



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Expert Group Meeting

Regional Youth Policy Implementation & Entrepreneurship

Agenda

Organized by: UNECA – Socio-Economic Development Division

Date: 23-24 March, 2026

Location: Conference Room 5, UNCC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

DAY 1	
TIME	ACTIVITIES
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of Participants
9:00 – 9:30 A.M	<p>Opening</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Jalal Abdel-Latif, Senior Social Policy Advisor, Socio-Economic Division, ECA <p>Welcome remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Zuzana Schwidrowski, Director, Senior Social Policy Advisor, Socio-Economic Development Division, ECA Mr. Sam Ogwal, Youth Envoy of IGAD <p>Keynote Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi, Principal Secretary of State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports, Kenya
9:30 – 11:00 A.M	<p>Session 1: Presentation of analytical work on Best Practices in Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Africa</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Zuzana Schwidrowski, Director, Socio-economic Development Division, ECA <p>Speakers / Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Jacques Nel, Head, Africa Marco, Oxford Economics <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Ariane DeLannoy, Associate Professor & Chief Researcher, Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), University of Cape Town Mr. Charmarke Idriss Ali, Director General, Institut National de l'Administration Publique (INAP), Djibouti Ms. Juliana Ratovoson, Senior Youth Development Expert, AUDA-NEPAD <p>Q&A</p>
11:00 – 11:30 A.M	Health Break
11:30 – 1:00 PM	<p>Session 2: Selected Youth Financing Interventions in Africa</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Jalal Abdel-Latif, Senior Social Policy Advisor, Socio-Economic Division, ECA <p>Speakers:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nasreen Adem, Founder and Managing Partner, ACE study on SMEs • Ms. Nekesa Stephanie Wamalwa, Project Manager for the African Youth Panel Initiative, Trust Africa • Ms. Misikir Solomon, Senior Specialist, Enat Bank • Ms. Juliana Ratovoson, Senior Youth Development Expert, AUDA-NEPAD <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Raquel Leandro, Youth Empowerment Specialist, UNDP Regional Centre, Africa
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Lunch
3:00 – 4:30 PM	<p>Session 3: Overview of Youth Policy in Ethiopia: Implications for Employment and Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lamrot Gebresilassie, Africa Lead, Civil Society Academy <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Addis Yimer, Senior Researcher, Population Council, ECA • Mr. Adenew Mesfin, CEO, Social Enterprise Ethiopia • Ms. Nkiruka Chiemelu, Partnerships and Development Finance Officer, Resident Country Office (RCO), Ethiopia • Dr. Amare Matebu Kassa, Lead Researcher & Head of Industry Development Policy Study Center, FDRE Policy Studies Institute (PSI) <p>Q&A</p>

DAY 2	
TIME	ACTIVITIES
9:00 – 10:30 AM	<p>Session 4: Overview of Youth Policies in IGAD region: Implications for Employment</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denise Kodhe, Founder and CEO, Institute for Democracy and Leadership in Africa (IDEA) <p>Speakers / Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Sam Ogwal, Youth Envoy of IGAD Ms. Raquel Leandro, Youth Empowerment Specialist, UNDP Regional Centre, Africa Ms. Mutetsi Oliver, Vice President for East Africa, Pan African Youth Union (PAYU) Ms. Raysso M Ismail, Founder and CEO, Aria Consulting <p>Q&A</p>
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Health Break
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	<p>Session 5: Two Parallel Break-out Group Discussions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Amharic Session: Youth Experience Self Reporting (Amharic Session): Youth led discussion on the challenges faced in employment and entrepreneurship English Session: Post Doha, Articulation on the Youth Agenda. <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group 1: Mr. Birmaji Tola, Consultant, Socio-Economic Development Division, ECA Group 2: Ms. Omolola Mary Lipede, Fellow, Socio-Economic Development Division, ECA
12:30 – 2:30 PM	Lunch
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	<p>Session 6: Report Back of group Discussions</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Omolola Mary Lipede, Fellow, Socio-Economic Development Division, ECA <p>Speakers / Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Birmaji Tola, Consultant, Socio-Economic Development Division, ECA Ms. Omolola Mary Lipede, Fellow, ECA

	Q&A
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Health Break
4:30PM – 5:00 PM	<p>Closing:</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Jalal Abdel-Latif, Senior Social Policy Advisor, Socio-Economic Development Division, ECA <p>Closing Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Zuzana Schwidrowski, Director, Senior Social Policy Advisor, Socio-Economic Development Division, ECA