



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



From
the People of Japan



REPORT

International Conference on Investing in Youth: “Leaving No One Behind”



Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

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The contents of this report were based on the presentations, speeches and remarks made by the participants of the International Conference on Investing in Youth, and do not necessarily reflect the positions of APDA.

Acronyms

AFPPD	Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
APDA	Asian Population and Development Association
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CSE	Comprehensive sexuality education
FGM	Female genital mutilation
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and communications technologies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JPPF	Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
MP	Member of Parliament
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
STIs	Sexually transmitted infections
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

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Executive Summary

The International Conference on Investing in Youth 'Leaving No One Behind' (hereafter called the 'Conference'), was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 19 and 20 October 2018, providing a multi-stakeholder platform to share and discuss good practices in policies, legislation and programmes aimed at young people who shape the present and future of our society. The Conference was attended by more than 200 participants from parliaments, governments, international organizations, development banks and civil society, involving 35 countries and 20 entities as well as 52 members of parliaments.

Participants discussed root causes and barriers to achieving full potential for young people, especially in realizing access to health, education, employment and their participation in society. The potential of young people cannot be realized until all relevant stakeholders make concerted efforts to building a family, community, and society committed to leaving no adolescent or youth behind, while reaching the invisible and the young people who have fallen through the cracks.

The Conference covered four substantive sessions on the following themes:

1. Expanding opportunities for education and employment of youth and improving linkages and transitions.
2. Improving health and well-being of youth through universal access to health information, education and services.
3. Promoting full participation of youth in civil, political and social affairs.
4. Opportunities and risks for youth in the context of globalizations.

In the **first session**, the Conference considered various causes of growing mismatches between knowledge and skills provided by the educational system and those required by the labour market. Resource shortages, low teacher motivation, poor quality education, rigid education system as well as the rapid expansion of digital technologies result in high level of youth unemployment, on the one hand, and labour shortages in certain sectors, on the other hand.

The participants agreed that there is an urgent need to rethink and innovate the education system. Greater investment in improving the relevance, quality and accessibility of education and vocational training is required to meet the changing competency demands of the labour market. Conference participants also agreed that improving working conditions and training opportunities for advancement, particularly in rural areas, would make teaching a more attractive career choice. Other areas of support included those targeted at vulnerable youth, including young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and disabled youth, through developing a system of training in business skills and the basics of entrepreneurship, as well as involving them in socially useful activities. Emphasis was placed on the importance of eliminating gender discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities for young women and young men in the digital economy.

The **second session** discussed the health needs and well-being of young people at the critical stage of life. Many young people lack access to health information, education and services and remain vulnerable to unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortions, child marriage and pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STI) including HIV, and drug and alcohol abuse. Also, sexual violence is on the rise, especially in conflict situations. In developing countries complications

from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death in young women aged 15-19. Young people and especially young men are at greater risk of dying from suicides and violence.

The Conference agreed on a commitment to make primary health care, especially sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and sexuality education, more youth friendly and accessible, and to promote universal access to a basic package of youth-friendly health services including SRH and mental healthcare. Participants also committed to addressing factors that prevent young people from living healthy lives, and ensuring availability of a broad range of health information and education, especially SRH and mental health.

The **third session** discussed the participation of young people in civil, political and social affairs and their opportunities to participate in decision-making. Young people are often excluded or overlooked in civil, political and social activities, because of age and projected lack of experience. In many countries, young people are underrepresented in parliaments in comparison to the number of young people in society. Also, discriminatory laws, institutions and attitudes restrict young women's participation and leadership in public life.

Youth without opportunities or a connection to the community may engage in negative behavior including substance abuse, delinquency, risky sexual behavior or drop out of high school. On the other hand, young people with a clear sense of identity, positive self-worth and opportunities are more likely to succeed. Civic engagement provides young people with opportunities to gain work experience, acquire new skills, and learn responsibility and accountability. The discussion resulted in agreement that it is necessary to provide opportunities for targeted youth participation in decision-making processes at all levels; promote multi-sectoral, inclusive involvement of youth in youth policy development; and create initiatives that specifically promote young women's participation in civil, political and social affairs.

In the **fourth session**, the Conference discussed how youth are positively and negatively affected by the process of globalization. On the positive side globalization can accelerate economic development, technological advancement, mobility in search for better educational and employment opportunities, and increased access to education, health and information. On the negative side globalization may come with substantial social costs, widening the social divisions, growing inequality and leaving behind socially-disadvantaged youth including young forced migrants and refugees who are more vulnerable to poverty, radicalization, discrimination and violence.

The participants acknowledged that young people are inheriting a world where the global climate is changing faster than most people like to think and that youth have an increasingly strong social and environmental awareness, which has the power to transform societies towards a low-carbon and climate resilient future. The Conference agreed to address the need to promote participation of young people in global and regional development activities and programmes through increased mobility and connectivity among young entrepreneurs, students and researchers. Effort is required to guarantee that young migrants enjoy full respect of their rights and protection against violence, exploitation and discrimination, and to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement. The Conference also agreed to engage young people as active agents and innovators, including through information and communications technology (ICT), in addressing urgent challenges such as those brought about by inequality, climate change and natural disasters.

Background

With today's generation of young people aged 10-24 being the largest in history, young people are increasingly seen as an important group to address, representing society's hopes for the future. The Asia-Pacific region including Central Asia accounts for over 60 percent of the world's young people (albeit showing a declining trend in the coming decades with an expected decline in the region's average fertility rate). Investing in young people is critically important to ensure future societies are economically dynamic and vibrant, as well as peaceful, inclusive and sustainable while providing opportunity for all.

Young people in the region today are better positioned to participate in, and benefit from the advancement of social, economic and political development. Compared to previous generations, a higher proportion of young people have completed primary education and enrolment in secondary and tertiary education is increasing, although there are differences between males and females in access to education. The majority of youth in the region are healthy, having survived childhood years which a few decades ago had considerably higher infant and child mortality rates.

However, young people also face a complex and rapidly evolving situation where new opportunities coexist with major challenges. Competition for jobs is high and many young people lack the requisite knowledge and skills to adapt to the changing economic and social environment. There is an un-proportionately higher unemployment rate among young people compared to that of the labour market as a whole. Long-term unemployment leads to a wide range of social ills to which young people are susceptible, such as delinquency and substance abuse, and often feeds political unrest and violence. Exacerbating the situation is the limited knowledge and poor access to health services related to early pregnancy, prevention of STIs including HIV, drug use and other health risks, particularly among out-of-school young people in rural areas. Not investing in education, skills development, job creation, health, and empowerment is one of the highest costs any government can incur, leaving governments unable to reap demographic dividends.

Full potential of each and every adolescent and youth cannot be realized unless all relevant stakeholders make concerted efforts to building a family, community, and society that are committed to leaving no adolescent and youth behind, and reaching the invisible and the furthest behind. With this background, the International Conference on Investing in Youth (thereafter called the "Conference") was convened in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 19-20 October 2018, to provide a multi-stakeholder platform for political leaders, policy makers and representatives from the international organizations, development banks and civil society to examine the barriers to achieving full potential for young people, especially in realizing access to health, education, employment and full participation in society, and to share evidence-based good policies and effective interventions to overcome them. Special attention was paid to those young people who are vulnerable, or with special needs, such as unemployed youth, out-of-school youth, female youth, rural youth, youth infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, street youth, physically and mentally challenged youth, and youth in difficult circumstances, in the spirit of "leaving no one behind."



The Conference aimed to achieve:

1. Shared understanding, among participants, of closely interlinked root causes of issues and challenges faced by young people in the region today.
2. Increased appreciation of the urgent need for cross-sectoral, inter-ministerial, and multi-stakeholders' approach to resolving the issues and challenges faced by young people in the region, including in policy formulation and mainstreaming adolescent and youth related agendas in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. Strengthened commitment to taking individual and collective actions to build peaceful, inclusive and sustainable communities and societies where young people can play an integral part and fulfill their fullest potential.

The Conference was jointly organized by the *Mazhilis* (Lower House) of the Parliament and the Ministry of Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), and supported by the Government of Japan and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The agenda of the Conference is found in Annex 1: Agenda.

The Conference was attended by more than 200 participants from parliaments, governments, international organizations, development banks, youth organizations and academia. (See Annex 2: List of participants.) The profiles of the speakers are found in Annex 3: Biographies of speakers, presenters and panelists. During the Conference, relevant publications and printed materials were also distributed. (See Annex 4: List of publications and printed materials).

Opening Session

(Chair: Mrs. Gulmira Issimbayeva, Deputy Chairperson of the *Mazhilis* of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan)



Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, Chairperson of the *Mazhilis* of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan opened the Conference, welcoming all participants to Astana, Kazakhstan. He stated that the President, the Parliament and the Government of Kazakhstan attach special importance to all issues related to young people, including education, health and employment, regarding youth as the main source of future sustainable development.

Following his welcome speech, several opening remarks were made on behalf of the organizers and guests of the Conference.

Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan and Chair of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), expressed his gratitude to the *Mazhilis* of the Parliament of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Social Development for hosting the Conference. He spoke of the importance of supporting Asian and Pacific countries in achieving the SDGs and pointed out that without giving young people appropriate education, training and employment opportunities, they can become a major source of social dissatisfaction and instability. Referring to the success story of Japanese post war development, Mr. Fukuda emphasized that there is an urgent need to provide high quality education, train young people to be creative and provide them with basic research and technology skills. He urged an investment in young people to pursue sustainable

development.

Speaking via video message, **Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth**, greeted the Conference participants stressing the importance of youth related issues. She referred to the UN Youth Strategy and 'Generation Unlimited' Partnership, launched by the UN Secretary-General in September 2018. In his remarks to a High-level event at the UN General Assembly on 'Youth 2030', the UN Secretary-General emphasized the UN's strategy to engage with and empower young people, and focus on access to education and health services for youth.

In his opening remarks, **Mr. Mirlan Bakirov, Deputy Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh (Supreme Council) of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan**, stressed the importance of investing in youth noting the considerable ratio of young people to older people in Central Asia. Referring to the Republic of Kazakhstan's proclamation of 2019 as the Year of Youth, he pointed to the importance of young people's involvement in parliaments.

Mr. Boriy Alikhanov, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, spoke about key features of the state policy for youth, such as the establishment of a youth union, establishing awards for young people's achievements and new legislation on state assistance for young people.

Mr. Darkhan Amanovich Kaletayev, Minister of Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, presented an overview of young people's issues in Kazakhstan, explaining that while the situation has seen improvement some challenges remain, such as the high suicide rate. He highlighted the governmental programme to promote young people and thanked international partners for helping Kazakhstan to improve education, promote entrepreneurship and provide housing. Kazakhstan also increased participation of young people in public affairs and political debates.

Mr. Ian McFarlane, Deputy Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) pointed to several persisting issues, such as child marriage, early pregnancy, and high suicide rates in his remarks. He also noted that in 2017, 590,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 were newly-infected with HIV; and nearly 71 million young people were unemployed with 34 percent of young women and 10 percent of young men find themselves not in education, employment, or training (NEET) globally. He reminded the audience that young people matter and noted that there are huge possibilities for achieving moral, economic and social benefits to our societies through investing in young people inclusive of education, health and training. Mr. McFarlane emphasized the incredibly important role parliamentarians can play in building legal frameworks, providing necessary financial allocations and also in bringing young people into decision-making processes.

In his opening remarks, **Mr. Ichiro Kawabata, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Kazakhstan**, thanked the *Mazhilis* of the Parliament, Ministry of Social Development, and APDA for organizing the Conference, which was partially supported by the Japan Trust Fund through UNFPA, and acknowledged the excellent cooperation among international organizations, particularly UNFPA, APDA, Asia Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), and the Asian countries in raising important population, reproductive health and human security issues. The Japan Trust Fund makes invaluable contribution to NGOs abroad, in particular supporting the exchange of views among members of parliaments. Mentioning the

upcoming 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 2019, which was originally held in 1994, he expressed continued support from the Government of Japan for population and human security issues in the context of SDGs globally and in Central Asia, especially through the Kazakhstan-Japan Center for Human Development.

At the end of the opening session, **Mr. Marco Roncarati, Youth Focal Point of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**, made an introductory presentation 'Overview of Youth Issues – Past, Present and Future', focusing on three key issues: sustainability, equity and services. Mr. Roncarati pointed to the fact that just 3.2 percent of young people in developing countries participated in formal employment in comparison to 80.7 percent in developed countries. Wealth disparities are widening, with top eight billionaires owning the same wealth as the poorest 3.6 billion people. Access to secondary education ranges from 25 to 95 percent in the Asia-Pacific region regardless of the national income level. However, use of the Internet depends correlates with wealth (just 32 percent of poorer people can access the Internet while 81 percent of wealthier people have access). Mr. Roncarati emphasized that investing in youth should help societies to address today's key challenges - lack of sustainability, equity and effective public services. Innovations and changes in mind-set are required to move towards more sustainable behavior, equal opportunities for all and transparent, inclusive and efficient public services. (See Annex 5: Presentations - Overview of Youth Issues – Past, Present and Future.)

First Session: Expanding Opportunities for Education and Employment of Youth and Improving Linkages and Transitions

(Chair: Mr. Boriy Alikhanov, Deputy Speaker of the Oliy Majilis (Supreme Assembly) of the Republic of Uzbekistan)

Two presentations were made by the representatives of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Mr. Ato Brown, Country Manager for Kazakhstan, World Bank, focused on the 2018 World Development Report – 'Learning to Realize Education's Promise'. He elaborated on the diverse aspects of the on-going learning crisis. Since 1980, years spent in school have doubled globally, yet young people are not sufficiently equipped with adequate or right skills and knowledge required for the labor market. In many developing as well as developed countries, the performance rates are alarmingly lagging behind the proficiency requirements of the private sector. Many teachers are unskilled and/or unmotivated and students are often not ready or motivated to learn. Referring to the overall concern that the learning crisis is becoming a skills crisis, Mr. Brown emphasized that learning should be made a serious goal; schools should work for all learners; and stakeholders should be aligned to make the educational system work for learning. (See Annex 5: Presentations - Learning to Realize Education's Promise.)

Mr. Giovanni Capannelli, Country Director for Kazakhstan, Asian Development Bank, focused his presentation on the 'Transition from Education to Employment', explaining current trends in the economy, technology, workplace, ideology and career. He emphasized that with the growing rate of automation the share of human labour will fall from its current levels of 71

percent to less than 50 percent in 2025, an enormous challenge for the job landscape and skill requirements. New technologies and high rate of automation in private and public sectors will require a different kind of education and multiple advanced skills for greater employability, including the skills for competitiveness, innovation and communication, critical thinking and collaborative problem solving. Mr. Capannelli concluded that the development of a new education policy to enable life-long learning and ensure inclusive education using multiple ways to impart knowledge and skills is essential. He stressed that policies must support youth-at-risk, particularly those who are NEET (10 percent men and 34 percent women aged from 15 to 24). He also emphasized that inclusive education, support to marginalized and vulnerable youth groups and women can help tackle inequalities. (See Annex 5: Presentations - Transition from Education to Employment.)



A panel discussion, moderated by **Mr. Marco Roncarati, UNESCAP**, followed the presentations.

Ms. Madina Abylkasymova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Republic of Kazakhstan, spoke about various attempts made by the government which contributed to keep the youth unemployment rate low (3.9 percent), while emphasizing the need to have policies and measures targeted at different groups of youth, such as NEET, youth with disability, young women with children, youth with education, youth without education, and youth in the informal sector. The government invests in increased access to education through free vocational and technical education, grants for higher education, short-term training, internship programme and training programmes at employment centers as well as the on-line platform.

Ms. Rosemarie G. Edillon, Under-Secretary, National Economic and Development Authority, the Philippines, noting the high unemployment rate (14.5 percent) among the 15-24 age cohort in the Philippines, talked about the provision of cash transfers by the government in order to address school dropouts, poverty and teenage pregnancy. Schooling was increased from 11 to 13 years and support is provided to build skills for transition to employment.

Mr. John Barrett Trew, Global Head, Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, Plan International, emphasized that system-level approaches are necessary and should centre on youth choosing what best suits them. With new digital technologies, different skills requirements emerge to match the fast changing labour market. It is necessary to monitor and identify the mismatch with available education and adjust the education systems and legal frameworks accordingly in a timely manner.

Mr. Sayasat Nurbek, Independent Expert, National Geographic, Kazakhstan, Goodwill Ambassador stressed that the change in skills requirements is profound and will require a radical solution. Education will have to be remodeled and redesigned from a prevailing cognitive role, to foster greater ability to think and create ideas, system solutions and innovations. There is already an intensive search for a new model of education, which would unlock people's potential for developing skills as required. He said that the time spent in education does not ensure quality and efficiency of learning processes, required to meet the future needs of industries and societies. He emphasized that education is not limited to school years, but rather a life-long iterative process of learning, unlearning and re-learning.

The following points and comments were made in the discussions:

- The introduction of targeted policies to address complex issues of vulnerable groups needs to be considered. Priority attention should be given to young people with disabilities and young mothers with unfinished education.
- The empowerment of women and girls remains a huge challenge. Even in countries where women are better educated than men, women continue to earn as low as two-thirds of their male counterparts, because they are mostly employed in sectors of economy with lower wages or informal sectors. The burden of unpaid or low paid work often excludes women from accessing new economic opportunities.
- Teachers are poorly paid and not motivated. There is a need to make teaching more attractive, especially in rural areas, by providing training, career advancement and other incentives.
- Building skills for employment requires addressing poverty, teenage pregnancy and the lack of schooling. The demand for investment in education, access to family planning and financial support to the poorest will increase, for instance, through an adjustment of the taxation system or cash transfers.

The session highlighted the need to provide high quality education which should be more responsive to the changing needs of the labour market, and to develop new models of education accessible to all, which is not only a task of governments but also of experts from private sector, academia and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The session also emphasized the need to include young people in processes and decision-making.

Second Session: Improving Health and Well-being of Youth through Universal Access to Health Information, Education and Services

(Chair: Professor Keizo Takemi, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan and Chair of AFPPD)

The topic of the second session was introduced with two presentations.

Ms. Soyoltuya Bayaraa, Coordination Advisor, Youth and Demographic Dividend, Technical Division, UNFPA, presented ‘Empowering Young People through Health Information, Education and Services,’ providing an overview of the current challenges and opportunities facing young people. Most young people live in countries with multiple burdens posed by high levels of poverty, violence against women and girls, high adolescent birth rates and maternal mortality among young mothers, early marriages and vulnerability to STIs, including HIV.

Low access to health care and education contribute to young people’s vulnerability and exclusion from society. Ms. Bayaraa stressed that opportunities such as access to knowledge and investment in health and education empower young people. Access to correct knowledge on SRH at the right time proves life-changing and provides triple dividends to young people - to become an educated adult; to gain employment and practice family planning; and to raise the next generation.

Ms. Bayaraa emphasized that adolescence is a critical phase in life for achieving human potential, providing the foundation for health that determines trajectories across the life course. Yet young people have the poorest level of universal health coverage of any age group. Girls face disproportionate risks and if their needs are not attended to during this life stage, it results in life-long intergenerational implications, complications during pregnancy and childbirth, and greater vulnerability to HIV and other STIs. Ms. Bayaraa also presented examples of UNFPA’s innovative work for young people, contributing particularly to empowering women and adolescent girls. (See Annex 5: Presentations - Empowering Young People through Health Information, Education and Services.)



Professor Kristien Michielsen, International Center for Reproductive Health, Ghent University, presented ‘Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health’. Describing the status of SRH among young people in Asia-Pacific, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, she pointed out two prominent characteristics in the region: first is the high rate of child, early and forced marriage in South Asia (more than double of other sub-regions), although the rate declined over the last 20 years; and the second is the increasing number of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, the only sub-region with increasing numbers. One-third of new HIV infections occur among people aged 15-24 years.

Professor Michielsen also presented the findings of the Global Early Adolescent Study, which show that puberty is a critical time in the life course when unequal gender norms develop and

different existing expectations for boys and girls often result in an expansion of boys' worlds and a shrinkage of girls'. She reported that unequal gender norms and attitudes are widespread globally and peers and parents are key to shaping gender norms and attitudes. Professor Michielsen highlighted the importance of comprehensive sexuality education as an evidence-based intervention to promote sexual and reproductive health and well-being of adolescents. She stressed that comprehensive sexuality education aims to equip young people with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to reach optimal health, well-being and dignity. In order to develop respectful social and sexual relationships, it is crucial for young people to understand choices and how those choices affect life decisions. She ended her presentation, calling for an inter-sectoral approach, on the basis of comprehensive research, to improve policies and the introduction of comprehensive sexuality education. (See Annex 5: Presentations - Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health.)

Mr. Ian McFarlane, UNFPA, moderated a panel discussion after the presentations.

Mr. Yelzhan Birtanov, Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, described how the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan is meeting the challenges of the health and well-being of young people in the country.

Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, Member of the National Legislative of the Kingdom of Thailand, Chair of the Committee on Public Health, and Secretary-General, AFPPD, discussed the overall health and well-being of young people in Thailand, particularly on HIV and high level of adolescent pregnancy (while the overall fertility remains low), and shared various government attempts including the Adolescent Pregnancy Law that involves multiple agencies/actors to prevent adolescent pregnancies. He pointed to the limited knowledge of SRH among young people.

Ms. Kamila Tuyakbayeva, Y-PEER, Republican Center for Health Development, Republic of Kazakhstan, emphasized the effectiveness of peer-to-peer education as a means to reach out, especially those who are difficult to reach. She shared some successful and innovative examples. She spoke about how to make the public health services more youth friendly.

Dr. Oleg Chestnov, World Health Organization Country Representative, Republic of Kazakhstan, talked about other health issues of young people, including mental health, alcohol, drug use and violence, and the importance of paying attention to non-communicable diseases from the early age, which can affect adult life. Many young people lack access to health information, education and services and they bear a substantial burden of disease, including increased risks of mental health.

The following points and comments were made:

- Investing in the health of adolescents and youth is not only the right thing to do but makes economic sense. In general, investing in prevention enormously lowers the cost of future treatment. In particular, investing in SRH of young people lowers the costs of treatment of STIs, including HIV and AIDS, complications and consequences of child pregnancy, childbirth, unprotected sex, unsafe abortion, sexual violence, etc.
- Teenage pregnancy is indicative of unprotected sex, the lack of knowledge on SRH and non-existent or insufficient sexuality education among young people. Innovative ways of

addressing youth access to health information, education and services are required. Information on SRH can be delivered by using digital means of communication.

- Access to correct knowledge on SRH at the right time empowers young people, enables them to avoid risks and make positive decisions. For instance, age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education can prevent some risk factors, such as STIs/HIV and teenage pregnancy.
- Through access to the Internet, young people get so much information and exposure to violence (violence against women, in particular) and so little information on SRH, which negatively impacts on their gender attitudes.
- There is a need for universal coverage and comprehensive insurance schemes, including youth-friendly SRH information and services.
- SRH is a very important component of well-being for young people, yet it is not talked about. We should not shy away from 'sensitive issues' but be more vocal on all aspects of SRH. Let's talk!
- Many factors contribute to ensuring health for young people beyond specific health sector responses, such as social determinants on health outcomes. This calls for a more holistic approach to address the issues facing young people.
- Considering diverse youth population, diverse responses are needed for different groups and specifically for rural, vulnerable and the most marginalized. This includes people with disabilities, ethnic minority, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and young people on the move or experiencing a humanitarian crisis. Particularly, where gender inequality is high, girls tend to face harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage.
- Any policy and programme affecting youth should be designed, formulated, implemented and monitored with the involvement of young people at all levels. As the issues are multi-sectoral, new policies should use comprehensive research.
- The role of the government in improving access to primary health care, including SRH, and in supporting international cooperation in this field, is crucial.
- Data and surveillance mechanisms are required to ensure responsive and evidence-based policy-making and progress-tracking.
- The Alma-Ata Declaration will have a renewed commitment at the upcoming Global Conference on Primary Health Care in Astana, where specific requirements for youth will be highlighted. Parliamentarians should lead countries in establishing full access to primary health care.

The session highlighted that health, and SRH in particular, is a very important component of well-being of young people. It is therefore important to address factors that prevent young people from being healthy, mainly the lack of knowledge of and access to SRH. It is necessary to make primary health care, especially in SRH services and sexuality education, more youth-friendly and accessible. It is also crucial to ensure availability of a broad range of health

information, particularly on SRH and mental health, through innovative ways and through the education system.

Third Session: Promoting Full Participation of Youth in Civil, Political and Social Affairs

(Chair: Mr. Mirlan Bakirov, Deputy Speaker of the *Jogorku Kenesh* (Supreme Council) of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan)

Mr. Steven Sim Chee Keong, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia, began the session with a presentation on 'Youth Participation in Society: Rethinking Youth'. He highlighted that rather than considering young people a problem, they should be considered a strategic partner. In general, young people in the 21st Century differ from those in the 20th Century – they are more knowledgeable, better resourced, better travelled and more engaged. Therefore, approaches and mind-sets towards youth must be changed. Young people have different experiences in the world of communication technology and employers should be concerned how to win over millennial talent. Mr. Sim stressed that young people are active social changers and influencers. (See Annex 5: Presentations - Youth Participation in Society: Rethinking Youth.)



Mr. Bakhtiyar Maken, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, moderated the panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges in promoting youth participation in civil, political and social affairs.

Ms. Kristine Asatryan, Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Armenia, highlighted the role of young people as catalysts and leaders in the peaceful protests that led to political changes in Armenia in 2018. Young people demonstrated a high level of self-organization where many of the protesters became political leaders in the new government. The current government has an open-door policy with a key priority for inclusive youth policy.

Ms. Tatyana Lebedeva, Member of Parliament of the Russian Federation, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Youth Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, emphasized the need for more young people, particularly young women, in the parliament. It is important that a mentoring process is in place so they can gain experience from seasoned parliamentary colleagues through coaching, or sharing experiences with colleagues from other

parliaments in inter-parliamentary forums. Working in the executive bodies of the government is also another opportunity for young people to gain experience.

Mr. Intigam Babayev, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Azerbaijan, said that Azerbaijan considers young people as a strategic resource. As a result of the promotion of young people to management and decision-making positions since 1999, young people now take an active part in decision-making at all levels. The Azerbaijan Government developed and adopted the 10-year Youth Strategy and regular consultation meetings are held on diverse issues at local levels in order to provide opportunities for young people to influence the decision-making processes. Once every three years, national youth forums are held with the participation of Government structures to discuss issues of interest to youth.

Mr. Senel Wanniarachchi, Hashtag Generation Co-Founder and Director, Sri Lanka, noted that many young people feel that traditional political structures do not represent society's diversity and that losing attention and interest among young people in political affairs could become treacherous. He urged the inclusion of young people in advisory panels and the use of diverse platforms to engage young people in decision-making. He suggested that government should listen to young people and be less bureaucratic.

Ms. Anindita Sitepu, Programme Director, Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development Initiatives, stressed the importance of young people's engagement in decision-making while gaining skills in public affairs. Noting their possible contributions to SDGs at the local level, she urged participants to consult with young people. She said participation could mean speaking, listening and taking responsibility, but it should also be about mentorship.

After listening to the interesting examples from the panelists' countries, many questions and comments were made from the floor. The following summarizes the points raised:

- Participation of women in parliament was acknowledged as a positive contribution to the quality of parliamentary decision-making.
- It is important that young people have the space to speak and a listening audience where they feel that they can influence issues. Otherwise, they may turn to violence with anti-establishment behaviour. Some participants cautioned that there is a need to find ways to deal with such developments. It is very important to include young people in decision-making in all stages, and use different platforms for engagement.
- Increasingly young people are becoming more political; some through an attachment to political parties and discussions, and others attracted by revolutionary ideas and armed conflicts. It is crucial to have more young people represented in parliaments, or make parliament accessible to young people, by considering quotas or for example lowering the age limit of candidates for the election.
- Young people become engaged not as a weaker or marginalized group but as an engine for positive change, for instance in the agenda for sustainable development. In order to gain experience in public issues, some countries create working opportunities for young people in various executive bodies of the government, at both local and national levels.

The session ended with the recognition of the importance of promoting young people's interests in and understanding of public issues, as well as their involvement in policy development and decision-making at all levels. Equally important is the promotion of young women's participation in political and social affairs.

Fourth Session: Opportunities and Risks for Youth in the Context of Globalization

(Chair: Mr. Teodoro Jr. Brawner Baquilat, Member of Parliament of the Republic of the Philippines, and the Vice-Chair of AFPPD)

Three presentations were made in the session. The first presentation– ‘Young Generation and Agriculture – Cross-Border Regional Cooperation’ was delivered by **Mr. Hiroshi Takahashi, Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan and former Japanese Ambassador to Afghanistan.** Mr. Takahashi spoke about a project that applied traditional Japanese technology for irrigation and crop growing in Afghanistan's Gamberi desert. Through knowledge transfer and skills building of young people in the area, the desert was transformed into an oasis. A case was made to foster youth interest in agriculture, which is vital to countries' economy, sustainability and peace. Agriculture is one area where young leaders are needed and where they can demonstrate innovative ideas and potentials by using technological advances. The project also empowered local community to safeguard their own community's safety and security, contributing to maintaining a peaceful life of local communities.

Ambassador Takahashi emphasized that food safety, food security and agribusiness are beyond national borders showing great potential for regional cooperation. In order to contribute to regional prosperity, a regional coordination mechanism for young leaders in agriculture should be established. He also stressed that the agricultural sector requires the participation of youth with fresh ideas and innovations to bring about innovative and creative solutions and long-term commitment. In order to share experience, it is important to create an association of young leaders in agriculture. (Annex 5: Presentations - Young Generation and Agriculture – Cross-Border Regional Cooperation.)

Ms. Jill Helke, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships, International Organization for Migration (IOM), presented ‘Youth and Migration’ noting young people are significant part of global migration. In 2017, approximately 11 percent of an estimated 258 million international migrants were under 24. She explained that, despite enhanced vulnerability, there is strong push and pull factors making young people migrate.

Youth migrants are particularly exposed to the risks of trafficking and exploitation, discrimination and xenophobia, exclusion, social stigmatization, health risks and identity crises. Causes of youth migration include unemployment, social exclusion, lack of opportunities, mismatch of skills to existing labor markets and greater vulnerabilities in the places of origin. Possibilities for enhancing the human capital of migrants are available through pre-departure orientation, social inclusion, providing employment opportunities, socio-economic and cultural integration and interventions to improve employability of young migrants.

Concluding, Ms. Helke shared key policy recommendations related to youth to provide safe and regular pathways for migration, protect rights, enhance young migrants' knowledge, and fight racism, xenophobia and discrimination against migrants. Recommendations also included the promotion of targeted policies to maximize the benefits of youth migration for all stakeholders, including women and girls. She also informed participants that the newly established UN Migration Network, coordinated by IOM, will ensure UN system-wide response to migration, and support countries and partners to make the Global Compact work for youth. (See Annex 5: Presentations - Youth and Migration.)



Mr. Marco Roncarati, UNESCAP, presented ‘Youth and Information and Communications Technology (ICT),’ noting that globalization increases risks and opportunities. He emphasized that ICT can help and make certain processes easier but should not substitute for hard work, skills development and self-mastery. ICT is a means for achieving these. However, ICT often brings us into virtual realities, disconnects us from nature and excludes us from our community.

Mr. Roncarati elaborated on the balance between retaining human values, versus the drive for growth. As ICT takes us away from human interaction and relationships, it becomes a cause for mental health issues, where people can be more prone to focusing on and responding to negative aspects of social media interactions. Many issues considered taboo, such as SRH and mental health require frank, open discussion and not prohibition, which ICT can enable, but this does not eliminate the need for human interactions. (See Annex 5: Presentations - Youth and ICT.)

Mr. Vitalie Vremis, Deputy Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kazakhstan, moderated the discussion where the following issues were raised:

- As climate change is a rising challenge and agriculture automated nowadays, agriculture and agri-business emerge as important areas for potential youth engagement and leadership. However, aspirations and interest of young people in agriculture (or any other area of business) should be the foundation for engagement.
- To make agriculture attractive to the young generation, it would be important to focus on how to encourage youth to become champions in agriculture. Innovation holds great promises in this area, and provides opportunity for the younger generation to be a great resource.

- There is a need to create a regional coordination mechanism for agriculture to enable young leaders connect young people to exchange ideas and technologies in the productive sectors.
- With unprecedented levels of migration across the world alongside the complexity of socio-political consequences and implications for countries involved, the issue of international migration and safety of young migrants is among top priorities. The global community should provide safe and regular pathways for migration and protect the rights of youth on the move. We should persistently fight racism, discrimination and xenophobia and attend to the needs of young migrants.
- There is a significant grey area between voluntary and forced migration, and regardless of the circumstances, the voices of youth migrants need to be factored into policymaking to protect their rights and prevent exploitation and abuse.
- Migration should be mainstreamed in youth employment policies and action plans. Supporting youth-friendly national diaspora strategies is important to enhance young migrants' knowledge on safe migration channels.

The session highlighted that globalization provides huge opportunities as well as challenges. In order to gain benefits for all, enhanced legal frameworks and regional cooperation mechanisms are required to connect young people to facilitate exchanging ideas and technologies for the productive sectors, such as agriculture. At the same time, increased mobility and connectivity of young entrepreneurs, students and researchers require that young migrants enjoy full respect of their rights and the protection against violence, exploitation and discrimination. There is a need to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.

The session also noted that it is important to engage youth as active agents and innovators, including through ICT. Addressing urgent challenges such as inequality, climate change and natural disasters is essential as well as the related need to manage natural resources in a more equitable and sustainable manner. We need to ensure that ICT and systems serve the people and prevent negative consequences on young people's well-being.



Closing Session

(Chair: Ms. Zhuldyz Omarbekova, Deputy Minister of Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan)



The closing session heard a summary of key issues raised at the Conference, presented by **Ms. Jana Simonova, Conference Rapporteur**.

The draft Declaration was introduced by the representatives of the Drafting Committee: **Mrs. Gulnar Ixanova, Chairperson of the Committee on Social and Cultural Development, Mazhilis of Parliament, Republic of Kazakhstan**, and **Ms. Anindita Sitepu, Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development**. The participants commented on the draft outcome document of the Conference and suggested several amendments, such as references to the ICPD, private sector, unintended pregnancies, agriculture, disability and inequality. Subsequently, the Astana Declaration on Investing in Youth was adopted. (See Annex 6: Astana Declaration).

In his closing statement, **Professor Keizo Takemi, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan and Chair of AFPPD**, commented on the excellent and innovative presentations as well as the rich discussions at the Conference, which resulted in the Astana Declaration. He reiterated that investing in youth is fundamental for building human capital as the most powerful engine for future environment, productivity, prosperity and people's well-being. He encouraged the international participants to use the Conference's recommendations for policy changes at

home. Professor Takemi acknowledged the extraordinary significance of both international events the Government of Kazakhstan hosts this year: this Conference as well as the upcoming Global Conference on Primary Health Care, co-organized by WHO and UNICEF. He also welcomed the host country Kazakhstan declaring the year 2019, the Year of Youth.

At the conclusion of the Conference, **Mrs. Gulmira Issimbayeva, Deputy Chairperson of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan**, thanked participants for their inputs and contributions, which led to the successful work of the Conference.



ANNEX 1: Agenda

International Conference on Investing in Youth

“Leaving No One Behind”

19-20 October 2018

Rixos President Astana Hotel, Astana, Kazakhstan

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19 October (Friday)

08:30-09:30	Registration of International Conference participants
09:45-10:00	Group photo session
10:00-11:20	Opening Session

Chair: Mrs. Gulmira Issimbayeva, Deputy Chairperson of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan

- Welcome speech by Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, Chairperson of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Opening remarks by Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Former Prime Minister of Japan and the Chair of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)
- Video message from Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- Opening remarks by Mr. Mirlan Bakirov, Deputy Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan
- Opening remarks by Mr. Boriy Alikhanov, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Opening remarks by Mr. Darkhan Amanovich Kaletayev, Minister of Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Opening remarks by Mr. Ian McFarlane, Deputy Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA/EECARO)
- Opening remarks by Mr. Ichiro Kawabata, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Introductory presentation by Mr. Marco Roncarati, Youth Focal Point, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) “Overview of Youth Issues – Past, Present and Future”

11:20-11:50 Coffee break

11:50-13:30 First Session “Expanding Opportunities for Education and Employment of Youth and Improving Linkages and Transitions”

Chair: Mr. Boriy Alikhanov, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Presentations

- Mr. Ato Brown, World Bank Country Manager, Republic of Kazakhstan: “Learning to Realize Education’s Promise” (2018 World Development Report)
- Mr. Giovanni Capannelli, Country Director, Asian Development Bank: “Education to Employment”

Panel Discussions

Moderator: Mr. Marco Roncarati, Youth Focal Point, UNESCAP

- Ms. Madina Abylkasymova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ms. Rosemarie G. Edillon, Under-Secretary, National Economic and Development Authority, the Philippines
- Mr. John Barrett Trew, Global Head, Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, Plan International
- Mr. Sayasat Nurbek, Independent Expert, National Geographic Kazakhstan Goodwill Ambassador

Q&A

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 Second Session “Improving Health and Well-being of Youth through Universal Access to Health Information, Education and Services”

Chair: Professor Keizo Takemi, MP, Japan and the Chair of AFPPD

Presentations

- Ms. Soyoltuya Bayaraa, Advisor on Youth and Demographic Dividend, UNFPA: “Empowering Young People through Health Information, Education and Services”
- Professor Kristien Michielsen, International Center for Reproductive Health, Ghent University, Belgium: “Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health”

Panel Discussions

Moderator: Mr. Ian McFarlane, Deputy Regional Director, EECARO, UNFPA

- Dr. Yelzhan Birtanov, Minister of Healthcare, Republic of Kazakhstan
- Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP, Thailand, Chair of the Committee on Public Health, and the Secretary-General of AFPPD
- Ms. Kamila Tuyakbayeva, Y-PEER, Republican Center for Health Development, Kazakhstan
- Dr. Oleg Chestnov, WHO Country Representative, Republic of Kazakhstan

Q&A

16:00-16:20 Coffee break

16:20-18:00 Third Session “Promoting Full Participation of Youth in Civil, Political and Social Affairs”

Chair: Mr. Mirlan Bakirov, Deputy Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan

Presentation

- Mr. Steven Sim, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia

Panel Discussions

Moderator: Mr. Bakhtiyar Maken, MP, Republic of Kazakhstan

- Ms. Kristine Asatryan, Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Armenia
- Ms. Tatyana Lebedeva, MP, Russia, and CIS Youth Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
- Mr. Intigam Babayev, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Azerbaijan
- Mr. Senel Wanniarachchi, Hashtag Generation Co-Founder and Director, Sri Lanka
- Ms. Anindita Sitepu, Programme Director, Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development Initiatives

Q&A

18:30-20:30 Reception at “Saltanat Sarayi” Banquet Hall

20 October (Saturday)

- 9:00-10:30 Fourth Session “Opportunities and Risks for Youth in the context of Globalization”
- Chair: Mr. Teodoro Jr. Brawner Baguilat, MP, the Philippines, and the Vice-Chair of AFPPD
- Presentations and Discussions
- Moderator: Mr. Vitalie Vremis, UNDP Deputy Representative, Kazakhstan
- Mr. Hiroshi Takahashi, Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Former Japanese Ambassador to Afghanistan: “Young Generation and Agriculture - Cross-Border Regional Cooperation”
 - Ms. Jill Helke, Director, Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships, International Organization for Migration: “Youth and Migration”
 - Mr. Marco Roncarati, Youth Focal Point, Social Development Division, UNESCAP: “Youth and ICT ”
- 10:30-10:50 Coffee break
- 10:50-11:40 Closing Session
- Chair: Mrs. Zhuldyz Omarbekova, Deputy Minister of Social Development, Republic of Kazakhstan
- Presentation of the summary by the Rapporteur
 - Adoption of the outcome document-Drafting Committee
- Closing statements
- Prof. Keizo Takemi, MP, Japan and AFPPD Chair
 - Mrs. Gulmira Issimbayeva, Deputy Chairperson of the Mazhilis of the Parliament, Republic of Kazakhstan
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch
- 14.00-18.00 Cultural program
- National Museum, Astana EXPO-2017 and Astana Opera

ANNEX 2: List of Participants

Afganistan

Mr. Hanifullah Asim, Parliamentary staff

Armenia

Ms. Kristine Asatryan, Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs

Azerbaijan

Mr. Intigam Babayev, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports

Mr. Gasim Hasnamdli, Member of the Board of the National Council of Youth Organizations

Mr. Sabir Rustamov, Secretary for International Affairs of the Baku Youth Club Public Association

Bangladesh

Mr. Mohammed Enamur Rahman, MP

Mr. MdMofizul Islam, Joint Secretary, Parliament Secretariat

Belarus

Mr. Pavel Zhdanovich, MP, Member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus

Belgium

Ms. Kristien Karel E Michielsens, Professor, International Center for Reproductive Health, Ghent University

Cambodia

Mr. Ouk Damry, MP, Secretary-General of Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

China

Dr. Liu Qian, MP, Vice-Chair of AFPPD, Vice-Chair of Education, Science, Culture and Public Health (ESCPH) Committee

Mr. Zhang Honghe, MP, Member of ESCPH Committee

Ms. Fang Guangwei, Director-General of Office of Education, ESCPH Committee

Ms. Wang Lina, Deputy Director-General of Office of Education, ESCPH Committee

Ms. Wen Quan, Division Director of Office of Cultural Affairs, ESCPH Committee

Ms. Tao Wenqi, Parliamentary staff, ESCPH Committee

Georgia

Mr. Genadi Margvelashvili, MP, Chair of the Parliament Committee on Youth and Sports Affairs

Guatemala

Ms. Eva Nicolle Monte, MP

India

Ms. Viplove Thakur, MP, Vice Chair of AFPPD, Vice-Chair of Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD)

Mr. Husain Dalwai, MP

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary of IAPPD

Indonesia

Ms. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, MP, Chair of Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Deputy Chair of the House Committee

Ms. Anindita Sitepu, Programme Director, Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development

Islamic Republic of Iran

Dr. Mohammad Vahdati Halan, MP, Executive Member of AFPPD, Chair of Iranian Parliamentarians on Population and Development Committee

Dr. Salman Khodadadi, MP

Japan

Mr. Ichiro Aisawa, MP, Acting Chair of JPFP, Chair of the Political Ethics Hearing Committee in the House of Representatives

Mr. Keizo Takemi, MP, House of Councillors, Chair of AFPPD

Ms. Karen Makishima, MP, Director of the Cabinet Committee

Mr. Ichiro Kawabata, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Hiroshi Takahashi, Former Ambassador of Japan to Afghanistan and the Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Yoshiharu Makino, Parliamentary Assistant to Prof. Keizo Takami

Mr. Kiyooki Aburaki, Senior Director, Keidanren Strategic International Initiative

Jordan

Mr. Rida Shibli, MP

Kazakhstan

Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, Chairperson of the Mazhilis of the Parliament

Mrs. Gulmira Issimbayeva, Deputy Chairperson of the Mazhilis of the Parliament

Mrs. Gulnar Ixanova, MP, Chairperson of the Committee on Social and Cultural Development of the Mazhilis of Parliament

Mr. Bakhtiyar Maken, MP, Republic of Kazakhstan

Ms. Madina Abylkasymova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population

Dr. Yelzhan Birtanov, Minister of Healthcare

Mr. Darkhan Amanovich Kaletayev, Minister of Social Development

Ms. Zhuldyz Omarbekova, Deputy Minister of Social Development

Ms. Ardak Zhusupova, Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Rustam Tlegenov, International Relations and Protocol Department, Mazhilis of the Parliament

Mr. Sayasat Nurbek, Independent Expert, National Geographic Kazakhstan Goodwill Ambassador

Ms. Kamila Tuyakbayeva, Y-PEER, Republican Center for Health Development, Kazakhstan

Mr. Dagar Davletov, IT teacher, co-founder of Method Coding School

Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Mirlan Bakirov, MP, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament

Mr. Akylbek Zhamangulov, MP

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Ms. Manivanh Yiapaoher, MP, Vice-President of the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Vice-Chair of Cultural and Social Affairs Committee

Mr. Alavanh Phanthavong, Director of the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (LAPPD)

Malaysia

Mr. Chee Keong (Steven) Sim, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports

Mr. Muhammad Shakir Bin Ameer Mohideen, Special Officer, Ministry of Youth and Sports

Mr. Alan Ling, Senator in the Upper House Dewan Negara of Parliament of Malaysia

Mr. Sen Chee Chin, Personal Assistant to Senator Ling

Mongolia

Mr. Temuulen Ganzorig, Member of the State Great Hural /Parliament

Nepal

Mr. Chudamani Khadka, MP

Mr. Harihar Pokhrel, Under-Secretary, Federal Parliament Secretariat

New Zealand

Mr. David Allister Bennett, MP

Pakistan

Ms. Sitara Ayaz, MP

Mr. Syed Rahim Shah, Parliamentary staff

Philippines

Mr. Teodoro Jr. Brawner Baguilat, MP, Vice-Chair of AFPPD

Ms. Francisca Lustina Castro, MP

Ms. Rosemarie Edillon, Under-Secretary for Policy and Planning, National Economic and Development Authority

Russian Federation

Ms. Tatyana Lebedeva, MP, Russian Federation, and CIS Youth Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Coordinator

Ms. Natalya Kuvshinova, MP, Russian Federation, Committee of the State Duma on Physical Culture, Sport, Tourism and Youth Affairs

Mr. Boris Chernyshov, MP, Russian Federation, Chairman of the Committee on Education and Science of the State Duma

Ms. Zoya Poymanova, Officer of the Council of Federation, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Sri Lanka

Mr. Harshana Supun Rajakaruna, MP

Mr. Senel Wanniarachchi, Hashtag Generation Co-Founder and Director

Tajikistan

Ms. Lutfiya Rajabova, MP, Chair of Mazhilis Committee on Science, Education, Culture and Youth Policy

Mr. Kiyomiddin Miraliyon, MP, Committee of the Mazhilis on Science, Education, Culture and Youth Policy

Mr. Donier Sanginov, MP, Deputy of the Mazhilis of People's Deputies of the Varzob region

Tanzania

Mr. Sebastian Kapufi, MP

Thailand

Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP, Secretary-General of AFPPD, Chair of Thailand's National Legislative Assembly's Committee on Public Health

Admiral Wallop Kerdphol, MP

Timor Leste

Mr. Antonio De Sa Benevides, MP, Member of the Committee on Education, Health, Social Security and Gender Equality

Ms. Nelia Menezes, MP, Member of the Public Finance Committee

Mr. Ratnofianos Sani Antonio Usfinit, Technical Officer

Turkey

Ms. Oznur Calik, MP, Deputy of Justice and Development Party

Ms. Rumeysa Kadak, MP, Deputy of Justice and Development Party

Turkmenistan

Mr. Serdar Zhorayev, MP
Mr. Muhammetnazar Gurbanberdiyev, MP

Tuvalu

Mr. Isaia Vaipuna Taape, MP

United Arab Emirates

Ms. Azza Sulaiman Al Malik, MP

Uzbekistan

Mr. Boriy Alikhanov, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament

Uzbekistan

Mr. Kozim Tozhiyev, MP, Member of Committee on Labor and Social Affairs
Mr. Bekzod Artikov, MP, Member of Committee on Innovative Development, Information Policy and Information Technology

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Ms. Margarita Safarova, Executive Secretary, CIS
Mr. Ilya Zotov, Advisor to the Chairman of the National Council of Youth and Children's Unions of Russia, CIS
Mr. Ilya Kuznetsov, Representative of the Interstate Committee of the CIS Member States (CIS-Stat)
Mr. Head Olesya, Assistant Secretary General of the Council of the CIS

Asian Development Bank

Mr. Giovanni Capannelli, Country Director for Kazakhstan

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Marco Roncarati, Youth Focal Point, Social Development Division

International Labour Organization

Mr. Talgat Umirzhanov, National Coordinator, Kazakhstan

International Organization for Migration

Ms. Jill Helke, Director, International Cooperation and Partnerships, IOM Geneva
Mr. Dejan Keserovic, Chief of Mission for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and Coordinator for Central Asia

Plan International

Mr. John Barrett Trew, Global Head, Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

Public Union for the Support of the Professional Development of Young Diplomats

Mr. Azad Abiyev, Deputy Chairman of the Public Union for the Support of the Professional Development of Young Diplomats

United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Susanna Dakash, Consultant, Youth and Civic Engagement, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
Mr. Vitalie Vremis, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Kazakhstan

UNFPA

Mr. Ian McFarlane, Deputy Regional Director, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (EECARO)
Ms. Marta Diavolova, Regional Advisor for Strategic Partnerships, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (EECARO)
Ms. Soyoltuya Bayaraa, Coordination Advisor, Youth and Demographic Dividend, Technical Division
Ms. Mariko Sato, Director, Tokyo Office
Ms. Anna Barfyan, Youth Coordinator, Armenia

Ms. Giulia Vallese, Representative, Kazakhstan
Mr. Raimbek Sissemalıyev, Assistant Representative, Kazakhstan

UNICEF
Ms. Zhanar Sagimbayeva, Child Rights Monitoring Systems Specialist, Kazakhstan

UN Women
Ms. Elaine Conkievich, Country Representative, Kazakhstan

World Bank
Mr. Ato Brown, Country Manager, Kazakhstan

WHO
Dr. Oleg Chestnov, Country Representative, WHO Kazakhstan

Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)
Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister, Chair of APDA, Honorary Chair of Japan
Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)
Mr. Osamu Kusumoto, Secretary-General/Executive Director of APDA
Mr. Farrukh Usmonov, Deputy Director, International Division, APDA
Ms. Nobuko Horibe, Interim Executive Director of AFPPD and Senior Conference
Coordinator
Ms. Nami Takashi, Conference Coordinator
Ms. Pornparapas Sappapan, Project and Administrative Officer
Ms. Jana Simonova, Rapporteur

Total 118 registered participants from 35 countries and 20 entities, including 52 parliamentarians

In addition to the list, there were about 90 observers from Kazakhstan (Government, Parliament, civil society and academia) who participated.

ANNEX 3: Biographies of Chairs, Speakers, Presenters and Panelists

(In order of appearance)

Opening Session



Hon. Mr. Nurlan Zayrullaevich Nigmatulin

Chairman of the Mazhilis of the Parliament, Kazakhstan

Since 2016 and between 2012 and 2014, Hon. Mr. Nurlan Zayrullaevich Nigmatulin has served as Chairperson of the Mazhilis of the Parliament. He is a member of the People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan." He has been awarded Orders "Kazakhstan Republikasinin Tungysh President – Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev," "Kurmet," and "Barys" of the II degree. His previous positions include Head of the Executive Office of the President (2014-2016), Vice Minister of Transport and Communications (2002-2004) and Chairperson of the Committee of Youth Organizations (1990-1993). Hon. Mr. Nigmatulin graduated from Karagandy Polytechnic Institute, PhD in Political Science. After graduation, he worked as an engineer, head of the motor convoy of the Enterprise "Karagandaoblgaz."



Hon. Ms. Gulmira Istaybekovna Issimbayeva

Deputy Chairman of the Mazhilis of the Parliament, Kazakhstan

Hon. Ms. G. I. Issimbayeva has been Deputy Chairperson of the Mazhilis of the Parliament since 2007. She is also Head of the faction of the People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan" and a member of the Committee for Social and Cultural Development of the Mazhilis of the Parliament. She has been awarded the order "Kurmet," the medal "Erenenbegiushin," and the gratitude letter of the President of Kazakhstan with the award of the badge among many other things. Hon. Ms. Issimbayeva began her career as a teacher and Deputy Director of a secondary school and later worked as the Director of the Department of Education of Almaty. She graduated from the philological faculty with the specialty of the teacher of Russian language and literature at the Zhambyl Pedagogical Institute and legal faculty with the specialty of lawyer at the S. M. Kirov Kazakh State University.



Hon. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda

Former Prime Minister of Japan

Chair, Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Hon. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda was the 91st Prime Minister of Japan serving from 2007 to 2008. He was previously the longest-serving Chief Cabinet Secretary in Japanese history, serving for three and a half years (2000–2004). Following the resignation of Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, H.E. Fukuda was elected as President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and became Prime Minister in 2007. He was Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) from 2005 to 2013 and Chair of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) from 2007 to 2012.



Hon. Mr. Mirlan Bakirov

Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Kyrgyzstan

Hon. Mr. Mirlan Bakirov graduated from the Kyrgyz State National University J. Balasagyn with a degree in Accounting, Control and Administration. He began his career as an inspector of the excise department of the State Tax Inspectorate in the Jalal-Abad region. From 1999 to 2003, he went a path from a leading specialist to the head of the in the Jalal-Abad Regional Financial Department. Later he worked in the private sector as Deputy Director of LLC Maryam and Co. and Director of LLC Dan-Yug. In 2010, he was elected as a deputy of the Parliament (Jogorku Kenesh) of the 5th convocation in the list of the political party "Republic" and as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Communications, Architecture and Construction. Since 2015, he has been a member of Parliament from the political party "Onuguu-Progress" of the 6th convocation, Chairman of the Committee on Agrarian Policy, Water Resources, Ecology and Regional Development and State Counselor of Civil Service III class.



Hon. Mr. Boriy Alikhanov

Deputy Speaker of the Legislative House of Oliy Majlis, Uzbekistan

Since 2010, Hon. Mr. Boriy Alikhanov has been Deputy Speaker - head of the deputy group of the Ecological Movement, Chairman of the Committee on the Issues of Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Legislative House of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Since 2009, he has held office of Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Central Kengash of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan. Between 2005 and 2009, he served as the Chairman of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection. Between 2001-2005, he was the First Deputy Chairman, Acting Chairman of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection. In 1996-2001, he was a leading consultant at the National Security Council staff under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



Hon. Mr. Darkhan Amanovich Kaletayev
Minister of Social Development, Kazakhstan

Hon. Mr. Darkhan Amanovich Kaletayev graduated from East Kazakhstan State University with a degree in history and the National Higher School of Public Administration, majoring in Public Management. He holds a PhD in Political Science. He began his career in 1995 as the expert of the Committee on Languages at the Cabinet of Ministers of Kazakhstan and worked in the Ministries of Education and Culture, Information and Public Consent. After taking the post of Deputy Head of the Executive Office of the President between 2007-2008, he served as First Deputy Chairman of the Nur Otan People's Democratic Party between 2008-2009 and Managing Director of JSC Samruk-Kazyna National Welfare Fund between 2009-2016. In October 2016, he was appointed as the Deputy of the Senate. On 4 April 2018, Hon. Mr. Kaletayev was appointed as Minister of Religious Affairs and Civil Society, and on 3 July 2018, Minister of Social Development.



Mr. Ian McFarlane
Deputy Regional Director, Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Before he started his current duty in 2016, Mr. Ian McFarlane served as UNFPA Representative in Moldova and Country Director for Albania (2012-2016), UNFPA Representative in Nepal (2009-2012), UNFPA Deputy Representative in Ghana (2006-2008) and Special Assistant to the Deputy Executive Director (Programme) for UNFPA. As a Policy Specialist in the United Nations Development Group Office (1998-2004), he was part of the inter-agency team providing support to UN reform and the Resident Coordinator System. Mr. McFarlane gained experience in the NGO sector as the Country Representative in Haiti for Intermon (1997-1998) and as a Policy Researcher for Actionaid (1994-1997). He has a Bachelor's degree in Modern Languages (French and Spanish) from the University of Cambridge and a Master's Degree from the Institute of Latin American Studies/London School of Economics in the Political Economy of Latin America.



Mr. Ichiro Kawabata
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Ichiro Kawabata became Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Kazakhstan in April 2016. His previous duties under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs include Director of the Health and Welfare Division, Consul General, Consulate-General of Japan in St. Petersburg, and Senior Coordinator of the Russian Division and Director of the Russia Assistance Division in the European Affairs Bureau. Mr. Kawabata graduated from Sophia University's Department of Russian Language and Studies and obtained traineeship at Lomonosov Moscow State University.



Mr. Marco Roncarati

Youth Focal Point, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Originally from London, Mr. Marco Roncarati has five degrees from the University of London, covering anthropology, business, development studies, economics, psychology and sociology. He has lectured at various international universities and continues to enjoy exchanging knowledge. He also engages in diverse health and education initiatives, especially to support disadvantaged children and youth on a voluntary basis. Since 2005 he has been in Bangkok working at UNESCAP as the focal point on youth. He mainly deals with socioeconomic issues, in particular ones pertinent to smoothing the school-to-work transition, and promoting health and development, while advocating for good governance especially in the context of improving equity and sustainability.

Session 1: Expanding Opportunities for Education and Employment of Youth and Improving Linkages and Transitions



Mr. Ato Brown

Kazakhstan Country Manager, the World Bank

Mr. Ato Brown began his tenure as the Country Manager of the World Bank for Kazakhstan in March 1, 2016. Before this assignment, he was the Country Manager for Sierra Leone (2012-2015) and Sector Manager for the Water Sector in the Middle East and North Africa Region (2009-2012). He has over 25 year working experience with the World Bank and other donor financed projects including infrastructure development and utility reforms, private sector engagement in services delivery, innovative financing of services, urban and rural development and social protection in Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America. He is a Ghanaian national with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana and a master's degree in Infrastructure Planning from the University of Stuttgart, Germany.



Mr. Giovanni Capannelli

Kazakhstan Country Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Mr. Giovanni Capannelli has been serving as the Country Director of the ADB Kazakhstan Resident Mission since September 2016. Prior to this appointment, he was principal economist in ADB's Central and West Asia Department and task manager of a study on "Good jobs for Inclusive Growth in Central Asia and the South Caucasus". He was also special adviser to the Dean of the ADB Institute in Tokyo, and held various other positions since he joined the Bank in

2002. Previously, he worked for the Bank of Italy in Tokyo. He served as professor of regional economic integration at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur and taught economics in three universities in Japan. Mr. Capannelli holds a PhD and a Master's in Economics, both from Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from Bocconi University, Milan, Italy.



Hon. Ms. Madina Abylkassymova

Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Kazakhstan

Hon. Ms. Madina Abylkassymova graduated from the Kazakh State Academy of Management, as well as from Columbia University with a Master Degree in International Relations (USA) and Harvard Kennedy School with a Master Degree in Public Administration (USA). Previously, she worked as the Vice-Minister of National Economy of Republic of Kazakhstan, where she actively raised issues on migration policy and gender equality in Kazakhstan. Hon. Ms. Abylkassymova also worked on various high-level positions in civil service. She is a member of the National Commission for Women, Family and Demographic

Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan since 2014.



Hon. Ms. Rosemarie G. Edillon

Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines

Hon. Ms. Rosemarie Edillon is presently the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning at the NEDA. Among her major responsibilities is shepherding the formulation of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP). The PDP is an elaboration of the country's priorities over the medium-term and is the blueprint of government policies, programs and projects. She also oversees the

monitoring of the PDP implementation. In addition, she is in charge of providing technical advice on policy issues to both the legislative and executive branches of government, especially the committees of the NEDA Board. Currently, Hon. Ms. Edillon is the Vice-Chair of the Economic Committee of the APEC and a member of the Philippine Commission of the UNESCO. She was also the past President of the Philippine Economic Society.



Mr. John B. Trew

Global Head of Skills and Entrepreneurship, Plan International in Asia

Mr. John B. Trew oversees Plan International's global youth employment initiatives, specifically on technical and vocational education and training initiatives and working with large scale partners. Previously, Mr. Trew was the Director, Strategic Communications & Organizational Expansion at Street GRACE, a faith based nonprofit dedicated to the eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). He is co-author of "Out of the Shadows" (2011) on galvanizing communities to end CSEC and CARE's 2007 child labor

report, "Caution-Children at Work". He served as Senior Technical Advisor on Child Labor & Girls'

Education at CARE (2005-2009) and Winrock International's Education Specialist and Project Manager (2002-2005) for a global anti-child labor program. He also conducted pioneering research in the field of labor and employment as US Fulbright Scholar to the Philippines from 1998-2000.



Mr. Sayasat Nurbek

Goodwill Ambassador of the National Geographic Kazakhstan

Mr. Sayasat Nurbek graduated from Eurasian National University named after L.N. Gumilev (Kazakhstan), Marshalltown College (USA), as well as the Master programme of University of La Sapienza (Italy). He worked on high level positions in the civil service, as well as in JSC "Samruk-Kazyna" Sovereign Welfare Fund in the "Nur Otan" party, and in the administration of Almaty city. Previously, he held the position of Managing Director of the International Financial Center "Astana". Mr. Nurbek is fluent in 9 languages.

Session 2: Improving Health and Well-being of Youth through Universal Access to Health Information, Education and Services



Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi

Member of Parliament, Japan

Chair, AFPPD

Since 2012 and between 1995 and 2007, Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi has been a member of the House of Councillors of the Japanese parliament (Diet), where he belongs to the LDP, the ruling party. He is also the Chair of the Special Mission Committee on Global Health Strategy of the LDP Policy Research Council, playing a key role in policymaking and creating political momentum for increasing Japan's contributions to global health under the principles of human security. During his previous tenure in the Diet, he served as Senior Vice Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He has been the Chair of AFPPD since 2013. Hon. Professor Takemi received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Keio University and taught as a professor at Tokai University (1995- 2016). He is a visiting scholar at a number of universities in Japan including Keio University and a senior fellow with the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE).



Ms. Soyoltuya Bayaraa

Coordination Adviser, Youth and Demographic Dividend, UNFPA

Ms. Soyoltuya Bayaraa has over 16 years of work experience with UNFPA in different capacities, having started her career with UNFPA as Assistant Representative in Mongolia. Later, as Programme Specialist at the Asia Pacific Regional Office, she provided programme management support to the country offices in the Asia Pacific region. During 2013-2017, she was Deputy Representative for the UNFPA Country Office in China, where she headed a programme on policy engagement, evidence generation, strategic communication and South-South and Trilateral Cooperation and also chaired the UN Sub-group on Youth. Prior to UNFPA, she worked at the National Medical University of Mongolia. Ms. Soyoltuya Bayaraa holds a Medical Doctor's degree from the National Medical University of Mongolia and Master's Degree in Public Health from the State University of New York, Albany.



Ms. Kristien Michielsen

Professor, International Centre for Reproductive Health, Ghent University

Ms. Kristien Michielsen has been doing multidisciplinary research in social health sciences for over 12 years, mainly focusing on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing, comprehensive/holistic sexuality education, gender norms, and the influence of cultural norms on sexual and reproductive health. She obtained her PhD in Social Health Sciences on adolescent sexual health (HIV prevention). She has been increasingly focussing on programme monitoring and evaluation, including of complex societal programmes. She has worked in different contexts, including Ecuador, Uganda, Mozambique, South Africa and Bangladesh and has written multiple publications. She is the co-founder of the Academic Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy (ANSER), a member of the European Expert Group on Sexuality Education and a board member of Sensoa, the Flemish Expert Centre on Sexuality.



Hon. Mr. Yelzhan Birtanov

Minister of Health, Kazakhstan

Hon. Mr. Yelzhan Birtanov is a graduate of Alma-Ata State Medical Institute (Kazakhstan), University of Arizona (USA), Russian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, Charité University Clinic (Germany), University of Turan (Kazakhstan), Duke University (USA), as well as Fuqua School of Business (USA), and Global Executive MBA Master programme. Hon. Mr. Birtanov is a Doctor of Medical Science. He worked his way from being a corpsman to the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Prior to the appointment, Hon. Mr. Birtanov worked as the Vice-Minister of Health and Social Development of Republic of Kazakhstan.



Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont
Member of Parliament, Thailand
Secretary-General, AFPPD

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont has been the Secretary-General of AFPPD since 2014. He is a medical doctor and has been working on health issues as a legislator. In his capacity as the current Chairperson of Thailand's National Legislative Assembly's (NLA) Public Health Committee since 2014 as well as AFPPD's Secretary-General, he is leading advocacy efforts to address adolescent pregnancy issues through a Reproductive Health Protection Bill in Thailand. Hon. Dr. Sirathranont has served twice as member of the Senate of Thailand from 2008 to 2011 and from 2011 to 2014. From 2013 to 2014, he was the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Public Health of the Senate.



Ms. Kamila Tuyakbayeva
UNFPA Y-PEER, Kazakhstan

Ms. Kamila Tuyakbayeva started her volunteering career at the age of 15 when she joined UNFPA's Y-PEER (Youth Peer education) network. She then became a Y-PEER coordinator in 2012 to serve as a communicative bridge between UNFPA, Y-PEER volunteers and Y-PEER international that includes 50+ countries around the globe. In 2011-2012 she was part of the team that expanded Y-PEER to the outside of South Kazakhstan, the initial birthplace of the network. In 10+ years, she has trained 3000+ adolescents and youths on issues related to reproductive health and rights, gender equality, prevention of stigma and discrimination, etc. After co-founding a youth-led NGO, "Dostar," in South Kazakhstan, she decided to devote herself to public health. She received her Bachelor's diploma from the University of Arizona and is now working on her Master's in Public Administration at the Graduate School of Public Policy of Nazarbayev University.



Dr. Oleg Chestnov
Permanent Representative to Kazakhstan, World Health Organization (WHO)

A national of the Russian Federation, Dr. Oleg Chestnov earned a degree in Medicine from the Saratov State Medical Institute and a doctorate of Philosophy in Medical Sciences. On joining the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 1987, he worked in several countries affected by conflict as well as natural and technical disasters, where he was engaged in managing the delivery of humanitarian aid assistance. During his professional career, Dr. Chestnov acquired broad technical experience in public health at both the national and international levels. He held high-level posts as Coordinator for health during the G-8 Presidency of the Russian Federation and Chair of health-related expert groups. He possesses a wealth of experience in international emergency management and life-saving programs. From 2012 through 2017, he held the post of Assistant WHO Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health.

Session 3: Promoting Full Participation of Youth in Civil, Political and Social Affairs



Hon. Mr. Steven Sim Chee Keong

Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia

Hon. Mr. Steven Sim Chee Keong was born and raised in Bukit Mertajam, Penang. He graduated from the University of Malaya with a degree in Computer Science. He is 36 years old and is currently the youngest Deputy Minister in the current government. He first served the community as a Councillor of the Seberang Perai Municipal Council for a period of 3 years from 2011 to 2013, before going on to stand for the Bukit Mertajam Parliament seat, which he has held since 2013. In 2012, Mr. Sim was named as a 'Young Global Leader' by the World Economic Forum. He is an avid writer and has published three books titled "The Audacity to Think: An Invitation to Rethink Politics" (2012), "Being Malaysia" (2018) and a Malay Language collection of poems titled "Dalam Salju Ada Bunga" (2018).



Hon. Mr. Bakhtiyar Maken

Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament, Kazakhstan

Hon. Mr. Bakhtiyar Maken graduated from Kazakh National Agrarian University in 2003. He is also a graduate of the "Bolashaq" programme (received a degree from University of Montana, USA). Previously, Hon. Mr. Maken worked as a Deputy Mayor of the West Kazakhstan Region. He has over 10 years of experience working on youth issues in various positions in the civil service and non-governmental organizations. Hon. Mr. Maken is also the Chairman of the Board of the "Bolashaq" Association.



Hon. Ms. Kristine Asatryan

Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Armenia

Hon. Ms. Kristine Asatryan graduated from Moscow State University of Services and has coaching certification from Erickson International besides formal education. Previously, she worked as a business consultant and trainer at "Management Mix - Armenia" consulting company and head of programs of the Armenian National Youth Council and "Pan-Armenian Youth International Center" Foundation. Hon. Ms. Asatryan has been an international independent expert and trainer since 2014. In 2011, she founded an NGO called "Arm Active Youth Center."



Hon. Ms. Tatyana Lebedeva

Member of the Committee for Social Policy, Parliament of the Russian Federation

Ms. Tatyana Lebedeva is the Multiple World Champion, and Champion of Europe and Russia. She is the reigning world record holder in triple jump in the room and honored Master of Sports of the Russian Federation. She worked as a Vice President of the All-Russian Athletic Federation (2008-2016) and is a Colonel of the Russian Federation's armed forces. Previously, she was elected to the Volgograd Regional Duma, where she served as the Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Health, Physical Culture and Youth Policy and the Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Entrepreneurship, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and to the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly from the Volgograd region, where she is currently a Member of the Committee for Social Policy. In 2018, she was elected as a Coordinator of the Youth Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS member states.



Hon. Mr. Intigam Vaqif Oglu Babayev

Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Azerbaijan

Hon. Mr. Intigam Babayev is Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan. He graduated from the History Department at Baku State University (1996) and Public Administration Academy under the President of Azerbaijan (2001). He started his career in 1996 as Professor of Political History at Academy of Physical Education and Sports. Also, he worked as Head of Office responsible for working with youth organizations at the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Head of Office responsible for working with political parties and NGOs in the executive branch in Baku. Since 2000, Mr. Babayev has been Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports. Between 1995-1998, he headed the National Council of Youth Organizations of Azerbaijan.



Mr. Senel Wanniarachchi

Co-Founder and Director, Hashtag Generation

Mr. Senel Wanniarachchi is a Chevening Scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science where he is pursuing a Masters Degree in Human Rights. He is a Co-Founder and a Director of Hashtag Generation, a registered non-profit led by a group of young tech-savvy Sri Lankans advocating for meaningful civic and political participation of youth, especially young women. In 2017, he received a medal from Queen Elizabeth the 2nd in recognition of his work on using social and new media tools to empower women and young people to meaningfully engage in decision-making processes. He is a Board Member of the Innovation for Change South Asia Hub which works towards defending and strengthening the civic space to overcome restrictions to basic freedoms of assembly, association and speech. In 2014, he was selected as Sri Lanka's official youth delegate to the UN. He was also a member of the Sri Lanka Youth Parliament.



Ms. Anindita Sitepu

Programme Director, Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development Initiatives (CISDI)

Ms. Anindita Sitepu has extensive experience in managing social development interventions around health equity, youth empowerment and sustainable development. She has been actively involved in global dialogues that support human rights and equality such as the UN General Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ms. Sitepu has taken part in the Young South East Asian Leaders' Initiatives (YSEALI) from the US Mission to ASEAN and previously served as Program Manager at the Office of the President's Special Envoy for Millennium Development Goals (OSE-MDGs). She completed her master program in Health Psychology at Leiden University, Netherlands.

Session 4: Opportunities and Risks for Youth in the Context of Globalization



Hon. Mr. Teodoro (Teddy) Jr. Brawner Baguilat

*Member of Parliament, Philippines
Vice-Chair, AFPPD*

Hon. Mr. Teddy Baguilat serves as a member of the parliament of the Philippines, representing the Lone District of the Province of Ifugao. He belongs to the Liberal Party. He is the Vice-Chair of AFPPD and the Chairperson of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) in the lower chamber of Congress. Most notable of PLCPD's work was the passage of the Responsible Parenthood Law. Hon. Mr. Baguilat is one of the few Members of Congress who is vocal against extra-judicial killings and the reinstatement of the death penalty. He has advocated for the protection and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights, welfare, and privileges; the protection of the environment; transparency and accountability in the government; women's and children's rights; agrarian reform; food and nutrition security, among others.



Mr. Vitalie Vremis

Deputy Resident Representative, Kazakhstan, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Before joining UNDP Kazakhstan, Mr. Vitalie Vremis had worked as Deputy Resident Representative in Turkmenistan since 2014. Prior to that he worked as Deputy Resident Representative a.i. in UNDP Uzbekistan (2014) and Assistant Resident Representative in UNDP Croatia (2011-2014). Before starting his international postings, he worked as Programme Specialist, Democratic Governance in UNDP Moldova, which he joined in 2004. In 2010, Mr. Vremis

worked as Programme Manager a.i. in the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, New York. Previous to UNDP, he worked as Executive Director of the NGO “Educational Advising Centre” in Moldova. He holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the Academy of Public Administration of Moldova and University Degree in Economics from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova.



Mr. Hiroshi Takahashi

*Former Japanese Ambassador to Afghanistan
Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan*

Mr. Hiroshi Takahashi was Japanese Ambassador to Afghanistan (2012-2016) after serving as Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Earlier, he was the Director of the Second Division, Intelligence and Analysis Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also served as the Special Advisor to the Ambassador, Special Representative for Assistance to Afghanistan and Pakistan (2008-2009), Charge d’ Affairs of the Embassy of Japan in Tajikistan (2005-2008), and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan (2003-2005) and Counselor (1998-2000) in Uzbekistan. He was seconded thrice to the UN including as the Deputy Head of UN Tajikistan Office of Peace Building in 2000 and the Principle Political Advisor of UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan in 2002. Mr. Takahashi graduated from School of Comparative Culture, Sophia University with M.A. International Relations. He also holds a B.A Literature Degree from Kabul University.



Ms. Jill Helke

*Director, Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships,
International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

Ms. Jill Helke has worked for IOM since April 1999 and is currently the Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships at IOM Headquarters. She worked in the Office of the Director General from 1999-2009 and was Chief of Mission for IOM in Sudan from 2009 to 2012. Before joining IOM, she was in the British Foreign Service from 1978 to 1999, serving at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, the British Embassy in China, and the UK Missions to the UN both in New York and Geneva.

ANNEX 4: List of Publications and Printed Materials

#	Title	Agency/Year	Link
1	Switched On	UNESCAP 2015	https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Switched%20On.pdf
2	Youth Wellbeing Index (Executive Summary)	International Youth Foundation 2017	https://www.iyfnet.org/sites/default/files/library/2017_GlobalYouthWellbeingIndex_ExecutiveSummary.pdf
3	The World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education’s Promise (Main Messages)	World Bank 2018	https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/28340/211096mm.pdf https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/28340/211096mmRU.pdf?sequence=8&isAllowed=y
4	Global Employment Trends for Youth (Executive Summary)	ILO 2017	https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_598675.pdf
5	Invitations in Knowledge and Learning: Postsecondary Education Reform to Support Employment and Inclusive Growth	ADB 2017	https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/385711/innovations-knowledge-learning.pdf
6	The Power of 1.8 Billion: Adolescents, Youth and the Transformation of the Future (Executive Summary)	UNFPA 2014	https://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EN-SWOP%20EX%20SUM-Final-web.pdf
7	Investing in Young People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (English)	UNFPA 2014	http://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/21224_UNFPA_EECA_SWOP%20Youth%20supplement%202014_LRv2_0.pdf
8	Investing in Young People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Russian)	UNFPA 2014	No available link
9	Child marriage in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: regional overview (English)	UNFPA 2014	http://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Child%20Marriage_27072015_web.pdf
10	Child marriage in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: regional overview (Russian)	UNFPA 2014	http://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Child%20Marriage%20EECA%20Regional%20Overview%20RUS.pdf
11	Youth in the Commonwealth of Independent States: A Statistical Portrait (English)	UNFPA 2016	http://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/MOLODEG_2016_ENG_FINAL_2017-03-23.pdf

12	Youth in the Commonwealth of Independent States: A Statistical Portrait (Russian)	UNFPA 2016	http://eeeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/MOLODEG_2016_RUS%20sait.pdf
13	Since the Cairo Conference to the period after 2015 (Russian)	UNFPA/WHO 2013	https://eeeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Entre-Nous-78-Rus.pdf
14	Child marriage (Russian)	UNFPA/WHO 2012	http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/298137/Entre-Nous-76-Rus.pdf
15	Births in Europe in the 21st century (Russian)	UNFPA/WHO 2015	http://publications.srhr.org/wp-content/uploads/entre-nous-81-ru.pdf
16	Focusing on adolescents and youth in Eastern Europe (English)	UNFPA 2014	http://eeeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_EuroAsia_Factsheet_20140902.pdf
17	Focusing on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (English)	UNFPA 2015	http://eeeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/gender_equality_WEB.pdf
18	Together for a better sexual & reproductive health (Russian)	UNFPA/WHO 2016	http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/324976/Entre-Nous-84-full-book-ru.pdf
19	A Life-course Approach to Sexual and Reproductive Health (Russian)	UNFPA/WHO 2015	http://eeeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Entre-Nous-82-ru.pdf
20	Adolescent: health risks and solutions (Factsheet)	WHO	No available link
21	Education and Migration: An assessment of the types and range of IOM's education and vocational training projects	IOM 2018	https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom_migration_education_report.pdf
22	Harrowing Journeys: Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation	IOM 2017	https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/harrowing_journeys.pdf
23	United Nations World Youth Report: Youth Civic Engagement (Executive Summary)	UNDESA 2016	http://www.unworldyouthreport.org/images/docs/wyr_civic_engagement_executive_summary.pdf
24	Global Youth Development Index and Report (Fast Facts)	The Commonwealth 2016	http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/FastFactsOnTheYouthDevelopmentIndex.pdf
25	Briefing Package on HIV and AIDS for Parliamentarians	AFPPD 2018	https://www.afppd.org/Resources/83-briefing-package-on-hiv-and-aids-for-parliamentarians-(2018).pdf
26	Fact sheets of 29 countries	AFPPD 2018	https://www.afppd.org/factsheets

ANNEX 5: Presentations

International Conference on Investing in Youth
 "Leaving No One Behind"

19-20 October 2018

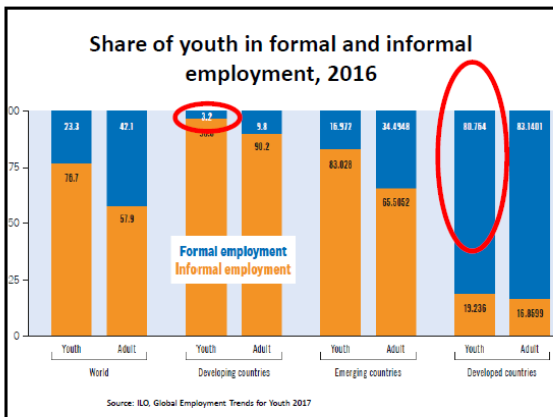
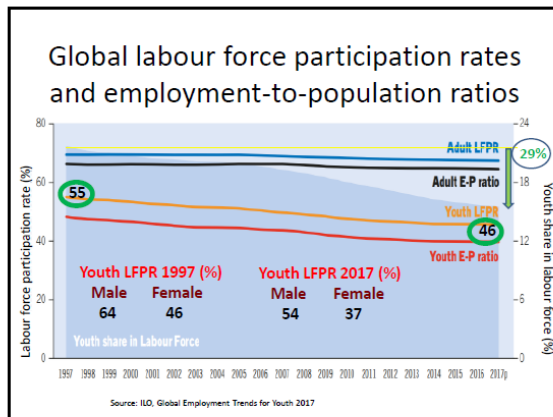
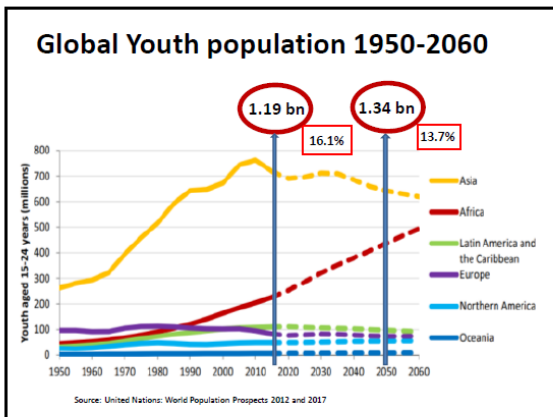
Astana, Kazakhstan

Overview of Youth Issues – Past, Present and Future

Marco Roncarati 



Creative
 Irrational
 Innovative
 Impatient
 Enthusiastic
-YOUTH-
 Adults of the future



Future global youth labour force

- Between 2017 and 2030 global youth labour force (YLF) to rise by 41.8 million
- Youth in Africa and Asia-Pacific 77% of YLF by 2030
- By 2050 the older population is to outnumber the youth population

Asia-Pacific old-age support ratios

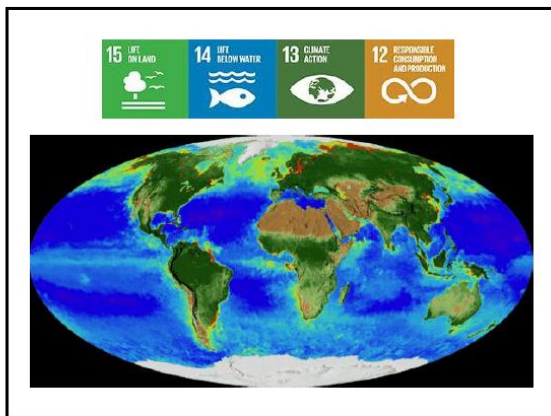
Number of those aged 15-64 per person aged 65+

Country	2018	2050
China	6.4	2.3
India	10.8	5.0
Japan	2.2	1.4
Republic of Korea	5.0	1.5
Thailand	6.0	2.0
Afghanistan	20.9	12.1
Timor-Leste	14.7	13.2

Source: World Population Prospects 2017



What is common? What is shared?



What is fair?

Equality



Equity



Where do we stand?

10 REDUCE INEQUALITIES

NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

Where do we stand?

JUST 8 BILLIONAIRES OWN THE SAME WEALTH AS THE POOREST 3.6 BILLION PEOPLE

DEMAND AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE, NOT JUST THE FEW

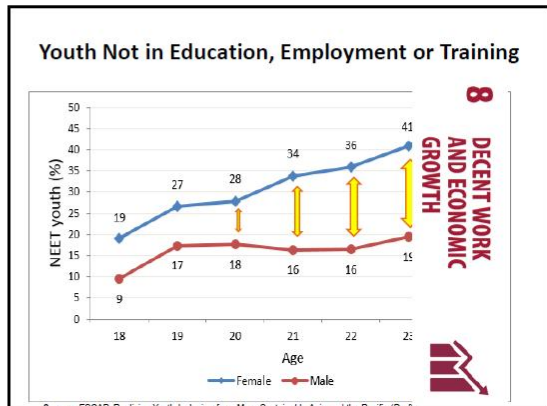
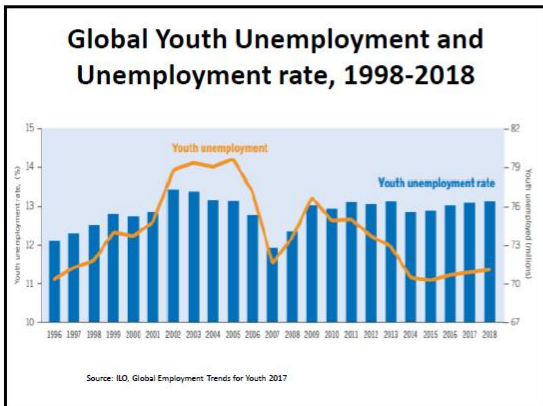
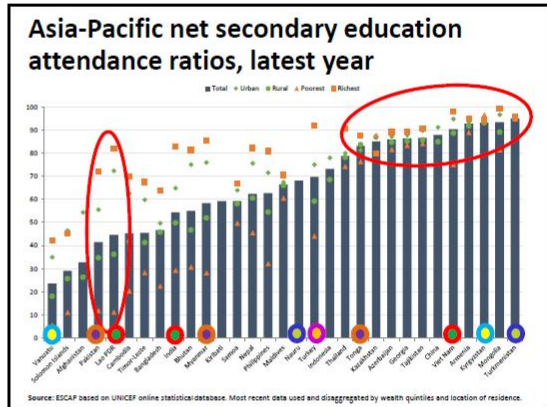
OXFAM

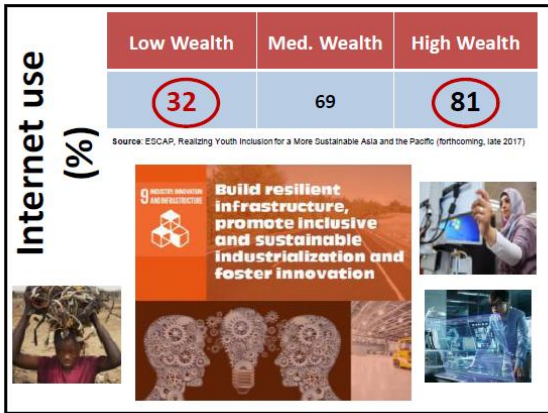
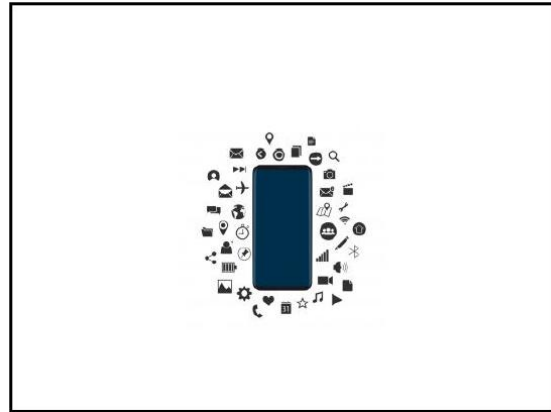
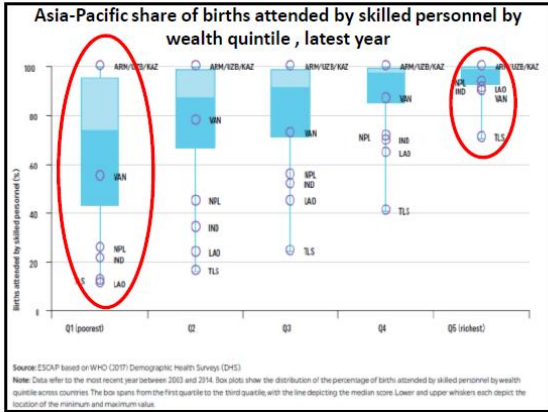
Rights

“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

NELSON MANDELA

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all





<http://yptoolbox.unescapsdd.org/>

Engaging and Empowering youth and policymakers

The Youth Policy Toolbox is a set of open templates, and tools to improve the approach towards inclusion for young people and policymakers.

- POLICYMAKER'S TOOLKIT**: A toolkit for with tips, templates, and frameworks that provides clarity around the policymaking process.
- YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**: Discover easier and more productive ways to engage youth to help you build better policy.
- GOOD PRACTICES**: Get inspiration through case studies of youth good practices regionally and globally.

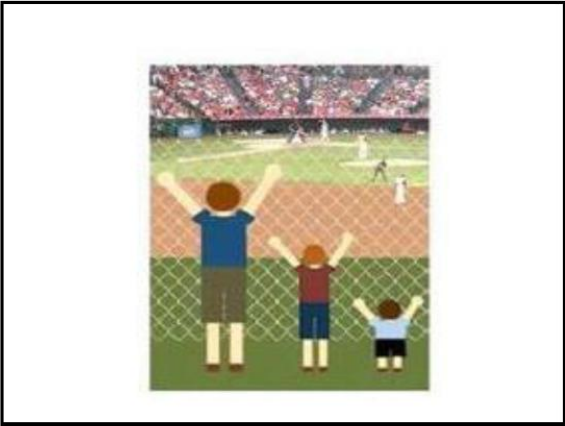
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS


GOAL 17

STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
 More at sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal



WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT



LEARNING

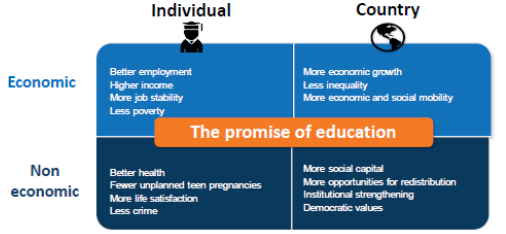
TO REALIZE EDUCATION'S PROMISE

#wdr2018

www.worldbank.org/wdr2018

WORLD BANK GROUP


Education generates multiple benefits



	Individual	Country
Economic	Better employment Higher income More job stability Less poverty	More economic growth Less inequality More economic and social mobility
Non economic	Better health Fewer unplanned teen pregnancies More life satisfaction Less crime	More social capital More opportunities for redistribution Institutional strengthening Democratic values

The promise of education

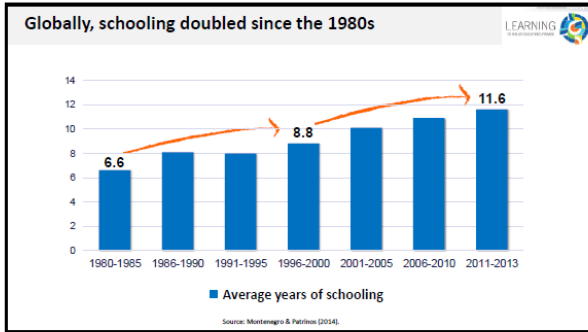
Yet, education investment is not yielding maximum results



Why?

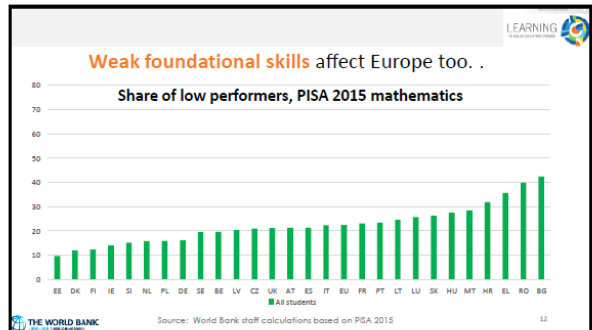
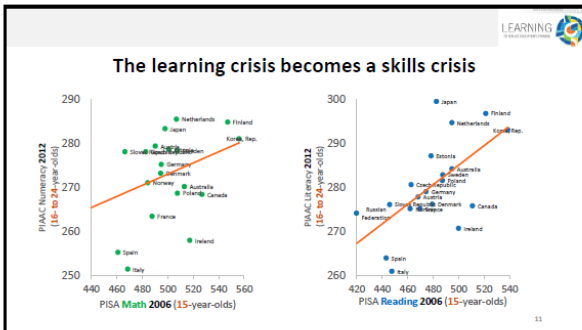
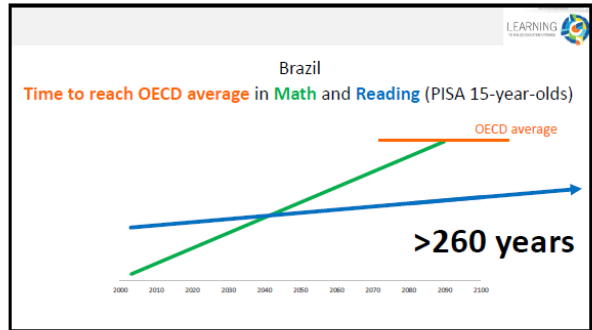
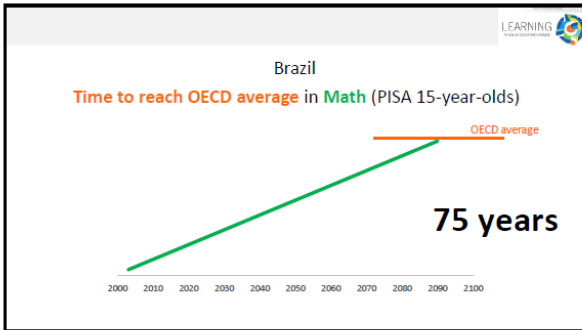
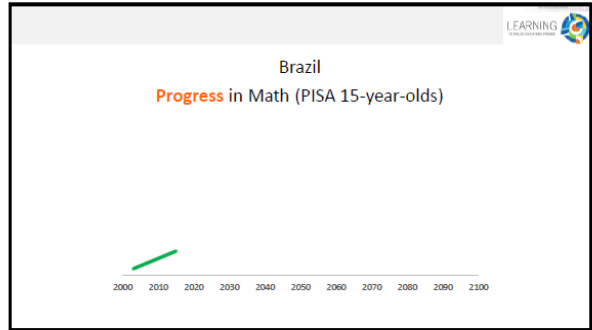
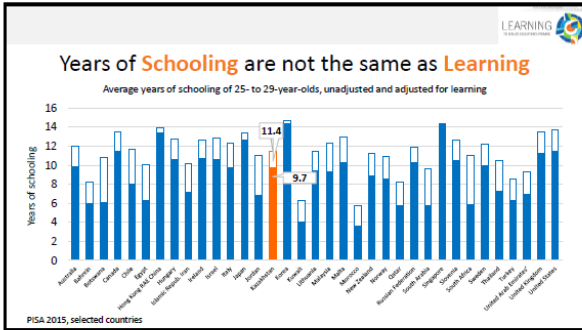
Education can't do it alone...

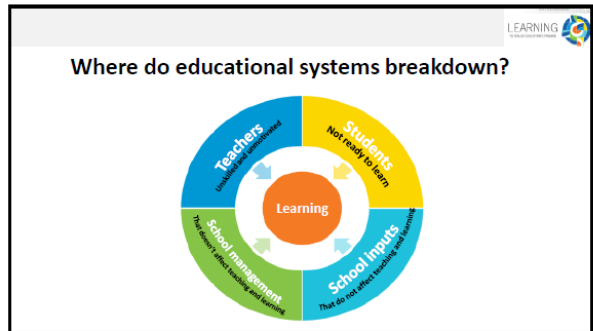
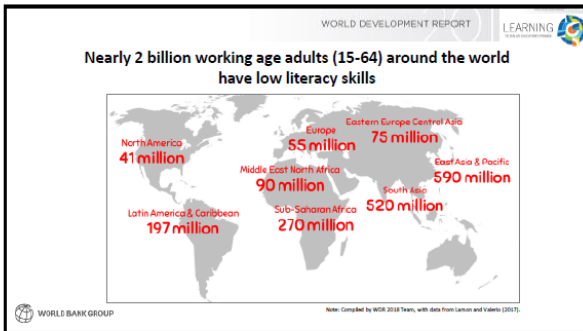
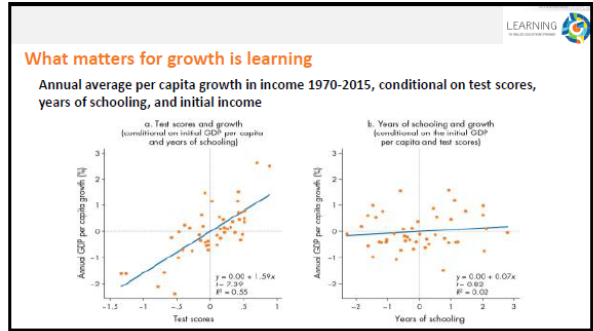
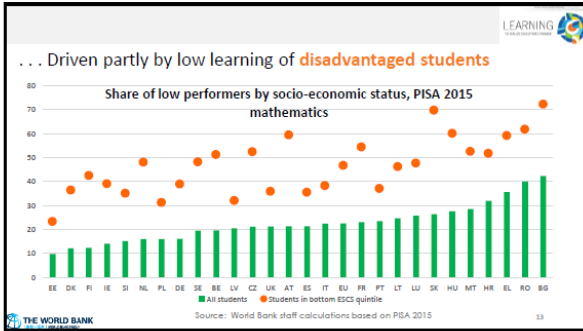
... too many children and young people enroll in school but they do not learn



Schooling is not the same as learning

The world is facing a "Learning Crisis"





- ### Policy measures to improve learning:
- Assess** learning to make it a serious goal
 - Act** to make schools work for all learners
 - Align** actors to make the whole system work for learning

WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT

www.worldbank.org/wdr2018

LEARNING

TO REALIZE EDUCATION'S PROMISE

Get the puzzle app at the Apple Store
Search for "WDR 2018"

ADB

Transitions from Education to Employment

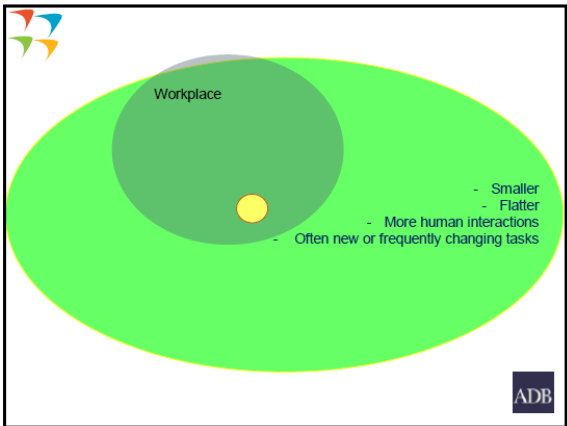
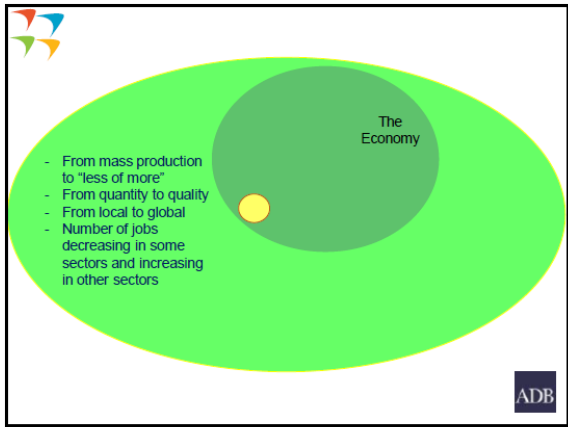
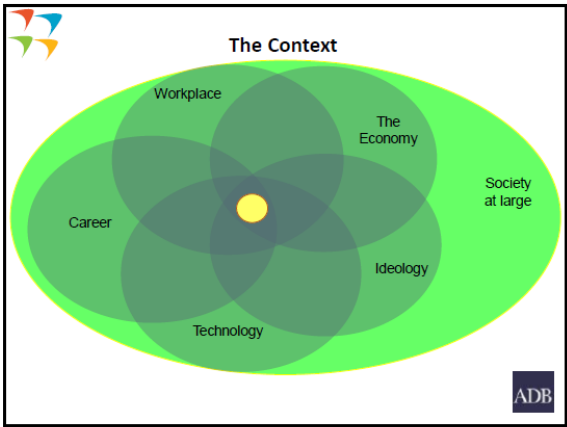
Giovanni Capannelli
Kazakhstan Country Director
Asian Development Bank



Presentation Outline

- The context
- Education policy implications
- From school to work, from university to work
- Youth at risk – inclusiveness challenge

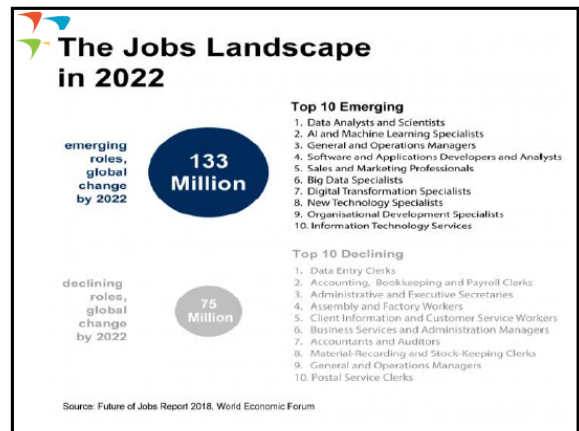
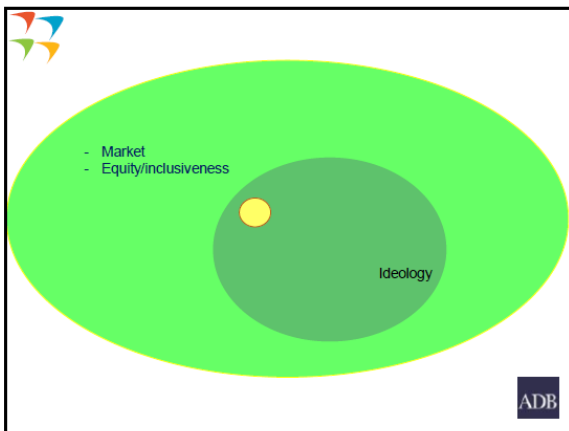
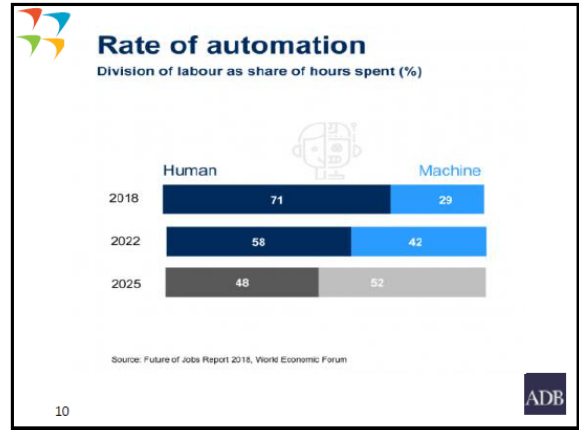
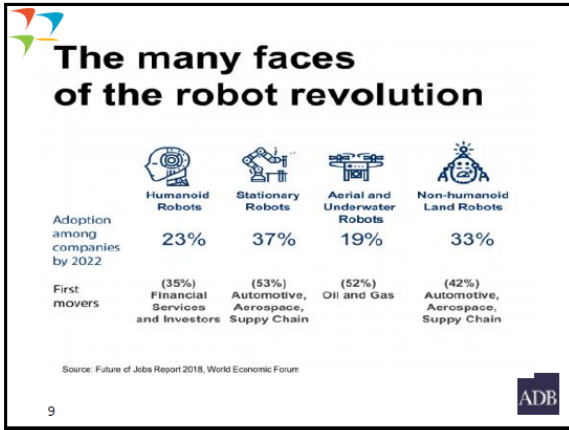
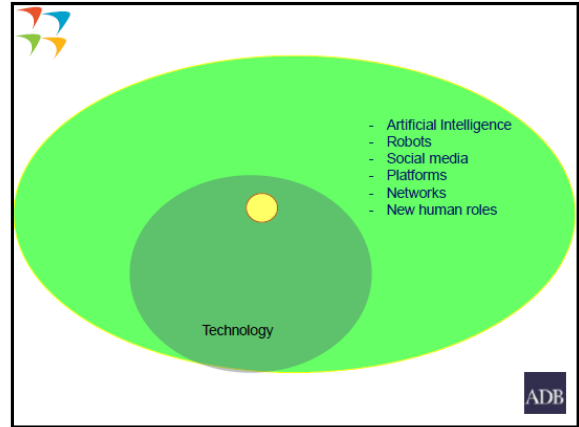
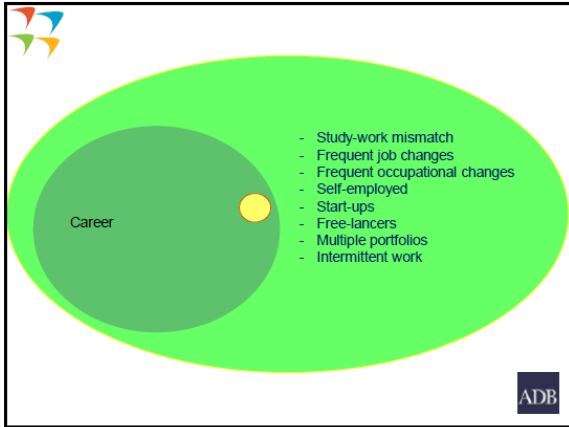
ADB

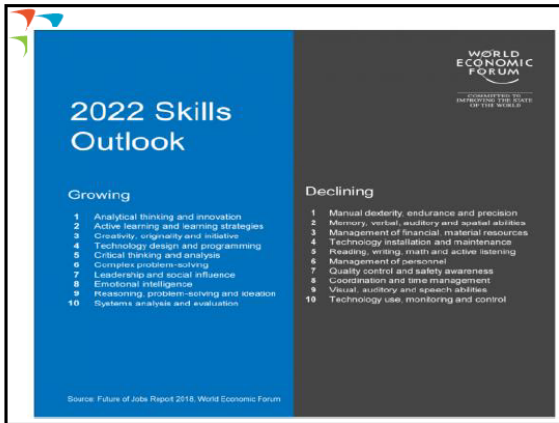


Front-line Workers

<p>Industrial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottom of the hierarchy • Hiring due to credentials • Member of a specialised department • Using specific skills • Routine and repetitive activities • Working according to job descriptions • Following set procedures • Abiding by rules and regulations • Appraised by degree of compliance • Stable and secure job • Blue collar workers 	<p>Post-industrial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of a small group • Working in teams • Directly facing clients • Directly facing problems • Anticipating total solutions • Designing solutions with creativity • Using multiple skills • Taking risks • Improving fit-for-purpose activities • Managing oneself • Learning on-the-job, on-demand, just-in-time • Performance appraised 360° • Unstable, uncertain and insecure job future • Knowledge workers
---	--


ADB






Employability and Employment

- Relationship between number of years of schooling and employment less clear when labor markets evolve.
- What does employability mean?
- How can education help improve employability of graduates?



Education Policy Development

- Foundational policies for shifting to modern K-12 education system.
- Structural policies to:
 - (a) Improve student pathways from school education to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and to higher education.
 - (b) Strengthen the role of education in development of the basis for employability and transition from education to world of work.
 - (d) Strengthen the attitude and ability of students to become lifelong learners.



Skills for Competitiveness, Jobs, and Employability

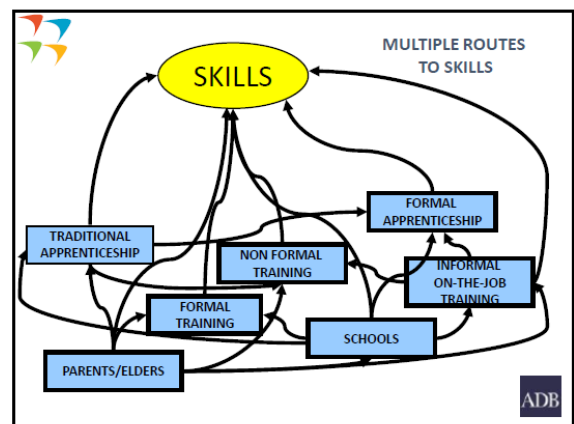
Policies and Strategies	Rationale	Possible Benefits
Develop skills credentials, qualifications, and assessment systems in partnership with industry.	There is evidence of growing problems of skills mismatch even though investment in education and training has been increasing.	Industry and employer-validated credentials, together with assessment systems, reduces the gap in the transition from skills training to the work place.



Transition from School to Work

- Advanced skills are indispensable for a high-productivity economy while medium-skills workers are key for growth of labor-intensive sectors.
- Skills credentials developed and endorsed by industry are crucial for successful transition.
- Education and training institutions should engage industries to jointly develop skills assessment tools which help improve job-readiness of students.





Improving Transitions from University to Workplace

Better align university curricula and instruction with labor market needs.

Increase emphasis on the skills demanded by the changing workplace:

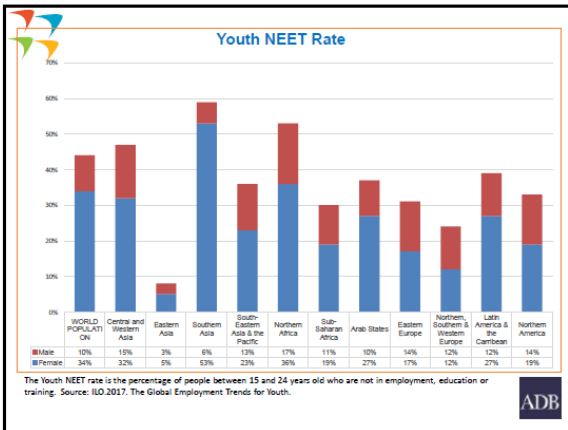
- soft skills in higher learning, including cross-disciplinary perspectives,
- critical thinking, and collaborative problem solving



Inclusive Education Can Help Tackle Inequalities

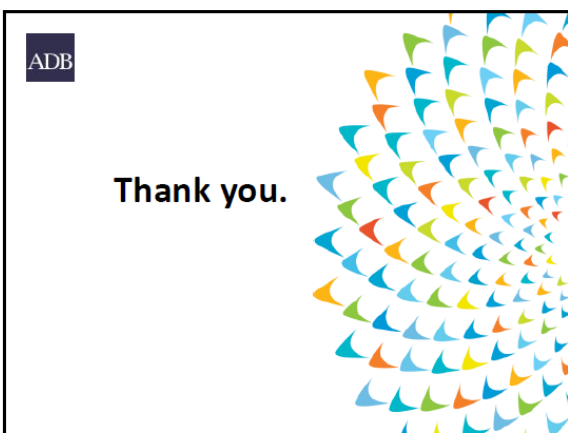
Demand is strong for shifting agenda from narrow education access strategies, that focus only on increasing student enrollments, to widening participation and opportunities:

- Increasing student pathways in education system;
- Providing targeted support to marginalized groups;
- Strengthening readiness of ALL students and their transitions from school - to work place.



Support to Youth at Risk is Important

- Counselling services on education, training, specialization, and job opportunities
- Student subsidy programs
- Systems for tracking students in labor market after education or training
- Specific support particularly to NEET youth to help them get back to education, training or employment
- Cross-ministerial effort important: Coordination e.g. between Ministries of Education, Labor, and Economy.





Outline

- Youth demographics, challenges and opportunities
- Why health and well-being of young people matter
- Joint UN efforts for health and wellbeing of adolescents and youth
- UNFPA work on young people's health and wellbeing: lessons learned

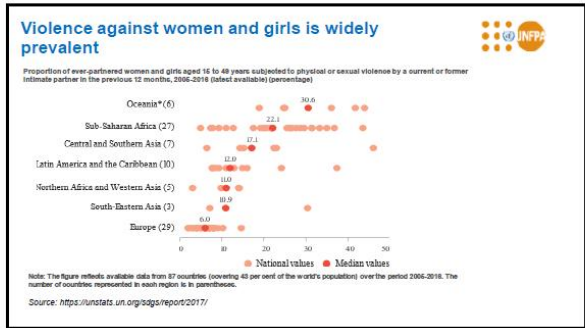
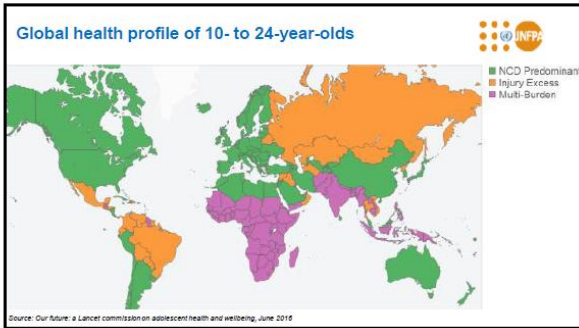


Challenges

- Discrimination and violation of human rights
- Gender-based violence
- Harmful practices (child and forced marriage, FGM, and son preference)
- Barriers to health services and information

Limited opportunities for development and growth...

- Injuries and violence (50% of sexual assaults are committed against girls under 16)
- Mental health and self-harm (depression, suicide)
- High adolescent birth rates; high maternal mortality among young mothers
- Gender gaps in secondary education
- High vulnerability to STIs, including HIV



Opportunities





Best connected generation, with high expectations



Access to information and knowledge




Youth leaders and innovators



Agents of change and accountability



Normative frameworks



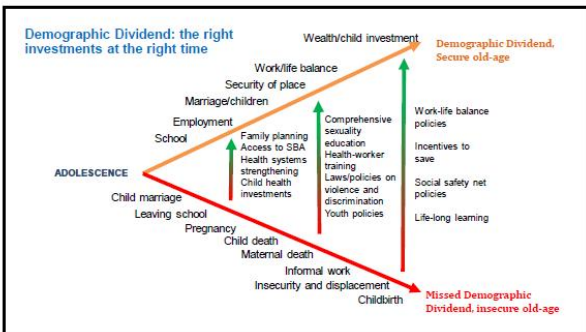
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Young people have the right to non-discrimination, privacy, autonomy, and the right to participate in decisions that affect them
- The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)**
- Governments committed to protect and promote the rights of young people to sexual and reproductive health education, information and care to ensure a healthy transition into adulthood



Benefits of investing in adolescents and youth



- Expanded investments in empowerment, including health and quality education for adolescents and youth have lifelong effects
- When such investments extend broadly across the population, they result in a surge of human capital into society
- When the surge coincides with a demographic bulge of young people owing to declining fertility, and met with real opportunities for decent work, the demographic dividend of accelerated development can be reaped within a generation




Prioritizing well being and health of adolescent and youth

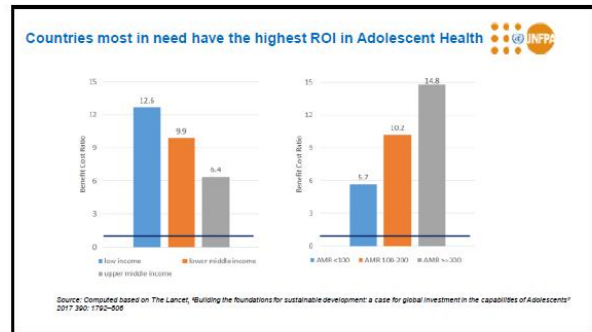
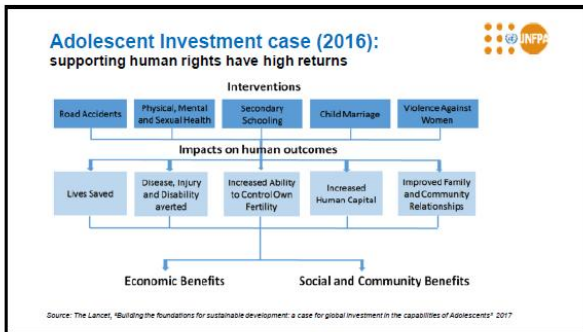


2015 Lancet Commission on Adolescent health and well-being:

- Adolescence is a critical phase in life for achieving human potential - foundation for health that determine trajectories across life course
- Investments bring a triple dividend of benefits – now, into future adult life, and for the next generation of children

YET...

- Have the poorest level of universal health coverage of any age group
- Have had fewer health gains with slower economic development than other age groups



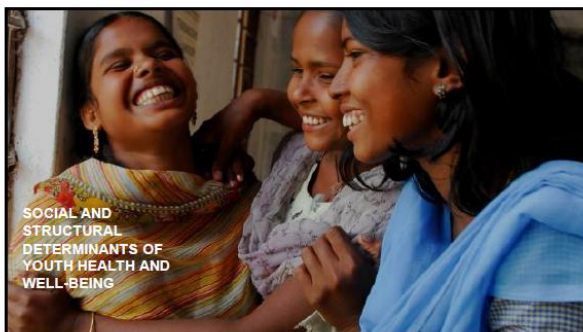
EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD

THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN'S, CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENTS' HEALTH (2016-2030)

SURVIVE // THRIVE // TRANSFORM

"Young people are the world's greatest untapped resource."

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General



- **Poverty**
- **Gender inequality and social norms**
- **Social marginalization and exclusion**
(ethnic minorities, LGBTQ, refugees and young people on the move, those with disabilities, in juvenile detention, etc.)
- **Vulnerability and exposure to risks**



Girls face disproportionate risks and if their needs are not attended during this life stage, it results in lifelong and intergenerational implications – individually and collectively

16 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 give birth each year in developing countries

Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death for girls in this age group worldwide


About one in three new HIV infections occurs among youth aged 15 to 25

In 2015, globally, an estimated 3.9 million girls had been subjected to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)




Empowering women and adolescent girls is central to achieving universal health, including SRHR, and a demographic dividend

Potential impact



- Reduced unmet need for family planning
 - Meeting unmet need for family planning reduced # of unplanned pregnancies
- Better reproductive health outcomes
 - More likely to seek appropriate prenatal care, attendance for delivery, family planning
- Healthier children
 - 5-10% lower mortality rates in children under the age of 5 for every year of mother education
 - Better nutrition of children
 - Higher immunisation rates
- Increased earnings
 - Strong correlation between mothers education and their children's education
- More educated children
 - 10-20% increased wages by extra year of education for girls
- Economic development through increased productivity
 - With each additional year of schooling, GDP growth rates would be boosted by 0.58 percentage points per year



UNFPA'S APPROACH TO ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH

EVERY ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH, IN PARTICULAR ADOLESCENTS GIRLS, IS EMPOWERED TO HAVE ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, IN ALL CONTEXTS

- IMPROVE SKILLS & CAPABILITIES**
to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and well-being
- STRENGTHEN POLICIES & PROGRAMMES**
to tackle the determinants of adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health, development and wellbeing
- ENABLE LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION**
in sustainable development, humanitarian action, and in sustaining peace






Examples of UNFPA innovative work for the most marginalized youth and adolescents

Youth Enterprise Model (YEM)

- Uganda (2012-2017), evaluation for scaling up in East and South Africa region (2018)
- Integrating SRHR information and services into youth-led SMEs, TVETs and community platforms (economic activation, financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills)
- Multi-pronged set of interventions (e.g. capacity development, ICT interventions, peer education, distribution of SRH commodities)


mHealth for young people's SRHR

- In partnership with OpenIDEO, UNFPA launched a crowd-sourcing challenge to find new ways to improve SRH of young people
- 256 solutions from innovators around the world (mHealth platforms, new data applications, and closing the last mile for commodities)

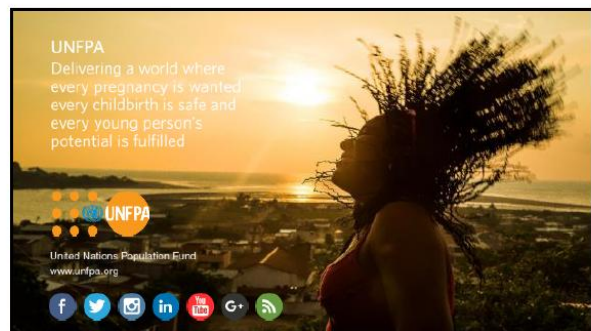



Key learnings from UNFPA's work with young people



- Translate good pilots and initiatives on youth-friendly services into system-wide response (join hands with partners)
- Strengthen systematic linkages across interventions for multi-sectoral, holistic support for YP (data, DD, SRHR and family planning, adolescent girls empowerment and prevention of harmful practices)
- Quality education: essential knowledge for health, including Comprehensive Sexuality Education (soft skills for higher employability)
- Accelerate efforts to target the most vulnerable and marginalized YP by strengthening analysis and use of disaggregated data
- Strengthen meaningful engagement with adolescents and youth, especially those from marginalized communities (youth in poverty, ethnic minorities, with disabilities, LGBT, etc.)
- Innovate for scale to increase effectiveness of our work with YP (online means, social networking technologies, mHealth, etc.)



UNFPA
Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled



United Nations Population Fund
www.unfpa.org

FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN
GEZONDHEIDSWETENSCHAPPEN

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Leaving No One Behind, Kazakhstan, 19-20 October 2018

Prof. dr. Kristien Michiels – International Centre for Reproductive Health, WHO-CC Centre, Ghent University
– ANSER network

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SRHR STATUS OF ADOLESCENTS IN EE&CA AND AP

	Eastern Europe & Central Asia	Asia Pacific
Modern contraceptive use among sexually active girls		
Given birth by age 18		
Adolescent birth rate		
Abortion		
Married by 18		
Condom use at last sex		
Sexual intercourse by age 15		
STI in the last 12 months		
Comprehensive HIV knowledge		
HIV infections		

South Asia has seen the most significant reduction in child marriage in the last two decades, however rates are still more than double those of other sub-regions. Despite legislation in most countries prohibiting child marriage, more than a third of young women in AP were married by 18, and one in eight married by 15.

Eastern Europe is the only region in which the numbers of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths are still on the rise. One third of new HIV infections in the region occur among the 15-24 age group and more than 80% of people living with HIV in the region are under 30 years old.

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SRHR STATUS OF ADOLESCENTS IN EE&CA AND AP

HIV infections

More young people are having sex before marriage than ever before, yet many face a dangerous dearth of information on SRH and lack the critical life-skills needed to manage safe, consensual sexual relationships. Exposure to alcohol and drugs, peer pressure, gender-based violence and inequality, intensive labour migration and displacement, human trafficking, marginalisation and involvement in sexual exploitation all conspire to increase the vulnerability of young people in the region, especially girls, to HIV.

Conservative legislation around same sex relationships, drug use and sex work continues to fuel stigma, obstructing the HIV response in some countries within the region.

<https://www.avert.org/hiv-and-aids-eastern-europe-central-asia-overview>

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WHY ARE ADOLESCENTS VULNERABLE?

It's complicated...

Multiple determinants at different levels

Different determinants for different problems, different (age) groups and different settings

Importance of good formative research

Kaufman, <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/presentation/486e/84c05912c4fc44697496488792654e78f2f.pdf>

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Structural: Promote gender equitable norms to improve

The Case for Addressing Gender and Power in Sexuality And HIV Education: A Comprehensive Review Of Evaluation Studies

Huberman, 2015.

Positive attitudes towards gender equality go hand in hand with a safe and happy sex life among adolescents: results from a cross-sectional study in Bolivia and Ecuador

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GLOBAL EARLY ADOLESCENT STUDY

Understand how gender norms evolve in early adolescence and how such norms predispose young people to subsequent sexual health risks and conversely that contribute to healthy sexuality.

Interviews and participatory research methods

- 167 girls 10-14 years
- 160 boys 10-14 years
- 231 female caregivers
- 56 male caregivers

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GLOBAL EARLY ADOLESCENT STUDY

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Puberty is a critical time in the life course, when pre-existing gender attitudes and norms become further crystallised 2. Unequal gender attitudes & norms are widespread across geographic & socio-cultural settings with similarities & differences across contexts 3. Societal expectations of boys & girls differ, & so do their own gender attitudes 4. Race, ethnicity, class & immigrant status influence gender norms & attitudes 5. Peers & parents are key to shaping gender norms & attitudes. 	<p>Unequal gender norms develop early in life</p> <p>They intensify in early adolescence</p>
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GLOBAL EARLY ADOLESCENT STUDY

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UNIVERSITEIT GENT 8

GLOBAL EARLY ADOLESCENT STUDY

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Puberty is a critical time in the life course, when pre-existing gender attitudes and norms become further crystallised 2. Unequal gender attitudes & norms are widespread across geographic & socio-cultural settings with similarities & differences across contexts 3. Societal expectations of boys & girls differ, & so do their own gender attitudes 4. Race, ethnicity, class & immigrant status influence gender norms & attitudes 5. Peers & parents are key to shaping gender norms & attitudes. 	<p>Gender norms reinforce different expectations for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys: tough, strong, brave, heterosexual prowess, control Girls: nice, polite, submissive, beautiful but modest <p>Norms are enforced by sanctions.</p> <p>Puberty is associated with an expansion of boys' worlds & a shrinkage of girls' worlds.</p>
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UNIVERSITEIT GENT 9

GLOBAL EARLY ADOLESCENT STUDY

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Puberty is a critical time in the life course, when pre-existing gender attitudes and norms become further crystallised 2. Unequal gender attitudes & norms are widespread across geographic & socio-cultural settings with similarities & differences across contexts 3. Societal expectations of boys & girls differ, & so do their own gender attitudes 4. Race, ethnicity, class & immigrant status influence gender norms & attitudes 5. Peers & parents are key to shaping gender norms & attitudes. 	<p>Gender norms & attitudes vary within sub-populations in the same geographic area.</p>
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UNIVERSITEIT GENT 10

GLOBAL EARLY ADOLESCENT STUDY

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Puberty is a critical time in the life course, when pre-existing gender attitudes and norms become further crystallised 2. Unequal gender attitudes & norms are widespread across geographic & socio-cultural settings with similarities & differences across contexts 3. Societal expectations of boys & girls differ, & so do their own gender attitudes 4. Race, ethnicity, class & immigrant status influence gender norms & attitudes 5. Peers & parents are key to shaping gender norms & attitudes. 	<p>Peers share with, learn from & support each other. They also patrol & pressure each other.</p> <p>Parents want adolescents to conform to prevailing norms & reinforce this through instruction, encouragement, reward, regulation & discipline.</p> <p>They are concerned for the reputation of their children & their families.</p>
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GLOBAL EARLY ADOLESCENT STUDY

Next phase:

Cohort study among 1,400 young adolescents per site to study how gender norms evolve and influence sexual health and well-being in later adolescence

EE&CA, AP: only sites in China and Indonesia

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Individual: Comprehensive sexuality education is an evidence-based intervention to promote SR health and well-being of

- teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical and social aspects of sexuality aims to equip children and young people with **knowledge, skills, attitudes and values** that will empower them to realize their health, well-being and dignity, develop respectful social and sexual relationships, consider how their choices affect their own well-being and that of others, understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives
- age-appropriate, evidence-informed, rights-based, culturally-appropriate and gender-equitable



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OUTCOMES OF CSE

Curriculum-based sexuality education programmes contribute to:

- Delayed initiation of sexual intercourse
- Decreased frequency of sexual intercourse
- Decreased number of sexual partners
- Reduced risk taking
- Increased use of condoms
- Increased use of contraception

Indications for improving:

- Attitudes related to sexual and reproductive health
- Preventing and reducing gender-based and intimate partner violence and discrimination
- Increasing gender equitable norms
- Self-efficacy and confidence
- Building stronger and healthier relationships

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PITFALLS IN CSE


A lot of confusion about the term CSE.

Opposition based on religious and cultural grounds.

Key international policies and guidance documents encourage implementation of CSE. However, studies often show:

- Partial implementation: Limit to risk reduction, without mentioning positive aspects and relationship education
- Limited focus: Only focus on older adolescents
- Lack of teacher training

We know it works. It saves and improves lives. It needs to be rolled out.



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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- No quick fix...
- Keep a **long-term** perspective:
 - Structural changes don't occur over night
 - Intersectoral approach: education, health, social services, youth,...
- What can you do on the **short term**?
 - Introduce Comprehensive Sexuality Education
 - Ensure access to contraceptives and health care services, including training of health care staff in youth friendly services
 - Address knowledge gaps through research

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Basis: There is a lot that we know, but there is even more that we don't know.

<p>Limited data on specific aspects of SR health and well-being among young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual transgressive behaviour Sexual violence Dating violence Self-esteem Body image Sexual diversity Gender diversity ... 	<p>Little knowledge on sub-groups of young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adolescents Migrants LGBT ... <p>Drivers of SR health and well-being among young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social and structural drivers Intersections and interactions
--	--

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INTERESTED TO KNOW MORE?

ANSER: Academic Network for SRHR Policy Research

- 28 Academic Institutions from around the globe
- Provide guidance in development and implementation of WHO/Europe SRH Action Plan – checklist and monitoring framework for WHO-European Region (WHO, UNFPA)
- Trainings for national policy makers in the field of indicators and monitoring systems and for the evaluation of national strategies and policies
- International conference 'Setting an SRHR research agenda across sectors' 27 Nov 2018, Ghent: welcome!
- www.ugent.be/anser - anser@ugent.be



ICRH: International Centre for Reproductive Health, WHO-CC Centre
www.icrhh.org - icrh@ugent.be

Kristien.Michielsen@ugent.be

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Youth Participation in Society: "Rethinking Youth"

Steven Sim Chee Keong
Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports
Malaysia



Malaysia's Youth

- 15-24 years old: 20% (6.1 million)
- 15-40 years old: 40% (14 million)
- 40% of voters in the last election are young people age 21-40
- 6 Ministers & Deputy Ministers are below 40
- 12% MPs are below 40

Global

- 15-24 years old: 18% (1 billion)

Engaging the Youths

- Youth is a powerful market force
- Youth is also a powerful group of social-changers.
- Our key question today: How should we engage with our youths?

Traditional Starting Point

- We have to change our traditional starting point: Youths are a problem for the government to deal with.
- New starting premise: Youths are strategic partners in shaping the country's direction
- When do they become strategic partners? NOW

Age

- We have to change our idea of "age": from a 20th century perspective to a 21st century perspective.
- Youths today are better exposed, more knowledgeable, better resourced, well-travelled, more engaged.

- They are not merely passive market waiting to consume whatever products thrown at them, but
- They are also active drivers, founders of start-ups, disruptors, etc
- They are not merely passive voters and followers waiting to believe in whatever political propaganda thrown at them, but
- They are active social changers and influencers.

Two Key Initiatives

- Undi18: to lower voting age to 18 years old
- Reform of Youth Parliament:
 - No more “mock” parliament sessions
 - Real representation
 - Real power

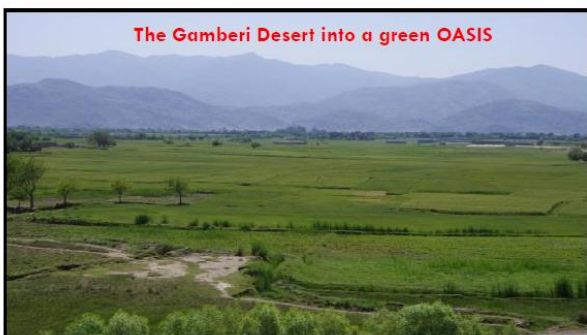
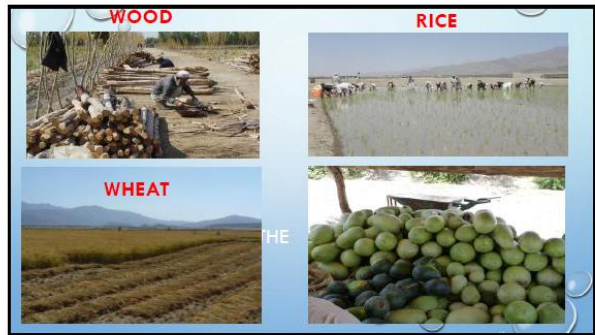
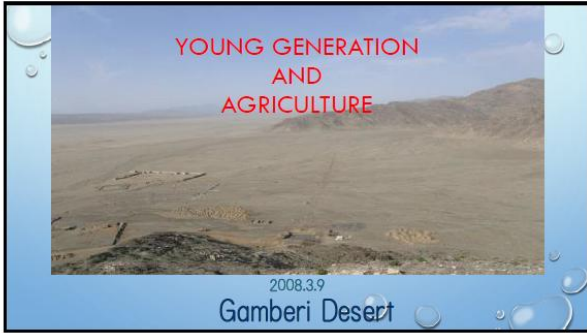
Youth Behaviour, Jobs and Skills

- We have to change our view of about behaviour, jobs and skills.
- Traditional view: Youths have no experience, have wrong behaviour
- The VCR repairman’s experience will not make sense in the world of Netflix.
- Traditionally, we have programmes to teach young people how to behave in order to get a job
- Now, we should have programmes to teach employers how to behave to win “millennial talents”.

The End

- Thank you





Significant role of Agriculture

- Agriculture is the Foundation of Nation -

1. Food safety
2. Public Health

- Transboundary Animal Disease

National Food Security

↓

Regional Cooperation and Joint Efforts

↓

National & Regional Prosperity

Fostering Young Leaders

↓

Agriculture has Diversified Fields

↕

Innovative & Creative solutions for Agribusiness

Regional Cooperation

1. Central Asia is a Fertile Land;
Amu Daria and Sir Daria rivers
2. Potential for Regional Economic Prosperity
3. To Create Regional Coordination Mechanism
for Young Leaders

Summary

1. Agriculture Needs Participation of Youth
2. Food Safety, Security & Agribusiness are
Beyond the Borders
3. To Create Association of Young Leaders



Youth and Migration
 Jill Helke
 Director, Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships
 IOM Headquarters, Geneva
 International Conference on Investing in Youth
 Astana, 19-20 October 2018

Structure of the presentation

- Global and regional trends
- Drivers of youth migration
- Different types of vulnerability
- Challenges and opportunities
- Key policy recommendations

Youth migration in a globalized world

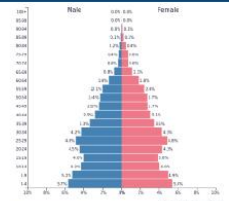
- No universally agreed definition of 'youth'.
- UN Secretariat defines 'youth' as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years.
- Globally, approx. 11% of the estimated 258 million international migrants were below 24 years of age (2017).



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Regional trends and statistics

Population (Central Asia):
 2017: 69 241 030
 2060: 90 943 593 (projected)
 2100: 90 000 470 (projected)




Central Asia - 2017
Population: 69,241,030

PopulationPyramid.net

Drivers of youth migration


- Economic factors
- Social exclusion and integration
- Professional development
- Education opportunities
- Labour mobility
- Diaspora and social networks



© International Organization for Migration

Typologies of vulnerability

- Individual factors
- Family/Household factors
- Structural factors
- Situational factors



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Key findings from “Harrowing Journeys”

IOM-UNICEF report: *Harrowing Journeys: Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation*



HARROWING JOURNEYS
Children at risk on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation


Challenges and Opportunities of Youth Migration

Good Migration Governance

Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of information Dependence on informal networks Vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation Affected by discrimination and xenophobia Exclusion, health risk and identity crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed youth migrants can make better choices Migrants can benefit from labour mobility frameworks and education exchange programs Successful inclusion can enhance youth migrant participation in economic, political and social affairs

IOM’s work on youth migration and partnerships

- Strengthening the resilience of at-risk youth
- Providing pre-departure orientation and post-arrival assistance
- Enhancing employability and skill development
- Improving socio-economic and cultural integration



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Key policy recommendations

- Provide safe and regular pathways for migration
- Protect rights of children and youth on the move
- Fight racism, xenophobia and discrimination against migrants
- Listen to the voices of youth migrants and involve them in policymaking
- Mainstreaming migration into youth employment policies and action plans
- Support the development of “youth-friendly” national diaspora strategies
- Enhance young migrants’ knowledge on safe migration channels and risks of irregular migration
- Enhance employability, skill development and mitigation of unemployment

Thank you!

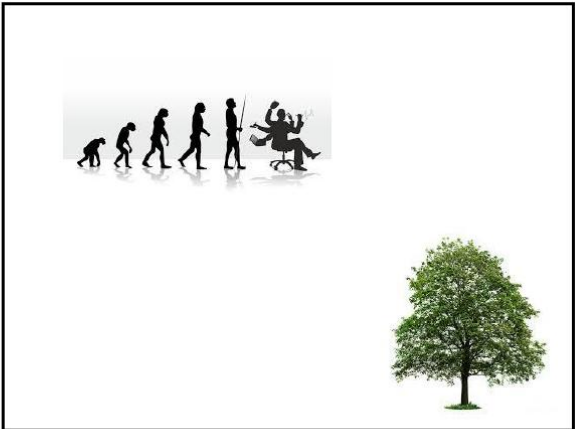
International Conference on Investing in Youth
 "Leaving No One Behind"

19-20 October 2018

Astana, Kazakhstan

Youth and ICT

Marco Roncarati 



Values

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH **9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

RESPECT
 TOLERANCE
 PEACE
 COOPERATION
 UNIVERSAL VALUES
 honesty

Stages of Development

- Older Adult: Integrity vs Despair
- Middle-age Adult: Generativity vs Stagnation
- Young Adult: Intimacy vs Isolation
- Teenager: Identity vs Role Confusion
- Grade-schooler: Industry vs Inferiority
- Pre-schooler: Initiative vs Guilt
- Toddler: Autonomy vs Shame & Doubt
- Infant: Trust vs Mistrust

Increase Complexity

Dichotomy

DATA MINING

The human mind isn't just built for thinking, it is built for controlling the body.

Unfortunately, many of us spend more time thinking than doing.



ANNEX 6: Astana Declaration on Investing in Youth, Astana, Kazakhstan 20 October 2018

The International Conference on Investing in Youth “Leaving No One Behind” (hereafter called the “Conference”) was organized in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 19 and 20 October 2018, by the Parliament (Majilis) and the Ministry of Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), and supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) through the Government of Japan.

It brought together more than 200 participants from parliaments, governments, international organizations, development banks, youth organizations and academia, involving 35 countries and 20 entities, to share and discuss good practices in policies, legislation and programmes aimed at young people who shape the present and future of our society.

The Conference paid special attention to those young people who are vulnerable, or with special needs, such as unemployed youth, out-of-school/training youth, female youth, rural youth, youth infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, street youth, physically and mentally challenged youth, and youth in difficult circumstances (for example, those stateless, refugees, victims of trafficking and migrant workers), in the spirit of “leaving no one behind.”

The Astana Declaration was adopted by consensus, building on related past outcome documents, notably the Bali Declaration (Global Youth Forum 2012) and the Colombo Declaration (World Conference on Youth 2014), and mindful of the United Nations Youth Strategy that was launched during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018.

We, the Participants of the Conference, declare to support and take concerted actions, as appropriate, towards implementation of these recommendations at relevant local, sub-national, national, regional and global levels, as well as raise visibility of the need to invest in youth, through mass media, public sites and social media.

1. Prioritize to promote multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral cooperation among parliamentarians, government officials, civil society organizations, private sector and youth groups to mainstream the agenda for adolescents and young people in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Beijing Platform for Action, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).
2. Empower young people, especially young women and girls and other vulnerable groups, through raising their awareness of and facilitating their access to available support and services in education, skills training, health services, employment and social activities.
3. Promote education, not only to enhance prospects for gainful employment and sustained livelihood, but also to combat crime and violence and to promote pluralistic, democratic values and peace.

4. Ensure availability of reliable, relevant and comparative data, and track progress, with regard to the development of effective policies and programs aimed at young people.
5. Advocate for investment in youth as a major part of investment in human capital, aligned to the concept recently launched by the World Bank with the new Human Capital Index.

Expanding Opportunities for Education and Employment of Youth and Improving Linkages and Transitions

6. Invest more in improving the relevance and quality of education and vocational training to meet the changing competency demands of the labour market, which is increasingly influenced by the global economy and technological development, through:
 - a) Enhancing education and training programmes that equip learners, including women and girls, with the appropriate skills, competencies and behaviours.
 - b) Supporting and adapting the curricula of programmes and projects aimed at educating educators, trainers and social (psychological) service workers.
7. Render teaching more attractive by raising salaries, strengthening opportunities for further training and career advancement, and improving working conditions and facilities.
8. Ensure that educational systems do not contribute to the further marginalization of vulnerable youth groups, by introducing measures such as multilingual and multicultural education to increase inter-ethnic and intercultural understanding and communication.
9. Improve the content, quality and accessibility of education in rural areas in order to close the rural-urban education gap and expand career options for rural youth.
10. Support vulnerable youth, including those not in employment, education or training (NEET) and disabled youth, through developing a system of training in business skills and the basics of entrepreneurship, as well as involving them in socially useful activities.
11. Ensure the right to decent work for young people through effective policies and programmes that generate employment, which is stable, safe, secure and non-discriminatory, and provides a decent wage and opportunities for career development.
12. Commit to eliminate gender discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for young women and young men, and promote ways to keep girls in school even after pregnancy and childbirth.
13. Foster efforts and supportive environments for entrepreneurs, small and medium-sized enterprises and startups, including a particular focus on women, to seize the opportunities of technological development and the digital economy.

Improving Health and Well-Being of Youth through Universal Access to Health Information, Education and Services

14. Make primary health care, especially in sexual and reproductive health services, including Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)/HIV/AIDS and sexuality education, more youth friendly and accessible to youth, and part of Universal Health Coverage.
15. Monitor and evaluate universal access to a basic package of youth-friendly health services, including mental healthcare and sexual and reproductive health services, that are of high quality, integrated, equitable, comprehensive, affordable, needs- and rights-based, accessible, acceptable, confidential and free of stigma and discrimination for all young people.
16. Address factors that prevent young people from being healthy and accessing health information and services, such as legal barriers, cultural and traditional practices, financial difficulties, physical conditions, to reduce the incidence of early marriage, unintended pregnancy, STIs including HIV, reckless behaviour, accidents and suicide.
17. Ensure availability of, and access of young people in any location and situation to, a broad range of health information and education, especially sexual and reproductive health and mental health, through innovative ways and means, including the use of ICT, and through the education system.

Promoting Full Participation of Youth in Civil, Political and Social Affairs

18. Provide opportunities for targeted youth participation in decision-making processes at all levels to promote the interests of young people and make them more active politically.
19. Promote multi-sectoral, inclusive involvement of youth in youth policy development that offers sustainable solutions and concrete actions.
20. Create initiatives that specifically promote young women's participation in civil, political and social affairs.

Considering for Opportunities and Risks of Youth in the Context of Globalization

21. Promote participation of youth in global and regional development and activities through increased mobility and connectivity of young entrepreneurs, students and researchers; exchange of ideas, values and cultures; and labour migration opportunities.
22. Identify opportunities for regional, inter-country partnerships and finance programmes that promote youth employment, including in agriculture, and other economic and social benefits for win-win development cooperation.
23. Make efforts to guarantee that young migrants enjoy full respect of their rights, including fair and equal treatment with others and the protection against, inter alia, violence, exploitation and discrimination (such as racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia and cultural intolerance), and access to economic opportunities and social services, as appropriate.
24. Commit to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, and effectively manage and deter irregular migration in a spirit of genuine partnership and shared responsibility, in full respect of international law and human rights obligations.

25. Engage youth as active agents and innovators, including through ICT, in addressing urgent challenges such as those brought about by inequality, climate change and natural disasters, and the related need to manage natural resources in a more equitable and sustainable manner.

In closing, we commend the host country Kazakhstan for declaring 2019 as the Year of Youth to promote investment in youth and encourage other countries to consider similar approaches to boost nation-wide coordinated efforts.