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✿ Y20 Recommendations on Making Youth Employment Opportunities More Inclusive ✿

The COVID-19 crisis has severely disrupted economies and labour markets around the world. Youth have been particularly hard hit across three dimensions: (1) disruptions to education, training, and work-based learning; (2) increased difficulties for young jobseekers and new labour market entrants; and (3) job and income losses, along with deteriorating quality of employment.

Even before the COVID-19 crisis, young people were in a vulnerable labour market situation such as informal employment. Youth and marginal groups are the first ones leaving the labour market once a crisis hit, and they are facing considerable challenge in getting back into the labour market and finding decent employment along with new labour market entrants.

The gap that has been created by COVID-19 in the labour markets must be closed by governments and non-governmental stakeholders committing to implement inclusive policies that will promote youth employment.

Inclusive skills training, livelihood opportunities and lifelong learning

- Non-governmental stakeholders could allocate their resources in providing young people with skills that could assist them in finding decent employment, and adopt policies that aim to empower marginalized youth to participate in the labour market.
- Governments' effort in digitalizing skills training and development will ensure inclusive access to skills development for all, as a part of a human-centered recovery and the future of work.
- Policies or programs that provide apprenticeships for youth should be inclusive and ensure equal opportunities for all.
- Better coordination between institutions to provide access to vocational trainings and livelihoods activities for marginalized and young people.
- Ensuring that education institutions develop programs that will promote interdisciplinary learning and lifelong learning.

Addressing barriers in education and employment

- Governments should focus on policy responses that promote inclusivity by ensuring that policy implementation addresses education and employment barriers experienced by young and marginalized groups.
- Community consultations with local NGOs and CSOs will enable governments to better understand barriers in the education and employment sector.
- Additional tools and resources need to be provided in assisting learners in rural areas to attend school.
- Utilizing statistics from think tanks to help policy makers with decision making and policy drafting.

Voice of young people in policy making process

- Standardizing the inclusion of non-governmental stakeholders in policy making processes.
- Ensuring that the voices of young and marginalized workers are heard, through their participation in trade unions and policy making processes.
- Youth organizations should ensure that young people are represented and actively participate in the policy formulation.
- Providing financial support to youth-led organizations. There should be an intersectional approach taken when youth-led organizations are selected to represent young people in decision-making and policy formulation processes.

This Policy Recommendation document is prepared by Y20 delegates attending the Y20-UN Workshop on June 11, 2022. This document benefitted greatly from the contribution of Tlholohelo Mojakisane (South Africa) as the focal point of Breakout Room 3 and other colleagues in Breakout Room 3.

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