

SIDE EVENT

Transforming Informal Work into Sustainable Livelihoods for Youth in Africa

Date: 6 July 2026

Time: 10:00 – 11:15 AM

Venue: Conference Room C, United Nations Headquarters, New York

WHY ATTEND?

This high-level side event will explore pathways to transform informal work into sustainable livelihoods for youth in Africa, focusing on productivity enhancement, skills development, access to finance, inclusive urban development, and partnerships for scalable impact.

Join policymakers, UN Partners, development actors, and practitioners to exchange solutions and experiences.

PROGRAMME

10:00 – 10:15 | Opening Remarks

Mr. Claver Gatete, USG & Executive Secretary, UNECA

Mr. Li Junhua, USG for Economic & Social Affairs, UN DESA

H.E. Mr. Taher M. T. El-Sonni, Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations

10:15 – 10:20 | Introduction of Panel and Theme

Ms. Zuzana Schwidrowski, Director, Socio-Economic Development Division, UNECA

10:20 – 10:50 | Panel Discussion

Mr. Yared Teshome Geneti — Ethiopia

Mr. Sheka Bandura — Sierra Leone

Ms. Yolanda Asumu — iCubefarm, Equatorial Guinea

Dr. Hiro Hino — Duke University

Mr. Lakshitha Saji Preliis — Search for Common Ground / GCYPS

10:50 – 11:05 | Interactive Discussion

Exchange with participants

11:05 – 11:15 | Closing Remarks

Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain — UN Regional Commissions New York Office

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Youth employment • Skills development • Access to finance • Urban inclusion • Entrepreneurship • Partnerships.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Be part of shaping practical, scalable solutions that creates Sustainable livelihoods for Africa's urban youth.