



**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

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**Pre-ADF Symposium: Youth and Governance**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
10 October 2004**

**DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME**

## Pre-ADF Symposium on Youth and Governance

### Draft Work Programme

**Sunday, 10 October 2004**

**8.15 –9.30** Registration

**9.30 - 10.30** Opening Ceremony

**Chair:** Ms. Paulyn Jansen, Executive Director of the African Youth Foundation (AYF)

**Venue:** CR.1

**Slide show on the objectives of ADF**

**Opening statements:**

- Mr. K.Y. Amoako, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA
- H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture
- Mr. Abdul Mohammed, UNICEF Special Representative to AU/ECA/NEPAD

**Keynote Address:**

**Speaker:** Mr. Muzwakhe Alfred Sigudhla, Representative of the SADC Youth Movement

**10.30 - 12.00** **Plenary Session I**

**Venue:** CR. 1

**Discussants:**

- UNICEF
- The African Child Policy Forum
- West African Youth Forum

➤ **Objective:**

*The dismal states of African economies and emerging social-economic ills have disproportionately affected the youth. The ECA, AU and UNICEF have identified youth development as the urgent development needs for the governance agenda. With the bulk of the African population below the age of 30, youth participation is paramount in providing the knowledge and resources required to meeting the diverse challenges of the African continent.*

*In this regard, the presenters will identify the areas of pressing significance to youth development and bring for discourse the issues, which have been marginalized in mainstream thinking and gone relatively unchallenged to harness youth for development.*

<b>12.00 - 13.00</b>	Parallel Breakout Sessions
<b>13.00 - 14.00</b>	Lunch
<b>14.00 - 16.00</b>	Parallel Breakout Sessions (continued)

**Breakout Session I: Youth and HIV/AIDS**

**Venue:** CR. 3

- Facilitators:**
- Mr. Nana Poku, Research Director, Commission for HIV/AIDS and Governance (CHGA)
  - Ms. Bjorg Sandkjaer, Demography Officer, CHGA
  - Ms. Sinead Anderson, Regional Adviser on Peace and Security, UNAIDS

➤ **Objective:**

*The HIV/AIDS pandemic highlights the depth and urgency of the governance challenge for Africa's young people. Presently, Africa has the highest prevalence rate while the impact of the disease has taken a greater toll in females than in males particularly in the critical ages of 15-39. The major challenge for African leaders in terms of the development agenda and the Millennium Development Goals is that the pandemic is affecting the most productive and reproductive members of society. There must be a renewed focus on establishing better governance for the provisions of adequate health infrastructure, including access and affordability to drugs, and addressing the manpower challenge of trained and skilled medical professionals.*

*The session will identify strategies and plans for mitigating the HIV/AIDS pandemic, identify preventative measures and capacity gaps, while recommending policies and mechanisms that can facilitate to reverse the trend.*

**Breakout Session II: Youth, Education and Unemployment**

**Venue:** CR. 5

- Facilitators:**
- Mr. George Ruigu, Deputy Director, ILO Subregional Office, Addis Ababa
  - Mr. Urgessa Bedada, Programme Officer, ILO Subregional Office, Addis Ababa
  - Ms. Barbara Murray, Specialist on Disability, ILO, Geneva
  - Mr. Kwabia Boateng, Economic Affairs Officer, OPC, ECA

➤ **Objective:**

*Youth development is a precondition for sustainable development. The quality of education for youth establishes the principles forming the foundation for a child's future. The potential of youth must be tapped*

*through education enabling and equipping them with the tools necessary for a successful future. Effective human resource development begins at childhood.*

*Though the economic growth rate has constrained the capacity of most African countries to create new jobs at the rate new job seekers enter the market, the positive endowment of youth capital must not be neglected. Committed leadership and a government that is transparent and accountable to society will more likely serve its people further even with the present constraints.*

*The session will address the urgent issues on the way forward for African leaders to effectively empower youth and strengthen efforts to improve the condition for youth with reference to education and employment and make policy recommendations for greater prosperity of the youth population. .*

**12:00 – 13:00**

**14:00 - 16:00**

**Breakout Session III: Youth, Democracy and Governance**

**Venue:** CC. 11

CR. 6

**Facilitators:**

- Representative of OHCHR
- Mr. Muratha Kinuthia, Representative of the African Youth Parliament

➤ **Objective:**

*There is growing concern, that the youth lack a meaningful voice in political affairs on the continent. For a meaningful social, economic and political development of the continent, representation and participation of youth is a critical element of the development agenda and conflict prevention. The evidence suggests youth under-representation is still evident in most decision-making structures of government.*

*The session will make recommendations on the way forward and highlight ways in which to address these challenges for the promotion of democratic principles, youth participation and youth empowerment.*

**16.30 - 18.00**

**Plenary Session II: Group Reports**

**Chairperson:** Ms. Paulyn Jansen, Executive Director of the AYF

**Venue:** CR. 1

- Reports from the Breakout Sessions
- Adoption of the draft Declaration

**18.00 - 18.15**

**Closing Ceremony**

- Ms. Rugiatu N. Turay
- Mr. Muzwakhe Alfred Sigudhla

**Evening:** Finalizing the draft Declaration