

The NEPAD @ UNGA 2017

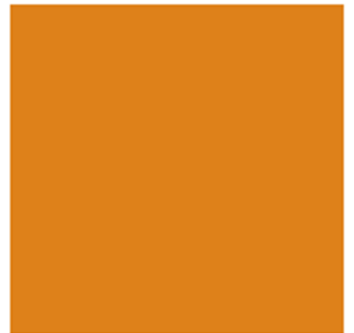
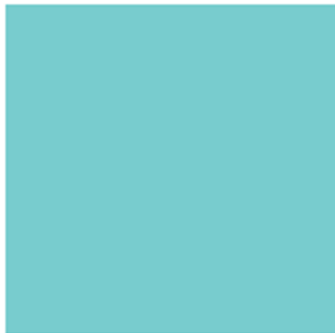
Theme: Harnessing Skills for Rural Transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: What needs to be done?

Date: 20th September, 2017

Venue: UN Headquarters, New York, USA

Time: 10.00 am-12.00 noon

Concept Note and Agenda NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency



Introduction/rationale

The extent to which African governments are able to transform education and skills development, health and wellbeing, empowerment as well as employment and entrepreneurship lie at the heart of the march towards progress and sustainable development. A well-developed Africa will depend on the education and skills of Africans, especially the youth.

Africa's political leadership fully recognises the growing problem of youth unemployment as a major socio-economic development concern, while on the other hand appreciates and acknowledges the potential the youth population offers. These scenarios have influence the development of national and regional-continental development policies, strategies and initiatives, including in Agenda 2063. The policies and programmes are aimed:

- To effectively rally increased political attention and action, as well as catalyse policy alignment and attract increased investment financing in pursuit of the structural transformation.
- To offer opportunities to the youths, to build desired skill capabilities and enhance their employability into a globally competitive and rapidly modernising labour market.

With 60 percent of Africa's population currently 24 and below, the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and African Union Agenda 2063 is boosted by the African Heads of State and Government's devotion of the year 2017 to "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth".

The programmatic actions of the NEPAD Agency are defined by the NEPAD Policy Framework for Youth Development in Africa. The programme is implemented under the NEPAD Rural Future Programme, with on-going programmes, such as the Skills Initiative for Africa and the programme on Promoting Decent Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness. These programmes are currently implemented in initial nine African countries.

At the margins of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly, the NEPAD Agency and partners are organizing a High Level Forum on ***Harnessing Skills for Rural Transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The High level forum will take place on 20th September 2017 at the UN Headquarters, New York.***

Side Event Overall Purpose

Given the critical nature of youth employment in Africa, essentially as part of the critical human capital resource the continent needs to catalyse and sustain competitive economic growth and inclusive development, the overall purpose of the High level Forum is to expose and facilitate sharing on experiences and best practice in stimulating and supporting expansion of employment and economic opportunities for youth in Africa. It is the NEPAD Agency's intention to engage, discuss and hear the experiences from various players and stakeholders on how issues of leadership, policies, and investments, can create opportunities for job creation and employment for youth in their home countries and positively contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 8 (to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all).

Expected panellists and participants

The Side Event will bring together a cross section of high profile leaders, champions and practitioners from both public and private institutions across the globe.

Side Event Structure and Outline

The Side Event will be a high profile panel session and interactive moderated plenary discussions for about Two hours.

Time	AGENDA ITEM
10.00 am	<p><i>Introduction and Purpose of the Event</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of the Event: Mrs. Estherine Fotabong, Director PICD, NEPAD Agency ▪ Remarks by: Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth ▪ Statement by: HE. Moussa Faki, Chairperson, African Union Commission ▪ Opening Address: HE. Mr Zacharie Perevet, the Minister of Employment and Vocational Training of the Republic of Cameroon
10.30 am	<p>High-level Panel Session: Moderator, Mr. Tala Kebe (UNOSAA)</p> <p><i>Issue paper: Youth at the Centre of Africa's Socio-Economic Development</i> (Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency)</p> <p><u>Panellists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Son Excellence Imed HAMMAMI, Honorable Ministre de l'Emploi et de la Formation Professionnelle, Tunisia ▪ HE Delphin O. KOUDANDE, Ministre de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de la Pêche, Benin ▪ HE Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President, African Development Bank ▪ Princess Gloria Akobundu, National Coordinator/CEO, NEPAD Nigeria ▪ HE. Ms. Ingrid Hoven, Director General, BMZ, Germany ▪ HE. José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, UN Food and Agriculture Organization ▪ Dr. Strive Masiyiwa, Board Chair AGRA and Founder ECONET Group ▪ HE Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General, International Labour Organization ▪ Mr. Mario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Center ▪ Mr. Bonga Petros Masoka, Founder and Business Developer, G-TECH HOLDING, South Africa ▪ Ms. Yaye Souadou Fall, Founder and CEO, E-cover, Dakar, Senegal
11.30 am	Questions and Answers
11.50 am - 12.00 noon	<p>Closing Session:</p> <p>Synthesis - Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency</p> <p>Closing Remark: HE. Mr Zacharie Perevet, the Minister of Employment and Vocational Training of the Republic of Cameroon</p>

Participation

The Event is opened to all. For more information, please contact the Vincent Oparah [vincento@nepad.org] with copy to Tendai Sithole at [tendait@nepad.org]