Africa: YES, we can!

AU-ILO Youth Employment Strategy for Africa (YES-Africa)

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The youth employment challenge

- **Youth unemployment** rates vary across Africa
- **26 per cent** of African youth *not in employment, education or training* (NEET)
- About 38% of young African workers are in extreme working poverty
- Almost all young people are working in the informal economy
- Many in rural areas, with seasonal unemployment and low productivity/incomes

Past and current programmes have not yielded sufficient results/impact
YES-Africa: existing frameworks and mandate

- Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda
- One Million Next Level

  Mandate to ILO & AU to develop a joint Youth Employment Strategy
4th STC Youth Culture and Sports (May 2023)

- Presentation of YES-Africa vision, mission and preliminary ideas
- Discussion on decent work challenges and solutions with 100+ youth participants.

AU STC:
Commends the AU-ILO Youth Employment Strategy for Africa and requests harmonization of this initiative with other AU Youth Employment-related initiatives, in particular the 1 Million Next Level initiative and its plan of action under its Employment pillar.
The AU-ILO Youth Employment Strategy for Africa (YES-Africa)

**Vision**

A continent where all youth have access to productive and decent employment that empowers them to escape poverty and create a better future for themselves and their communities.

**Mission**

The strategy is a guiding framework, as well as a call for African countries to invest into the transformation of the world of work in Africa towards creating decent jobs for African youth.
Starting point:
what do we want?

Priority Action Areas:
Which solutions should we champion?

Creation of productive employment as the starting point for all interventions and policies

- Structural transformation: How to create more productive jobs through an economy ready for the future?
- Just Transitions for Youth: What are the sectors (digital, green) of work in the future and how to invest in them?
- Youth empowerment: Which skills & entrepreneurship support do young people need?
- Labour market institutions: How to smoothen the transition from school to work?
Starting point: what do we want?

Creation of productive employment as the starting point for all interventions and policies

Principles: how should we work together?

- Meaningfully engaging young people
- Inclusive social dialogue
- Human-centred and rights-based approach, incl. gender-responsiveness
- Social inclusion to leave no one behind
- Environmental sustainability
- Coherent and integrated implementation
Take the YES-Africa Survey!

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Thank you