



**AU-EU Africa Summit**

**Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire  
November 29-30, 2017**

**AfDB SIDE EVENT**

**“Urgently Accelerating Employment Opportunities for Africa’s Youth -  
Launching of the First Enabling Youth Employment Index Report for  
Africa”**

**29 November, 2017, 16hrs-17.30hrs  
Venue; AfDB HQ Auditorium**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The African Development Bank (AfDB) believes that achieving an indelible impact on youth employment in Africa, requires scaled up and accelerated response, by reinforcing and augmenting past efforts in a not “business as usual” way. Investing in the youth is critical to achieving the SDGs, AU Agenda 2063 and promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Africa. In this regard, the AfDB adopted the *Jobs for Youths in Africa Strategy 2016-2025*, as a priority commitment to aiding African countries to implement solutions that are scalable and impactful. The AfDB supports countries in creating an environment conducive for the youth to contribute to, and to appropriately benefit from, social and economic transformation. Africa will need to create about 10-12 million new productive jobs annually until 2025 to absorb new entrants into the labor market, most of whom are youth. Likewise, the high levels of working poor- making up almost two thirds of total employment (earning US\$1.90 and US\$3.10 per day) and eight times the number of unemployed in the region necessitates urgent actions for Africa to improve the quality and productivity of jobs. Without this, unemployment and vulnerable employment will remain high, average income per capita will not improve, migration pressures towards Europe will continue to grow, and instability and refugee crises will likely increase.

The proposed side event dubbed “*Urgently Accelerating Employment Opportunities for Africa’s Youth - Launching of the First Enabling Youth Employment Index Report for Africa*” is to elevate the urgency in spurring innovative ecosystem approaches in addressing Africa’s youth employment challenges. The main objective is to launch and disseminate the first ever Enabling Youth Employment Index report for Africa as a key policy dialogue instrument to elevate the momentum toward collective action and implementation commitment by African countries. The side event echoes the undeniable need for speed and greater efforts by African countries, RECS, civil society and all stakeholders moving from “talk shop” to scalable and high impact responses to the youth employment crisis, including the push for data. The AfDB will also leverage the summit to inaugurate the AfDB Presidential Youth Advisory Group (PYAG), chaired by Ashish Thakkar, Founder of Mara Group and Mara Foundation and which draws membership mostly from successful young African Entrepreneurs who are transforming the continent and the world. The PYAG will announce their envisaged focus of engagement with the AfDB in advancing practical and innovative solutions to curb the youth job crisis in Africa.

## 2. CONTEXT

Achieving SDG goal 4 and 8<sup>i</sup> by 2030 will be driven significantly by the quality and inclusiveness of economic growth across countries and not just the size of growth per se. Africa’s youthful workforce explosion<sup>ii</sup> poses a crucial test to accelerating the pace of a durable job-rich growth. It is estimated that in 2017, about 38 million of Africa’s workforce are unemployed and those working in moderate or extreme poverty are more than 150 million, most of whom are youth and women<sup>iii</sup>. More than half of Africa’s youth are currently unemployed, underemployed or inactive and about 70% of the poorest youth globally are in Africa. Africa’s gap between wage jobs and labor market participants widens by approximately, 8 million each year. In the next decade, 122 million additional jobs will be required to keep pace with the 10-12 million young entrants to the labour force each year. With all the great potential that Africa holds, the constraints of education and skills relevance and limited technological innovation mirrored by the prevalence of undiversified economies driven mainly by primary commodity led exports and hence, dependence on extractives that has less rewards to employment and an agricultural sector, marked by low skills, technology and productivity

must be a changed story. Over the next 30 years, Africa could add as much as \$500 billion to its GDP annually, if its youth bulge endowment is combined with the right human capital investment in education, with work placement programmes, health and employment generation.

**Africa's youth have prominence in AfDBs approach to promoting inclusive economic development in Africa.** In 2014, the Bank approved its first Human Capital Strategy (HCS) 2014-2018, with the vision to harness the potential of Africans, particularly youth and women by building skills and promoting technologies for better jobs, equal opportunities and workforce competitiveness. More recently, in 2016, the adoption of the AfDB first ever Jobs for Youth in Africa strategy (2016-2025) heightened the AfDB's commitment to supporting African Countries to significantly impact on youth employment for the continent's transformation. The Bank commits to equip 50 million youth with employable skills and create 25 million jobs over the next decade. To accomplish this goal, the Bank is working through three strategic intervention areas: Integration, Innovation, and Investment to increase inclusive employment and entrepreneurship, strengthen human capital, and create durable labor market linkages. Through Integration, the Bank is equipping itself and Regional Member Countries to become engines of job creation for young Africans; Through Innovation, the Bank is exploring productive partnerships to expand practical impactful solutions, incubate, implement, assess, and scale for greater impact; Through Investment, the Bank is leveraging private sector investments that fuel job creation and employment for youth (see details in JfYA Strategy pages 22-38). **The AfDB's Enabling Youth Employment (EYE) index Report is an indispensable part of this commitment.**

### 3. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the event is to create awareness on the new EYE index report as an important dialogue tool with African countries. The event will receive in-put from stakeholders on the progress made so far in the implementation of the HCS at mid-term. The event will stimulate public debate on "accelerated mode" response for implementation commitment to high impactful solutions to the youth employment crisis, and innovation and skills development for Africa's Transformation by Governments and all stakeholders. It will also emphasis on the push for data and addressing knowledge gaps as this is a major setback to youth development in Africa.

**The African Development Bank's President, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina will launch the EYE index Report.**

### 4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- i) Dissemination of the EYE index report
- ii) Press release of the launch of the Enabling Youth Employment Index report for Africa.

### 5. FORMAT OF SIDE EVENT- PANELISTS

- **Venue:** TBD
- **Moderator:** TBD
- **Six Panelists (invited)**

1. **H.E. Ms. Ulla Tørnæs** (To be confirmed); Minister for Development Cooperation, Governor of the Bank for Denmark

2. **Amb. Olawale Maiyegun:** Director of Social Affairs, AUC
3. **H.E. Mr. Sidi Toure** (To be confirmed): Ministre de la Promotion de la Jeunesse, de l'Emploi et du Service Civique, Côte d'Ivoire
4. **Mr. Federico Bonaglia:** Deputy Director of the OECD Development Centre
5. **Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon:** Deputy Director, ILO Regional Office for Africa
6. **Ms. Clarisse Iribagiza;** CEO and co-founder of HeHe Limited now DMM; and Member of AfDB Presidential Youth Advisory Group

- *Expected number of participant: 100*

## 6. TENTATIVE PROGRAMME:

**Moderator: To be Confirmed**

Time	Item	Responsible
4:00PM-4:05 PM	Welcome	Dr. Jenifer Blanke; Vice President, Agriculture, Human and Social Development; AfDB
4:05 PM- 4:15PM	Opening Remarks	Dr. Adesina Akinwumi; President, AfDB Group
4:15PM-4:25PM	Presentation of EYE index Report	Professor Nicholas Bikpe; President; Africa Growth Institute; Executive Chairman: Chartered Institute of Development Finance & Director; Development Finance Centre of University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business
4:25PM-4:30PM	Launching of the EYE index Report	Dr. Adesina Akinwumi; President, AfDB Group
4.30PM-4.35PM	Panelists Introductions	Moderato
4.35PM-5.00PM	Panelists discussions/comments	Invited panelists
5:00PM-5:20PM	Opening up to the floor Q&A	Moderator Audience
5:20PM-5:25PM	Wrap up and Closing	Moderator
5:25PM	Cocktail	

<sup>i</sup> which is a major catalyst for powering achievement of the other SDGs in general

<sup>ii</sup> The youth constitutes more than 40% of Africa's total population and was projected to rise by 42% between 2015 and 2030.

<sup>iii</sup> ILO; 2017; Word Employment and Social Outlook