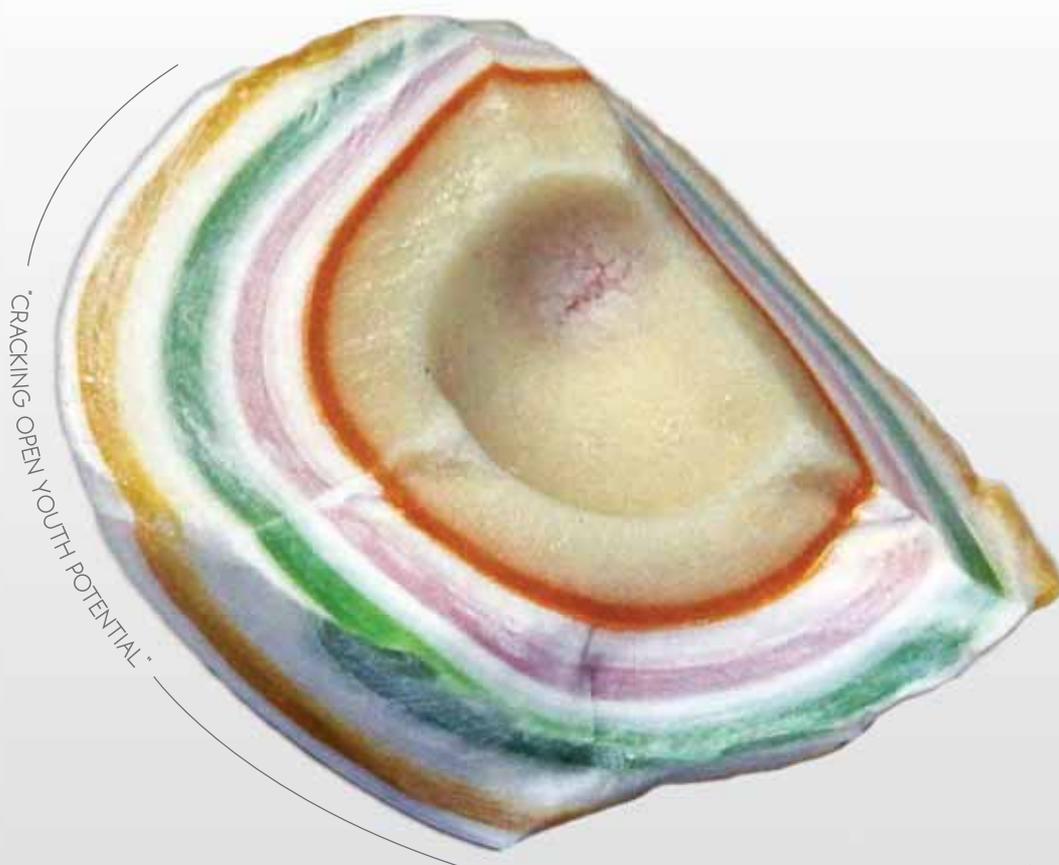


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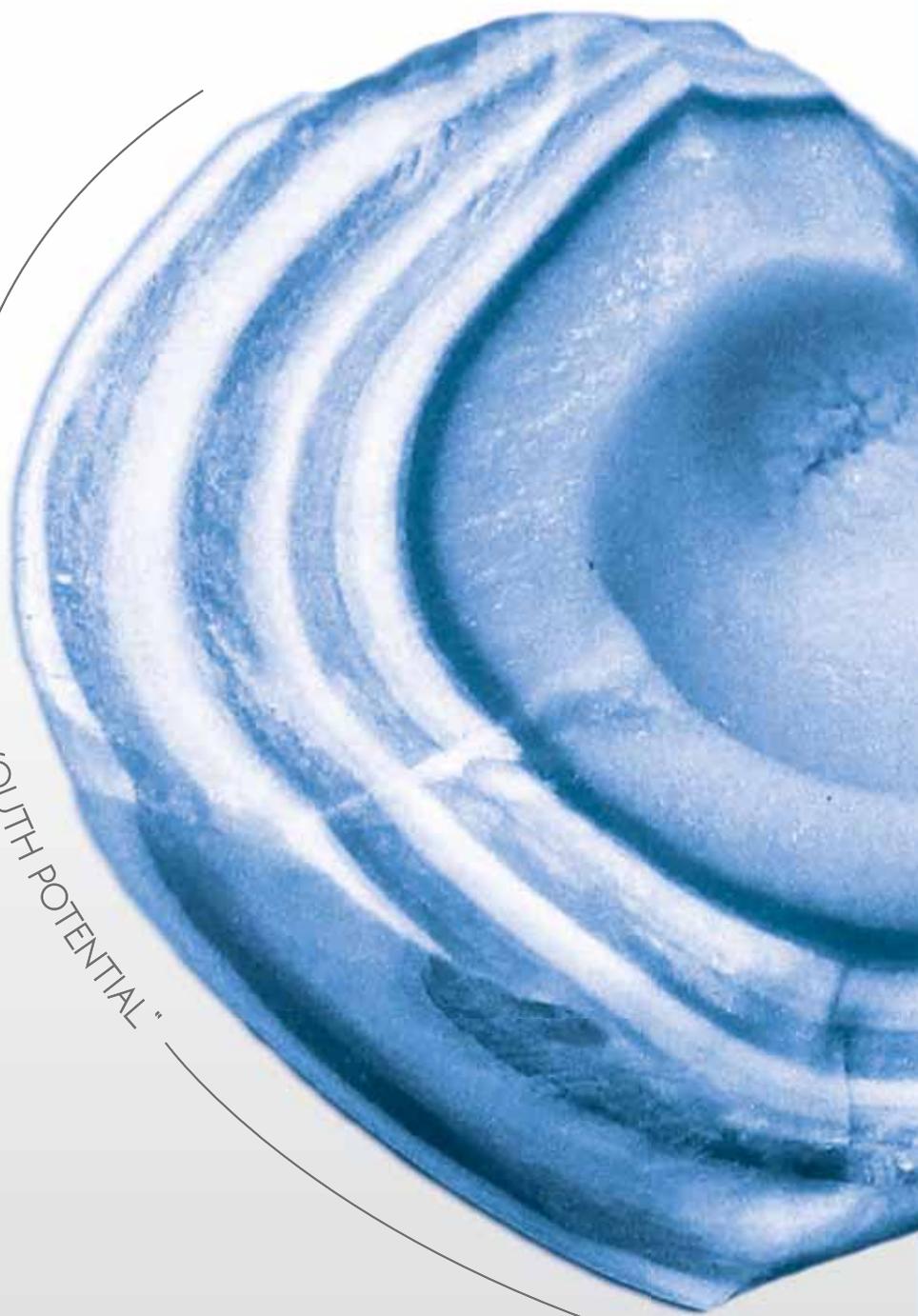


"CRACKING OPEN YOUTH POTENTIAL"



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"CRACKING OPEN YOUTH POTENTIAL"

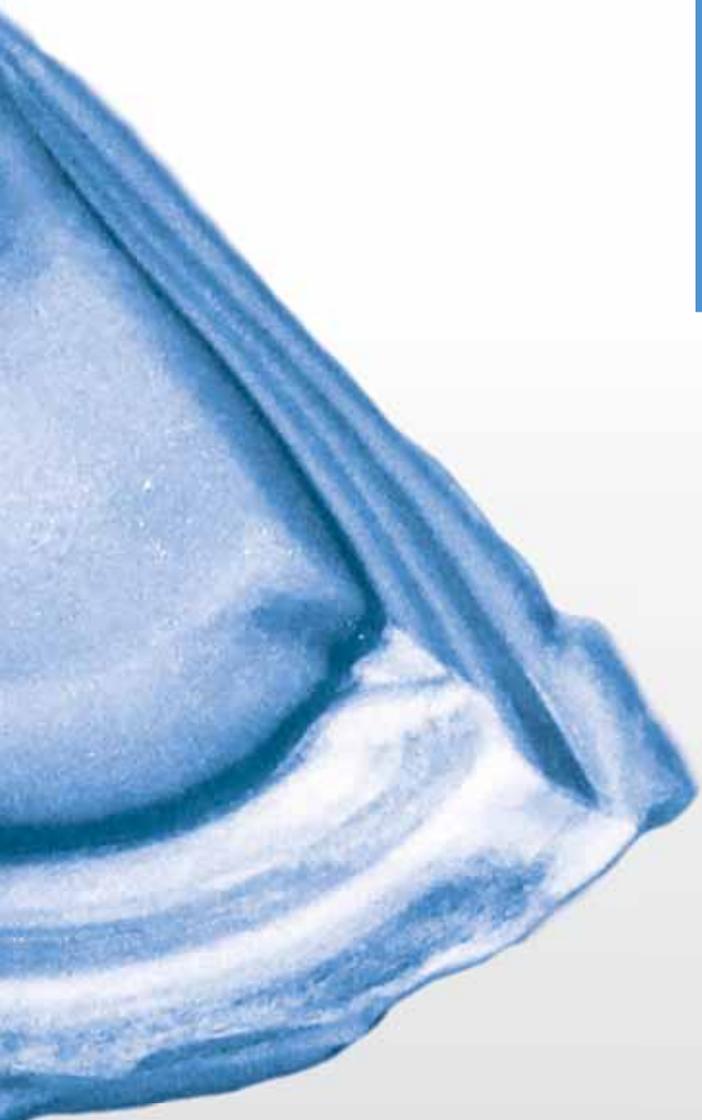


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New York and Geneva, 2015

Note

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Preface

Youth employment has worsened dramatically since the financial and economic crisis of 2008. In economies with large young populations, the number of formal jobs available is insufficient to employ all youth entering the working population and to offer them prospects of a decent wage. Harnessing entrepreneurial talents among young people and easing constraints of the labour market is vital for employment generation and inclusive growth.

Current demographic trends and the explosion of youth unemployment is forcing youth entrepreneurship to the centre of global policy discussions and of the post-2015 development agenda.

Gripping the development needs and rights of young people, and empowering them, is a priority for both the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

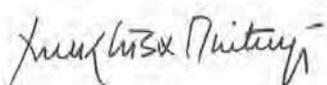
The International Year of Youth 2010-2011, led the UN Secretary-General to task the UN Volunteer Programme to establish a Unit on Youth, and also the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development to develop a System-Wide Action Plan on Youth. He also appointed a first ever Envoy on Youth.

Commonwealth for its part includes young people in policy work and high level meetings such as those of Commonwealth Heads of Government and of Commonwealth Youth Ministers. This focus on Youth is a core stand-alone element in the Commonwealth Secretariat's strategic plan. Youth entrepreneurship has been a priority of the Commonwealth's work for many years, driving such programmes as the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative, and the Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs. The Commonwealth has also been a global leader in developing a Youth Development Index and professionalising youth work.

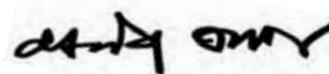
The Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship developed jointly by UNCTAD and the Commonwealth, is an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations system and the Commonwealth to find solutions to address the challenges facing young people. It aims at supporting policymakers in developing countries and in transition economies to design policies and programmes, and to establish institutions that will promote youth entrepreneurship, providing the foundation for achieving job creation through the development, expansion and growth of youth-led enterprises.

This Guide builds on the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF), launched in Doha in 2012, and reflects good practices and lessons learned in the area of youth entrepreneurship promotion, including the implementation of UNCTAD's Empretec Programme and the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative.

We are confident that the guiding principles and policy recommendations in this framework will provide valuable support to policymakers in their efforts to promote youth economic empowerment.



Mukhisa Kituyi
UNCTAD Secretary-General



H.E. Kamalesh Sharma
Commonwealth Secretary-General

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Acronyms

→ **CAAYE**
Commonwealth-Asia Alliance
of Young Entrepreneurs

→ **CGAP**
Consultative Group
to Assist the Poor

→ **CYCI**
Commonwealth
Youth Credit Initiative

→ **CYFI**
Child and Youth
Finance International

→ **CYMM**
Commonwealth Youth
Ministers Meeting

→ **ENYA**
Enterprise Network
for Young Australians

→ **ICT**
Information and Communication
Technologies

→ **ILO**
International
Labour Organization

→ **ITC**
International Trade Centre

→ **MENA**
Middle East and North Africa

→ **MFI**
Micro-Finance Institution

→ **MSME**
Micro, Small and
Medium Enterprises

→ **NEET**
(Youth) Not in Employment,
Education or Training

→ **NFTE**
National Foundation for
Teaching Entrepreneurship

→ **OECD**
Organization of Economic
Development and Cooperation

→ **SME**
Small and Medium Enterprises

→ **TVET**
Technical and Vocational
Education and Training

→ **UNCDF**
United Nations Capital
Development Fund

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