

YES KENYA 2006 SUMMIT

Civil Society Forum Declaration

1) **We** the delegates of the Third Global Youth Employment Summit -YES Kenya 2006, meeting at the Kenyatta International Conference Center, Nairobi, Kenya, from 13 – 16 September 2006, hereby reaffirm our profound commitment to the decade long YES Campaign launched in 2002 in Alexandria, Egypt.

2) **We** as delegates declare to continuously endeavor to generate employment opportunities for youth through creating markets for goods and services and unleashing widespread entrepreneurship opportunities for the realization of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

3) **We** as delegates pledge to promote and support advocacy programs and initiatives to influence the change of policies and legislations that would create favorable conditions conducive to the actualization of YES Campaign objectives

4) **We** pledge to put aside that which separates us, and learn to work together to spare no effort to generate sustainable livelihoods for youth all over the world. We will strive to ensure that the proportion of youth living in poverty is considerably reduced by the end of the YES campaign in 2012.

5) **We** declare to enhance enterprise development for employment creation as we acknowledge with concern the rising number of youth requiring employment opportunities

6) **We** resolve to promote the creation of markets by harnessing enterprise opportunities that lie in the bottom of the pyramid model where 4 billion low income earners require goods and services. We partners from the government, private sector and civil society commit to work with youth to not only identify enterprise opportunities in the Bottoms of the Pyramid but also to exploit them through capacity building of youth entrepreneurs and creating a conducive environment to enterprise development.

7) **We** pledge to support youth who wish to trade in the global trade industry by optimizing in country and regional trade capacities of governments, private sector and youth using Information and Communications Technologies and fostering a fair and favorable business environment striving towards removing unfair trade practices internationally. We pledge to work towards attracting foreign direct investment and domestic investments to increase trade opportunities for all youth.

8) **We** pledge to facilitate the creation of large scale employment opportunities to absorb the ever increasing youth flooding the job market. To achieve this we affirm: to build the capacity of youth with employable skills and relevant quality education that adequately prepare them for the labour market and by optimizing employment in programmes that require large scale employment.

9) **We** pledge to promote an entrepreneurial culture in youth through business development services and mentoring. We also pledge to assist them in becoming market leaders through micro investment and micro enterprise development

10) **We** also realize the unique situation faced by young women who wish to become entrepreneurs and we commit to remove any form of inequality that prevent them from successfully engaging in entrepreneurship. In addition, we undertake to address the special needs of vulnerable youth in the world.

11) **We** resolve to address all the challenges of HIV/AIDs and related health issues that threaten the actualization of the YES Campaign objectives.

12) **We** are committed to the objectives of this Summit, which is to create markets and unleash entrepreneurship, and the policy frameworks to make these objectives a reality for the remaining six years of the campaign.

13) **We** believe in this commitment and we know we will succeed since it can be done, it must be done, it will be done. We must act now since the result of inaction is too dreadful to contemplate. To this we affirm.

Declaration made by all delegates in Nairobi at YES Kenya 2006 on this 16th day of September 2006.