

Outcome of the Drafting Meeting for Summary for Policy Makers

The High-level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group met in Cancun, Mexico from 24-27 September 2018 to produce the second-order draft (negotiating draft) of the *Summary for Policy Makers* of the sixth Global Environment Outlook. Some of the objectives for the meeting included: Reducing the length of all sections of the *Summary for Policy Makers*; ensuring coherence between the main report and the *Summary for Policy Makers*; producing a short, coherent, impactful *Summary for Policy Makers* which contains a clear storyline as well as ensuring that key messages from the *Summary for Policy Makers* are clear for policy makers and ministers.

The High-level Group agreed to be ambitious with the draft, but not be too prescriptive about wording in the draft. Prior to the meeting, the High-level Group agreed on a set of [procedural guidance](#) to ensure the smooth running of the meeting. The meeting opened with the chair Paolo Soprano and vice-chair Professor Pascal Houenou requesting nominations for a new vice-chair for the group. Ms. Sibylle Vermont from the Government of Switzerland was unanimously acclaimed as the new vice-chair and participated in the co-chairing duties throughout the meeting.



Group Photo of the Participants

During the 4-day meeting, the High-level Group decided that the main process for making modifications to the first-order draft of the *Summary for Policy Makers* produced by the co-chairs and authors would be a set of interventions and suggestions made by all the High-level Group members in a 'tour de table' format. These interventions would be captured in a tabular format or directly in comment bubbles in the documents for each section of the document. Authors and one or two High-level Group members would then form a drafting team to address these comments and bring a revised version of the section back to plenary for a final read through. The final read through would correct any factual or grammatical errors in the revised draft and the corrected document would be presented to the whole group for agreement. Any graphics, maps or charts in the original draft that were not easily understandable would either be replaced or removed from the document.

The *Summary for Policy Makers* would use a format of paragraphs of findings with the first sentence (headline finding) bolded followed by a confidence statement for this headline finding. Any supporting information for the headline finding would be presented in unbolded text followed by a reference to the section of the main report which contains the full analysis of the issues and the references to the literature that has been reviewed to produce the headline finding.



A session of the Drafting Meeting in Progress

Along with the main draft *Summary for Policy Makers* a two-page draft *Summary for Ministers* was prepared and agreed by the High-level Group. Co-chairs of the assessment, co-chairs of the Scientific Advisory Panel and authors were given one week to verify any line of sight issues between the new draft of the *Summary for Policy Makers*, the draft *Summary for Ministers* and the main *Global Environment Outlook* report. Any line of sight issues identified by the co-chairs or authors was presented to the High-level Group for approval. Copy and science editing will be performed on the draft *Summary for Policy Makers* and *Summary for Ministers* before they are translated for Member States.

The translated drafts of both documents would be sent to Member States by 15 November so that they may prepare for the final negotiation session of the *Summary for Policy Makers* planned for 21-24 January 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

During the four-day meeting the High-Level Group, selected coordinating lead authors and lead authors, the co-chairs of the assessment and the co-chairs of the Scientific Advisory Panel worked closely together to review, edit and finalise a final draft for negotiation of the *Summary for Policy Makers* of the sixth *Global Environment Outlook*. The meeting's main objectives were fully achieved, including the preparation and adoption of the draft *Summary for Ministers*.



Mr. Charles Mwangi



Dr. Nibedita Mukherjee

Global Environment Outlook for Youth Co-Chairs

Two highly accomplished authors of the sixth edition of the *Global Environment Outlook* have been nominated as co-chairs of the *Global Environment Outlook for Youth*. The goal of *GEO for Youth* is to inform younger generations about the drivers of environmental change, the current state of the environment and the future pathways they need to undertake to reach a sustainable future and achieve a healthy planet for future generations.

Mr. Charles Mwangi is the Deputy Country Coordinator of the GLOBE Program in Kenya, an international environmental education program for youth. The GLOBE Program, puts a lot of emphasis on collecting Environmental data to better understand how different aspects of the environment are evolving and explore what could be causing the changes. Dr. Nibedita Mukherjee is currently a post doc at the University of Exeter.

The co-chairs will act together in providing a link between the *Global Environment Outlook* advisory bodies, the United Nations Environment Secretariat and the young authors who will be drafting the assessment. Their role will help the assessment maintain scientific integrity and highlight the impact of the findings of the main *Global Environment Outlook* for the youth. They aim to engage with a wider youth community to identify the lessons learnt from previous global youth interventions to inform the *Global Environment Outlook for Youth* process and to explore possible actions and approaches to address issues highlighted in the environment.



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Exploring Youth Potential in the Smart Farming and Agritech Value-Chain in Nigeria

By Olumide Idowu

Africa is the [second largest and most populous continent](#) on earth with a population of 1.4 billion people having a high population of younger people with 41% under the age of 15, giving a good premise to the continent's growth predicted to double by 2050.

The huge continent's population has an estimated [youth population](#) of 364 million between the age of 15 and 35, a figure expected to also double by 2045 making them the youngest population of the world.

One would think that, the youth population will be a plus to the continent however; it is sad to come to terms with the fact that the narrative is population growth rate is obviously not concomitant to the socio-economic growth rate hence the rise in youth unemployment. This gives credence to a report by International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in which, [a breakneck figure of 10-12 million African youth seek to enter the continent's workforce, an exercise in futility for many](#). A report by the World Bank further notes that "Youth account for 60% of all African unemployed and 70% of African youth also live on less than US\$2/day. This is evidently a challenge to the continent at large.

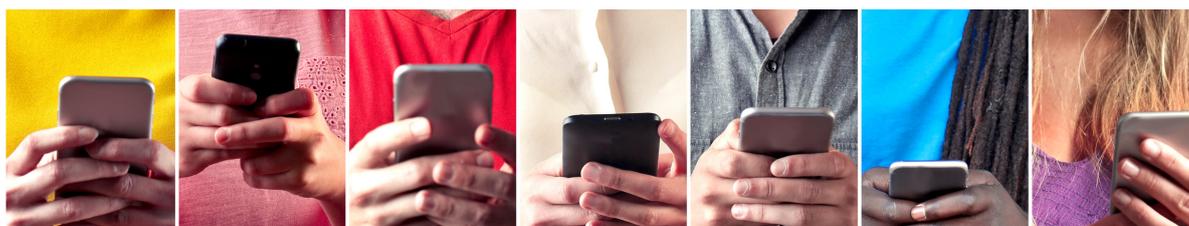
In the face of this reality, there is no disputing the potential of the African youth which they have failed to live up to. We might make another fallacy by blaming it on the leaders without trying to recognize the efforts of African leaders in empowering African youths.

In 2009, African leaders met in Addis Abba, Ethiopia and in a bid to find a lasting solution to the challenges of youth unemployment, they declared 2009-2018 as "[Africa Youth Decade](#)" and made a strong resolve to ensure resource mobilization from private sector for youth development and to this end, there has been huge deployment of opportunities to unleash the potentials of African youths.

Why is the youth unemployment gap still evident? I do not claim to have all the answers but I think that we need more jobs to be created and youth need to understand that agribusiness will foster job creation and that their engagement in the agriculture sector is important to deal with the scourge of unemployment and poverty across the board.

While youth unemployment statistics are staggering and heart-breaking, the good news is that agriculture has in it, a seed of greater benefit and has the potential to solve unemployment issues with its growing capacity to accommodate more youth in verified and valuable employment.





The World Bank did project that agriculture and agribusiness in Africa will grow to be a US\$ 1 trillion industry in Africa by 2030 just as it averages 24% of GDP across the continent and with the growing world population estimated to reach nine billion people by 2050, the world will wittingly depend on Africa in years to come to feed it, especially given that Africa has the world's largest arable land resources.

Many of Africa's youth are tech and social media savvy and find it difficult to "lay their arms" for agriculture as they are not aware on how and where they can use their 21st century skills effectively in agriculture. Thanks to #ICT4Ag (ICT for Agriculture) and the growing Mobile Agriculture (mAgri) project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), youth can use their hands-on digital marketing skills and prolific ICT knowledge and skill to take agribusiness to the next level and foster job creation by taking a cue from projects like [Sooretul \(Senegal\)](#), [Farmerline \(Ghana\)](#), [FarmCrowdy \(Nigeria\)](#), [Esoko \(Kenya\)](#), [Myfarmbase \(Nigeria\)](#) where youth-led agribusinesses leverage on ICT to create wealth in the agribusiness space.

mAgri offers an amazing opportunity for youth to use digital technologies -the internet, their mobile phones amongst others to collect, store and share digital information at an amazing speed and this is predicated on Nigeria's large internet base of 147 million people according to the Nigerian Communication Commission.

mAgri is key to scaling up agricultural innovations and improving smallholder farmers access to [market information and financial services](#). Apart from ICT, other emerging technologies that power Agriculture like the use of drones, blockchain and soilless farming is making the youth understand that they can do more in the Agriculture sector beyond field farming and this is the message that is preached at Myfarmbase Africa ([myfarmbase.com.ng](#)) where we encourage young people to embrace the use of technology in Agriculture through what we refer to as "Smart Farming".

Engaging productively in the Agritech value-chain can reveal the Great Green Potential of the African youth. The African Union Commission emphasised the role of youth in their 2017 theme, "[Harnessing the demographic dividend through investment in youth](#)", as it is important for youth to see themselves as a continental asset capable of determining the development trajectory of Africa.

