



UPFYA

Newsletter

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Resourcing and Financing Youth Development: Empowering Young People.

THE UGANDA YOUTH BUSINESS FORUM

RESOURCING AND FINANCING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT; EMPOWERING YOUTH

26 July, 2017, Kampala Serena Hotel, Victoria Hall





Editorial

country. There must be structured interventions aimed at supporting continuous learning and development while keeping pace with trending global technological and scientific development. In addition, our education system must be responsive to address the critical skills gap, technology deficiency, lack of creativity and innovativeness especially among the graduates to ensure that they are well equipped with the relevant skills to succeed in the competitive job market.

Uganda recently hosted the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting with the theme **“Resourcing and Financing Youth Development: Empowering Young People”** and a lot transpired during the 5 day meeting, best practices were shared and a number of recommendations were made. It is therefore incumbent upon all of us as actors to ensure that the knowledge shared and recommendations from the 9CYMM are implemented to ensure that our youthful population is better involved in the development of the nation.

In this issue, we bring you a summary of what transpired during the 9CYMM and updates from the International Youth Day Celebrations.

Nice reading.

Fred Bbosa
ICT and Communications Officer

As Uganda strives to acquire the middle income status by 2020, the government and other players should put considerable effort in youth development bearing in mind that 78% of the country's population is below 30 years (UBOS report 2014) and huge potential if this demographic dividend is harnessed.

A national resource planning programme therefore needs to be developed and regularly operationalized to take stock of the skills needs of young people as enshrined in the Vision 2040 so as to spur the development of our



Uganda successfully hosted the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting from 31st July – 4th August. The meeting was attended by delegations from 32 countries and brought together Stakeholders in Youth Development, which together contributed expert knowledge and diverse perspectives on advancing youth development and exploring effective strategies for financing and resourcing youth development in Commonwealth countries.

WORD FROM THE CHAIR

The world's youth population reaches a record 1.8 billion people aged 15 to 29 representing a staggering amount of human potential and therefore Youth Development must be prioritized by every country if we are to reap from the demographic dividend.

Increasing investment in young people is key for our country. This includes promoting quality education that will equip them with the right skills that prepare them for future opportunities but also putting in place interventions that will ensure that the youth have economic opportunities and are hence productive.

As UPFYA, we pledge to continue advocating for the creation of an enabling environment so that the youth can thrive in their country by ensuring meaningful participation in the development processes. This therefore means taking a mainstream approach to youth programming.

Hon. Mwine Mpaka
Youth MP- Western region
Chairperson



HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE 9TH COMMONWEALTH YOUTH MINISTERS MEETING IN UGANDA



By Saraha Akello
Policy and Research Officer, UPFYA

Uganda hosting the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (31st July-4th August 2017) was a great opportunity to influence policies towards youth development. Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA) convened the 2nd Stakeholders' Forum, which was part of the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (9CYMM) held under the theme

Resourcing and Financing Youth Development: Empowering Young People.

The theme of the meeting was timely and came at a time UPFYA had started consultations on a possible legislation to establish the Youth Development Bank (YDB) through a private member's Bill to address the financial and credit needs of young people with focus on a whole range of economic activities, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and farmers. The need for a Youth Development Bank follows inability of the financial sector to address the peculiar needs of the youth in addition to the inadequacies of the current initiatives such as the YLP and Youth Venture Capital Fund by government.

The 9CYMM provided a rare opportunity for Youth Ministers to debate emerging youth development issues; share good practice and identify collaborative opportunities; take stock of current policy and programming; identify and agree pragmatic actions to strengthen youth development; and agree on strategic actions to address the issues and challenges facing young people. The Stakeholders' meeting made strong recommendations to the Youth Ministers who in turn made a commitment to forward the same



to the Heads of Government Meeting in London next year.

The onus to follow up on the opportunities and commitments made at the 9CYMM now lies in the hands of UPFYA and its partners who committed effort and resources to organize the Stakeholders' Forum as part of the CYMM. UPFYA and partners are well positioned to follow through on some of the emerging opportunities such as the establishment of

Youth Workers' Association, Commonwealth Higher Education consortium opportunities, thematic networks such as the human rights and democracy platform among others. It was also suggested in the post event meeting that a taskforce could be composed to champion policy recommendations from the CYMM at regional and intergovernmental forums and I hope the opportunity will not be lost as UPFYA positions itself to keep track of the process!



The presenters pose for a photo after one of the sessions.



THERE IS NEED TO REAP FROM THE HIGH YOUTH ENTREPRENEURIAL PROPENSITY IN THE COUNTRY



By Munanura Brain
Volunteer, UPFYA

On 28th July 2017, UPFYA in conjunction with other partners organized the first of its kind, the Uganda Youth Business Forum ahead of the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting (held on 31st July – 04th August 2017 at Speke resort, Munyonyo) an event that is held every after four years bringing together government ministers, senior officials, young leaders, and youth workers from across the globe to share good practices, establish new partnerships and agree shared priorities for youth development. The theme for the meeting was **Resourcing and Financing Youth Development: Empowering Young People**.

In 2015, Uganda was ranked as the most entrepreneurial country (inc.com) and so the youth business forum was an opportunity for Uganda to showcase its entrepreneurship potential and ways to support youth development in business but also generate ideas on how to overcome the various challenges that young business men and women face and brainstorm on setting up a conducive business environment for the young people to thrive.

The youth business forum attracted over 300 participants and brought together various actors including civil society, the business community, development partners, government representatives, policy makers, and young entrepreneurs and the recommendations were taken to the main Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting and a number of them were equally picked by other players.

During the meeting, Rt. Hon. Jacob Oulanyah, Deputy Speaker Parliament pointed out that Uganda's youth are a major asset with full potential, innovation and dynamism and therefore shouldn't be looked at as a threat but rather as a resource for positive production and the country's overall development. In addition, he remarked that parliament will continue working with the youth to realize their full potential, development and success within their country as they are duty bearers on the country's economy and development.



The UPFYA Chairperson, Hon. Mwine Mpaka introduced the concept of a youth development bank which is the new proposal that is being pushed by the UPFYA membership as way of dealing with the challenges concerning youth financing and it is perceived as an intervention that would uniquely

provide holistic financial solutions to the youth and eventually be a consolidation of the different existing initiatives. The current government initiatives of financing youth enterprises through scattered funds and modalities remain critical but are inadequate in addressing the financing and credit demands of a growing youth demographic. The bank aims at providing innovative modes of financing that would help leverage long term and affordable sustainable financing.

According to Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) report 2014, Uganda had the highest youth entrepreneurial propensity with 55.4% but many businesses do not live beyond their second birthday, this is partly attributed to the unfavourable business environment and the limited access to capital which the youth development bank if put in place could help address. In addition, government should instigate measures to support youth business start-ups in order to harness from the high youth entrepreneurial aptness.



The panel made up of youth entrepreneurs, policy makers and other business players analysing the Youth Business Perspective.



A participant contributing during the Youth Business Forum



During the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting a lot was discussed and several recommendations were made. Here is the final communique from the meeting.

Preamble

The 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting (9CYMM) was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 31st July to 4th August 2017. Delegations from 32 countries attended, of which 20 were led by Ministers. The meeting included three parallel forums for (a) Young Leaders, (b) Senior Officials and (c) Stakeholders in Youth Development, which together contributed expert knowledge and diverse perspectives on advancing youth development and exploring effective strategies for financing and resourcing youth development in Commonwealth countries.

His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda opened the meeting and welcomed

Commonwealth Youth Ministers, delegates and all other stakeholders to Uganda. He highlighted the critical contribution that young people make to national development and emphasised the importance of greater investment in youth development in Commonwealth countries. Commonwealth Secretary General Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC and Ministers thanked the government of Uganda for hosting 9th CYMM. The Secretary General reiterated the Commonwealth's commitment to ensuring that young people are at the heart of all initiatives and efforts aimed at fulfilling the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Ministers shared, discussed and explored strategies to resource and finance youth development. Ministers emphasised the importance of putting young people at the centre of development, and the need for Commonwealth countries to commit greater human and financial resources to ensure the development and empowerment of young

people, who comprise nearly one-third of the Commonwealth's population.



A group photo of the participants during the stakeholders forum.

Overview of the Global Youth Development Landscape

1. Reaffirming the 2015 CHOGM Declaration on the vital role that young



people can play in achieving inclusive and sustainable development, Ministers undertook to protect and strengthen the rights of all young people, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2. Ministers reaffirmed that young people are central to helping the world achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are ready and willing to do so. Ministers reiterated their commitment to empowering young people as partners and agents of positive change, including prioritising their participation in national development planning and implementation and decision-making processes.
3. Ministers noted the commitment of young people to be agents of social and economic progress continues to be undermined by the wide range of challenges they confront. These include but are not limited to, lack of funding for youth focused and youth led initiatives, and issues such as violent conflicts, natural disasters, poverty, lack of decent work opportunities, climate and demographic changes, weak youth participation structures, limited access to health and education services.
4. Ministers expressed concern regarding persisting inequalities in levels of youth development within and among Commonwealth countries and within the youth cohort, as shown in the Commonwealth's Global Youth Development Index Report 2016, and

resolved to take meaningful and concrete actions to empower and address the specific needs of marginalised young people, such as young people who are poor and live in rural and maritime areas, as well as young women and young people with disabilities.

Priority Areas for Investment in Young People

1. Appreciating that investment in young people's needs and capabilities is a right as reflected in the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment and can yield significant social, economic and political returns, Ministers called for increased and sustained investments in youth development in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and the 2015 CHOGM and 2013 CYMM communiqués.
2. Recognising that young people in most developing countries continue to lack access to basic social services and decent work opportunities, Ministers resolved to work with other relevant ministries to prioritise investment in post-primary education, productive employment, and skills development and training of young people. They also committed to improving young people's access to health services, especially to address issues related to drug and alcohol abuse as well as mental, physical, sexual and reproductive health.
3. Ministers agreed to lead collaboration on improving young people's meaningful



participation in national decision-making institutions and processes through a range of policy measures, such as the establishment and strengthening of youth-led bodies, commonwealth youth networks and innovation hubs.

4. In line with the principle of 'leave no one behind', Ministers recognised the diversity and inter- sectionality within the youth cohort and agreed that targeted policies and appropriate investment are required to address and advance the distinct needs and interests of various groups such as but not limited to gender, income status, geography, age, education level, people with disability and indigenous and vulnerable communities.
5. Ministers agreed to take steps to invest in gathering data, disaggregated by age, gender, disability and geography. They also agreed to work with National Departments of Statistics and Ministries of Finance to gather data and develop monitoring tools for facilitating the development of evidence-based policies and programmes, and financing strategies for youth development.
6. Ministers endorsed the Youth Development Index as a useful tool for assessing youth development at the national level. Ministers committed to assessing and evaluating youth programmes to ensure effectiveness.

Financing and Resourcing of Youth Development

1. Ministers noted that huge challenges exist in financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that these challenges are even bigger in the case of financing for youth development. They observed that without major reforms in resource allocation, spending and service delivery, many countries are unlikely to achieve major SDG and AAAA commitments towards children and youth by 2030 In order to bridge this gap, Ministers pledged to redouble their efforts and follow a multi-stakeholder approach to mobilise adequate financing and resources for youth development at the national and international levels.
2. Ministers agreed to work with relevant ministries to mainstream youth priorities across all stages of policy-making and public spending, and ensure they are integrated with national development and sustainable financing strategies. In this regard, they particularly stressed the need for adopting youth-sensitive budgeting, progressive taxation and youth-friendly public procurement policies.
3. Emphasising the importance of domestic financial resources and the private sector in mobilising investment for youth development, Ministers affirmed the importance of public-private partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms in facilitating youth development. They also endorsed the speedy adoption by Commonwealth countries of the universal social protection floors (SPFs) for all citizens, including young people, as recommended in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



4. Ministers highlighted the need for collaborating with relevant institutions such as Chambers of Commerce to encourage the private sector to align their business goals with national development objectives and the youth development agenda. They agreed to encourage the private sector to take steps to address the skills gap and provide more apprenticeships and decent entry-level jobs for young people.
5. Recognising the importance of innovative financing, Ministers agreed to take steps to ensure the creation and strengthening of an enabling environment for youth-friendly innovative financial instruments, such as youth impact bonds and ethical financial products.
6. Ministers recognised the value of existing financing mechanisms and agreed to lead collaboration to develop policies and strategies to promote youth and social entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, including by improving their access to finance and markets, expanding trade opportunities and making the regulatory environment supportive of young entrepreneurs. They called for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) – the main employers of young people – to have access to affordable trade finance and support from the banking sector in Commonwealth countries.
7. Ministers invited the Commonwealth Secretariat develop tools and mechanisms that can be used by member states to track domestic and international public spending and financing flows, devoted to the empowerment and advancement of young people.
8. Noting that digital transformation is a driving force of innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth, Ministers agreed to take steps to bridge digital divides along multiple dimensions, including income, age, geography and gender and promote digital literacy and digital skills in all forms of education and learning among young people.
9. Ministers agreed to promote youth work as a profession through education and training for sectors where youth engagement is important, such as but not limited to police, health, youth ministry, and social work. This includes the advancement of the Commonwealth Higher Education Consortium for Youth Work, which was launched by President Yoweri Museveni at this meeting.
10. Ministers agreed to establish a Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Task Force (CYMTF) to monitor progress on the CHOGM mandates and other commitments made at Ministerial meetings which refer to youth development, and provide advice and strategic direction in implementing them.

Commonwealth Youth Programme

1. Ministers noted the Commonwealth Youth Programme report presented to the Meeting, and commended the CYP for:



- a. Producing insightful and useful thought leadership pieces such as the Global Youth Development Index and Report 2016, Youth Mainstreaming in Development Planning: Transforming Young Lives and the Youth Work Baseline Study;
 - b. Creating the new Commonwealth Higher Education Consortium for Youth Work Education;
2. Ministers commended the role and work of the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Worker Associations (CAYWA), and youth-led networks such as the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC), and the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYPAN).
 3. Ministers invited the Commonwealth Secretariat to consider how to increase visibility of the Commonwealth youth networks and create better linkages between the youth networks, national youth structures and member states. The Ministers also invited the Commonwealth Youth Programme to engage more closely with youth ministries in member states on the projects and programmes of youth networks.
 4. Ministers noted the CYP requires additional resources to fulfil the potential of its value and support to member governments and resolved to recommend additional support to Heads of Governments at CHOGM 2018. They noted the importance of appointing regional representatives at the management level to facilitate improved relationship and better communication between member countries and the Secretariat and invited the Secretary General to make recommendations.
5. Ministers particularly emphasised the importance of continued focus by CYP in the areas of:
 - a. Supporting member governments in the development of evidence-based youth policies and youth development initiatives through the production and dissemination of thought leadership pieces such as policy guides, reports and toolkits.
 - b. Providing technical assistance and capacity building to member governments to help them develop and strengthen policies, strategies and action plans for empowering young people;
 - c. Promoting policy-relevant knowledge sharing and capacity-building partnerships between Commonwealth governments, multilateral organisations, the private sector and other stakeholders;
 - d. Once proper accountability mechanisms for youth networks are in place, CYP can continue to enhance youth participation in decision-making and youth-led action through providing support and technical assistance to the eight thematic Commonwealth youth networks on peace, climate change, health, human rights etc.
 6. Ministers resolved to recommend to the Secretary General and Heads Of



Governments:

- a. National development plans and policies of governments should include clearly defined and appropriate commitments for investment in youth;
- b. More consideration be given to increasing governments' investment in young people's needs, including increased budgetary and non-budgetary allocations to Youth Ministries and exploring innovative financing mechanisms;
- c. Governments prioritise the collection of relevant youth-specific data to inform investment and policy-making in youth development, including through mandatory gathering of age and gender-disaggregated data in the national census;
- d. Governments take steps to optimise the regulatory framework and enabling environment for businesses and encourage them to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and practices for the empowerment of young people. Using a South-South cooperation model, governments must harness and leverage of the Commonwealth to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, best practices and technical assistance related to youth development among member countries.
- e. Governments ensure that new and existing international financing pools, such as those related to climate, humanitarian and disaster risk reduction, are made accessible to and impactful for young people, and that youth is mainstreamed throughout all funded projects;

- f. Governments make efforts to make global trade, financial and investment agreements conducive to the promotion of youth development and empowerment through impact assessments, as well as targeted incentives and investments, capacity building and participation of young people in global supply chains and local content provisions;
- g. That the Commonwealth Secretariat and the CYP be empowered and appropriately funded to support the capacity development of member governments through the provision of technical assistance, policy guidance, toolkits and data analysis.

Commitments

Ministers committed themselves to ongoing and new programmes and exploring new mechanisms of financing and resourcing youth development and the creation of an innovation hub within the Commonwealth Secretariat, which will lead to the empowerment of young people in their countries.

Next Meeting

Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government of Uganda for its hospitality and for hosting 9CYMM in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat. They welcomed the offer of the Government of Jamaica to host 10CYMM in 2021.



AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STILL NEEDED FOR THE YOUTH



**By Osborn Turyasingura
Program Officer, UPFYA**

The International Youth Day Celebrations are held every 12th August to reflect on the achievements, progress, strides and impediments met by the young people all over the world.

In Uganda, this year's International Youth Day celebrations were held in Bundibugyo district under the theme 'Youth Building Peace'. The celebrations were dedicated to celebrating young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice,

and sustainable peace. Prior to that, there were pre - events for a full week including the exhibitions by different stakeholders in the youth fraternity and National Youth Council extra ordinary meeting.

During the extra - ordinary meeting organized by National Youth Council on 11th August 2017 at Kagote SDA Hall in Fort Portal, where each district was represented by three youth leaders, the youth leaders raised a number of pertinent issues affecting them and called upon government to ensure that the Presidential pledge of allocating 4.5 Billion towards the youth councils is fulfilled so as to ensure that they are adequately facilitated to ably carry out their roles especially monitoring of youth projects within their districts.

In addition, youth leaders urged government to recruit youth officers at districts to explicitly handle youth issues and manage the various youth related programs.

The youth leaders also moved a motion to amend the NYC Act so as to lift the age of a youth from 30 to 35 years.

During the main event in Bundibugyo, the President of the Republic of Uganda His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni launched the heifer project, under which all youth leaders at district level in Uganda, will receive heifers in a bid to encourage the youth to practice agriculture and get out of poverty.

However, it is important to note that, the youth day celebrations do not mean much because majority of the youth still languish in poverty, are subjected to poor standards of living, are dropping out of school, lack essential basic needs and have been disillusioned.



The NYC Chair giving a speech during the Youth Day celebration



Zombo District Youth Chairperson submitting during the Council meeting

The distribution of heifers to district youth leaders is a good step but it is perceived as a drop in the ocean and not a long term solution to getting the young people out of poverty since majority of the youth could even find it very difficult to look after the heifers due to the lack of adequate resources required. There must be deliberate ways put in place by the government to ensure that the youth benefit from government programs such as Operation Wealth Creation by ensuring that at least 30% of the inputs at all distribution levels (Sub county/District) and at least 40% of the contracts in various Ministries, Department and Authorities are reserved for the young people. This will ensure that youth even those at grass roots meaningfully participate in the development processes of the country and this will be a step forward towards the harnessing of the demographic dividends.



UGANDA'S YOUTHFUL POPULATION IS A HUGE POTENTIAL ONLY IF THE YOUTH ARE EMPOWERED



**BY Jennifer Agita
Administrator**

Uganda has the youngest population in the world with over 78% of its population below 30 years and about 56% is below 18 years (according to the 2014 Uganda Population and Housing Census of Uganda report).

The youthful population means that the country is blessed with the potential for an abundant and cheap labour force that can drive the envisaged growth and transformation. Under the current demographic profile, however, this potential is neutralized by a high dependency burden arising which is largely attributed to the high rate of youth unemployment and the skills gap rendering the youth unproductive.

Uganda has a large youthful labour force that is poorly educated and skilled. This has been largely due to inadequate education. This can be addressed through emphasising skilling of the youth with globally competitive skills so programs like Skilling Uganda and Skills Development Facility should be intensified and given adequate support. Government should also institute a National Youth Service and Internship scheme so that the youth are equipped with the relevant employability and entrepreneurship skills to survive and be productive.

In order to harness from the dividend therefore, Uganda must invest in the empowerment, education and employment of its young people. The demographic dividend is not automatic... It is a window of opportunity.

I am completely convinced that the youth can spur the development of our country so we just have to empower them and give them adequate support so that they are equipped with the right tools required.



Pictures from the Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Convention









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