

# Global Agenda Council on Youth Unemployment 2012-2014



## Understanding/Context

The global unemployment rate among 15- to 24-year-olds is estimated at 12.6% in 2013, with 73 million people jobless worldwide, according to the International Labour Organization. Levels of informal employment among young people are soaring and they are finding it ever more difficult to find jobs that match their skills and education. Calls for urgent collective action have escalated, but the scale and complexity of the crisis limits the impact of isolated initiatives. Members of the Global Agenda Council on Youth Unemployment are urging leaders to move from discussing the issues to implementing solutions. It is clear that a collective approach is needed to address the systemic nature of the challenge, particularly at the country level. Long-term strategies to better align educational systems with labour market requirements and efforts to promote entrepreneurship are sorely needed.

## Shaping the Agenda

The Council is launching a campaign to promote bold, collective and cross-industry efforts to face the challenges in this area. It has produced an infographic to familiarize decision-makers and the public with the cause of the problem, its severity and potential solutions. In collaboration with the Global Council on Emerging Multinationals, it has also proposed a project to generate knowledge of the value, models and adoption of apprenticeships and workplace mentoring. By defining successful protocols, creating implementation tools and engaging a select number of employers in programme validation, the TEN Youth programme represents an effective and scalable solution for employers to support first-time job seekers. The goal of connecting young entrepreneurs to markets is being highlighted by the Council's support of the "World Series of Innovation" and the "YouthTrade" movement. Members initiated a process in Cambodia to foster a multistakeholder national-level approach to systemic youth unemployment, and in February

2013 this resulted in the Swedish International Development Agency officially approving and financing a two-and-a-half-year project to support skills development and employment for young people.

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In the future, this project, carried out through the Swedish Public Employment Service with the National Employment Agency of Cambodia and a private company, HR Inc, will support the implementation of the Cambodian National Youth Strategy and Programme Plan 2012-2015 championed by the Council. To support continuous improvement in the techniques used and to scale up and replicate success, Members will document the processes and strategies employed for possible replication in other countries. In addition, to share its lessons on best practices in skills development, entrepreneurship and employability, the Council will write a chapter of case studies on youth employment for the *Education and Skills 2.0: New Targets and Innovative Approaches* report, which will be launched at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2014 in Davos-Klosters.

## Contact Information

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