



Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network

- Political dimensions of the Youth Employment Network
- Policy orientations which underpin the Network
- Distinguishing active labour market policies for young people between industrialized and developing countries



Some statistics

- More than 1 billion people today are between 15 and 25 years of age
- Nearly 40 % of the world's population is below the age of 20
- 85 % of young people live in developing countries
- 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 per day



Youth unemployment

- 66 million youth - 41% of the global total of 160 million - are classified as unemployed
- Youth are two to three times more likely to be unemployed than adults
- Many more are underemployed, working long hours with little income in the informal economy



We the Peoples:

the Role of the United Nations in the Twenty-first Century

- Globalization and governance
- Freedom from want
- Freedom from fear
- Sustaining our future
- Renewing the United Nations.



Freedom from Want

- Opportunities for Youth
 - Education
 - Employment



Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network

- Together with the heads of the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, I am convening a high-level policy network on youth employment drawing on the most creative leaders in private industry, civil society and economic policy to explore imaginative approaches to this difficult challenge. I will ask this policy network to propose a set of recommendations that I can convey to world leaders within a year. The possible sources of solutions will include the Internet and the informal sector, especially the contribution that small enterprises can make to employment generation.



Millennium Declaration

Develop and implement strategies
that give young people
everywhere a real chance to find
decent and productive work



Preparatory process

- Information and communications technologies
- Vocational education and training
- Informal Economy
- Role of the employment in national poverty reduction strategies
- Youth employment dimension of development strategies



July 2001: Meeting of the High-Level Panel

- Need for both immediate action - and long-term commitment
- Invited the panel to continue working in an advisory capacity as a standing panel
- Requested the ILO to take the lead in organizing the future work of the YEN and to host a permanent Secretariat



Panel's Recommendations: A Political Process

- National Reviews and Action Plans
- Ten “Champions” to lead the way
- ILO to prepare of Global Review and Evaluation of the Action Plans
- Integrated Concept of Employment Policy



Implications of the Policy Recommendations

- Youth Employment as an Entry Point into broader employment issues
- Political Commitment of Governments provides a space for action by non-governmental actors
- A New Way of Working for the UN system



Policy Recommendations

- Youth are an Asset - not a Problem
- Youth are partners of today - not tomorrow



The Four "E"s

- Employability: invest in education and vocational training
- Equal opportunities: give young women the same opportunities as young men
- Entrepreneurship: make it easier to start and run enterprises
- Employment creation: place employment at the center of macroeconomic policy.



Employability

- Literacy, Basic Education and Training
- Combines responsibility of individual and responsibility of society
- An enabling environment of social justice
- Role of ICTs



Employability in developing countries

- Educated youth remain unemployed
– and **frustrated**
- Education poorly adapted to employment in the private sector and informal labour markets
- Weak domestic private sector
- Uneducated, low-income youth cannot afford unemployment



Employability in the Informal Economy

- From the Informal Sector to the Informal Economy
- Upgrading incomes and productivity in the informal economy:
 - Supply driven approaches: vocational and management training, improved infrastructure, micro-credit
 - Demand approaches: exploiting positive linkages with formal economy



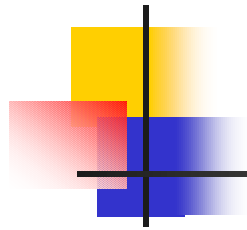
Equal Opportunities for young women and men

- Moral Imperative
- Means to Increase Productivity and Quality of Employment



Entrepreneurship

- Renewed sense of initiative for all young people: workers and employers, public and private sector
- Need for reliable data on the informal economy and the assets of the poor
- Entrepreneurship is not a panacea



Employment Creation

- Place Employment at the Center of Macroeconomic Policies
- Youth Benefit disproportionately from increased aggregate demand



A Final Note

- Youth Underemployment most acute in Developing Countries
- Need for new strategies to upgrade employment in the informal economy
- Potential of infrastructure investments for new sources of youth employment