



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Inclusive Social Development

Expert Group Meeting
Proceedings Report

**“The Role of Families and Family Policy in Supporting Youth
Transitions”**

Doha, Qatar

11-12 December 2018

Prepared by

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Doha International Family Institute

Overview

The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), in collaboration with the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD), organized an Expert Group Meeting on “The Role of Families and Family Policy in Supporting Youth Transitions” on 11-12 December 2018 in Doha, Qatar. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together international experts to discuss the role of families in supporting youth transitions from school to work and, ultimately, youth employment outcomes in order to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The meeting critically discussed four main and overarching themes: youth, adulthood and social integration; the role of families in supporting youth transitions; international perspectives on youth policies; and the role of youth in the SDGs.

Day 1

Panel discussion 1:

Youth, Adulthood, and Social Integration

The session focused on the social, economic and political factors that affect youth transitions. Dr. Ingrid Schoon moderated the session, and the panelists included Dr. Wei-Jun Jean Yeung, Dr. Marge Unt, Dr. Filip De Boeck, Dr. Luay Shabana, and Dr. Nickolas Zill.

The first panel began with a brief overview of the major markers and driving forces of youth transitions worldwide. Dr. Wei-Jun Jean Yeung noted that the main markers of transitions included finishing school, leaving the parental home, getting a first job, getting married and becoming a parent. Dr. Yeung explained that simultaneously youth experience subjective changes, including identity gains, and attaining a sense of responsibility. Further, she indicated that youth transitions must be understood within their socio-economic context, and that youth transitions are heterogeneous in nature. For instance, Dr. Yeung noted that on an international scale, the driving forces of transitions include market demands, globalization, labor markets, ideological changes, parent-child relationship differences. Nonetheless, she highlighted that youth transitions today are characterized by a rising level of inequality in terms of investments made by parents and grandparents in their youth, class differences, and differences in parental spending on youth.

Moreover, Dr. Wei-Jun Jean Yeung explored the unique challenges facing youth in Asia in their transitions to adulthood. Dr. Yeung explained that Asian youth, comprising more than half of the global youth population, have the following characteristics, namely: they are not a homogeneous group, they are facing many economic uncertainties, deep-seated patriarchy, heavy involvement of extended family members, large scale internal migration, and weaker social safety nets, for instance. However, Dr. Yeung pointed to the general decline in fertility rates among youth, and increase in university enrollment (for females more than males). She concluded by highlighting that youth transitions from school to work are important because youth comprise human capital and need to be supported.

Dr. Marge Unt added to the discussion on social integration by exploring the experiences of youth transitions in Europe. Dr. Unt explained, due to volatile labor markets further exacerbated by financial crisis, youth unemployment and social exclusion, the needs and expectations of youth in Europe have changed. As a result, the definition of young people has changed from one that defines youth by age to one that defines youth by life stages. Further, similarly to Asian youth, the experience of European youth is also heterogeneous. Therefore, there is a need to help youth that are unemployed. However, by increasing the generosity of unemployment benefits which decreases the wellbeing gap, the increase in expenditure on unemployment policies can also widen the wellbeing gap. Dr. Unt also promoted the role of education policies in supporting unemployed youth.

Furthermore, Dr. Filip De Boeck provided an account of the social integration of African youth, mainly in the Congo, and its impacts on youth transitions. Dr. De Boeck began by underlining the political and economic crisis currently taking place in the Congo, and the low quality of life levels experienced by the very young Congolese population. He explained that because most people are impoverished, class is no longer an appropriate way to understand the Congolese context, as compared to generations. He showed that given that extended family relations are no longer considered safety nets, coupled with the introduction of Catholic and Protestant Christianity that created social instability, new understandings of the family emerged (to ones that are based on the nuclear family). Dr. De Boeck also explained that due to heavy unemployment among youth, and the tensions between youth and their elders, youth accuse their elders of not having fulfilled their roles and not sacrificed enough for the younger generations, and thus elders have been accused of bewitching the young. Therefore, due to the difficulty of accessing new labor markets, many young people are in a state of waithood (expressed through dance, song, and political expression).

Alternatively, Dr. Luay Shabaneh explored the experience of Arab youth and the challenges they face in achieving social integration. Dr. Shabaneh explained that due to the large numbers of countries in the Arab region that are ravaged by conflict, and their need for humanitarian assistance, the rights that are afforded to youth are negatively affected. These youth have no access to basic and quality services, they may be forced to leave their countries, and they experience limited engagement and participation in expressing their needs. Dr. Shabaneh advocated for a comprehensive approach to analyze the determinants affecting youth transitions, especially the challenges affecting their power of choice (which is the key to a successful transition to adulthood and social integration).

Finally, Dr. Nicholas Zill provided an overview of the overarching challenges affecting youth's integration today. Dr. Zill agreed that not all youth have similar experiences. He explained that the tremendous increase in the number of women that have reached the age of 50 and are childless, the fact that automation has eliminated many jobs, the weakening of parental authority due to the increasing use of gadgets, the differences between rural and urban youth, family characteristics, among others, have affected youths' social integration. In response, Dr. Zill suggested supporting policies that help youth discover their interests and areas in which they

excel, help youth develop good work habits, develop a beneficial network of friends, and make sure that they learn the odds of success in different fields.

Panel discussion 2:

Role of Families in Supporting Youth Transitions: Family Networks and Family Expectations and Aspirations

This session explored the role of the family in supporting youth transitions and on influencing their decisions, with a focus on family networks and family expectations and aspirations. Dr. Alcinda Maria Honwana moderated the session, and the panelists included Dr. Sagrario Segado Sanchez-Cabezudo, Dr. Nader Kabbani, Dr. Alex Vasquez, Dr. Modupe Adefeso-Olateju, and Mr. Ashan Perera.

Dr. Sagario Segado Sanchez-Cabezudo started this discussion off by questioning what is meant by transitions to adulthood today. She explained that youth transitions are not linear, and that youth increasingly live in a post-materialist and post-modernist world. Dr. Sanchez-Cabezudo focused her discussion on the experience of youth transitions in Spain. She explained that youth tend not to leave their family home before the age of 28. Spanish youth tend to experience this generally later than their European cohorts for a few reasons, including poor social protection schemes in Spain, families are considered to be a safe space to support youth outcomes, their identity is constructed through family, and relationships tend to take on the role of the state, among others. Dr. Sanchez-Cabezudo concluded by drawing attention to the consequences of this trend including a delay in emancipation, as well as a delay in marriage and child bearing.

Moreover, Dr. Nader Kabbani explored the barriers to Arab youth's transition to adulthood, and the role of families during this transition. Dr. Kabbani explained that Arab youth are increasingly facing high unemployment due to a demographic wave that has created a youth bulge, weak education systems, lack of career planning for students, leaving schools without the skills needed for work, economic barriers facing women including discrimination and social norms, among others. This has led to an increase in migration, as well as entry into the informal market economy. In response, families have been a key resource for Arab youth. Dr. Kabbani showed that families affect youth employment using educational support (in terms of family advice, enabling access to opportunities, and pushing women to work in certain fields over others), enabling job searches (through family network support), and employment support (in which families have specific expectations of their youth to work in certain fields and for specific wages, among others). Although research has shown that families have the biggest roles in helping youth attain jobs, Dr. Kabbani noted that further inquiry is needed on the role of families on youth transitions.

Furthermore, Dr. Alex Vasquez explored the generational economy prior to and during youth transitions in Latin America. Dr. Vasquez highlighted the benefits of national transfer accounts that explore the relationships between individuals that have economic support to give (parents or families) and those that receive it (youth). These transfers include health, economic, educational and tax resources. He illustrated that the intergenerational resource allocation across time is

affected by the socio-economic context, including families and societies. Overall, this method is significant as it provides useful information on the economic life cycle across generations.

Moreover, Dr. Modupe Adefaso-Olateju explained that one issue facing Nigerian youths' transitions to adulthood is their lack of agency or power of choice. Dr. Adefaso-Olateju noted that socio-economic factors affect youths' power of choice. These choices are also affected by parents' influence. She recommended the strengthening of career counselors, families, communities and a selection of academic courses in order to support young people's abilities and choices at the macro level.

Lastly, Mr. Ashan Perera explored the need to align the expectations of South Asian parents with the abilities of (and socio-economic contexts available to) youth. Dr. Perera noted that families in South Asia have a large impact on the lives of youth and their choices of field of education, jobs and partners. He explained that families have high expectations for their children to have better opportunities than they had, for example, in terms of moving from a rural to an urban environment. He noted that parental expectations must match the needs of globalization today. Dr. Perera also pointed to the challenges of the existing education system that merely provides knowledge and not enough skills for youth to utilize in their jobs. Therefore, it is essential to create spaces that strengthen the capacities of young people, and overall, to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Panel discussion 3:

Role of Families in Supporting Youth Transitions: Parenting and Family Structures

This session explored the role of family in supporting youth transitions and on influencing youth decisions, with a focus on parenting and family structures. Dr. Ignacio Socias moderated this session, and the panelists included Dr. Ingrid Schoon, Dr. Anis Ben Brik, Dr. Rosario Eistenou, and Ms. Liudmila Batura.

Dr. Ingrid Schoon started the final discussion of the day by outlining the major parental factors that influence youth transitions, namely, the socio-ecological context, and the threats of intergenerational poverty. Dr. Schoon additionally highlighted the following considerations for the adoption of youth policies: promoting resilience, using a holistic approach that focuses on many skills and competencies, promoting integrated services while maintaining a community focus, utilizing a developmental focus, reaching the isolated, building on youths' strengths and promoting sustainability.

Moreover, Dr. Anis Ben Brik provided an examination of the type of policies required for families in the Gulf countries to support youth transitions. Dr. Ben Brik explained that youth transitions should be a concern for families because investing in youth leads to a return for their families. As such, he questioned whether parenting education could empower youth. He explained that this requires a clear understanding of the criteria that make up youths' transitions, whether they are categorized by work, marriage, among others. Dr. Ben Brik concluded by highlighting the need to engage families in social policy.

Further, Dr. Rosario Eistenou examined the roles that parents play in supporting youth transitions in Latin countries. Dr. Eistenou prefaced her discussion by outlining the main challenges facing youth in Latin American countries, including delinquency, violence, drugs, substance abuse, unemployment, among others. She noted that research that examines the relationship between parents and youth, and its impact on youth choices, is lacking. Dr. Eistenou showed that there are two dimensions to youth choices, including independence and vocational functioning. Her research showed that although gender did not affect the support provided by parents to their youth, age was a strong factor that affected youth autonomy. As such, Dr. Eistenou highlighted the need for a relational perspective to understand the general characteristics of youth and their decisions. She concluded by noting that public policy could reinforce relationships that support youth autonomy, and vocational functioning.

Lastly, Ms. Liudimila Batura highlighted the importance of quality parenting to the wellbeing of youth and their transitions to adulthood. Dr. Batura outlined the main trends currently affecting parenting in the Arab region: the late formation of families, non-traditional marriages, limited involvement of parents in schooling, harsh discipline, as well as high screen time, high substance abuse, high rates of obesity, and the use of nannies and domestic help to care for children. In response, Dr. Batura highlighted the need for social protection programs that support access to education for children, including conditional cash transfers, and other social policies that support family formation, parenting and the empowerment of children, such as quality parenting education.

Day 2

Panel discussion 1:

International Perspectives on Youth Policies

This session provided an overview of international policies and practices that support youth and their outcomes. Dr. Renata Kaczmarek moderated this session, and the panelists included Dr. Mihaela Robila, Dr. Yan Ruth Xia, Dr. Heidi Ullmann, and Mr. Hatim Azangue.

The first session began with an overview by Dr. Mihaela Robila on the general condition of youth and their transitions to adulthood. Dr. Robila outlined global trends experienced by youth, including longer transitions to adulthood and an increase in the number of youth attending college. She explained that tackling youth poverty has a significant impact on youth unemployment. As such, there are policies in place to tackle the challenges faced by youth including federal youth employment programs and policies that support youth in vulnerable situations including homeless youth and youth in foster care. Dr. Robila concluded her presentation by providing recommendations including the need to strengthen family relations, develop strong networks, encourage youth to complete their education, develop policies to enable the pursuit of education, develop policies to better connect education and work conditions, increase investment in youth, and develop policies that specifically target vulnerable youth.

Next, Dr. Yan Ruth Xia explored the benefits of positive youth development. Positive youth development is an intentional process that promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, relationships and support for youth to participate in their own development. Dr. Xia explained that positive youth development is important for youth as they are reflections of their own environments, including families, peers, and communities, and as such, their family and community settings must enable their transitions to adulthood. Dr. Xia explained that characteristics of positive youth development include warmth and connectedness, caring, support, guidance, respect of boundaries, secure attachment and responsiveness, and parenting that promotes autonomy (influenced by cultures, community and society). Further, youth must be involved in decision making as recipients, resources and partners of and within policies. Lastly, Dr. Xia provided policy recommendations including adopting public campaigns for education about family life and youth development, policies for social inclusion, integration and youth professional training.

Alternatively, Dr. Heidi Ullmann provided the Latin American perspective on youth policies. Dr. Ullmann questioned the type of family policies that can support families that include youth or families that are headed by youth. Firstly, however, she recognized the distinct characteristics of families in Latin America including the following: more women than men are not working and not studying (NEET), 1 in 4 youth in Latin America head their own households, 40% of youth live in two parent nuclear households, and that youth contribute in significant ways to their families. Families also have important roles in employment, education, health, culture, peace and non-violence in the lives of youth, but less so in terms of housing, social inclusion and protection. Dr. Ullmann suggested the following recommendations: invest in care services, provide social protection for families with youth and new families, enhance housing policies, recognize multidimensionality of youth experiences and their diversity, promote youth participation mechanisms, promote decent work policies, and the conciliation of work and family.

Lastly, Mr. Hatim Aznague focused his presentation on the importance of empowering youth as active participants and decision makers in issues that concern youth. Mr. Aznague explained that there is a need to enrich youths' skills and empower them using technology as well as training opportunities at work. He noted the significance of empowering youth as active agents in the workplace. Overall, Mr. Aznague suggested creating a mechanism or network that enables youth to improve services for youth in the family, support families, and involve families in creating policies that focus on family and development, and that connect youth in different regions.

Panel discussion 2:

Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The second session discussed the importance of a healthy transition from youth to adulthood towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Luay Shabana moderated this session, and the panelists included Dr. Alcinda Maria Honwana, Dr. Nathalie Milbach Bouche, Dr. Pablo Suarez Robles, Ms. Juliana Zapata, and Dr. Hernan Cuervo.

Dr. Alcinda Maria Honwana started this discussion by describing the impact of waithood on youth in their transitions to adulthood. Dr. Honwana explained that work is an important marker of adulthood, and since many people are unemployed and unable to attend to their responsibilities, a period of waithood arises. However, although this period has been described as one representing social exclusion, youth have been creative in their responses to this waithood period by making do with what they can and becoming entrepreneurs in the informal economy. Nonetheless, youth are social and political agents. They partake in civil society associations and other platforms of collective action. Further, the SDGs promote a holistic approach to organizing training for young people, implementing environmental protection and health, while utilizing the voices of youth to make this context a reality.

Moreover, Dr. Nathalie Milbach Bouche discussed the nexus between youth, families and SDGs. Dr. Bouche pointed out that youth are not monolithic, and they have diverse experiences. The broader challenges that youth experience must be viewed within the broader political and social contexts in the region. Towards the achievement of the SDGs, the pathways used to empower youth, and the roles that families play, must include the economic and social empowerment of youth. This highlights the challenges that youth experience in achieving choice and control in their lives. The SDG framework can provide an integrated and multidimensional guideline towards the empowerment of youth.

Next, Dr. Pablo Suarez Robles agreed that a multidimensional approach is needed towards achieving youths' objective and subjective wellbeing. Dr. Robles explained that research needs to identify the main drivers and challenges towards achieving wellbeing affecting youth, including the most vulnerable youth. He also pointed out that youth should not be viewed as a risk, rather, as an opportunity. Due to the youth bulge that poses serious employment problems, there is a need to invest in technical and vocational training to affect youth labor market outcomes. Thus, there is a need to improve material infrastructure, train teachers, improve educational mobility, as well as create skills assessment to develop a comprehensive system.

Furthermore, Ms. Juliana Zapata examined the implications of using family policies and families as key points of intervention across the life-course of an individual. First, Ms. Zapata explained that although conditional cash transfers were used in multiple social services, there is limited evidence that enrollment in schools actually affects learning in school. Second, she noted that effective education systems as well as youth unemployment rely on the roles of families. Ms. Zapata explained that there is a need to focus on parenting skills to reduce youths' risky behaviors. Lastly, there is insufficient evidence on the role of family in promoting youth education. Thus, there is a need for effective evaluation mechanisms and better data collection to adequately understand the impact of family policies.

Lastly, Dr. Hernan Cuervo provided an account on the experience of youth in rural Australia. Dr. Cuervo explained that they face three major challenges in their transitions to adulthood. First, youth living in rural areas are always in a position of deficit, for instance, they have a high teacher turnover rate. Second, the schooling outcomes of youth in rural Australia are low, as many have to travel to urban areas to attend universities at a high financial expense. Third, they

face a precarious labor market. Thus, families become a last resource for these youth. This situation creates its own sets of challenges.

Panel Discussion 3:

Policy Discussion and Recommendations

The final session briefly discussed youth related policies, and provided recommendations on youth policies. Dr. Nicholas Zill moderated this session, and the panelists included Dr. Renata Kaczmarek, Dr. Ignacio Socias, Dr. Ingrid Schoon, Dr. Alcinda Maria Honwana, and Dr. Luay Shabana.

Dr. Renata Kaczmarek started the discussion by recognizing that in order to empower youths' rights and responsibilities, it is important to form strategic partnerships with courts, communities, the private sector, and other businesses to support youth. Dr. Kaczmarek also promoted youth entrepreneurship as a form of untapped potential that must be supported.

Next, Dr. Ignacio Socias underscored the significance of parenting education to parents and their families. Dr. Socias explained that parents need to be given the tools to meet their needs and responsibilities to live longer and better. He promoted the use of a holistic approach to empower parents to feel like they have what they need to successfully do their jobs.

Further, Dr. Ingrid Schoon noted that the development of young people depends on their wider socio-economic development and family support available. Dr. Schoon explained that special consideration should be given to different life course experiences, youth unemployment, young peoples' concerns, housing, proper education and health. She concluded by noting that youth have agency and evidence has shown the effectiveness of such agency. Further, given that youths' concerns are collective concerns, collective efforts are needed to build resources that support youth.

Moreover, Dr. Alcinda Maria Honwana explained that youth transitions are not linear. They are challenging for young women and men. Dr. Honwana outlined five overarching recommendations that must be implemented: first, it is important to recognize that youth need to exercise their agency. They need to make better choices, and they need better opportunities to achieve this within society. Second, it is necessary to improve the mechanism used to evaluate family policies and their effectiveness. Third, it is important to strengthen youths' capabilities using career counselling and job trainings. Fourth, it is significant to reduce the mismatch between education and labor markets. Finally, there is a need to address the intergenerational tensions between youth and parent expectations and aspirations through dialogue that creates an environment where youth can express themselves and their future goals.

Lastly, Dr. Luay Shabana agreed that open discussions within the family are needed, especially with regards to controversial topics. Dr. Shabana also explained that the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework is an effective tool needed to address the aforementioned issues.

Recommendations

Family Policies:

- Engage families in public policies that target youth and strengthen family relations as they are significant in youth's successful transitions.
- Change the narrative from a discussion on family to how families can support the enjoyment of individual human rights. The family should be considered as an incubator for individual rights and free choices of young people particularly in decisions related to their bodies, emotions, and networks.
- Promote general principles of the value and importance of families in the lives of young people and an integrated whole family approach providing the most effective and efficient support for families and young people.
- Invest in family policies that focus primarily on assistance, especially for those with young children, ethnic minorities, migrant families, and/or are poor.
- Provide support for building competencies and socio-economic learning, mentoring and experience learning; including parenting of parents, eliminate or reduce risk, improve communities, invest in infrastructure to provide proper services and education for proper services.
- Strengthen career counselling facilities aimed at improving the capacity of families and communities to offer appropriate guidance on career choices and the selection of courses of study.
- Invest in parenting education to provide skills for the family.
- Provide incentives to reinforce parental autonomy; and to prevent various negative parental behaviors.
- Invest in public policies that support family formation, parenting, and the empowerment of families by providing:
 - lone parent cash benefits,
 - social insurance benefits targeting, among others: divorced (and not remarried) women, families without a breadwinner, abandoned wives and widows (all without insufficient income),
 - housing allowances, cash bonuses and subsidized wedding venues, dowry waivers,
 - grants to newborn children, nutrition assistance and food vouchers,
 - day-care centers or choice between cash-for-care benefits and day-care,
 - labor legislation (maternity/paternity leave; award schemes at work),
 - tax breaks/allowances for parents,
 - educational campaigns (including media, school meetings),
 - universal or targeted home visits including health and development checks, counselling and education), positive impacts on quality of parenting, regular screening to monitor child development and anticipatory guidance,
 - Help-lines and other community resources (including counselling (pre-marital, pre- and post-natal, etc.).
- Support the integration and coordination of the efforts of families, schools and communities

- Provide social protection for families with youth and new families (high quality education- for conditional cash transfers).
- Invest in care services.
- Expand maternity and paternity leaves.
- Promote parent support groups to share information about parenting and child development; parent engagement into school activities (meeting teachers, learning education techniques, goal setting and establishing routines); counselling, education and coaching to address specific issues.

Youth policies:

- Recognize the multidimensionality of youth experiences and their diversity with regards to education and work, and that youth also contribute to families and have their own families.
- Promote lifelong learning and mobility at all educational levels by increasing financial resources for information and communication technologies (ICTs), carrying out a reform of vocational training and secondary schools, encouraging flexible education and training systems and higher investments in vocational education,
- Promote flexible learning paths and the acquisition of transferable skills and provide the skills, competencies and qualifications appropriate to live in a complex global environment.
- Provide low interest credit funds for young people to promote business and professional initiatives.
- Increase public housing for rent and establish subsidized mortgages for young people.
- Foster youth civic engagement.
- Develop policies to support simultaneous pursuit of education and employment, and to support youth' appropriate wages to achieve and maintain a proper standard of living.
- Improve intra-urban mobility.
- Promote flexible arrangements for work-study balance for young students.
- Promote decent work policies for young people, including access to social protection that support access to education for children.
- Promote youth leadership by supporting programs committed to youth as partners in policy making.
- Reduce education-job mismatch among youth.

Youth, and SDGs:

- Accelerate progress on youth socioeconomic empowerment targets (SDG 4.4, 8.5 and 8.6).
- Mainstream youths' economic empowerment into family policies, and likewise, families into youth economic empowerment policies and programs towards achieving SDG 4.4, 8.5 and 8.6.
- Promote a holistic perspective that connects peace and security to SDGs in everyday life and to the needs of young people

Gender:

- Address the gender dimension of youth unemployment and encourage gender mainstreaming policies to facilitate the reconciliation of work and family.
- Promote measures to contribute to the shared responsibility in housework and parenting and encourage the hiring of young women with children (or with intentions of forming a family).
- Promote the participation of young women in different social spheres and in decision making.
- Consider the gender gap when it comes to issues in the family, especially rights within the family.

Social Policy:

- Promote equality in access to quality education, housing employment, and a safe and clean environment for all.
- Invest in human capital at all levels of education, including early childhood education.
- Invest in social protection programs to support access to education (conditional cash transfer programs and others).
- Promote corporate responsibility to ensure that internships are sufficiently remunerated or that part-time internship options are available, so that youth from all backgrounds are able to gain work experience.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Inclusive Social Development

Expert Group Meeting on
“The Role of Families and Family Policy in Supporting Youth Transition”

December 11-12, 2018
Doha, Qatar

Agenda

Day 1

08:30 – 09:00

Registration

09:00 – 09:30

Welcome Remarks

- Anis Ben Brik, Director of Family Policy Department, Doha International Family Institute
- Renata Kaczmarek, Focal Point on the Family, DISD/DESA
- Ignacio Socias, Director of Communication, International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)

09:30-11:00

Panel discussion 1: Youth, Adulthood, and Social Integration

This session will focus on the social, economic and political factors that affect youth transitions.

Guiding questions:

- What are the major social, economic and political factors that are affecting youth and their choices?
- What are the impacts of social integration on youth choices?

Moderator:

Ingrid Schoon, Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, the University of London

Panelists:

- Wei-Jun Jean Yeung, Professor, the National University of Singapore,
- Marge Unt, Head of Institute of International Social Studies, Tallinn University, Estonia
- Filip De Boeck, Professor, Institute for Anthropological Research in Africa (IARA) / Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Leuven, Belgium
- Luay Shabana, Regional Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Arab States Regional Office
- Nickolas Zill, Research Psychologist, Washington D.C

11:00-11:30**Break**

11:30-13:00**Panel discussion 2: Role of Families in Supporting Youth Transitions: Family Networks and Family Expectations and Aspirations**

This session will focus on the role of the family in supporting youth transitions and on influencing their decisions, with a focus on family networks and family expectations and aspirations.

Guiding questions:

- What is the role of the family in supporting youth employment outcomes? How effective is the family in supporting youth?
- What other types of support do families provide to youth?
- What are the consequences of the family's influence on youth? Their employment timelines?

Moderator:

Alcinda Maria Honwana, Inter-Regional Adviser on Social Development Policy, DISD/DESA

Panelists:

- Sagrario Segado Sánchez-Cabezudo, Professor, Department of Social Work, National University of Distance Education (UNED), Madrid, Spain
 - Nader Kabani, Director of Research, Brookings Doha Center
 - Alex Vasquez, Representative to the UN, International Federation for Family Development, United States
 - Modupe Adefeso-Olateju, Managing Director, The Education Partnership (TEP) Centre, Nigeria.
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- Ashan Perera, Founder and President of Road to Rights, Sri-Lanka

13:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:30

Panel discussion 3: Role of Families in Supporting Youth Transitions: Parenting and Family Structures

This session will also focus on the role of youth in supporting youth transitions and on influencing youth decisions, with a focus on parenting and family structures.

Guiding questions:

- How does parenting influence youth choices and their vocational development, including youth's interests, goals and values related to career planning?
- What are the opportunities of parenting education in supporting youth and youth choices?
- How and why do diverse family structures (e.g. single parent households) influence youth education and employment outcomes?

Moderator:

Ignacio Socias, Director of Communication, International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)

Panelists:

- Ingrid Schoon , Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, the University of London
 - Anis Ben Brik, Director of Family Policy Department, DIFI
 - Rosario Eistenou, Fulltime Senior Professor and Researcher, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS), Mexico
 - Liudmila Batura, Social Policy Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
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Day 2

9:00 – 10:30

Panel discussion 1: International Perspectives on Youth Policies

This session will highlight international policies and practices that support youth and their outcomes.

Guiding questions:

- What policies can help engage youth in the policy making process?
- What policies can reinforce the family's role in supporting youth transitions from school to work and address youth employment challenges?
- What family policies might help countries improve youth outcomes?

Moderator:

Renata Kaczmarek, Focal Point on the Family, DISD/DESA

Panelists:

- Mihaela Robila, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Queens College, City University of New York
- Yan Ruth Xia, Professor in the Department of Child, Youth, and Family Studies, College of Education and Human Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Heidi Ullmann, Social Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CELADE/ECLAC)
- Hatim Aznague, Youth SDG Action Morocco, President of the Sustainable Development's Youth

10:30-11:00

Break

11:00-13:00

Panel discussion 2: Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This session will examine the importance of a healthy transition from youth to adulthood in the achievement of SDGs.

Guiding questions:

- What policies might help countries improve youth outcomes, moving towards the youth-related SDG targets (Target 4.4, 8.5 and 8.6)?
- What are the challenges that youth face in the achievement of youth related SDGs?
- How important is a healthy transition from youth to adulthood in the achievement of SDGs?

Moderator:

Luay Shabana, Regional Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Arab States Regional Office

Panelists:

- Alcinda Maria Honwana, Inter-Regional Adviser on Social Development Policy, DISD/DESA
- Nathalie Milbach Bouche, Regional Cluster Team Leader, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth and Development, UNDP Arab States
- Pablo Suarez Robles, Economist, Development Center, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Juliana Zapata, Consultant, UNICEF, Office of Research – Innocenti
- Hernán Cuervo, Deputy Director – Youth Research Centre, the University of Melbourne, Australia

13:00-14:00**Lunch**

14:00-15:30**Panel discussion 3: Policy Discussion and Recommendations**

This session will critically discuss the youth related policies suggested. It will also aim to provide recommendations on youth policies.

Moderator:

Nickolas Zill, Research Psychologist, Washington D.C.

Panelists:

- Renata Kaczmarek, Focal Point on the Family, DISD/DESA
- Ignacio Socias, Director of Communication, International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)
- Ingrid Schoon, Professor of Human Development and Social Policy at the University of London
- Alcinda Maria Honwana, Inter-Regional Adviser on Social Development Policy, DISD/DESA
- Luay Shabana, Regional Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Arab States Regional Office

15:30-16:00**Closing Remarks**

- Anis Ben Brik, Director of Family Policy Department, Doha International Family Institute

Group Photo

