



▶ Africa: YES, we can!

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

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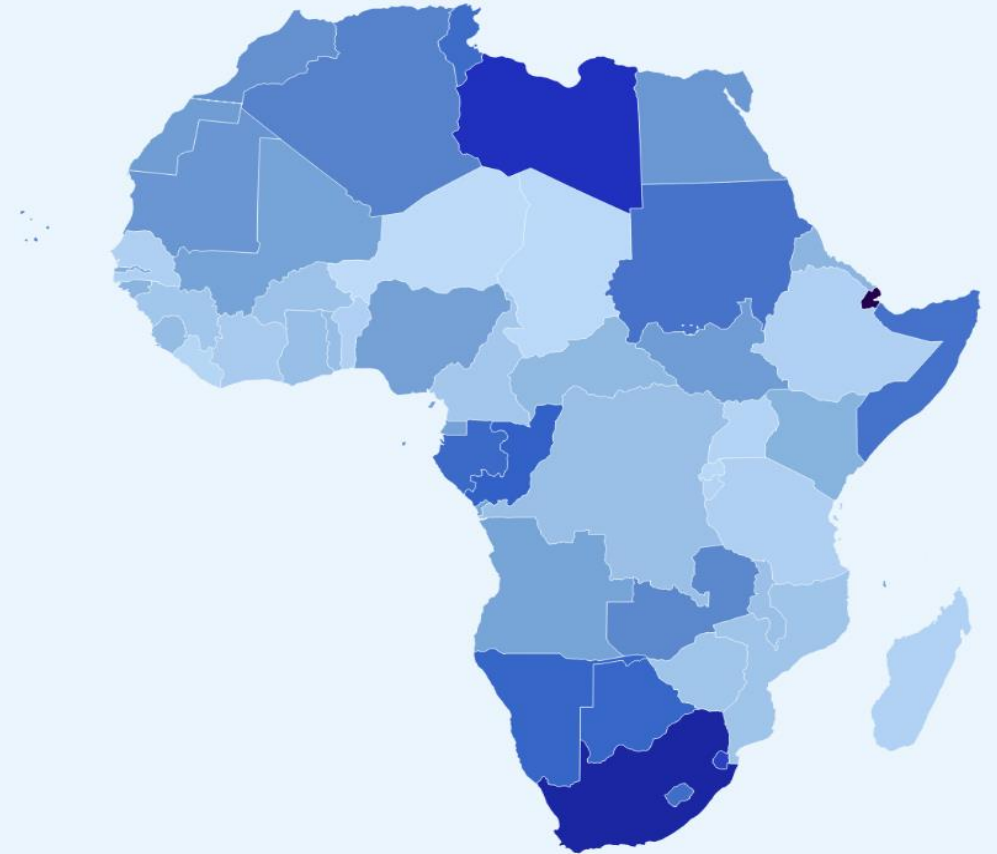
▶ The youth employment challenge

- ▶ **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

▶ Youth unemployment rate (aged 15-24) (%), 2019

0.8 76.5



▶ YES-Africa: existing frameworks and mandate

- ▶ Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda
- ▶ African Youth Charter (2006), African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (2019-2023), Ouagadougou Declaration (AU) +10, Malabo Declaration (2014)
- ▶ One Million Next Level
- ▶ Abidjan Declaration (2019) “Advancing Social Justice shaping the Future of Work in Africa”, by African governments, workers’ and employers’ organisations:

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.**

AU/ILO YES-Africa: tentative ideas

Starting point:
what do we want?

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

**Priority Action
Areas:**
Which solutions
should we
champion?

- **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?

Including...

AU/ILO YES-Africa: tentative ideas

Starting point:
what do we want?

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

Including...

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!

English



bit.ly/YES-Africa

Francais



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▶ **Thank you**