Young entrepreneurs can unlock development potential for future generations, high-level panel from Africa tells UNCTAD commission.

High level policy-makers from Africa highlighted their experiences of supporting young entrepreneurs in an effort to diffuse what UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi told its Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission on 28 April was an “employment time bomb” in developing countries as their populations grow and get younger.

The First Lady of Ethiopia, Ms. Roman Tesfaye, said it was important to encourage young people in Africa to engage in entrepreneurship as a means of creating jobs, innovation and sustainable development because, as in the case of Ethiopia, it was a vital part of state-building to give young people a stake in their own and their country’s future.

Mr. Chishimba Kambwili, the Minister of Youth and Sport of Zambia, shared his experience of helping young Zambians to start and grow businesses that not only create jobs but also improve the quality of life in their communities.

From left: Mr. James Zhan (Director of DIAE), Ms. Roman Tesfaye (First Lady of Ethiopia), Mr. Eduardo Sperisen-Yurt (President of the Commission), Mr. Petko Draganov (Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD), Mr. Haruna Iddrisu (Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana)
The education system should have an orientation that [helps] young people to become job creators and not job seekers," Mr. Kambwili said, noting that young people made up more than half the population of Zambia.

Mr. Jean Marie Louis Badga, the Director of SME Department within the Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts in Cameroon said it was important to integrate young entrepreneurship into labour policies and private sector development strategies.

Mr. Jean Marie Louis Badga, the Director of SME Department within the Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts in Cameroon said it was important to integrate young entrepreneurship into labour policies and private sector development strategies.

Panellists emphasized the role of policy in facilitating an enabling environment to support young entrepreneurs and, in particular, UNCTAD's Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF) and how it has been implemented in different countries since 2012. Mr. Haruna Iddrisu, the Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana said, for example, that the EPF was currently being adapted to Ghana with the aim of developing a national entrepreneurship and SME policy, and action strategy for the country.

The work of UNCTAD and its strategic partners on the topic of youth entrepreneurship was also featured, including the forthcoming Guiding Framework for Youth Entrepreneurship developed in collaboration with the Commonwealth which was presented by in a keynote speech by Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba.

Ms. Jeroo Billimoria, Director of Child and Youth Finance International (CYFI), presented Youth-Co, a new online portal – which will be launched at the United Nations in New York on 23 May 2014 – that aims to help young entrepreneurs around the world connect and share coaching and investment opportunities, facilitate sustainable development and ensure job creation. In addition, the Uganda and Jordan directors of Empretec – UNCTAD's flagship programme dedicated to supporting entrepreneurship in developing countries and economies in transition – illustrated the work that is being done to instill entrepreneurship behaviour in youth in their respective countries.

A young beneficiary of the Empretec programme in Uganda, Ms. Peace Victoria Nyero-Too, told the commission how she had started a successful poultry rearing business with just $50, a few chicks and inspiration from her training. She now employs six people and plans to open a full-scale modern poultry farm next year.

Finally, the Government of Ecuador joined the Empretec family. The official counterpart designed is CONQUITO- the local authority responsible for the capital’s economic promotion. Empretec Ecuador has already certified 2 Empretec instructors and trained over 300 entrepreneurs during its pilot phase. There are now 35 Empretec centres around the world!

**Empretec Women in Business Award: finalists announced!**

One of the highlights of the commission was the announcement of the 10 finalists for the fourth UNCTAD Empretec Women in Business Award (WBA). The awards have been presented every two years since 2008. This year was particularly competitive, as more than 100 nominations were received for the Empretec Women in Business Award finalists.
The 2014 finalists are (in alphabetical order by country):

**Lorena Maria Eugenia Picasso (Argentina):** manufactures innovative educational games to stimulate the development of cognitive, motor, emotional and social abilities as well as therapeutic products which specialize in rehabilitation.

**Kelly Dantas de Vasconcelos, Universidad da Crianca (Brazil):** provides educational services for children, focusing on a teaching methodology which highlights innovation and technology.

**Tracy Antoinette Green Douglas, Pandama Retreat (Guyana):** produces a range of fruit wines, fruit soaps and art products using all local resources. It is a place of retreat where the local community and tourists can connect with nature.

**Lina Jalil Khalifeh, SheFighter (Jordan):** established the first self-defense studio for women and girls in the Middle East and has a mission to generate awareness and decrease violence towards women.

**Maya Sewnath, SSS Furniture (Mauritius):** manufactures tailor-made wooden furniture using local raw material and specializes in the wedding and children's market.

**Lara Cookey, Contextplay Matrix Ltd. (Nigeria):** designs educational toys and recreational tools for early child development, including learning materials, playground equipment and furniture.

**Thiane Diagne, JOUR J Couture (Senegal):** creates prêt-a-porter luxury clothing lines which combine traditional Senegalese culture with innovative, high-quality designs.

**Renay van der Berg, ProComm (South Africa):** specializes in a range of integrated business services to allow enterprises to be sustainable, including brand management.

**Angelica M Runsey, Angel Bites Ltd (Zambia):** manages the packaging and trading of dried foods that are a delicacy in Zambia and focuses on high hygiene and quality standards.

**Divine Ndhlukula, SECURICO Security Services (Zimbabwe):** a leading supplier of security solutions in Zimbabwe, including electronic security system installation, guarding, cash management and private investigation services.

The final three winners will be announced during UNCTAD’s World Investment Forum which will take place from the 13-16th of October 2014 in Geneva. To commemorate the theme of this year’s Forum “Investing in Sustainable Development,” two additional candidates were announced, who will receive a special recognition for their work as social and green entrepreneurs, respectively:

**Special Recognition, Social entrepreneurship:**

**Leena A. Irshaid, Renas Women Association, (Jordan):** established the only pickling factory in Jordan that is founded, owned and managed by women. It mobilizes unemployed female agricultural engineers by training and hiring them.

**Special Recognition, Green entrepreneurship:**

**Pabla Anabela Torres, BioPro (Argentina):** Start-up Company which researches, develops, produces and markets organic products designed for crop protection and pest control, including a bio-pesticide.
Regional seminar for trainers in Latin America hosted by Empretec Argentina and Banco de la Nación celebrating 26 years of collaboration

Empretec Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Uruguay, and Venezuela gathered 26 Empretec trainers in Buenos Aires from the 22 to the 25th of April for a regional training workshop. A regional team of certified trainers coming from all the countries facilitated jointly the training. The workshop’s aim was to share lessons learned from the experiences of Empretec trainers in different centres, strengthen their knowledge about the theory and pedagogical background of the Empretec methodology and discuss new developments.

A detailed presentation on how to incorporate innovation into the Empretec training also took place. The workshop confirmed the adoption of the revised Empretec teaching material- pending translation into Spanish- among the 14 centres currently active in the region.

The outcome of the week includes a rich exchange of experience and a strong impetus for the Latin American Empretec network. All the trainers share a passion for the methodology, a commitment to excellence and are fully engaged with entrepreneurs on the ground to achieve positive results, applying assertive communication and the internal locus methodology. Based on this good experience - Empretec Dominican Republic, with the support of the Ministry of Trade and Industry - offered to host the next regional meeting in 2015 in Punta Cana.

First Empretec workshops in Saudi Arabia: It becomes the 35th Empretec Center

Saudi Arabia is now part of the Empretec family. BDC Jordan, UNCTAD and international master trainers from Brazil conducted the first three entrepreneurship training workshops (ETWs) for the recently launched Empretec programme in Saudi Arabia between March and April 2014 in Riyadh and Jeddah. The first 60 Saudi entrepreneurs joined the Empretec network. Two Saudi trainee trainers joined the training team on the second and third workshops. Workshop participants expressed appreciation for the training which, by the words of many of them, has been described as the best they have attended in their whole life, a turning point which enlightened their minds.
The Saudi Credit and Savings Bank (SCSB), the local implementing partner for the Empretec programme, ensured a very broad media coverage of all three workshops, both on traditional (TV - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivDUsqbp00c&feature=youtube_gdata_player and newspapers) and new media (http://twitter.com/Empretec_Saudi).

The work plan for the coming months contemplates four more workshops in other cities and a follow-up with certified empretecos in order to grow their businesses. In the meantime, Saudi trainee trainers will work in the identification and selection of future participants, and in the preparation of the coming workshops, under the supervision of Jordanian Empretec Master Trainers.

Empretec Global Summit at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Russia

Moscow city hosted the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in March 2014. Sergei Sobyanin, Mayor of Moscow, took part in the opening ceremony together with Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

During the Congress, the first Empretec Global Summit also took place to explore business networking opportunities for entrepreneurs visiting Moscow as GEC participants, in order to develop their business network and to facilitate b2b cross border links among them.

The meeting brought together 8 directors of Empretec Centres, Empretec graduates and entrepreneurs from different countries. Tatiana Krylova, Head of the Enterprise Branch, UNCTAD and Dmitri Croitor, Director of Empretec Russia chaired the event. In total, 8 representatives of the Empretec Centres made presentations during the Summit: Busi Bango from Empretec Zimbabwe, Charles Ocici from Empretec Uganda, Nana Tweneboa-Boateng from Empretec Ghana, Onari Duke from Empretec Nigeria, Gabriel Musentekwa from Empretec Zambia, Sanjay Mungur from Empretec Mauritius, Etalem Engeda from Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Ethiopia, and Dmitri Croitor from Empretec Russia. In their presentations, directors emphasized the effectiveness of the Empretec programme in the development of entrepreneurship in their countries and the importance of the Summit in the development of business linkages and economic development.

A lively discussion with Empretecos from different countries and other Congress’s participants followed the directors’ introduction. With the success of the event, UNCTAD and the GEC organizers discussed the possibility of organizing a second Empretec Global Summit with the participation of directors and Empretecos next year during the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Milan, Italy.
Events across the EMPRETEC Network:

**Vietnam:** Empretec Vietnam celebrated its 11th ETW successfully completed. 26 new Empretecos completed the course.

**Italy:** The 5th Workshop on Entrepreneurship for Physicists and Engineer from Developing countries took place in Trieste from 31 March to 4 April 2014.

**India:** Empretec India organized 2 ETW's successfully.

**Zambia:** Empretec (ETW) for Youth beneficiaries of youth development fund (YDF):
From the 24th to 28th March, 2014, Zambia Development Agency in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) delivered a pilot workshop based on Empretec methodology to empower youth.
Other international news and future events...

- Impact Forum 2014: From Niche to Mass, June 12-13, 2014 Singapore. At Impact Forum 2014 “From Niche to Mass”, investors, entrepreneurs, and intermediaries will meet and exchange ideas; brainstorm and find ways to deepen and accelerate social finance; and work together to energize this space, move it further in the direction of mainstream. Impact Forum 2014 is a call to action to everyone who would like to influence and bring about transformation. Come, join the leaders in social finance and galvanize change.

- The third edition of the UNCTAD’s World Investment Forum will take place in Geneva from 13-16 October in Geneva at the Palais des Nations. A the Forum Head of States, policy makers, CEOs, entrepreneurs and civil society will outline their vision for sustainable development, and dialogue and act on the world’s key emerging investment related challenges.

- The International Trade Centre organizes the Women Vendors Exhibition and Forum 2014 (WVEF 2014) that will take place 16-17 September in Kigali Rwanda. This year the event will feature two sectors; coffee and services. The Women Vendors Exhibition and Forum (WVAnizeEF) is the flagship event of the Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors.

- Next Global Entrepreneurship Congress will be held in Milan, Italy (March 16 - 19, 2015)

Be in the know

Books

Daniel H. Pink “A Whole New Mind” Moving from the Information Age to the Conceptual Age. Learn how to apply new techniques for your business.

Website

Look out at the launch of Youth-Co, a new platform to connect young entrepreneurs launched on 21st May by Child and Youth Finance International (http://www.youth-co.com/#/about-us/cl3g).

Staff News

Till Alexander Leopold leaves the Emprtec team and joins the World Economic Forum. Congrats!

Fiorina Mugione came back from four months sabbatical leave in the United Kingdom and resumed her functions on 1 February.

Peter Navarrette is assisting the Branch in addition to his regular assignments, thank you!

Basma Alshami and Alexandra Gordina joined the team as consultants. Welcome to them!

Louis Rubias Rigo was born on 11 February 2014, the youngest Empreteco joins happy dad Alejandro and mum Gaelle.

Contact

All inquiries and requests to submit articles to the Emprtec Newsletter may be directed to the Editor: Fiorina Mugione, Empretec Programme, UNCTAD.