

Second Committee Side Event:

Title: "*Sustainable Strategies for Eradicating Poverty through Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship.*"

Wednesday 19 October 2016, 10am – 1pm, UNHQ Conference Room 2

Background:

Today's world has the largest generation of youth in history. Their needs and rights/aspirations are increasingly recognized in the international community and in many national development plans. Young people hold the key to society's current and future advancement, yet too often they face barriers to their personal progress. The number of unemployed youth globally is expected to reach 71 million in 2016, making youth almost three times more likely than adults to be jobless. Agenda 2030 makes clear that it can only be achieved if no one is left behind and several sustainable development goals specifically target young people. It is therefore imperative that the international community pay specific attention to the youth with viable strategies and programmes for their inclusion. Two primary avenues for youth advancement are through decent work in formal employment or through entrepreneurship. The Second Committee is the appropriate forum for this discussion as it deals with overall macroeconomic policies that are crucial for creating jobs and eradicating poverty.

The challenges of formal employment

The transition from youth to adulthood is a crucial stage in which young people often take essential step towards economic independence. This role has the potential to revitalize the economy, advance human development, and influence family formation. Hence, not facilitating successful labour market transitions can lead to a lost generation of youth. However, a distinction must be made between transitioning into a decent job rather than any job, so the quality of employment attained by youth is very important.

According to ILO school-to-work transition surveys conducted in 19 low and middle-income countries, the average length of time it takes for a young person to get their first job is 7.2 months. However, getting a first job does not mean having completed the transition to work. Indeed, based on surveys conducted in 21 countries, it takes an average of 19.3 months for the labour market transition to be completed.

The challenges of entrepreneurship

As the transition to formal employment becomes a longer and more complex process, many youth are taking the entrepreneurial route to employment. Poor young people, especially in developing countries, are sometimes pushed into entrepreneurship out of necessity, as a way to generate an income. The desire to become an entrepreneur is also a popular notion among youth. A survey of 7,800 youth from 29 countries found that 70 per cent would like to work independently at some point in their life. Despite this, there are many barriers to entrepreneurship which hinders the ability of youth to participate in this process. This is important to analyse separately from paid

employment because the manner in which entrepreneurs interact with the labour market and the issues they face differ greatly.

The purpose of side event

DSPD is organising this side-event to provide stakeholders with the space to examine initiatives that have worked in youth employment and entrepreneurship and share lessons that can be adapted and adopted by all stakeholders. The side event will also examine employment policies and skills development programmes that can accelerate the transition for youth to decent work. The outcomes will provide input to the Commission for Social Development, whose theme for 2016-2017 is “Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all.”

Young people are understandably searching for the financial security, personal satisfaction and sense of purpose that come from meaningful employment. The visionary and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for substantially increasing the number of youth with the skills they need for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

Guiding questions:

1. What macro-economic policies can governments pursue to facilitate smooth transition for youth to decent work?
2. What are the broader challenges that emanate from exclusion and marginalisation of the youth?
3. What are the conditions that foster youth entrepreneurship?
4. What are the benefits and challenges of entrepreneurship?

PROGRAMME

Opening Segment:

Chair: Mr Glauco Seoane, Permanent Mission of Peru and Rapporteur, Second Committee will make introductory remarks (5 minutes)

1. Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division of Social Policy and Development to make opening remarks (7 minutes)
2. *Key note address by Mr. Werner Faymann, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Youth Employment.* (10 minutes)

Panel Discussion

Moderator for 1st Panel: Mr. Ignacio DIAZ DE LA GUARDIA, Permanent Mission of Spain and Vice-chair of the Second Committee.

1. Mr. Vinícius Pinheiro, Director, ILO Office for the United Nations (7 minutes)
2. Ms. Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara, Director, Social Development Programme at the Pacific Community, on policies in the Pacific (7 minutes)
3. Mr. Chris Eigeland, Young entrepreneur who employs more than 50 young people and Australian Youth Delegate to the UN General Assembly (7 minutes)
4. Ms. Tiffany Pham, Founder & CEO of MOGUL, named one of Forbes' 2014 and ELLE 2015 "30 Under 30" (7 minutes)
5. Ms. Beatrice Ayuru, youth entrepreneur, Lira Integrated Schools, Lira, Uganda (7 minutes)

30 - 40 minutes interactive discussion with the floor, followed by concluding remarks by each of the panellists and a summary by the moderator.

Conclusion

Summary by moderator
