

**YOUTH ROUNDTABLE FOR HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON POST 2015
CONSULTATION**

***National Building Blocks for Sustained Prosperity
Economic Transformation***
Monrovia 29th January

The Monrovia Youth Roundtable continued the discussion that began at the High Level Panel youth event in London in November 2012 and that has been developing in breadth and depth since, through several national, regional and global consultation processes. The roundtable session in Monrovia provided an opportunity for young people to share their understanding of the barriers and enablers to economic transformation and to have a lively discussion with panelists and advisors.

In the group preparation for the youth roundtable, participants developed a vision of what positive economic transformation would look like and then decided on four key areas that formed the pillars of this vision:

1. Active and dignified insertion of youth in the workplace ensuring them a good wage and jobs as part of a career path, as well as liberty, gender equality, and security;
2. The provision of quality, relevant education, including formal education, informal education and vocational trainings;
3. Social dialogue to facilitate a successful matching of labor demand and supply, to ensure successful programming and to foster youth hiring.
4. Access to resources – in particular financial support and land – to give young people the means to become independent and self-sustaining.

The youth session was planned around these areas, allocating time for participants to present on the existing barriers facing young people from realizing this economic transformation, based on personal experiences and then opening up discussion to look at key enablers for change. These included:

- National and international commitments from governments and the private sector to invest in job-based, inclusive growth
- Overall financial inclusion to ensure access for young people towards financing for education and loan scheme for entrepreneurship.
- Social, legal and sexual protection in the workplace
- High-quality, free, accessible and non-judgmental youth-friendly health services, which include SRH services to ensure the highest attainable health of young people.
- Ecological sustainability to ensure youth's access towards education and employment.
- Accountable systems and institutions (public and private) and clear mechanisms for accountability

Feedback and interactions with panelists:

John Podesta and the Special Adviser to Tawakel Karman participated in the roundtable and made important contributions to the debate.

Mr. Podesta offered 2 key recommendations:

- Young people must draw on their potential and be innovative in devising solutions to the barriers they face and;
- Young people need to ensure joined-up thinking around their input into post-2015 and work together to develop their messages.

Tawakel Karman's Special Adviser was particularly interested in the area of employment and offered input based on his own personal experience of entering the job market in Yemen. His main recommendation was the need for governments to work with the private sector to create more internships and training schemes so that young people can gain the skills necessary to enter meaningful employment.

Contributions from panelists were welcomed by young people and provided not only food for thought but direct suggestions on how best to mobilise and input into the post-2015 agenda going forward.

Conclusion:

The Monrovia youth roundtable was a meaningful opportunity to explore the key barriers to young people's economic well-being and the enablers necessary to see positive transformation. There was a call for all actors to get involved in exploring more innovative solutions to the question of global youth unemployment and the need for youth-focused indicators to be included in the post-2015 agenda to ensure accountability for this demographic. It was stressed by all involved that young people have massive potential, but it is crucial that we work together to find a way to invest in them and break down the barriers they face, to enable them to take up their role in driving forward economic transformation.