





My message to young people worldwide:

Do not accept that what we have today is inevitable.

Do not accept that you cannot transform things.

If we want to change the world, we need to unite, mobilize, and fight for a better future for all.

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General 12 August 2024

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Youth Digital Innovation for **Sustainable Change**

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Empowering Youth through Digital Channels for Sustainable Progress



Introduction

On 17 December 1999, in its resolution 54/120, the UN General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) calling for 12 August to be declared International Youth Day.

The Day is commemorated every year to bring youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrate the potential of youth as partners in today's global society. Like other international celebrations the day aims to educate the general public on issues of concern, to mobilise political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity and it is embraced as a powerful advocacy tool.

It also offers actors the opportunity to organise activities related to the theme of the day. Organisations and offices of the United Nations system, and most importantly, governments, civil society, the public and private sectors, schools, universities and, more generally, citizens, make an international day a springboard for awareness-raising actions.





Putting Young People front: Youth Engage with Vision 2050 and New Development Policy

The celebration of International Youth Day 2024 in Dodoma brought together over 3,000 young people from across Tanzania, emphasizing the theme "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development."

This year's event highlighted the significant role of technology in advancing sustainable development and included the launch of the Tanzania Youth Development Policy and a panel discussion on Tanzania Vision 2050. The event provided a platform for vibrant discussions on how technology can drive progress in economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social equity.



As a generation born into a digital world, young people are adept at harnessing the vast opportunities that technology offers to build a more inclusive present and future. Technology is one of society's best tools to lessen inequality: It opens doors for young people across education, employment, and civic participation, and can promote gender equality and peace through innovation and the exchange of ideas.

Mark Bryan Schreiner,

United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i, United Republic of Tanzania



A key feature of the day was the panel discussion on Tanzania Vision 2050, which brought together young leaders and policymakers to explore how technology and innovation can contribute to realizing the nation's long-term goals. The discussion emphasized youth involvement in shaping a sustainable future and highlighted the importance of strategic investments in education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

The launch of the Tanzania Youth Development Policy marks a crucial step toward empowering our youth. It reflects a commitment to integrating young people into the fabric of our nation's future.

Hon. Ridhiwani Kikwete,

The Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office [Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability]

The newly launched Tanzania Youth Development Policy aims to address the diverse needs of young Tanzanians by providing a framework for educational advancement, job creation, and entrepreneurial opportunities. It also emphasizes the crucial role of youth in governance and decision-making processes.

Getrude Clement, a Youth Advisory Panel Member in Tanzania, and technology expert, highlighted the role of technology in addressing national and global challenges.



Digital literacy is the key that unlocks the door to countless opportunities. It enables young people to innovate, solve problems, and engage with the world in meaningful ways. Governments, educational institutions, and private sectors must collaborate to integrate digital literacy into prioritized sectoral investments.

Said H.E. Amb. Didier Chassot,
Ambassador of Switzerland to Tanzania and to the EAC

The event also featured interactive sessions and exhibitions on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and digital platforms aimed at combating climate change. Local and international tech innovators shared their insights, inspiring participants with examples of how technology can be harnessed for positive change.

The event not only celebrated the achievements of Tanzanian youth but also set the stage for our active involvement in shaping the future of the nation. Today, we see the transformative power of technology in tackling both national and global challenges. Young people are at the forefront of this revolution, driving innovative solutions that contribute to a more sustainable future,

Getrude Clement, a Youth Advisory Panel Member in Tanzania

As the day concluded, Mark Bryan Schreiner emphasized the importance of youth in shaping the future. The International Youth Day in Dodoma, organized by the Tanzanian Ministry of Youth in collaboration with UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund and supported by various local and international partners, celebrated the achievements of Tanzanian youth and reinforced the global commitment to involving young people in the pursuit of sustainable development.

We believe that in 25 years from now, young people will look back at this International Youth Day and recognize their role in laying the foundation for making Tanzania a better place for themselves and succeeding generations,"

Mark Bryan Schreiner, United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i, United Republic of Tanzania



Event Highlights



Day 1: August 10, 2024 - Opening Ceremony and Presentations

Opening Ceremony

The event commenced at the Jakaya Kikwete Convention Centre with the arrival of Hon. Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister, Prime Minister's Office Labour, Youth, and Employment. In his opening speech, Hon. Katambi highlighted the government's commitment to youth economic empowerment through skills development and entrepreneurial programs in sectors such as agriculture, education, and tourism.

He touched on the promise of 193 district councils to provide more than 30% of the total government tenders to youth with 10% of the promised tenders directed to youth with special needs and those with disabilities. He also thanked the stakeholders in private sector for their contribution to more than 359,052 youth jobs in the year 2023/2024 and promised a continued support and cooperation from the government. Hon. Katambi concluded his speech with a thank you note for all participants who were gathered in the venue and officially announced the IYD2024 celebration event opened.

Dr. Majaliwa Marwa UNFPA's Assistant Representative also gave his regards from UN agencies, in his remarks he addressed the importance of the day and how it is an opportunity for youth to hear what the government have in plans for them. He said, "This is an opportunity for all young people gathered here today to hear and engage towards the Tanzania you want for your future and the future of your children by 2050". He concluded by thanking the guest of Honour for the opening speech, partners for their meaningful engagement in planning for the IYD 2024.

Presentations

In Session 1, Ms. Dorice Mageta presented the Tanzania Vision 2050, focusing on youth input gathered from various platforms. She highlighted five key areas crucial for youth welfare:



Economic Development: Youth emphasized the need for empowerment through funds, skills, and resources to drive economic growth. Ms. Mageta stressed the importance of preparing young people for the global market by maximizing digital economy and entrepreneurial opportunities.



Social Services and Community Development: The youth called for improved access to essential services such as healthcare, education, water, and energy, underscoring the need for youth-friendly approaches and expanded availability.



Science, Technology, and Digital Advancements: Youth sought technological empowerment, emphasizing the need for digital skills to strengthen education, the economy, healthcare, and leadership.



Climate Change and Conservation: Young people highlighted the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation, focusing on how youth can contribute to building resilient communities.



Leadership and Decision Making: Youth expressed their desire for greater involvement in leadership roles, advocating for more meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

In Session 2, Mr. Joseph Malekela presented the CSO's Contributions to Tanzania Vision 2050, focusing on youth recommendations in various sectors:



Quality Education: Improvements in the education system, gender awareness from early childhood, better educational loans, especially for students with disabilities, and enhanced teacher training to produce competitive scholars were highlighted.



Health Systems: The need for better health insurance coverage, accessible and youth-friendly health services, and overall improvements in health systems were emphasized to ensure a capable workforce for national development.



Agriculture and Industrial Development: As the majority of Tanzanian youth are involved in agriculture, policies that benefit youth in this sector, as well as continued skills training and education, were recommended.

In Session 3, Dr. Japhet Swai discussed Youth and Psychology, focusing on mental health and well-being. He clarified misconceptions about psychological disorders and shared insights from Milembe Hospital's work in mental health. Deputy Permanent Secretary Zuhura Yunus commended the participants and encouraged them to explore the various CSO and agency booths outside.





Day 2: August 11, 2024 - Digital Literacy and Technological Advancements Panel Presentation and discussion

Digital Literacy and Technological Advancements Remarks

Mr Eliakim Mtawa, the deputy director, office of the Prime Minister, Labour and Employment opened day two with remarks on importance of digital literacy and technological advancements to youth including entrepreneurship opportunity that foster digital advancements and sustainable developments. In his remarks, Mr. Mtawa reminded youth of the government's responsibility in creating suitable environment, and supportive policies, rules and regulations that supports youth development and economic growth.

Following after Mr. Joseph Manirakiza, Funguo Tanzania Program Manager under UNDP urged the youth to ask themselves, where are they currently standing individually, their position and how ready are they to embrace and catch up with technological advancements. Furthermore he delivered a summarised report on how development partners work hand in hand with the government to ensure raised awareness in digital issues including funding initiatives by the government to support technological readiness in Tanzania. In concluding his speech Mr. Manirakiza urged the youth to contribute their inputs on where they feel more support and investment is needed to support digital innovation in Tanzania.

Presentations



In the first session of the day, Mr. Japhet Kulwa, a Youth Development Officer from Arusha, introduced the panel on Opportunities for Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship, emphasizing the role of digital technology in daily life and its potential for Tanzanian youth. The discussion highlighted digital transformations across industries, the use of technology in sustainable agriculture, job creation through technological advancements, entrepreneurial opportunities on digital platforms, and the inclusion of youth with disabilities in business through technology.



In second session, The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Mr. Victor Kweka from TCRA discussed AI's benefits and challenges. He noted AI's potential in education, health (particularly diagnosing chronic illnesses), and agriculture, while cautioning against its overuse, which may reduce critical thinking. The panel addressed AI's role in agriculture for market information, empowering young girls in underserved areas, and promoting child protection and climate change mitigation.



In third session, Mr. Gerald Kiwele from the Ministry of Health and Dr. Mashingo from Marie Stopes discussed the use of technology in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), focusing on youth health, early pregnancy, and HIV prevention. Technological advancements, such as menstrual tracking apps, were highlighted as useful tools. The panel emphasized digital innovations for timely access to health services, family planning education, and closing digital access gaps between rural and urban youth.



In Fourth session, Mr. Ayoub Kyafulilo from UNICEF presented on Technology in Advancing Youth Education such as Oky Tanzania, a period tracking app tailored for girls in Tanzania, calling for education policy reforms to incorporate technological advancements. He stressed the importance of a practical, digitally aligned syllabus to equip youth for the 21st century. Feedback from youth emphasized the need to regulate digital content, empower teachers to use technology, and create accessible platforms for youth with disabilities.



Lastly, in fifth Session, Dr. Garvin Kweka from Muhimbili National Hospital led a discussion on Technology and Mental Health, exploring both the positive and negative impacts of digital platforms on youth mental health. He stressed the importance of balancing digital use with social interactions to prevent addiction, noting that technology, when used responsibly, can improve mental well-being. The Deputy Permanent Secretary- PMOLYED Mrs Zuhura Yunus concluded the session by thanking everyone who made the second day a total success and closed day two of the IYD2024 Celebrations.







Day 3: 12th August 2024 - International Youth Day Climax

On the third day of the IYD2024 celebrations at the Jakaya Kikwete Convention Center, Hon. Ridhiwani Kikwete, Minister of State for Labour, Youth Employment, and Persons with Disabilities (PMO LYED), officially opened the event by visiting booths that showcased various initiatives from the government, development partners, and CSOs aimed at youth development. Following this, the event kicked off with national anthems and opening prayers. Notable speeches were given by Dodoma's Regional Commissioner, Hon. Rosemary Senyamule, who highlighted the importance of digital platforms in engaging youth, and Swiss Ambassador Didier Chassot, who encouraged young people to critically evaluate content before sharing it online. Mark Bryan Schreiner, United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i, also stressed the potential of technology in job creation and urged youth to improve their digital literacy, especially as they contribute to the National Vision 2050.

A representative from the Dodoma Youth Development Organization, Mr. Charles, presented recommendations from youth forums, including calls for skills development, access to health services, low-interest loans, and improved access to digital tools for economic growth. The event featured entertainment by Tanzanian musicians Ben Pol and Barobaro, energizing the crowd. Hon. Kikwete congratulated youth and development partners for their efforts and highlighted key features of the new National Youth Policy of 2024, including the establishment of a youth council and recognition of digital influencers. He closed by urging young people to continue seeking opportunities and assured them of the government's commitment to addressing their concerns. Hon. Kikwete officially launched the revised National Youth Policy of 2007, marking a significant moment for youth in Tanzania.





Reflection on International Youth Day 2024



International Youth Day 2024 in Dodoma was a powerful celebration of youth engagement and potential. Over three days, more than 3,000 young people, alongside government officials and international partners, explored key issues such as digital literacy, mental health, and technological advancements.



The launch of the new Youth Policy of 2024 was a major highlight, underscoring the government's commitment to addressing youth concerns and creating new opportunities. Discussions on technology's role in education and job creation emphasized the need for better digital access and skills development, with recommendations like establishing digital learning hubs and improving rural tech access.



Mental health was another critical focus, with sessions highlighting the importance of support and reducing stigma. The event demonstrated a collaborative spirit, bringing together diverse stakeholders to ensure that youth voices were heard and acted upon.







New zeal to empower youths

The government has said engaging and uplifting youths is not just a matter of individual benefit but a strategic investment in the country's future stability, prosperity and growth. The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youths, Employment and Persons with Disabilities) Ridhiwani Kikwete made the remarks when gracing the International Youth Day (IYD) marked at the national level in Dodoma on Monday. (All Media)

3000 youth to attend IYD festivities in Dodoma city

TANZANIA to join the rest of the world in commemorating International Youth Day 2024 to be held nationally in Dodoma on 12th August 2024, bringing together over 3000 youth.Deputy Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Labour, Youth, Employment and Disabled, Patrobas Katambi said this year's IYD commemoration will take place in Dodoma, considering that there will be a representation of all young people in Tanzania, so having it in Dodoma it will easy the coordination since the geographical position of the city will make it comfortable for all the participants. (All Media)





Glad to be part of the International Youth Day in Tanzania.

To my fellow youth, the power to shape a sustainable future lies within us. Let's rise to the challenge - innovate, advocate, and lead with purpose. Every action we take today paves the way for a sustainable future 💙



UNICEF Tanzania and 35 others

Necta Richard · 2024/08/12 From Clicks to Progress! Happy to have presented how

the @UNFPATanzania supports young people in the areas digitalization and Innovation through a partnership with @VenturesSahara

Happy International Youth Day!

#IYD2024NIYETU









Leo, nimeshiriki maadhimisho ya Siku ya Vijana Kimataifa 2024, yaliyofanyika, Dodoma. Maadhimisho haya yamefanyika sambamba na uzinduzi wa Sera ya Taifa ya Maendeleo ya Vijana ya mwaka 2007, toleo la 2024 na Mkakati wake. "Vijana na Fursa za Kidijitali kwa Maendeleo





Ikiwa leo ni #YouthDay tunakupeleka #Dodo kusikia kauli va Afisa wa @UNFPATanzania Tausi Hassan kuhusu mchango wao kwenye Sera ya Vijana 🗷



Leo ni siku ya vijana duniani #YouthDay sikiliza kilichomfurahisha de mjumbe wa jopo la vijana washauri @UNFPATanzania baada ya kushiriki maadhimisho hayo jijini #Dodo ma nchini Z





Happy #YouthDay

Proud to join +3000 youth in Dodoma, #Tanzania to celebrate the power

From digital to community spaces, #youth leadership can drive



UNFPA Tanzania @ @UNFPATanzania

Young people have the power to make our digital world more just, equal, peaceful and safe.

This future is at their fingertips J

Learn how @UNFPA—the @un sexual and reproductive health agency is advocating to let #YouthLead: unf.pa/iyd24

#YouthDay #ICPD30



Today and every day, join @UNFPA in celebrating youth!

Mention a young person who inspires you with their commitment to making the Internet (or world) a safer place

#YouthLead #ICPD30



Celebrating the Power of Young People:

Solidarity Message from UN System in Tanzania





"The UN Youth 2030 Strategy represent the unwavering commitment of the United Nations to prioritize young people, and our collective commitment as a UN family to step up our work for and with young people, under the leadership of the Secretary General". #YouthLead

Mark Bryan Schreiner Resident Coordinator a.i UN System in Tanzania





"Technology is one of society's best tools to lessen inequality:
 It opens doors for young people across education, employment and civic participation, and can promote gender equality and peace through innovation and the exchange of ideas". #IYD2024

Ms. Caroline Khamati Mugalla
ILO Director Country Office for Tanzania
- Burundi -Kenya -Rwanda & Uganda

Celebrating the Power of Young People

Solidarity Message from UN System in Tanzania





"Technology is a vital tool for giving young people access to new opportunities including migration. The young ones need everyone's support to ensure. that new technologies are used in a way that promote respect, dignity, and the human rights of all people, and reflect their diversity. ". #YouthLead

> Maurizio Busatti IOM Chief of Mission Tanzania







"Empowering young women and girls to take on leadership roles in the digital realm is crucial for creating inclusive and equitable digital spaces.

Their perspectives, innovation, and resilience are essential to shaping a digital future that is accessible and beneficial for all."

Ms. Hodan Addou **UNWomen Representative** Republic of Tanzania

Celebrating the Power of Young People

Solidarity Message from UN System in Tanzania





"Young people have the power to transform our digital and physical worlds into just, equal, and peaceful spaces.

Let's recognize their vital role in driving sustainable development through innovation and digital engagement and empower them to harness their skills and creativity. The future is in their hands!" #YouthLead

Shigeki Komatsubara
UNDP Resident Representative
United Republic of Tanzania





"An informed youth is an empowered youth. Through technology we can give the youth the right tools for them to make decisions. They can invest in their own future, leading the next agricultural revolution through technology and as a result, contributing to a food secure world".

Ms. Christine Mendes World Food Programme Deputy Country Director United Republic of Tanzania

Nothing About Youth Without Youth...



With special thanks to







Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania Ubalozi wa Uswisi Tanzania



Young people are key players in shaping the future of our country. Their participation in developing the national development plans is crucial because they have the ability to propel the nation forward.

#TDV2050







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