommendations that were discussed in the UN General Assembly in 2001. These recommendations focus on four global priority policy areas or the four “E’s”: Employability, Equal opportunities, Entrepreneurship, and Employment creation.

The High-level Panel has set up four Working Groups, to refine each of the four “E’s” and to provide guidelines and practical examples for countries in preparing their National Reviews and Action Plans.

The 2nd meeting of the High-level Panel took place on 30 June – 1 July 2003 at ILO Headquarters. At this meeting, the panel reviewed a consolidated report of its Working Groups on the four global priority areas, assessed progress on its original recommendations, and proposed a new set of steps to be taken by the Youth Employment Network – involving the core institutions of the UN, the World Bank and the ILO, together with national governments, economic and social partners and youth organisations - to promote youth employment and to fight unemployment and underemployment.

For more information on the work of the YEN
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