

AFRICAN YOUTH POSITION PAPER

PREPARED BY

VISION 2030 YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION (VYEA2030)

AND



OF AFRICAN GLOBAL YOUTH TRADE ALLIANCE (AGYTA)

PRESENTED TO

WTO MC11 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

ON

Dec 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th 2017

Table of Contents

A. BACKGROUND	3
B. OBJECTIVES.....	4
1) Main Objective.....	4
2) Specific Objectives	4
C. JUSTIFICATION AND RELEVANCE.....	5
D. ISSUES AND PROPOSALS.....	8
a) Agricultural Reforms.....	8
b) Government Procurement and Competition.....	8
c) LDC Package, Special and Differential Treatment	9
d) Capacity Building For Youth Led Micro, Small And Medium Sized Enterprises	9
e) Intellectual Property	10
E. EXPECTED OUTCOMES.....	10
F. CONCLUSION.....	10

LEVERAGING YOUTH IN GLOBAL TRADE THROUGH INCLUSIVITY

A. BACKGROUND

Though WTO Rules currently as set don't recognize Socioeconomic Issues such as Youth Unemployment, extreme poverty among youth, lack of access to finance by youth, imbalanced trade regulations that disenfranchise and disempower youth especially in developing and least developing countries. We the youth have engaged actively through focused group discussions, one-on-one interactions, reading, observing, listening, and visualizing.

Youth comprise 41 percent of the world's unemployed people. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 3 in 5 of the total unemployed are youth and on average 72% of the youth population live with less than \$2 a day. About 255 million young people live in the 19 countries with the largest poverty gaps; 15 of these 19 countries are in sub-Saharan Africa. About 85 percent of the world's population of youth live in developing countries. Nearly half (45.9 percent) live in low-income countries, while another third (34.1 percent) live in lower middle-income countries. The remaining fifth (20 percent) of youth live in upper middle- and high-income countries. Approximately 238 million youth live in extreme poverty—that is, they live on less than \$1 a day; 462 million youth survive on less than \$2 a day. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa have the youngest proportion of population in the world with over 70% of the region's population aged below 30. It's against this

background that youth cannot be ignored during global trade facilitation discussions

It's vital to note that the average age of a farmer globally is 60yrs. old. By 2022 it is noted that we shall experience a huge shortage of small holder active farmers because most will have reached the retirement age. This brings the need for rapid implementation strategies on how to attract and retain youth in agriculture. Failure to this developing and least developing countries will suffer pandemic food insecurity issues.

Ideas have coursed through our veins, our commitment to Agenda 2030(SDG's), has been renewed, and are Cognizant of the Role Youth may play in Global Trade through deliberate inclusion and thereafter active participation. The youths, met to discuss our contributions to the ongoing process of formulating plans, refining policies, and clarifying safe pathways that can lead to our desired objectives.

B. OBJECTIVES

1) Main Objective

- To mainstream Youth in Global Trade through inclusivity

2) Specific Objectives

- a) To attract Agricultural Reforms
- b) Get Access to Government Procurement
- c) To Reinstate Youth Ambassadorial Program
- d) To build Capacity of Youth Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises
- e) To Protect youth intellectual property

C. JUSTIFICATION AND RELEVANCE

We as youth believe that the WTO is a successful Organization. It is one of the key institutions for global governance. It is the principal forum for international economic cooperation for stability and predictability in trading relations. Yet, in spite of the progress made, much more work remains to be done to ensure that the WTO pro-actively delivers on development for all its Members, large and small, in particular for the most vulnerable and weakest. Trade rules will need to be more development-friendly in ways that take account of the specific vulnerabilities of developing countries. These rules bring to attention the limit resource allocation to socioeconomic services, leaving young people vulnerable to economic and social conditions aggravated by international financial crises, food security crisis, climate change effects, and imbalanced trading regimes.

This is why the theme of “Leveraging Youth in Global Trade through Inclusivity” is timely. How can the WTO and its rules contribute to more “inclusion of youth in global trade” and support the expansion and more equitable distribution of the benefits of trade across the global economy? This is a key question, particularly at this moment, when leaders are grappling with the challenge and consequences of inequality which has emerged as a major risk to peace and security.

Action at both the multilateral and domestic levels are necessary for achieving the objective of promoting meaningful “inclusion of youth in

global trade” . Multilateral action by the WTO on the rules of trade will matter.

The starting point and what will matter more will be the decisions that individual Members states will take domestically for structural transformation to diversify, rebalance and modernize their economies, improve governance and tackle corruption, on the basis of good governance and in accordance with the rule of law and, with security of life and property.

A robust and responsible starting point in achieving the objective of “inclusion of youth in global trade” is the acceptance of responsibility and the initiation of a serious and sustained process of domestic structural reforms. It is unattainable to push for global change if locally we are still incapable of transformation especially in Developing and Least Developing Countries.

We the Youth therefore seek to propose to the Ministerial Conference that an enabling environment for youth run business will level the playing field through reduction of costs, elimination of bottlenecks and inefficiencies. This will further lead to transparency and in the long run inclusiveness for youth in Global Trade been promoted. This is critical.

A healthy global economy provides the foundation for constructing a trading system that is inclusive of Youth. The current state of the global economy is worrying. This is a moment of unique challenges. Demand is weak. Growth is slow, uncertain and estimates are downwards. Serious downside risks exist, rooted in the potential volatility in the financial markets, changes in commodity prices, sluggish trade and reduced global

flow of investments, Climate Change effects, Unemployment and Underemployment remains a major

As in all situations of challenge there are significant opportunities. We Youth seek that International cooperation to foster growth and development is urgently needed. Multilateralism should remain the first choice in the resolution of global problems and the deliberate lack of inclusion of Youth in Global Trade is a Major Global Problem.

We congratulate the Director-General, Council of Ministers and Members for successes registered and accomplishments of the WTO as a successful multilateral institution of key importance in global governance. However, We the Youth believe that it requires an updated development perspective. Its continued success will depend on making trade more inclusive, fairer, and more supportive of development, with trade rules that support the domestic reform plans of economies at different stages of development.

We respectfully submit these proposals as the earnest longings of our heart, hoping that we would be heard, understood, and engaged for the development of our beloved developing and least developing Countries.

D. ISSUES AND PROPOSALS

a) Agricultural Reforms

Ministers of all Members States should consider adopting the following as a strategy to attract Youth into Agriculture:

- I. Access to Knowledge, Information and Education:
- II. Access to land programs
- III. Access to Funding
- IV. Access to Markets

b) Government Procurement and Competition

Ministers of all Members States should consider adopting the following as a strategy to strengthen the capacities of Youth through Affirmative Action.

- I. Create Special Provisions of Quotas for Youth in small and medium sized enterprises to access government procurement opportunities.
- II. Encourage provisions of Fair Competition incentives for youth Developing Countries and Small and Vulnerable Economies to ensure Regional and Multilateral .
- III. Standardization of Quality in Developing Countries and LDC' S to ensure the Goods and Services dare up to standard therefore enable them to compete and Access International Markets.

c) LDC Package, Special and Differential Treatment

Ministers of all Members States should consider adopting the following as a strategy to strengthen the capacities of Youth Through:

- I. The Reinstatement of the Youth Ambassador Program in order to include youth in Trade policy dialogue Framework, raise awareness of international economic governance issues among young people, encourage their engagement in public policy discussions, and bring new perspectives to the debates
- II. Inclusion and Participation of African Youth in the Moot Courts and Students Debates Program aimed at building the capacity of DC and LDC Youth with Exposure to Trade Negotiation.

d) Capacity Building For Youth Led Micro, Small And Medium Sized Enterprises.

Ministers of all Members States should consider adopting the following as a strategy to strengthen the capacities of Youth Through:

- I. Setting up Trade Accelerators Centre' s in Developing and Least Developing Nations that will be targeting stimulate youth led enterprises to be integrated into Global value chains by offering trade related services e.g. Training, Advisory, Mentoring and Funding.

e) Intellectual Property

Ministers of all Members States should consider adopting the following as a strategy to strengthen the capacities of Youth Through:

- I. Protection of the Intellectual Property of Youth Globally from exploitation and Loss through development of Protection Policy Mechanisms so as to safeguard youth inventions and innovations.
- II. Create Awareness about Protection of Intellectual Property owned by Youth.

E. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Recognition of Young People's Issues related to Global Trade within the WTO Framework of operation to enable young people actively participate within this framework for economic empowerment, while raising awareness of international economic governance issues among young people, encourage their engagement in public policy discussions, and bring new perspectives to the negotiations.

F. CONCLUSION

We the Youth encourage that the world must move from decision-making to action. Full and timely consideration of this proposal will expedite growth and advance the achievement of the goal of inclusiveness in trade development.



Economic growth should benefit all countries and all peoples in particular, youth, women and disadvantaged groups; generating quality jobs, addressing inequalities and eradicating poverty.

