

## PRESS RELEASE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN BONN

### First World Youth Skills Day celebrations tomorrow on 15 July 2015

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 15 July 2015 the first [World Youth Skills Day \(WYSD\)](#). On this crucial day, [UNESCO-UNEVOC](#), the United Nations specialized agency for Technical and Vocational Education and Training based in Bonn, Germany, invites all individuals to celebrate the important role young people play for achieving economic and social development. It calls on all governments to invest in youth skills development and to ensure that all young people have access to the skills they need – be they social, technical, professional or creative – to thrive in the economy and take an active part in society.

On the occasion of the first Youth Skills Day [Shyamal Majumdar](#), Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC, says “*In the course of their life, young people will spend more time working than doing any other activity. The occupation they choose will play an important role in defining their place in society, building their identity, and giving meaning to their life. Work is also a place where a lot of resources are produced – and consumed. While there is now increasing awareness about the importance of education and skills for development and sustainability, there is still not enough discussion about the role of young people and their knowledge and abilities for solving global challenges such as making development more sustainable. More emphasis needs to be given to the impact and role of the workplace and people’s jobs in solving global issues, particularly when it comes to young people and the career choices that they make. World Youth Skills Day aims to provide a platform for discussion and exchange between young people and the UN on how to solve global challenges together.*”

**Did you know...** With the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and UNESCO’s Education for All (EFA) campaign coming to their term in 2015, more young people than ever around the world have gained access to education. This has sparked career expectations and raised hopes for a better future in many young people. Education, skills and jobs are rated high in people’s priorities for development: in the global My World 2015 Survey, young people up to the age of 30 across all regions and education levels rated education as their number one priority, with better job opportunities being the third priority.

#### Yet globally

- Youth represent 25% of the total working age population but make up 40% of the unemployed ([ILO, FAO, 2013](#))
- Almost 74 million young people (aged 15 to 24) were looking for work in 2014 ([ILO, 2015](#))
- Two thirds of youth in developing economies are without work, not studying, or engaged in irregular or informal employment ([UNDP, 2014](#))
- Never before have there been so many young people on the planet: 1.8 billion people are aged 10 to 24 ([UNFPA, 2014](#)).
- The working-age population is poised to more than double in the least-developed countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa between 2015 and 2050 ([UNFPA, 2014](#)).
- The youth unemployment situation is common to all regions in the world and is happening despite improvements in average educational attainment ([ILO, 2015](#)).

Never again is there likely to be such potential for economic and social progress. How we meet the needs and aspirations of young people will define our common future. Skilling people through relevant and good-quality vocational education is seen as a factor that can really make a difference in the global youth employment crisis. [More facts](#) on what is the Situation of #YouthNow? Global

situation of young people by Ban Ki-moon's Youth Envoy's Office, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi: [Youth and employment](#); [Youth and education](#).

**#WYSD at the United Nations in Bonn:** WYSD celebrations coincide with an important year of setting the agenda for the future: a new climate agreement and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals are just around the corner. That is why the United Nations in Bonn will observe the first World Youth Skills Day with a discussion on the theme of "Youth skills for work and life in the post-2015 agenda". Guest speakers include:

- **Carina Lange**, German Youth Delegate to the United Nations
- **Max Dolge**, cook and competitor at the upcoming WorldSkills competitions in Sao Paulo in August 2015
- **Elena Singer**, WorldSkills champion and Silver medallist at WorldSkills Leipzig in 2013 in Print media technology

**#WYSD 2015 – spread the word!** Join us in celebrating the first-ever World Youth Skills Day on 15 July 2015! Use the hashtag #WYSD and #WYSD2015 on social media to join a global movement for youth and skills. Share your story and let us know what you think!

#### More information

- UNESCO-UNEVOC Youth and skills  
[http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/go.php?q=page\\_Youth+and+skills](http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/go.php?q=page_Youth+and+skills)
- UNFCCC Youth Portal: [http://unfccc.int/cc\\_inet/cc\\_inet/youth\\_portal/items/6578txt.php](http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/cc_inet/youth_portal/items/6578txt.php)
- WYSD at WorldSkills: <http://www.worldskills.org/wysd>
- German Youth Delegates: <http://en.jugenddelegierte.de/>
- United Nations resolution on WYSD:  
[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.3/69/L.13/Rev.1](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.3/69/L.13/Rev.1)

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