



Committee: ECOSOC

Country: Indonesia

Topic: Tackling Youth Unemployment and Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth

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Introduction

Indonesia is the 17th nation of world by economy and a population of more than 274 million makes it the 4th most populous country with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of nearly 1.3 trillion \$USD. Some 60% of this population is under the age of 35, and that is both a huge opportunity and a heavy responsibility for the country.

Indonesia is grappling with youth unemployment, along with many other countries. Its huge populous not only contributes the abundant production capacity and a broad market, but also has brought about growing wealth gaps, especially in big cities. If it is dealt with properly, this huge pool can be the asset for sustainable, productive and long-term development. For this, young people must be led to the hi-tech higher value-added sectors and trained in current skills.

The national unemployment rate in Indonesia is about 5%, but among the youth, it's between 14% and 15%. Some of the primary reasons for this gap are the poor quality of educational institutions, a mismatch between what is being taught and the demands of job markets, and inadequate rural education.

A member of the Indonesia, with its young and large population, large economy, and vast lands, is a strong supporter of efforts to fight youth unemployment and promote sustainable economic growth.

Body

In Indonesia, youth unemployment represents a serious challenge. For instance, the rate of unemployment in the age group of 15–24 has been 16.16%. (Kompas) As a matter of fact, most young people belong to the "NEET" category (not in education, employment, or training); the size of this group is predicted to be 23.79% in 2024. There are differences in the labor market concerning both access and quality between the countryside and the remote areas on the one hand and the big cities on the other. (Al Jazeera) There is a considerable proportion of the workforce that is not engaged in formal employment; for instance, young people are traditionally involved in the informal sector. (Al Jazeera) Such a state of affairs has a negative impact on the quality of jobs and their sustainability.

The Indonesian government has put into effect various policies to accomplish the following two goals: first, engaging the youth effectively in the labor market; second, reducing the number of those unemployed. They are as follows:

- Investment in the digital economy: How promoting the digital economy sector can be instrumental in the jobless problem reduction is shown by the government. In this connection, about 8% of the youth aged 16-30 are directly looking for jobs without success. (Antara News)
- Despite the fact that access to the Internet is getting better, and thus it is very important that youth are provided with digitally related skills, (Antara News)• Green economy and vocational training initiatives: The Minister of Manpower has invited the youth to be ready for the "green jobs". Also, he suggested that the vocational training institutions will help students find jobs in the field of sustainability. (Antara News)
- Paid internship and work experience programs: Independent news sources report that the government has initiated a "paid internship" program for young graduates in order to facilitate their labor market transition. (Jakarta Daily)
- BLK (Vocational training centers or 'Bursa Latihan Kerja') expansion: The right skill development for the labor market has been made possible through various initiatives. For instance, a large number of BLK became operational in 2024. (Antara News Mataram)

Conclusion

Indonesia will continue to develop innovative and long-term policies and cooperate both nationally and internationally in order to increase youth participation in the labor market and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

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