

ITC-YALDA and ITC issue launch youth and joint research paper on the benefits of the AfCFTA Research paper

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~~In recent times, Africa has witnessed a spike in youth-led businesses. The strength of the African continent lies in the gifts, talents and capacity of our youth. Any progress towards the ideals of cooperation, trade and innovation between African nation states hinges on the diverse and inclusive participation of youth in the social, economic and political spheres of Africa's development.~~

As an organization whose mandate is to foster capacity development of African youth, YALDA continues to engage with different stakeholders on programmes that promote youth development. YALDA is excited to have announce a collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) on the research and writing of a white paper on the theme "Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship – Understanding the African Continental Free Trade Area". The paper was launched in May 2021 and serves as an excellent resource on the various opportunities provided by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

~~Given the youth population in Africa, the youth will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Africa's youth demographic dividend can be leveraged to transform the continent if the challenges faced in intra-African trade are addressed under the AfCFTA. The paper, launched in May 2021 and titled 'Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship – Understanding the African Continental Free Trade Area', provides critical insights into the AfCFTA and the various sectors that will potentially benefit for young African entrepreneurs. It highlights the AfCFTA resources needed to empower local youth driven businesses under the AfCFTA and encourages their participation and involvement of youth in intra-African trade.~~

~~In recent times, Africa has witnessed a spike in youth-led businesses. The paper is, therefore, timely and significant as it identifies challenges faced by young entrepreneurs, including unemployment, lack of access to finances and financial aid, barriers to scale for small businesses, and tension arising from intra-regional and international migration. and It then gives recommendations on how policy makers and various stakeholders can ensure trade facilitation and promote the involvement of youth-led businesses in intra-African trade. The far reaching problems identified in the white paper include unemployment, lack of access to finances and financial aid, barriers to scale for small businesses, and tension arising from intra-regional and international migration.~~

~~Given the demographic dividend youth population in of Africa's population, the youth can transform the continent by addressing the challenges faced in intra-African trade will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Africa's youth demographic dividend transform the continent if the challenges faced in intra-African trade are addressed under the AfCFTA. To resolve these challenges, however, it is important that African youth understand the AfCFTA and the various opportunities it presents by it. For example, With the elimination of various many non-tariff barriers under the AfCFTA, opens new benefits stand to benefit from in various economic sectors the services sector, agricultural sector, e-commerce sector and manufacturing sector, among others. The far reaching problems identified in the white paper include unemployment,~~

Commented [RL1]: PUB: I've restructured this article into the following sequence:

1. Opener: lead and announcement of joint paper
2. Overview of the paper: "provides critical insights"
3. Details of the insights: "identifies challenges"
4. Resolving those challenges through the AfCFTA
5. Closer: Reiterating the potential of youth to shape the development of Africa

I've done my best to retain all the original text and to track line edits.

~~lack of access to finances and financial aid, barriers to scale for small businesses, and tension arising from intra-regional and international migration. To resolve these challenges however, it is important that African youth understand the AfCFTA, the various opportunities presented by it and how they can play a central role in re-imagining, shaping, and driving its advancement. The paper is therefore timely, as youth entrepreneurs will undoubtedly play a central role in shaping the future of intra-African trade.~~

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