



United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Office for North Africa Mission Report

By	Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi
Objective	To participate in the 14th International Forum for Tunisian Association of Economists: “Controversies and Challenges of Public Policy Evaluation”, and present a paper entitled “Pro-poor Employment Opportunities in Africa with Special Reference to Youth”
Dates	21- 23 June 2018
Venue	Hotel Mehari Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- My presentation was in parallel session 7 on Employment Policies (P.10 in the programme)- The title of my paper is “Pro-poor Employment Opportunities in Africa with Special Reference to Youth”- Examples of main points presented:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In North Africa, the youth-led revolutions in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya may have been motivated by and the resultant effect of youth employment crisis.• Economic growth in Africa has been powered by the exploitation of mineral resources, whose production tends to be capital intensive thus creates few employment opportunities resulting in high unemployment rates.• There has been a mismatch between educational systems and skills needed in the labour markets, this system is producing skills that are not on demand by employers. The current educational system is based on irrelevant curricula, which is not needed in the labour market hence high unemployment rate.• Employers are searching for skills and experience; they regard unskilled, inexperienced jobseekers as a risky investment hence youth are pushed aside.• High youth unemployment has caused serious problems for social stability and peace. Poor and unemployed youth are joining foot in civil conflicts. In Africa, many events can be cited as examples which include the Arab uprisings.• A necessary condition for enhancing employment creation is to achieve a high rate of <i>employment- intensive economic growth</i>.• Considering that most SMEs productive activities employ youth; the development of such businesses helps to enhance their participation in economic activities and improve their living conditions.• ICT is attractive to young entrepreneurs since it allows them to save time and money while trying to reach out to new clients in domestic and foreign markets.• Two areas of employment opportunity arise from the deployment of ICT. First, unemployed youth can use ICT to discover job opportunities, and second, they can become employed within new jobs that are created through the deployment of ICT.• Entrepreneurship development and promotion of self-employment is one of the strategies that African countries can use to overcome

	<p>unemployment. Entrepreneurs not only create new business enterprises and employment but also play a crucial role in economic life through sustainable innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The private sector is a catalyst for job creation and has a direct role in poverty reduction. It can participate through public-private partnership in building physical and social infrastructure including provision of basic services that will benefit the poor. • The resource mobilization strategy must be based on a realistic implementation plans and budgets. • In view of the multifaceted nature of the employment issue in Africa, a technical group including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) respectively should be constituted as an employment monitoring group to provide periodic assessment reports and recommendations to strengthen coordination of efforts for employment growth in the continent. The mandates and expertise of these organizations cover the whole range of areas critical to effective action: analytical and policy design expertise, political weight and advocacy capacity, financial resources, and technical expertise in employment.
Participation	Over 200 economists attended this international forum.
Value of the mission to the SRO/NA	<p>Participation in these international forums is of value to SRO/NA in many ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This international forum provided an opportunity to introduce the SRO/NA to a much wider audience and to elicit interest in its work. The paper presented is on pro-poor employment opportunities in Africa with special reference to youth, which promotes our new area of specialization “skills, employment and balanced development. - Participation in these international forums is part of knowledge sharing, by exposing participating staff to the latest thinking in their field, the institutions do three things at the same time: build capacity, retain existing capacity, and sustain existing capacity. - Participation in international forums can provide an opportunity for the SRO/NA to disseminate its publications and other documents to a much wider audience and thereby raise its profile. - Contacts were established with some researchers with whom there exists the possibility of collaboration in future.
Recommendations	<p>Informed by the preceding, I make the following recommendation on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation: I recommend that SRO/NA participate actively in these international forums. - Dissemination of SRO/NA publications: One area where SRO/NA still has a lot of work to do is the dissemination of its output. Participation in these international forums can provide an opportunity for SRO/NA to disseminate its publications and other documents to a much wider audience and thereby raise its profile.
Annexes	Draft programme- presentation- certificate of participation