

Guidelines for Lead Countries of the Youth Employment Network

The following areas of action are proposed for countries volunteering to be lead or champion countries for the Youth Employment Network:

1. Confirm your Government's commitment at the highest political level to decent and productive work for young people

The Millennium Declaration was adopted at the Millennium Summit, the largest gathering ever of heads of State and Government. While a number of governmental ministries or departments will no doubt be involved in the preparing the action plan, it is understood that the political impetus for this initiative comes from the highest political level.

2. Prepare a national review and action plan on youth employment

While there is no particular model to be followed in preparing these reviews and action plans, your Government may wish to refer to the panel's policy recommendations for overall guidance as to the content and the process to be followed. The action plan may wish to translate the four global priorities highlighted in the panel's recommendations, namely, employability, equal opportunities, entrepreneurship and the relationship of youth employment to broader employment and macro-economic policies, into strategies for national action. The Government may furthermore wish to invite civil society, the business community, employers, trade unions and youth organizations to contribute to this process.

3. Contribute to international development cooperation in sharing national experience with other countries and with the international community

Lead countries will be expected to not only develop national reviews and action plans on youth employment, but to furthermore share their plans and experiences with others. While no fixed modalities for sharing such experiences have been established, lead countries may wish to organize regional or international meetings or exchanges in order to build momentum for broader action at the regional and global levels in favour of youth employment. It is expected that bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation activities will be initiated to support such action whereby countries at different levels of development can share the results of youth employment projects, programmes and policies. The youth employment initiative is expected to be representative of major regions and of countries at different levels of development. Industrialized countries can be expected to contribute with financially to the youth employment activities in developing and least developed countries, whereas all countries can be expected to have knowledge and expertise to share and to receive.

4. Contribute to a broader political process within the United Nations General Assembly in the overall framework of follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and within the ILO for a coherent and integrated international strategy on employment

Lead countries may wish to support the Millennium Declaration's commitment on youth employment, not simply as an objective in its own right, but furthermore as a means to support the overall roadmap for implementation of all the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, lead countries may wish to support a resolution in the General Assembly calling for the development of national action plans on youth employment and calling on the ILO to undertake a global review and analysis of these plans as part of a longer term political process. Also, action on youth employment can be expected to contribute to broader employment policy with both national and international dimensions.