

PANEL SESSION: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN TODAY'S GLOBAL ECONOMY

Overview

Youth will face many challenges in the coming years as a result of the significant financial, economic, social and demographic changes that are affecting the global community. Within this general context, youth unemployment has emerged as a key concern. This issue will be important in 2012 and beyond as countries continue to grapple with uncertain global economic conditions.

Youth unemployment has reached very high levels in numerous countries because of the continuing effects of the global financial and economic crisis, and as a result of the difficulties being experienced by many youth in the transition from education to work. This economic environment has, in turn, created a sense of disillusionment for many young people.

Yet, youth must also be viewed as a source of dynamism and societal advancement. In general, young people have energy, talent and creativity, and may be leaders of social, political and technological change. Therefore, concerted efforts are needed to ensure that young people are able to reach their long-term potential, contribute fully to and benefit from economic growth, and participate meaningfully in society.

During this session, panellists and parliamentary delegates will discuss the measures that are needed to ensure opportunities for youth. The session will address strategies and policies aimed at increasing access to high-quality education and skills training, facilitating effective transitions from education to work, harnessing innovation, and creating employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth, all of which must be linked to the employment environment and business needs of the 21st century global economy.

For more information, see "*Assembly Documents*" at www.ipu2012uip.ca.