



**GLOBAL RESPONSE TO PROMOTE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
STRENGTHENED
“YEN and YES announce a Global Collaboration”**

The largest gathering of Heads of State and Government ever met at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. One of their main commitments, as stated in the Millennium Declaration was to resolve to "develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work."

Following the Summit, youth employment was subsequently integrated in the Millennium Development Goals, becoming an important goal in its own right and a key contribution to meeting other Millennium Goals, including those relating to poverty reduction. Out of these political commitments two leading global initiatives have emerged to address the pressing challenge of youth employment.

The *Youth Employment Network (YEN)*, launched by the UN Secretary General, is a partnership under the leadership of the UN, the World Bank and the ILO (the latter hosting the Secretariat) that aims to tackle the issue of youth employment at the global, national and local level. Through a mandate provided by two UN General Assembly Resolutions, the YEN is assisting member states in the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) on youth employment, ensuring the specific involvement of young people.

The *Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign* was launched at the Alexandria Summit (September 2002) by 1600 delegates from a 120 countries as a civil society movement for youth employment. Education Development Center (EDC) has been incubating this effort aimed at empowering youth to create sustainable livelihoods. YES is a decade long campaign (2002 – 2012). To tackle this issue, YES has created multi-stakeholder networks led by youth in 70 countries. These YES Country Networks work towards creating entrepreneurial culture and employment opportunities for youth at the grassroots level.

Both YEN and YES are pleased to announce their collaboration in this global response to meeting the challenges of youth unemployment. The collaboration of these two initiatives is significant in that it brings the work of both government and civil society closer whilst keeping the focus on youth.

Eleven Lead Countries - Azerbaijan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Sri Lanka have voluntarily taken the initiative to showcase the development of National Action Plans with the support of the YEN. As the first step towards this global collaboration, YEN and YES will work together to strengthen the substantive participation young people in the development and implementation of National Action Plans in these countries through the in-country co-operation of their affiliates and partners.

For more information on YEN, please contact Regina Monticone on 41 22 799 6819 or monticone@ilo.org. For more information on YES, please contact Clayton Peters on 1 617 618 2741 or cpeters@edc.org.

YEN Website - <http://www.ilo.org/yen>

YES Website – <http://www.yesweb.org>