The Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network: Building a Common Vision

- The Strategy
- The Ingredients
- Key Political Milestones
- Building Political Will and Harnessing Knowledge for Action at the Country Level
The Strategy

- Youth employment as the entry point to the broader employment agenda
- Moving away from a target group approach
- Youth employment = creation of new jobs
- Developing country leadership
The Ingredients

- Strong mandate: Commitment of the Millennium Summit
- Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel
- A Network, not a Programme
- A Network of Networks
The Ingredients

- Personal and institutional commitment of the three heads
- Three Core Partner Agencies
- YEN Steering Committee
- YEN Secretariat
- Youth Consultative Group
Political Milestones

- April 2000: YEN proposed in Kofi Annan’s Report to the Millennium Summit
- September 2000: A commitment of the Millennium Declaration to Develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work
Political Milestones

- July 2001: HLP first meets at ILO with the three heads
- November 2001: HLP’s recommendations transmitted to the General Assembly
  - Youth are an asset, not a problem
  - Four global priorities
  - A political process: lead countries and national action plans
Political Milestones

- December 2002: UN General Assembly Resolution on Promoting Youth Employment
  - Take note of HLP Recommendations
  - Encourages UN Member States to prepare national reviews and action plans on youth employment
  - Invites ILO, within the framework of the YEN, to prepare a global analysis and evaluation
  - Requests Secretary-General to report back on progress
Political Milestones

- March 2003: ILO Governing Body accepts the invitation of the General Assembly and asks the ILO to prepare a Global Analysis and Evaluation Report by May 2005
Political milestones: HLP 2 and 3

- HLP 3 Hosted by the World Bank
- Strong commitment by President Wolfensohn
- Youth Employment in the PRSPs
- A new initiative on youth employment, development and collective security
- Target 5 year review of Millennium Declaration
Future Milestones

- **ILO:**
  - October 2004: Tripartite Meeting on Youth Employment
  - June 2005: International Labour Conference takes up the youth employment challenge

- **World Bank:**
  - Harnessing the YEN to implement the employment pillar of the Children and Youth framework
  - Integrating youth employment into PRS
Future Milestones

- **UN:**
  - February 2005: Commission for Social Development – Copenhagen +10
  - SG Report on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration
  - July 2005: High-Level Segment of ECOSOC
  - September 2005: Five-year Review of the Millennium Declaration
Knowledge Development

- HLP’s Roadmaps for the Four Global Priorities
- Global Trends on Youth Employment
- Guidelines for Youth Employment Policies and Action Plans
- Developing New Indicators on Youth Employment
- World Bank Seminar on Youth Employment and working papers
- Country Reports and Action Plans
Building Political Will and Harnessing Knowledge for Action at the Country Level

- Ten lead countries: Senegal, Namibia, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Iran, Mali and Rwanda
- Building policy coherence at the national level: German-funded YEN support project in Sri Lanka and Senegal
- Possible IBSA initiative on youth employment
- The power of youth to mobilize action