



**International  
Labour  
Organization**



**NGYouthSDGs**

Network of Youth For Sustainable Initiative

ILO - NGYouthSDGs UN Partnership Forum  
Topic: Youth Leadership and Partnership for the 2030 Agenda  
Wednesday 31st January 2024  
11AM (WAT)

### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

Young people make up 2 billion of the world's population and have a critical role to play in achieving the SDGs. In Nigeria, young people under the age of 30 make up about 60 per cent of the country's 200 million population. However, full youth participation in the labour market remains a challenge due to several challenges across policy, law, and practice levels, including through many initiatives which lack long-term sustainable impacts. This side event was organized by the Nigeria Youth SDGs (NGYouthSDGs) in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and brought together young leaders, employment stakeholders from government, the private sector and international development partners to discuss the role of youth leadership and partnership in achieving the SDGs with a focus on decent work for youth. The youth forum discussions explored issues on youth employment, education, migration, and partnership for youth inclusion in driving the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

- The Ministry of Youth and Development reported progress in implementing the Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan (2021-2024). The implementation began by establishing job creation committees at national and state levels, delegating roles and responsibilities to stakeholders in areas like employment creation, employability, equality, and entrepreneurship. The focus has shifted to monitoring and evaluating the ongoing action activities.
- The Ministry of Youth Development also outlined initiatives to enhance youth leadership and engagement. These involve innovative programs, community outreach, and youth forums to establish a platform for development and

collaboration. This approach aims to provide young Nigerians with opportunities to contribute their ideas and perspectives to the nation's development.

- The role of youth leadership is pivotal in the progress of any nation. When envisioning a future for the youth, it's essential to consider their current status – are they gainfully employed or facing unemployment? Expecting youths without productive employment to actively contribute to economic development may be unrealistic.
- It is vital to emphasise the significance of intergenerational collaboration in boosting youth leadership for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Young people bring fresh ideas and innovation, as evident in addressing challenges like the climate crisis. Young people represent a valuable talent pool poised to significantly contribute to the growing digital and creative industries in Nigeria. Meaningful youth engagement transcends mere economic benefits; it intricately connects with the social and political facets of national development.
- Nigeria boasts a reservoir of creative and ambitious young entrepreneurs, and fostering effective engagement by offering platforms for opportunities is essential to harness their entrepreneurial potential.
- ILO shared its involvement in enhancing partnership for youth involvement, one of which is advancing digital skills in Nigeria with the inter telecommunication union, looking to support and ensure the digital skills required for digital transformation of the economy is in place. In addition to this is the Youth Employment Strategy (YES-Africa) co-designed with young people which will be launched before the end of 2024.
- The Nigerian Labour Congress developed a structure which aims to channel the perspectives of young individuals into the policymaking arena across various sectors, including education, oil & gas, and the creative economy. This approach seeks to harness the voices of young people, fostering their contribution to inclusive and sustainable national development.
- Nigerian youth constitute the largest population in an increasing flow of migration from countries in Africa to foreign lands for several reasons, one of which is unemployment. This is not inherently bad however making available policies and framework policies that relate with education, skills development and educational empowerment will help to cushion the status quo.

#### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- We need to support relevant institutions to institutionalise job creation programs as a long-term approach to solving unemployment in Nigeria.

- In controlling the rise in migration of young Nigerians, implementing policies and frameworks related to education, skills development, and empowerment is a high priority.
- We need to develop and foster a feedback mechanism between young people and stakeholders especially in co-designing programmes and policies.
- We need to ensure that infrastructure development is designed and developed in a sustainable manner and inclusive for persons of disabilities and all demographics.
- It is crucial we strengthen our drive towards localizing the SDGs to reach the marginalised. We should ensure effective collaboration with community-based organisations to reach local indigenes.
- With six years left until 2030, capacity building opportunities for youth leadership to gain expertise is crucial in enhancing youth leadership and partnership for the goals.

**Watch Event:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJDi11TNRso&t=885s>