
Africa & Caribbean Youth Ministers' Recommendations for Stronger Recognition of Young People in the Post 2015 Development Framework

At the Africa Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 9-10 February 2015, and the Caribbean Region CYMM in St. John, Antigua and Barbuda on 28-30 April 2015, Commonwealth Africa and Caribbean Youth Ministers resolved to take action to advocate for stronger recognition of young people in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. They agreed these it is critical to harness young people's capabilities as drivers and champions of development, as well as to ensure their unique needs are met.

1. Ministers agreed to promote inclusion in the SDGs of five additional youth-specific targets that are crucial to member countries:

Goal 3 **Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

Proposed new target *Ensure early detection, treatment of and support for mental health issues and promote universal healthcare and education on sexual health and reproductive rights among adolescents and youth.¹*

Goal 5 **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

Proposed new target *Ensure equal access for young women to all employment opportunities, and encourage their participation in traditionally male-dominated professions.²*

Goal 16 **Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.**

Proposed new target *Ensure that all young people have access to opportunities to participate effectively in peace-building and the civic life of their societies, and in decision-making and monitoring across all sectors of national development.³*

Proposed new target *Ensure young people have opportunities for sustained participation, ownership and leadership in local, regional and international mechanisms to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and maintain peace.⁴*

Goal 17 **Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

Proposed new target *Ensure universal access to information and communication technology (ICT), and achievement of targeted outcomes in education, health care, social cohesion, training and employment opportunities among the youth, through greater use of ICT.⁵*

¹ *Expert Group Meeting on Youth Indicators in the Context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, (2014), Commonwealth Secretariat, London

² *Idem.*

³ *Guiding Principles on Young Peoples Participation in Peace building*, (2012), Subgroup on Youth Participation in Peace building.

⁴ *Expert Group Meeting on Youth Indicators in the Context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, (2014), Commonwealth Secretariat, London

⁵ *Expert Group Meeting on Youth Indicators in the Context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, (2014), Commonwealth Secretariat, London

2. Ministers also agreed to protect the existing youth-specific targets in the draft SDGs:

Goal 4 **Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all**

Target 4.4 *By 2030, increase by x% the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.*

Target 4.6 *By 2030 ensure that all youth and at least x% of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.*

Goal 8 **Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

Target 8.5 *By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value*

Target 8.6 *By 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.*

Target 8.b *By 2020 develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the ILO Global Jobs Pact.*

Goal 13 **Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

Target 13.b *Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, in LDCs, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities.*

Countries Present at Ministerial Meetings

Africa: Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia

Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago.
Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos also attended and endorsed the targets.