



YOUTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

# REPORT YSD 2019

OCTOBER, 2019



CENTRE AFRICAIN POUR  
LA SOLIDARITÉ ET  
L'ENTRAIDE ENTRE LES  
COMMUNAUTÉS



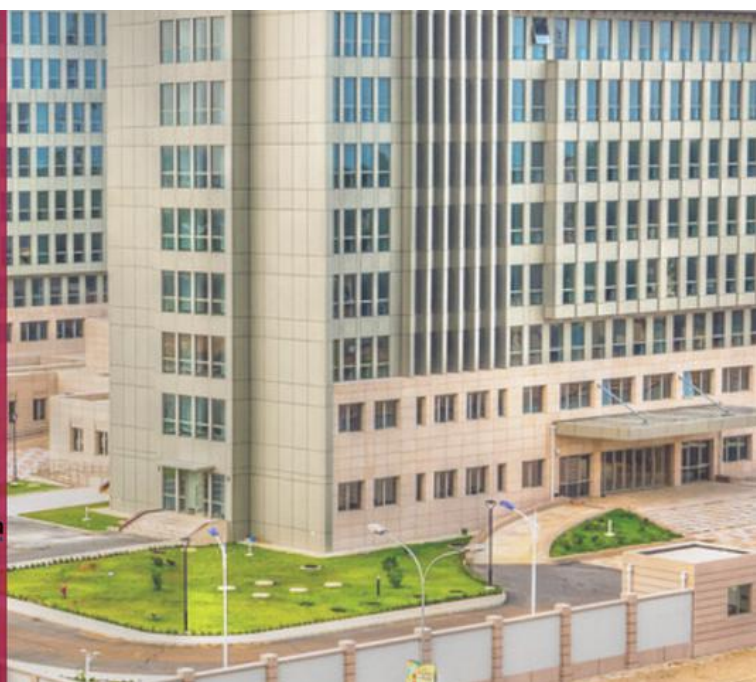
AFRICAN CENTER FOR  
SOLIDARITY AND  
MUTUAL AID BETWEEN  
THE COMMUNITIES

# YOUTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

SOLUTIONS FOR STRATEGIC  
INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH IN FULL  
EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
IN BENIN - SDG 8

25 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

ADMINISTRATIVE TOWERS CONFERENCE ROOM  
COTONOU, REPUBLIC OF BENIN (WEST AFRICA)



AS PART OF THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
AGENDA 2030



8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



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SOCIAL WATCH

20  
19





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# ACRONYM

**CASEC | ACSAC:** African Center for Solidarity and Mutual Aid between the Communities

**CSO:** Organization of Civil Society

**GCAP:** Global Call to Action Against Poverty

**MDGs:** Millennium Development Goals

**MPD:** Ministry of Planning and Development

**MSMEPE:** Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Employment Promotion

**MTPS:** Minister of Labor and Public Service

**NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization

**PC2D:** Growth Program for Sustainable Development

**PDC:** Communal Development Plan

**PND:** National Development Plan

**PTA:** Annual Work Plan

**SDGs:** Sustainable Development Goals

**UN:** United Nations





**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

## **YOUTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM**

### **FORUM JEUNESSE ESTUDIANTINE ET DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE**



## **CONTEXT**

On September 25, 2015, world leaders agreed on a definitive plan to protect the planet and its people by adopting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all. The objectives are interconnected, apply to all countries and aim to not forget anyone. The 2030 Agenda, which entered into force in January 2016, was signed by 193 governments, including the Government of Benin. To achieve these objectives in Benin, everyone must be able to contribute: the Government, the Parliament, the Private Sector, the Civil Society as well as any other person.

However, in Benin, thousands of young people do not know what the SDGs are and that they must be the actors in its implementation. This is why the Youth Unit of the CASEC has set up the project "Young student, Heart of sustainable development". This project aims to inform young people about the SDGs, to enlighten them on the evolution of their implementation in Benin and finally to commit them to action in their respective communities. The target of the project is the youth, especially the young students and doctoral students of the universities of Benin.

This project was marked by the "Forum on Action for Sustainable Development and the Role of Youth" organized on 25 September 2018 as part of the third anniversary of the United Nations Agenda 2030 with #Act4SDGs and MY World .



It is the first forum organized by young people, bringing together governmental and local authorities, state structures, international organizations, companies and national NGOs working for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Benin so that they share the results. their actions and define the opportunities for collaboration with Youth for a better achievement of the SDGs in Benin.

From this project, three initiatives were born. This is the Youth Talks which presents the actions of the Youth through a webcast, the Digital Library on the SDGs for students and PhD students and the School of SDGs in Benin.

The organization of this forum was supported by several partners including the National University of Benin (UAC), UNDP Benin, the General Directorate for Coordination and Monitoring of the SDGs of the Ministry of Planning and Development of Benin, Social Watch Benin, the House of Civil Society, the Network of NGOs for the SDGs, MTN Benin, the Office of Broadcasting and Television of Benin, Plurielle Benin and several other national and international institutions.

This project is the only one in Benin to have participated in the ACT4SDGs Global Day of Action and listed for the UN SDG Action Awards 2018 in the categories "Includer" and "Connector".

Link to:

- the activity on our website: <https://www.casesc-acsac.org/casesc-4-odd/>
- the video report of the First Forum: [bit.ly/ReportageForumODD](http://bit.ly/ReportageForumODD)
- the report of the First Forum: [bit.ly/RapportForumODD](http://bit.ly/RapportForumODD)
- the UN SDG Action Awards: <https://sdgactionawards.org/initiative/1388>



First youth initiative in Benin bringing together Government, Civil society and the Private Sector to discuss the role of young students in the SDGs.



Au Bénin, des millions de jeunes ne savent pas ce que sont les ODD et qu'ils doivent être les acteurs de sa mise en œuvre. C'est pour cela que nous avons mis en place le projet « Jeune étudiant, Cœur du développement durable ». Ce projet vise à informer les jeunes sur les ODD, à les éclairer sur l'évolution de leur mise en œuvre au Bénin et pour finir à les engager à l'action dans leur communauté respective. La cible du projet est la jeunesse, notamment les jeunes étudiants et doctorants des universités du Bénin.

Notre objectif est d'inciter les étudiants et doctorants du Bénin à mener des actions, des recherches et des études scientifiques sur les ODD et des innovations qui permettront au Bénin de pouvoir les atteindre d'ici 2030. Ce projet a commencé en juin 2018 avec une équipe de 07



## DESCRIPTION

In 2018 the Forum for Action for Sustainable Development and the Role of Youth focused its discussions on SDG 1: "Eliminating poverty in all its forms and around the world".

This year the Forum will look at SDG 8 "Promoting sustained, shared and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all". This SDG is one of the 5 SDGs selected for discussion at the High Level Political Forum at the UN General Assembly in September 2019. The CASEC is a member of the SDG 8 Working Group within the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MG CY) and Youth Working Group of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CASEC participates in the CIVICUS 2019 SPEAK! campaign as Champion for Benin).

Over the past 25 years, the number of workers living in extreme poverty has declined significantly, despite the lasting impact of the 2008 economic crisis and the global recession. In developing countries, the middle class now accounts for more than 34% of total employment, a figure that almost tripled between 1991 and 2015.

However, as the global economy continues to recover, we are seeing a slowdown in growth, rising inequality, and a lack of jobs to cope with a growing workforce. According to the International Labor Organization, more than 204 million people were unemployed in 2015.

In Benin, youth employment suffers from enormous shortcomings because 30.4% of young people are underemployed visibly through the number of working hours and 63.2% unseen through precarious pay and indecent. Also, only 7.9% of young people benefit from paid employment in Benin and this percentage highlights the difficulties of absorbing the labor supply of young people by the labor market and the need for young people to take in charge.

The Sustainable Development Goals promote sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation by 2030. However, four years have already passed and the question remains: What are the solutions for a strategic involvement of the Youth in full employment and economic growth in Benin?

It is in response to this question that the Forum "Student Youth and Sustainable Development" is organized as part of the fourth anniversary of Agenda 2030.

Wednesday 25th September 2019 in the conference hall of the administrative tower the ,opening of the youth and sustainable development forum organized by the CASEC supported by various technical and financial partners. This forum gathered more than two hundred young people from Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Ghana, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, United State of America, France and Bolivia and had took place during two days.

The forum started by an official opening ceremony. The introductory session on the sustainable development goals and their importance in academia followed the family picture that marked the official opening. After the introduction, the first session focused on " youth employment: productive and decent work for all?" Followed by the questions and debate. The following session focused on "economic growth: inclusive and sustainable solutions?". The day have been closed after the debates regarding to the various communication and group work based on the presentations. The second day have been scheduled with a session focused on "soft skills in the service of sustainable development: social and entrepreneurial leadership at the University." with some questions and debate and the session 4 talked about " access to opportunities through digital platforms" . The Youth Talks that closed the day sessions talked about " overview of the actions of youth and youth organizations contributing to the achievement of the SDG 8". This report describes the various activities that took place during these forum two days.





## OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1:** Share with young people the actions at various levels of different structures (international, national and local) on SDG 8 ;

**Objective 2:** Provide young students and doctoral students with the tools to understand and engage in Benin's economic growth in order to achieve full and productive employment;

**Objective 3:** Present opportunities for youth engagement in action to achieve the SDGs in Benin.

## LINK

**Website :** <https://www.casec-acsac.org/Forum>

**ACT4SDGs :**

[https://www.act4sdgs.org/partner/casec\\_acsac](https://www.act4sdgs.org/partner/casec_acsac)

**Decent Jobs for Youth :**

<http://www.decentjobsforyouth.org/event/95>

**Youth Opportunities :**

<https://www.youthop.com/conferences/youth-and-sustainable-development-forum-2019-in-benin>

**Careers International :**

<http://www.carriereinternazionali.com/en/education/item/11732-youth-and-sustainable-development-forum-in-benin-register-now-and-raise-your-voice>

# STATS

## YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT FORUM COVERAGE

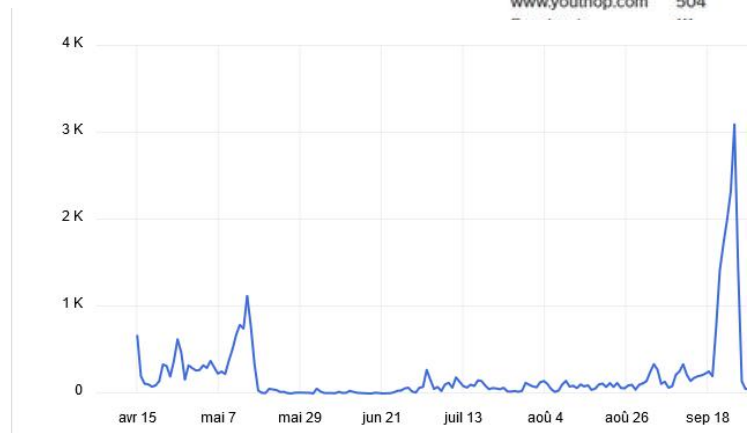


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Personnes touchées

**1,3 K**  
Vues de la page  
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Personnes qui ont  
répondu

Email, SMS, Direct 2 833  
www.youthop.com 504



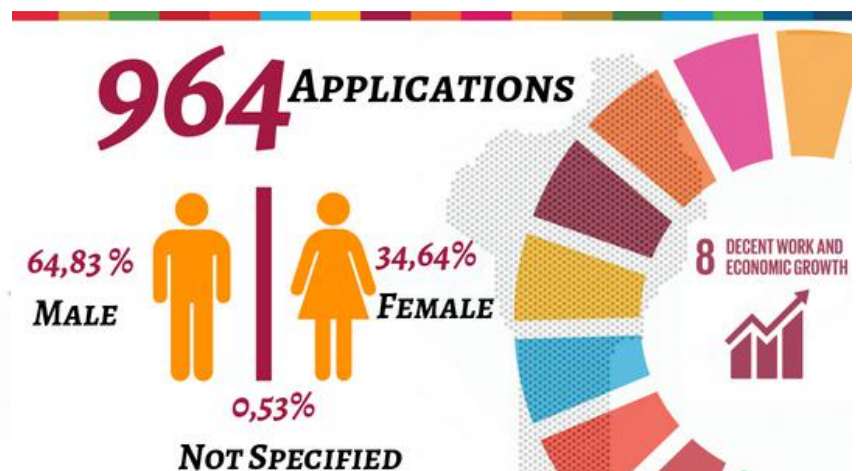
## FORUM INSCRIPTION

**964**  
APPLICATION  
FROM  
**101**  
COUNTRIES

**822** PARTICIPANTS

**115** YOUTH TALKS PANELISTS

**27** MEDIAS



## PARTICIPATION TO THE FORUM

**2 DAYS**

**6 SESSIONS**

**20 PANELISTS**

**250 PARTICIPANTS**





## OPENING CEREMONY

The official opening ceremony of the Youth and Sustainable Development Forum 2019 gathered the Executive Director of the CASEC; The General Inspector of the Ministry of Education Secondary Technique and the Professional Training (MESTPT); the Technical advisor to labour of the Ministry of Labor and Public Service (MLPS) and the Deputy Director of the cabinet of the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and the Promotion of the Employment (MSMEPE). The different speech started by the Executive Director of the CASEC who has first give his welcome words and thank the various participants, guests, officials, and panelists came from various countries.

Then, a brief historic of the CASEC and the state analysis critical of the employment in Benin have been presented. The others speech of the officials came to represent their partner ministries of the event have been preceded by the youth declaration and the ballet powered by the cultural and artistic students of the Abomey-Calavi University.





## YOUTH DECLARATION

The Youth Declaration read during the youth and sustainable development forum 2019 is the result of the vision, commitment, and the recommendations from the coordinated work of 964 young people coming from 101 countries and the online consultation of the youth of the world. This declaration is the symbol of the unique capacity of the young and their vibrant energy to eliminate all the barriers economics, politics, social that prevent them to attain a decent work and, to increase the actions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 8.



## KING OF MANIGRI WORDS

The forum have be honored by the presence of the Chief religious and traditional leader His majesty the king of Manigri, he open his speech by greeting the initiative and encourage the young people there to pro-activity.

I call the youth to unity and patriotism spirit in the implementation of the recommendations of the forum for the development of our communities through out the reduction of the unemployment of the young people.

He also ask the local and governmental authorities to accompaing and support the initiative of the CASEC.





## INTRODUCTORY SESSION

This session talked about the "Sustainable Development Goals and their importance in academia". It gathered the Director of the School VED of the University of Abomey-Calavi; the coordinator of the ALDEN (African Leaders and Sustainable Development Network) and the representative of the General Director of the Coordination and the Monitoring of the SDGs (DCM SDGs) from the Ministry of Plan and Development under the moderation of the president of the ROJANUL (Network of the organization of African young leaders of the United Nations for the achievement of the SDGs). The communication of the DCM SDGs showed the balance sheet of the implementation of the SDGs in Benin since 2015 through out the principals step of identification and the implementation of the SDGs in Benin; major initiatives that favorite and promoted the achievement of the SDGs in Benin and the perspective framework of the SDGs implementation.

Three principals questions contributed to conduct this panel: Student youth is it commit for the achievement of the SDGs? What can prove this commitment of the youth? what are the initiatives promoted by the actors of the educational system for the good achievement of the SDGs by the young? The director of the school VED-UAC presented the communities activities, the commitment of the youth of the VED-UAC and the support he gives to the them in the implementation of the SDGs. Indeed, the initiatives of keeping clean the green space of the UAC have been taken by the young and some



internship in the local communities are granted by the school.

He also mentioned that the report of the administrative and politic responsible of the communities are very encouraging for the young and the durability of the initiative. The school VED-UAC work also to reinforce the mentality of the students in the way to put them in front of the responsibilities of their generation.

As for the coordinator ALDEN after presenting his organization and the actions that they undertake, he shows how to reinforce commitment of the student youth to achieve the sustainable development goals in Benin. ALDEN indeed, is a development network durable created in 2013 and work to seek, test, and propose solutions for local development and sustain economic based on the prevention of the nature and promotion of local resources.

The interactive discussions with the public of participants and guests essentially focused o the MDGs and SDGs. According to the representative of the DCM SDGs the balance sheet of the SDGs is intermingled because it presents enough inadequacies and those are due to the non-involvement of the population in it elaboration that is totally the opposite with the SDGs that involved the population in it identification. This panel have been closed on some councils of the coordinator of ALDEN and the Director of the school VED-UAC.







## SESSION 1 : YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: PRODUCTIVE AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

The Executive Director of the Network of the NGO for the SDGs (RODD) as well as the Deputy Director of the National Agency for the Employment Promotion were the member of this panel.

The presentation of the Executive Director of RODD focused on the genesis of the SDGs, some conceptual clarifications about the notion such as : work and employment and finely-shaded both. He particularly emphasizes on the importance of the education and self employment.

The deputy Director of the National Agency for Employment Promotion as for him enumerated some constraints that prevent the creation of employment in Benin. Inter alia, the lack of companies that hire in Benin; the inadequacy between the training and the need of the organizations and the absence of education in entrepreneurship of the young people. According to him the Nation Agency for Employment Promotion can not handle the management of the situation of young employment in the country.

The discussion during this panel have allowed to keep the idea that there is employment in quantity and quality in Benin and it is the lack of organization that is the base of the problem of unemployment of young people and we need a real mental revolution to pull up the problem of unemployment that constraint the youth of Benin.



## SESSION 2 : ECONOMIC GROWTH: INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

This session have been animated by the following panelists: the representative of Bank of Africa Benin, the Executive secretary of Social Watch Benin, the representative of Afro-Arab youth council of Senegal and the representative of MTN Mobile Money under the moderation the project manager of CASEC.

For the first panelist, BOA is a commercial Bank that intervenes in investment programs for small and medium enterprises in Benin. In term of development of employment in Benin, BOA has many recruitment programs for young interns that are trained and monitored base on the needs of the company and the market. Moreover, he invites the young people to focus more on agricultural sector that is a provider of employment and also a virgin sector in Benin.

For the representative of MTN Mobile Money, MTN Benin engages itself via it foundation to the side of the youth of Benin to support the education and access to renewable energy questions. Thus, MTN participates to the construction of numerical classroom all over the country in order to give support to the leadership at it lower level for a real development.

Then, the representative of Afro Arab Youth Council take the floor to give his expertise and the experiences of the youth of Senegal concerning their interaction with the government and the initiatives of the youth regarding to the SDGs 8. Indeed, in Senegal various mechanism are set in place to promote the participation of the youth to decision making level for granting funds for self



employment and the empowerment of the young people with particular attention to gender.

The implementation of those mechanisms faces sometimes some challenges inter alia the low rate of credit recovery. However, this advantages are framed by the law that oblige the youth to the respect of this engagements.

For the Executive Secretary of Social Watch Benin which is the network of civil vigil and control of government actions , development actions of social business are engaged by the organization can end up probably to the creation of a solidarity fund to fund initiative of young people on the work market.







### SESSION 3 : SOFT SKILLS IN THE SERVICE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SOCIAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY

The panelist that animated this session were composed of the representative of Young African Leaders Initiative/YALI, the representative of African Women Entrepreneurship Program/AWEP, the representative of the African German Youth Initiative/AGYI and the president of AIESEC. This session has been moderated by a Mandela Washington Fellow.

The question to start the panel was the signification of Soft skills. The brainstorming of the panelists about that question enable to keep that soft skills are human competences that are not gained at school but by the individual himself that experienced it and cultivated it by the commitment, the leadership and/or entrepreneurship. For the question why soft skills? the representative of YALI, argued that we living in a world where the challenges are enormous and intellectual knowledge are no more sufficient to find a decent job or make the difference on the work market. Soft skills are therefore a mean to give young people competences of know how, how live and be able to be above all. A young people should have a motivation, a reason to push him to action and is through soft skills that he can find his passion through volunteering and other volunteer programs. As for what the other organization does to allow the young people to acquire human competences that are the soft skills in order to meet the SDGs especially the SDG 8, the president of AIESEC presented the different base of

the organization such as: Self Awareness, Solution Orientation, World Citizenship and Empowering others that allow the young to better know themselves, being an asset for their company and bring some solutions. By presenting the values of organization where the young are called to fight for excellence, leadership, and blooming in action, he also show the opportunities of the development that AIESEC provides to the youth. AIESEC has a platform that allow the young to interact each other, to participate to internship at the national level and also international level in order to gain many more competences to be more competitive on the work market.

For the representative of AWEP, the organization putted in place by the former American state secretary Hillary Clinton for who, women are the engine of the economic growth and development. AWEP is therefore the landmark of the engaged women in entrepreneurship that offer them an immersion in United State of America precisely in 5 states, in order to refine their talents and their leadership. This opportunity allow them to set other partnership. For the founder, four fundamental things determine all young who must succeed in entrepreneurship. There is the vision that is the goal and the clear objective to achieve; be in the anticipation and have the prior of the information because the entrepreneur who doesn't read information can not impose himself; be full of boldness and have the courage to act; motivation can be of any kind and push to actions; perseverance when we faced failure and last but not the least capacity of adaptability.

AWEP-Benin is an organization that undertaken so many action for the achievement of the SDGs and give to young women new capacities to promote their empowerment. The actions are stated as follow:

- Junior AWEP: it is a program that allow to sensitize and arouse to the young ladies of the school and college with entrepreneurship vocation,
- AWEP Day: it is a sharing day and exchange of experiences between the ladies to strengthen their leadership entrepreneurship.

As for the representative of AGYI, he estimates that the aim of AGYI is to increase the exchanges between Germany and Africa by involving the young in the achievement of the SDGs and a bigger exchange between the young Beninese and those of the world. The program has been implemented in South Africa, Tanzania, and Benin where many initiatives of young are entirely funded by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Finally, the representative of YALI presented the advantages of the program that are stated as follow:

- Reinforcement of the competences of young Africans,
- Networking to facilitate mutual action between young leaders.

The conclusion words of the panellists focused on the development of the personality and the inherent competences of the participants called to work and develop their talents.

The exchanges with the public of participants focused on how to get access to AWEP and the network of AGYI and the modality of support to entrepreneurs by AGYI. Contacts and availability of the various representative have been given to the participants willing to have further informations about the organization of youth.

Furthermore, about AGYI, it support the young through campaign of sensitization and training and also the availability of an innovation fund and incitement to a solidarity entrepreneurship.







## SESSION 4 : ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH DIGITAL PLATFORMS

This session animated by M. AGRO gathered in a panel the representative of UAC Start-up Valley and the Executive Director of CASEC who is also the Country Ambassador of Youth Opportunities in Benin. The presentation of start-up Valley informed the participants about what is the foundation, its intervention domains, vision, mission, accomplishment, and recruitment mode. We essential keep that UAC start-up valley is framing center, incubator of innovative companies with strong potential. Its activity field are : agribusiness, technologies, services with strong demand. Its vision is to be the most bigger creation pole of creation and development of the companies. Start-up valley has many objectives but the most fundamental is the contribution of the reduction of unemployment rate of graduate young by 20% by 2025. The training process contain a recruitment phase, the per-incubation phase, incubation phase and the post incubation phase. Among the achievement, the young people were able to create 50 companies viable with more than 480 employment direct and indirect.

Youth Opportunities is a platform launched since couple of years but represented in Benin since 2018. This platform present the opportunities of scholarship, international conferences, seminars etc. However, many young francophone find themselves limited in their application or very few benefit from the opportunities due to the fact the entire website is in English. Thus, it is necessary to learn and understand English.

After the presentation of Youth Opportunities and Start-up Valley, the moderator wanted to know if the efforts made by the foundation are enough regarding to the results obtained and the high number of graduate coming from the Beninese universities. The representative recognized that the foundation is aware that it left so many thing to do in the fight against unemployment of the young people. Emphasizing the gender approach of the foundation, she underlined that female application within a group is an asset . From the discussion with the participants, the first concern was to know if there is an establishment that accompanied young to get use to the NTIC in order to grab the opportunities available on the youth opportunities website and what are the mechanism set in place by the website to control and verify the relevance of the opportunities proposed. The second concern focused on the context of the objectives of foundation especially the ones that stipulated that the foundation should help and create 500 employment/ year.

The representative of Youth Opportunities shows to the participants that speaking English nowadays is no more a wealth but a necessity. The youth must fulfill those requirements by taking part to the programs of learning English at the local level or by doing an English vacation program in an anglophone country. As for the relevance and the reliability of the opportunities proposed on the platform, it has been demonstrate that Youth Opportunities has in more than 120 country some representative who are solicited each time to share or verify the relevance of the information posted by those who are taking the lead of the opportunities in order to limit the risk of fake news. Concerning the support of the young, CASEC will start negotiation with Youth Opportunities to set up a system of sharing more decentralized where francophone opportunities with eligibility for Benin will be posted.







## SESSION YOUTH TALKS : OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIONS OF YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDG 8

This session animated M. Gedeon Mensah du CASEC | ACSAC gathered in the same panel M. Francis Manga, specialist in education and leadership and President of Association of African Living in Vermont (USA), Mme Alejandra Gonzales Rocabado from United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Bolivia), M. Dari John CEO of Api Service Monde and M. Morgan Assogba Metondji Country Director of International Model Diplomats For Integrated Development- Benin.

Presentation of the Country Representative of IMDID about achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 in Benin. In introduction he started by giving some key concepts such as : economic growth - full and productive employment - Decent work. According to him the SDG 8 is a combination of these three words and we youth are faced to many challenges such as unemployment and underemployment. To solve them we should go on entrepreneurship and develop our digital economy even if our digital environment is more or less hard. We have also to develop social leadership, and not wait for civil society to achieve our objectives. We youth should clear some misconceptions about adapted education, flexibility in employment, change of mindset. There is a lot of things to do and we are call for action in our country because we can change things in our community. Their principal actions in IMDID are citizen development by giving volunteer skills and

opportunity to young people. They also have a program that help to give social education to children and raise their skills from primary and secondary school.

After his presentation Mrs Francis Specialist in education and leadership give his speech in French and English. He essentially talks about youth role in supporting SDG 8. According to him all young people must change their mind, break the barriers of languages, ask themselves the good questions (eg.What am I doing to change the condition of my community?), overcome fear and be adaptable. He contributes to the SDG 8 by employing young people in his companies in Benin, Congo and USA. For everything we want to do we have to be focus motivated and always think about where we want to be.

After him the Representative of UN SDSN takes words to explain why SDGs?, how in Bolivia they track the achievement of SDGs?, and the level of Benin in it achievement. SDGs are chosen to impact positively the economic prosperity, the social fairness and environmental sustainability. And she notices that the lack of good education cause a lot of losses to the economy especially at the level of women. She congratulates Benin because Beninese are above average in term of entrepreneurship. Their actions are focus on local production for sustainable development.

The CEO of API SERVICE MONDE end the panel with the presentation of his company and what there are doing to achieve SDG 8. His company produces quality honey and work in agri-business. He gives a lot of formation about leadership and entrepreneurship as well as in agribusiness. He encourages youth to read a lot about life of people who succeed and be motivated and ask for advice.

In conclusion, we, youth have power to change our communities and we have to work for it. We should not wait for government but be focus on our target, motivated and break the barrier of language.







## GROUP WORK : ANALYSIS OF THE SDG 8 THROUGH THE SESSIONS AND PROPOSITION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STAKEHOLDERS

### Session 1: Youth employment: Productive and decent work for all?

Indicative Questions:

- What are the needed policy to ensure the full employment regarding to innovative technologies, globalization and environmental challenges without leaving anyone behind?
- How national institutions and other institutions can work together to fight against youth unemployment?
- How norms, institutions, social dialogue make an efficient governance frame to support employment and decent work for all?

### Session 2: Economic growth: inclusive and sustainable solutions?

Indicative Questions:

- What are the measure that can be taken to set in place and to strengthened the cooperation between entrepreneurship and academia?
- How can we raise the challenges of current technologies revolution to enhance the operation of the work market and avoid exclusion?



### **Session 3: Soft skills in the service of sustainable development: social and entrepreneurial leadership at the University?**

Indicative Questions:

- How social leadership and entrepreneurship are on line with the SDGs?
- How attending to national and international programs re-enforce student's capacities?

### **Session 4: Access to opportunities through digital platforms**

Indicative Questions:

- What are the factors that prevent youth initiative to be more efficient?
- What are the possible solution that can be thought of to go with youth initiative?







## RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the 8 main recommendations about young people employment mentioned in the youth declaration ( presented in the annex 2 of this report), the young people after their group work proposed the following recommendation:

- Insert entrepreneurship basically in the curriculum by reorganizing the curriculum in order to encourage collective initiative taking;
- Exhort the various bank to the creation of a program that can facilitate loan and monitoring of young project;
- Create a platform of networking for young in order to enable them to discuss and think together on the challenges related to the unemployment in order to find realistic solutions with greater impact;
- Adapted academia courses to the needs of the work market and follow the theoretical training with some series of practical training;
- Take some dispositions to bring the young students at the end of their training to design some micro-project that should be supported by universities and companies;
- Promote numerical literacy from high school and secondary school and adapted university training to the technological evolution;
- Facilitate access to opportunities by the young people to reinforce information channel regarding to the various programs , forums, conferences involving the young;
- Facilitate access to internet and reduce the cost related to the usage;
- Put in place a program or a fund of solidarity provided by the young people and that can enable them to support their projects.



## CONCLUSION

This forum organized this year with the technical support of ACT4SDGs (Global Week to #ACT4SDGs), the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth Opportunities as part of the fourth anniversary of the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations that focus on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 "Promoting sustained, shared and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all".

Employment of young remain a continuous preoccupation for the CASEC. The CASEC leans on the student and university as a leverage for the fight against unemployment and underemployment of the young in general and particularly the graduate. At this end, we are mobilizing student of university and doctorate, by informing them and engaging them by action with the governments, internationals institutions, the enterprises and civil society organization to solve the problem of inadequacy between the graduate expectations and the employment possibilities offered and prepared a better integration of the young on the work market without any transition delays. The YSD forum 2019 has been an opportunity to build and strengthen the organization capacity and young network for greater implementation of youth in the SDGs. This forum represent one of the initiative of the project "young student, heart of Sustainable Development" putted in place in Benin to enable the students of universities to bring their contribution to the sustainable development and young employment.





## ANNEX 1 : GLOBAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT FORUM

To celebrate 100 years of continuous work in promoting decent work and promoting justice and to reinvigorate the call to action, the International Labor Organization (ILO) organized the Global Youth Employment Forum, held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 1 to 3 August 2019, under the auspices of the Nigerian government.

The Forum was the second of its kind after the one held in Geneva in 2012, during which young people from different regions and backgrounds have highlighted the challenges and opportunities to promote decent work for young people. Their voices contributed to the adoption of the call to action. Following the centenary, the year 2019 also marks the 60th anniversary of the ILO's presence in Africa, when its first office opened in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1959.

Although the challenge of youth employment is truly global, the African context is particularly important. With nearly 325 million young people aged 15 to 29, Africa is a young continent and is home to some of the world's youngest countries. Young women make up half of the young population. By 2050, the number of young people aged 15 to 29 in Africa is expected to double to 33% of all young people of the world.

Rapid population growth in Africa will have a significant impact on labor, trade and economic integration. The working-age population in Africa will reach 1.13 billion by 2035 and the influx of young people will require a rapid pace of job creation of about 23 million jobs per year over the next 20 years.

Rapid population growth in Africa will have a significant impact on labour, trade and economic integration. The working-age population in Africa will reach 1.13 billion by 2035 and the influx of young people will require a rapid pace of job creation of about 23 million jobs per year over the next 20 years. In organizing the Global Youth Employment Forum in Africa, the ILO stresses the importance of investing in African youth to advance the call to action and accelerate the achievement of sustainable development goals related to youth employment. In addition, the Forum offers the opportunity to take advantage of the regional commitment to youth employment, as reflected in the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Ouagadougou +10 Declaration, as well as in recent efforts and action-oriented projects such as the "One Million by 2021" of the African Union Commission.

CASEC had the privilege of presenting the "Young Students, Heart of Sustainable Development" initiative was set up in Benin to enable university students to make their contribution sustainable development and youth employment at the Youth Employment Share fair (YES!) World Youth Employment Forum.

University students a key target for Africa's future of work Sub-Saharan. While the number of people in higher education was less than 200,000 in this region in 1970, this figure soared to more than 4.5 million in 2008, more than 20 times more than in 1970. Eleven years later this number of students, which has surely doubled or tripled is found in the labor market. It was therefore important to engage student's academics and PhD students, inform them and engage them in action with governments and PhD students. institutions and equip them for better integration into the labour market.





## ANNEX 2 : YOUTH DECLARATION

We, young people of Africa and the worldwide gathered at the Youth Sustainable Development Forum 2019, join our voice and effort to uphold the value of youth employment and re-commit ourselves to seeking global solutions for global problems, including but not limited to, achieving the targets set forth in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Youth, with our unique capacities and vibrant energy, are propelling humanity's movement towards a new future. Today in Benin, thousands of young people do not know what the SDGs are and that they must be the actors in its implementation. Furthermore, millions of families across the world are still trapped in extreme poverty, struggling to access even basic resources like education, healthcare and employment. Today, a quarter of the world's youth still live in the shadows of violent conflict, everything from wars to human trafficking to substance abuse threaten to steal the promise of our tomorrow. And today, as the global economy continues to recover, we are seeing a slowdown in growth, rising inequality, and a lack of jobs to cope with a growing workforce. According to the International Labor Organization, more than 204 million people were unemployed in 2015. If we don't join in concerted action now, we may not have an earth to live on tomorrow. In Benin, youth employment suffers from enormous shortcomings because 30.4% of young people are underemployed visibly through the number of working hours and 63.2% unseen through precarious pay and indecent.

The rising generations recognize that we must work collectively, across national, generational, and other real or fabricated boundaries, to shift the current paradigm and create new global and multilateral structures, to weave a new tapestry of economic, technological, environmental and social life that can drive humanity's evolution towards collective prosperity. We have power in numbers and when united, can demand immense change. We the Youth are taking the lead and contributing our expertise, energy, experience, passion, and creativity in implementing global solutions. It is in this spirit that we set forth this Declaration of our shared visions, commitments, and recommendations that is the coordinated result work of 964 young people from 101 countries and an online consultation from of the world.



## VISION

We the Youth are united in our vision for a peaceful and sustainable world. Together we affirm that:

- 1. We will continue to work together and undertake sustainable actions that can benefit all the youth**
- 2. We will continue to work toward promotion of creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, that can encourage the growth of micro, small and medium size enterprises.**
- 3. We must create economic system that can enable to achieve a high economic level productivity**
- 4. We work to remove all economic, political, and social barriers that prevent us to achieve a sustainable economic growth.**

## COMMITMENTS

We pledge to commit our abilities, efforts, and heart to:

- 1. Increase awareness of and work persistently towards the accomplishment of the 8 Sustainable Development Goal, it corresponding targets.**
- 2. Become active global citizens supporting our peers across their activity feel and make citizen watch regarding to politics implemented toward the young people conditions in Benin.**
- 3. Increase awareness and advocate for youth employment, decent job for youth, and economic conditions favorable for an economic growth.**
- 4. Serve as open partners, sharing our technology, information, knowledge and skills with those who can benefit from them and creating opportunities for intergenerational partnerships, learning from friends and spreading best practices.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Fully understanding that in order to achieve the targets of the 17 SDGs and especially the 8th Goal, we, with a unified voice, call upon:

- 1. Implement policies with the goal of employment targeting as opposed to solely economic growth**
- 2. Shift to models for conditional foreign direct investment that requires training and education, local youth employment, high quality jobs for youth, sustainability, and local culture**
- 3. Promote macroeconomic policies that employment seeking to create local value addition and decent jobs**
- 4. Develop mechanisms to certify high tech, low tech, or indigenous tech knowledge and skills developed outside of formal education or training programs.**
- 5. Develop mechanism to formally translate skills, training, to ensure that youth have access to decent employment opportunities**
- 6. Shift to a model of employment that fit jobs to individual youth, rather requiring workers to fit a fixed model**
- 7. Expand access to existing training and education via technology**
- 8. Create strong partnership between governments, industry, academia, trade unions, and other social partners to ensure that traditional education and training programs keep pace with economic changes.**



## ANNEX 3 : AGENDA

### WEDNESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 2019

INSTALLATION OF GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS  
 WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION  
 CULTURAL ANIMATION

#### OPENING SPEECH

- MESSAGE FROM CASEC REPRESENTATIVE
- YOUTH DECLARATION
- MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF DIGITAL ECONOMY
- MESSAGE FROM MINISTRY OF LABOR
- MESSAGE FROM MINISTRY OF PROMOTION OF EMPLOYMENT

#### INTRODUCTORY SESSION : THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN ACADEMIA

MODERATORS : TITTILAYO FAFOUMI (ROJANUL) , WALID ABDOU AGRO (MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOW)

PANELISTS :

- LECTURER EULOGE OGOUWALE, UNIVERSITY OF ABOMEY-CALAVI
- DORINALI YALIA BONI, GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF THE COORDINATION AND THE MONITORING OF THE SDGS (MINISTRY OF PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT)
- HORACE KOUGNAZONDE, AFRICAN LEADERS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

#### SESSION 1 : YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: PRODUCTIVE AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL?

MODERATOR: TITTILAYO FAFOUMI (ROJANUL)

PANELISTS:

- IGOR AGUEH, NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION)
- MAURICE GBEMENOU, NETWORK OF NGO ON SDGS/RODD

**SESSION 2: ECONOMIC GROWTH: INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS**

MODERATOR : GAMALIEL GEDEON MENSAH (CASEC|ACSAC)

PANELISTS :

- HERMANN AHOUCHE, MTN MOBILE MONEY
- SIMON TOSSOU, BANK OF AFRICA
- DIEUDONNÉ HOUINSSOU, SOCIAL WATCH
- KHADIM DIOP, AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL – SENEGAL

**THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2019**

WELCOME REMARKS AND SUMMARY OF DAY 1

**SESSION 3: SOFT SKILLS IN THE SERVICE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SOCIAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY**

MODERATOR : WALID ABDOU AGRO (MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOW)

PANELISTS:

- AUGUSTINO AGBEMAVO, YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE / YALI
- GLADYS TAWEMA, AFRICAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM / AWEP
- IBRAHIM TCHAN, AFRICAN GERMAN YOUTH INITIATIVE / AGYI
- ADORIS ZEKPE, AIESEC

**SESSION 4 : ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH DIGITAL PLATFORMS**

MODERATOR : WALID ABDOU AGRO (MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOW)

PANELISTS

- ELVIS ADJAHOUNGBA, YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES
- BRIGITTE GNIMASSOU, UAC START UP VALLEY

**YOUTH TALKS : OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIONS OF YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDG 8**

MODERATOR : GAMALIEL GEDEON MENSAH (CASEC)

PANELISTS

- ALEJANDRA GONZALES, UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK – BOLIVIA
- MORGAN ASSOGBA METONDJI, INTERNATIONAL MODEL DIPLOMATS FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT – BENIN
- JOHN DARI, APISERVICES MONDE – BENIN
- ABIJAH FRANCIS MANGA, ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN LIVING IN VERMONT – USA

**GROUP WORK : ANALYSIS OF THE SDG 8 THROUGH THE SESSIONS AND PROPOSITION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STAKEHOLDERS**

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION

PHOTOS

NETWORKING

NEXT STEPS

**FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING**



# YOUTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

SOLUTIONS FOR STRATEGIC  
INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH IN FULL  
EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
IN BENIN - SDG 8

25 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

ADMINISTRATIVE TOWERS CONFERENCE ROOM  
COTONOU, REPUBLIC OF BENIN (WEST AFRICA)



## ANNEX 4 : ORGANIZER AND PARTENERS



The **African Center for Solidarity and mutual Aid between the Communities (CASEC | ACSAC)** African Center for Solidarity and Mutual Aid between the Communities is a non-governmental organization created on February 15, 1997 to serve as a framework for reflection and design and implementation of community development action plans in Benin and throughout Africa. ACSAC engages all its forces to promote peace and cohesion among all peoples by enabling them to develop economic activities that can improve their living conditions and by carrying out a set of social actions in synergy with social organizations to maximize their impacts.

In June 2017, the Center set up a youth-only unit to put in place actions that can enable the inclusion of young people in development programs and policies.

In 2018, the Youth Unit proposed the project "University Students, Heart of Sustainable Development" and organized the Forum on Action for Sustainable Development and the role of Youth. This unit also organizes the "Youth and Sustainable Development Forum 2019"

Link : <http://www.casec-acsac.org/Forum>



**ACT4SDGs** is a platform that makes the global map of concrete collective and individual actions that people can take, join or replicate on # Act4SDG around the world. The United Nations Campaign for Action on Sustainable Development Goals, Action for Sustainable Development and national coalitions of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) have joined forces to promote a global campaign awareness and action of the SDGs through ACT4SDGs.

Lien sur le site partenaire : [http://www.act4sdgs.org/partner/casec\\_acsac](http://www.act4sdgs.org/partner/casec_acsac)



**Youth Opportunities (YO)** is the largest platform for discovering opportunities for young people around the world. As a global youth development platform, YO provides easy and instant access to unlimited opportunities for millions of young people for free. YO thrives in promoting youth development and, as a result, produces and delivers quality, value-added educational and capacity building materials. YO works tirelessly to create an effective bridge between opportunity seekers and providers of opportunities for mutually beneficial development through information sharing.

Lien: <http://www.youthop.com>

## GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



GOUVERNEMENT  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE  
DU BÉNIN



UN Major Group for  
**Children and Youth**  
the space for children and youth in the United Nations



## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



SOCIAL WATCH  
BENIN  
Contrôle citoyen  
pour un développement durable



Maison de la Société Civile  
engagements, innovations



Réseau des ONG pour les Objectifs de Développement Durable



ALDEN



ROJALNU  
Bénin



## ENTERPRISES





## ANNEX 5 : ORGANIZATION TEAM

Since 2017, the African Center for Solidarity and mutual Aid between the Communities (CASEC|ACSAC) through its youth and sustainable development pole set up a youth-only unit to put in place actions that can enable the inclusion of young people in development programs and policies.

In 2018, the Youth Unit, composed of auditors in master, doctorate from various universities of Benin, organized with the help of many volunteers the forum on the action for the sustainable development and the role of the youth from the project "University Students, Heart of Sustainable Development" that involved 11 universities, the Ministry of Plan and Development, 2 international organizations, 34 NGO national and international, 5 companies, 8 medias, 532 university students and more than 3500 young.

In 2019, the Youth Unit CASEC, which has grown worked in collaboration with some young from Social Watch and the Network of organization of Africans Young Leader of the United Nations for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as many young volunteers from Benin, Ghana, and Ivory Coast, organized the Youth and Sustainable Development Forum 2019 at Cotonou in Benin.



## TEAM MEMBERS

Team Leader:

Mr Elvis ADJAHOUNGBA

Responsible of Panels and coordination:

Mr Gedeon MENSAH

Responsible of partners and sponsors:

Mrs Prisca VIAKIN

Responsible of communication and participants:

Mr Bérenger OLOU

Report Team Leader:

Mrs Emmanuela HEKPAZO

Responsible of Logistic:

Mrs Chaïda YAYA NADJO

Responsible of Media Distribution:

Mrs Esther ALLADAGBIN

Communication Volunteer:

Mr Jean-Philippe AHOUA

Volunteer of Logistic:

Mrs Stella AMANGBEGNON

Volunteer of Logistic:

Mrs Stéphanie GNANGUENON

Volunteer of Logistic:

Mr Emmanuel ADJAHOUNGBA

Volunteer of Logistic:

Mr Prima QUENUM

Volunteer for report:

Mr Bienvenu ACLEHINTO

Volunteer for report:

Mr Jean de Dieu HOUNTONDJI

Volunteer for report:

Mr Deo-Gratias ZINSOU

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Mrs Eunice DEHA





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