FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture
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Preface

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) has undertaken measures that enable youth to be citizens with democratic outlook, professional competence, skill and ethics so that they can actively, efficiently and widely participate in and benefit from the country's ongoing activities that are aimed at attaining a democratic system and accelerated development. In order to realize this mission, at the very outset, there was a need to fill in the institutional and policy gaps that existed in the past. To this effect, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture was established in such a way as to follow-up, direct and co-ordinate youth affairs at federal level. Similarly, Youth bureaus have also been organized in regional states.

Formulating youth policy is among the primary duties and responsibilities vested in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. The Ministry, in order to formulate the policy formed a task force composed of representatives from various bodies to conduct a comprehensive study on the situation of youth in Ethiopia. The Ministry, based on the findings of this study, formulated a policy framework and presented it for discussion at both national and regional level to stakeholders. By so doing, the Ministry made efforts to bring about the participation of partners and collaborators. Measures have also been taken to the effect that more than fifty percent of the participants were youth.

Essentially, the policy aims at enabling youth to participate, in an organized manner, in the process of building a democratic system, good governance and development endeavors, and benefit fairly from the outcomes.

There is no doubt that youth must organize themselves and be in a position to play a leadership role in order to ensure their participation and benefits. All stakeholders are therefore duty bound to support concertedly the efforts of youth with a view to empowering them by building their capacity and competence. In order to direct this integrated activity, it has become necessary to formulate this Youth Policy. The Policy was endorsed at the 100th FDRE Council of Ministers regular meeting that was held on March 12 /2004.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to thank members of the task force who fully participated by providing professional and technical support in the process of formulating the Policy, the governmental organizations and NGOS which they represented, and all bodies which directly or indirectly provided support to the policy formulation process. The Ministry also calls on all concerned parties to contribute towards the implementation of the Policy.

Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture

Section One

Introduction

Various communities and cultures in Ethiopia and other countries maintain different views and outlook about youth depending on the level of their social and economic development. This being the case, there is no single definition for the word "youth". Some countries define the word "youth" as young persons whose age bracket ranges between the end of childhood and the beginning of adulthood. Others refer to young persons as "youth" when they start to engage themselves in activities that are considered by the community to be expressions of adulthood.

On the other hand, there are those who, by associating "youth" with biological growth consider the attaining of physical development and maturity and the undergoing physical and psychological changes as manifestations of youthful age. Among all these definitions, the one that is based on age has been found most suitable for research and policy purposes.

Governmental organizations, NGOs and civic associations in Ethiopia and other countries adopt and use various age ranges for the concept "youth" from the standpoint of the purpose which they stand for and the activities they undertake. For example, the United Nations (UN) defines the youth as persons between 15-24 years; WHO, 10-24; and the Ethiopian Social Security and Development Policy, 15-24.

Experiences of other countries indicate that different age ranges have been used in defining youth. For example, Uganda has used the age ranges 12-30; Mauritius 14-29; South Africa 14-28; India 15-35; Nigeria 18-35; Djibouti 16-30 for defining youth.

Taking into consideration the age ranges given from different directions indicated above and the objective conditions prevailing in our country, and in order to mobilize and utilize the potential capacities and competence of youth for the building of a democratic system and development purposes, this Youth Policy defines youth as to include part of the society who are between 15-29 years.

Needless to say, the active participation of all segments of the society is an important element to bring about accelerated political, economic, social and cultural development in any

country. Since the youth are not only receptive to new ideas but also have the potential capacity for creativity and productivity, they can play a major role in all sectors of development. In order to translate their potential energies and capabilities into fruitful action, however, they need favorable environment. If these conditions are not satisfied, they can immediately fall into the abyss of desperation, neglect everything and can become passive observers of the activities undertaken in the society. Not only that, they will also be exposed to social evils. Fully cognizant of this, numerous countries have given special attention to addressing youth issues. Accordingly, these countries have established institutions that are concerned with and taking care of youth affairs. After having formulated policies and strategies, they are in the process of carrying out organized and integrated activities.

In Ethiopia, because of the fact that proper attention has not been given to addressing youth issues and their organizations, therefore, mutual cooperation and networking among youth, family, society, other partners and government had hardly been created. Various governmental institutions, in line with their respective policies which they have formulated to realize their missions, have been making efforts to address the problems and needs of youth. However, these efforts are not being made in an

integrated and satisfactory manner. Consequently, there were no favorable conditions under which the youth could actively and effectively participate in the process of national development and perform multi-faceted tasks that would help accelerate economic and social development, which would in turn ensure their benefits and that of their society.

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has, after having closely examined and given serious attention to the issue, established the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture that has the duty and responsibility to follow up, direct and coordinate youth affairs. In a similar manner, measures have been taken to organize youth bureaus in the regional states. In order to alleviate the problems faced by youth, the organization of executive bodies per se would not suffice. It has therefore become necessary to formulate a comprehensive National Youth Policy that would enable the youth to register meaningful results and benefit from the results by actively, efficiently, and widely participating in the country's development efforts and the building of a democratic system through the coordination and integration of the hitherto separate efforts being made by various bodies.

A favorable political environment is prevailing in present day Ethiopia. Development induced policies and strategies have

been formulated and the government has taken a firm position towards translating these policies into practical action. More than at any time in the past, priorities and serious attention have been given to capacity building activities with a view to effectively implementing these policies. This being the case, there is an urgent and immediate need for formulating a national youth policy that would help to facilitate conditions under which the youth would be participants and beneficiaries of all these efforts.

The Ministry has, in line with the duties and responsibilities vested in it, prepared this National Youth Policy with a view to creating conducive environment under which the youth will develop a shared vision and national consensus and nurture a sense of ownership on national issues and issues concerning themselves, and participate in their country's political, economic, social and cultural development endeavors and benefit fairly from the outcomes of the efforts.

This National Youth Policy is based on a study conducted by a task force whose members consisted of experts from relevant government institutions, non-governmental offices and representatives of youth associations. As the data and information used, as inputs in the study were secondary sources,

they have their own limitations. However, these information and data served as a useful basis for formulating the policy by indicating the prevailing general situation. In order to increase the role of the policy implementers at an early stage and create a sense of ownership, various consultations that would help gather and compile the views and opinions of stakeholders and partners were organized and conducted both at federal and regional levels. The youth, which constituted more than 50% of the participants, freely and openly expressed their views at these consultative forums.

This Policy document is divided into eight sections including this Introduction. Section Two deals with general youth situation while Section Three gives explanations on the vision and objective of the policy. Section Four describes the basic principles of the policy and Section Five deals with major policy issues. In Section Six policy implementation strategies are described whereas Section Seven deals with the role of various bodies regarding policy implementation. Finally, miscellaneous provisions are included in Section Eight

Section Two

General Situation of Ethiopian Youth

Population censuses and projections conducted in different years show that youth constitute a high proportion of the Ethiopian population. For instance, according to the 1999 medium variant projection, Ethiopia's population was estimated at 63.5 million out of which 17.9 million or 28.2% (14.2% male and 14% female) were youth. Of these, 17.9 % and 82.1 % were living in urban and rural areas respectively. According to the 1997 projection, the population will reach 73 million and the youth population will be 28.4 % (14.4% male and 14% female) of which 18.6 % and 81.4% will be living in urban and rural areas respectively.

Ethiopian youth have carried out multi-faceted activities under the various political systems and during the country's various historic moments. Ethiopian youth had worked together in a spirit of unity whenever issues or problems of national interest cropped up. During the early days when opportunities for acquiring modern education were practically nonexistent, Ethiopian youth contributed towards accelerating the economic development of their country by engaging themselves in activities related to agriculture and handicrafts. They were also simultaneously engaged in the defense of their country against

external aggressors. And following the introduction of modern education to Ethiopia, the youth have, by expressing protest against all forms of oppression mounted bitter and persistent struggles for economic and social development, justice, democracy and administrative reform.

Young students, especially since the 1960s became pioneers in actively and widely mobilizing the community to struggle for their cause. Ethiopian young students, young workers and young farmers have played important roles in the country's political, economic, social, and cultural development efforts. These young students, young workers and young farmers have participated in the country's development efforts through their own initiatives without government recognition on the one hand, and on the other hand, through being embraced by various associations, organizations and groupings that were supported by government, which in form and content had various objectives. They have conducted bitter struggles to bring about drastic positive change in the country by raising the land tenure question, stressing the removal of the decadent political system and other popular issues. Many youths sacrificed their lives for these noble causes. During the period 1974-1990, youth were organized in such a way that they were closely linked with the prevailing political outlook and interest and served the existing

political system. As a result, it was a period during which the youth remained isolated from democratic practices. Even during that challenging period, a large number of youth sacrificed their lives in their struggle to ensure the protection of peoples' human and democratic rights. And their prolonged struggle and the sacrifice they have paid have brought our country to the present stage where the process of building a democratic system is underway.

According to available data, 44% of the country's population is below the absolute poverty line. Under this situation of poverty, the youth is the hardest hit segment of society. The widespread unemployment prevailing in the country is the main expression of poverty. In a situation that is related to poverty, the variance between skilled human resources supplies on the one hand and demand on the other has further widened the gap.

The national labor force survey conducted in 1999 by the Central Statistical Authority indicates that 1,890, 249 persons in the age range of 15-64 were unemployed. Out of this 1,260,177 (67%) were youth. The number of female unemployed youth was 899, 426 (71.4%) and the corresponding number of males was 360, 751 (28.6%). The fact that the majority of the unemployed youth constitute females indicates the magnitude to

which young women are the main victims of the problem. The view regarding the alleviation of the problem, especially the perception that the government alone would resolve the problem of unemployment has been a cause for aggravating that very problem.

Although sufficient data and information on the situation of rural and urban youth engaged in the informal sector are not available, it is assumed that rural youth could deploy themselves in off-farm activities. Similarly, as a finding of one study conducted in urban areas to know about the number of people engaged in the informal sector indicated that, out of 146,460 persons engaged in this sector 64, 441 or 44% were youth.

Large numbers of rural youth are migrating to urban areas due to abject poverty and in search of better opportunities. However, because job opportunities are scarce in the urban areas, and because urban life is not as they initially expected, many of them are exposed to various social evils and HIV/AIDS pandemic.

When we have an overview of the educational curriculum that had been in use in our country until the recent past, we observe that it was crammed with subjects that would not help in making

any significant contribution to the overall development of youth and has not taken into consideration the country's objective socio-economic conditions. At present, however, an education and training program and curriculum that could temper problems have been worked out and are put under implementation.

The annual enrolment ratio for the period 1997-2001 shows that enrolment increased on average by 12.5%, 13.6% and 5% in elementary schools, secondary schools and higher institutions respectively. Nevertheless, the number of students in higher institutions continued to remain extremely low compared to those in elementary and secondary schools. This is more evident when the number of female students is considered. It is obvious that special educational programs should be designed to meet the needs of especially talented youth. Services rendered in this regard are inadequate, however. The special education program coverage for youth with special needs excluding those talented ones is less than 1%.

In addition to acquiring formal education, students in schools should ideally be engaged in extra-curricular activities. Unfortunately, such adequate extra-curriculum programs are non-existent in the schools. This shortcoming in schools has

hindered the youth from identifying their natural inclinations, developing their special talents and assimilating comprehensive knowledge. Moreover, evidences indicate that the education and training system could not benefit the entire youth due to problems of implementation and shortage of capacity.

The health status of youth is similar to that of the rest of the society. And it is described in relation to the country's economic, social and cultural situation. The health coverage, which was 30% in a decade past, has now reached 61%. It would however be difficult to say that the youth health services coverage has increased at the desired type, quantity and standard, as is the case with rest of the population. In particular, the failure to bring about attitudinal and behavioral changes in society regarding personal hygiene and environmental sanitation has remained to be a major challenge. As is well known, youth are in a state of rapid physical and psychological change. Because of their curiosity, enthusiasm and urge to try and see new phenomenon, a considerable number of youth have become addicted to alcohol, smoking, chat, dangerous medical drugs and narcotics drugs all of which are detrimental to health. These and many similar health hazards challenge the youth's proper physical, mental and psychological development. As a result, the youth

are being exposed to unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, various venereal diseases and most of all, to HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Limited reproductive health services and information and education dissemination services are being rendered through governmental organizations and NGOs. It is however impossible to assume that adequate services are being rendered. Moreover, the services do not specifically focus on youth. Nor are they easily accessible in terms of time and place.

The family, community, schools, the media, cultural institutions and religious organizations are the major institutions from which youth assimilate cultural values. The objective conditions nonetheless indicate that youth are, at present, not getting the required services as desired from these institutions. A considerable number of youth do not have a full knowledge of their cultural values; instead they are entangled in foreign degenerate cultures, have become victims of harmful traditional as well as to unethical practices and exposed to various other social evils.

Society does not seem to have recognized the fact that sports and recreation are essential not only for the youth's physical and

mental development and serve as a means of spending their leisure but also considerably serve as platforms where they socialize and develop their communication skill and talent. As is well known, sports have made contributions towards our country's economic development efforts. It has also considerably promoted the country's image at international arena. It would however be difficult to say that all the necessary requirements for the development and expansion of sports in the country have been fully met. Lack of entertainment facilities such as sports centers, theatres and cultural centers in the vicinities of residential areas and in schools; scarcity of public library services where youth could broaden their scope of knowledge; and lack of physical education training institutes have all had negative impacts on the activity which is directed for inculcating ethical values in the minds of youth and creating healthy and productive citizens. As a result, in-school and out-of-school youth have been forced to spend their leisure in undesirable places and corners.

A large number of youth have, because of economic and social problems, been exposed to juvenile delinquency, addiction to dangerous narcotics, prostitution, beggary, street life and to similar other social evils. On the one hand, this condition exposes them to health problems (HIV/AIDS, STDS etc.) while

on the other, pushes them into engaging in criminal acts. Some 143, 169 juvenile delinquents were registered between July, 2000 and June, 2001 alone. A study conducted in 124 towns in the year 1992, indicated that there were 44,707 sex workers, of which 58.4% were between 15-24 years. The outcome of the study conducted on 500 beggars in Addis Ababa revealed that 60% of them were below the age of 30 years. All this indicates that a great number of youth spend their most active years not in engagements that are useful for their human development but in activities that expose them to health problems and criminal offenses.

The youth are expected to ensure their safety and well-being by properly participating in the efforts made at national level to prevent the environmental pollution that is being presently witnessed and the negative impact of technological products. In this regard, there are no favorable conditions under which the youth would make contributions on their part by participating in activities related to soil and water conservation, aforestation, heritage protection and other environmental preservation activities. The youth need platforms through which they would be able to alleviate the problems of elderly people, support people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, help needy people and engage in activities during disaster situations. But such

broad platforms have not been created. In general, youth have not been mobilized in a way that will enable them render integrated environmental protection and community services.

Youth that need special attention are exposed to various injustices, assaults and abuses because of the physical injuries they have sustained, natural and manmade calamities, and loss of parents, poverty and their gender. Moreover, some segments of the society have distorted and negative attitudes towards such youth. This being the case, they do not have equal chance to participate in and benefit from education, training and employment opportunities.

From this general situation, it is possible to conclude that the major development force that is expected to make important contributions towards extricating the country from the shackles of poverty could not be mobilized along the desired path because it is not guided by a policy. Therefore, the basic mission of the policy is to change the existing objective conditions towards the full utilization of the potential capacity of youth for the country's development effort and the building of a democratic system in an organized manner.

Section Three

Vision and Objective of the Policy

3.1. Vision

To create an empowered young generation with democratic outlook and ideals, equipped with knowledge and professional skills, get organized and built on ethical integrity.

3.2. Objective

To bring about the active participation of youth in the building of a democratic system and good governance as well as in the economic, social and cultural activities in an organized manner and to enable them fairly benefit from the results.

Section Four

Basic Principles of the Policy

4.1. Ensuring Youth to be active participants and beneficiaries from Democratization and Economic Development Activities

This principle is the key element of the Policy. It indicates that the youth should actively and competently participate in the country's development endeavors and in the process of the building of a democratic system and good governance and that they should fairly benefit from the results. Accordingly, the policy's major issues have been viewed from the participatory and beneficiary standpoints.

4.2. Bringing about Unity through Recognition and Respect of Diversity

This principle is based on the objective of creating a common political and economic community by making the youth become mindful of recognizing and respecting the differences inherent in nationality, gender and beliefs in their activities, relationships and participation. This

principle will enable youth to view their differences with a sense of equality, to nurture the culture of mutual tolerance and respect, and move forward with esprit de corps in pursuit of a common objective. Moreover, it will enable them to properly understand and realize the differences in the cultures and life styles of the community and to contribute their share towards the realization of the common vision and objective.

4.3. Getting organized freely and make coordinated move to protect Rights and Interests

The youth should realize the great advantages which a collective, integrated and organized movement in pursuit of common objectives could have in their active participation in the efforts which are directed for bringing about a democratic system, good governance and accelerated development and to ensure the respect of their rights and benefits. The policy has therefore been formulated to enable the youth to exercise their rights as stipulated in the Constitution; come together; get organized under various objectives, in order to enhance their participation and ensure their benefits therefrom.

4.4. Youth Capacity Building

The youth need to ensure successful outcomes from the activities that they undertake with a view to developing their participation and getting fair benefits. To realize this, it is necessary to carry out various capacity building activities to develop their professional competence and skills, further enrich their knowledge and give them training. Accordingly, one of the principles of the policy consists in undertaking various capacity building activities with a view to further consolidate the overall empowerment of youth.

Section Five

Major Policy Issues

5.1. Youth, Democracy and Good Governance

- Enable the youth to be aware of the objectives and principles of the Constitution as well as the major policies of the country and have a common view and belief on national issues; as well as create an enabling environment so that the youth can be organized freely, actively participate in the country's efforts to build a democratic system and good governance, and ensure the respect of their rights and benefits.

- Facilitate conditions under which youth would be able to participate in the planning and decision making process in the councils that are established at various administrative levels to ensure the respect of their benefits.

- Enable the youth to participate in activities being undertaken to make democracy and justice reign supreme in the country, to promote transparency and accountability; and empower them to be good citizens who fight corruption and other malpractices.

- Create favorable conditions under which the youth would be able to assimilate and develop democratic cultures of tolerance, dialogue, living together, mutual respect as well as advocating peace and actively participating in their implementation, and fairly benefit from their fruits.

5.2. Youth and Economic Development

- Facilitate conditions under which the youth would participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of existing national policies, strategies and programs or others that would be formulated in the future, intended to bring about sustainable development, and fairly benefit therefrom.

- Facilitate favorable supporting conditions that would enable youth create new jobs for themselves based on their competence and talents and to benefit therefrom.

- Facilitate conditions that would enable the private sector to enhance its role in terms of creating job opportunities, increasing the chance of employment of the youth and the benefits they get therefrom.

- Create conditions that would increase youth participation in and benefit from both the formal and informal employment opportunities, by putting in place employment policy and system to help alleviate youth unemployment and under employment problems.

- Create favorable conditions for rural youth to acquire farming plots of land and grazing lands on the basis of the Federal Constitution and regional laws, in order to enable them increase their products and productivity and enhance their participation and their benefits therefrom.

- Conduct studies on ways of expanding off-farm activities and related services and create conditions for youth to participate in and benefit from such ventures.

5.3. Youth, Education and Training

- Create favorable conditions for active participation of the youth and benefit from the country's education and training policy.
- Create favorable conditions for out-of- school youth to develop their reading and writing abilities through

expanding adult education services in such a way as to enable them become more active participants in and beneficiaries from development ventures.

- Create favorable conditions for improving the unbalanced educational participation between urban and rural areas among regions and between males and females and bring about balanced participation and benefit.

- Enable the youth to be acquainted with new discoveries, inventions and innovations in the social and economic fields and become beneficiaries of Information-Communication Technology (ICT).

- Create favorable conditions so that various technical and vocational training programs undertaken in the country for youth conform to the nation's development policies and strategies and are intended to inculcate in the minds of youth a spirit of self-confidence, creativity and hard work.

- Create favorable conditions to increase the participation of exceptionally talented youth and those with special

needs to enable them acquire special education and benefit from it.

- Study ways and means of assisting youth school drop outs due to economic, social and cultural problems and make efforts to increase their participation and benefit therefrom.

- Increase the capacity of youth to participate and become beneficiaries by enabling them have access to technologies and services that would help them develop the scope of their creative and research capacities.

- Create favorable conditions to enable out-of-school youth acquire ethical and civic education and become good citizens.

- Create conditions to enable youth get counseling services that would help them to identify their potential capacities, put them into practical action and increase their benefits.

- Enable youth in formal education to develop an all-round knowledge by making them actively participate in extra-curricular activities.

5.4. Youth and Health

- Create conditions to enable the youth to participate in and benefit from the implementation of preventive health policy.

- Create favorable conditions for the youth to have proper access to information, education, counseling and leadership services in the areas of reproductive health and related health issues and benefit therefrom.

- Create favorable conditions for the youth to actively participate in and benefit from the efforts to eradicate harmful traditional practices which are detrimental to their health.

5.5. Youth and HIV/AIDS

- Create favorable conditions for the youth to strongly mobilize themselves and create youth movement in the

multidimensional campaign on HIV/AIDS prevention, controlling its spread and bringing about behavioral change.

- Create favorable conditions for the youth to benefit appropriately from information, education and counseling services on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, in a coordinated, consolidated and sustained manner.

- Create an enabling environment for the youth to increase their participation in the all-embracing effort to provide basic solutions to the various problems that cause the spread of HIV/AIDS and make youth vulnerable to HIV/AIDS pandemic.

- Create favorable conditions for providing care and support to youth living with HIV/AIDS and AIDS orphans with a view to enable them eventually become self-supporting.

- Create conditions for the youth living with HIV/AIDS to actively participate in the campaign against problems of stigma and discrimination which they face.

5.6 Youth and Social Evils

- Provide an appropriate support for enabling youth to actively participate in action programs launched to engage in preventive measures and thereby protect them from vulnerability.

- Provide support to youth already victimized by social evils to be rehabilitated to comfortable and peaceful life and become productive citizens.

- Create favorable conditions for the youth to be forefront participants in the educational and preventive activities undertaken to discourage products of arts and literature that could have negative psychological effects on them and benefit from the outcome of the effort.

- Create favorable conditions for youth to participate in efforts made to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of cigarettes, chat, alcohol, narcotic drugs and the like that bring physical mental and psychological damages to youth.

5.7. Youth, Culture, Sports and Recreation

- Enable youth to actively participate in cultural, educational and awareness creation activities undertaken by the family, community, schools, civic associations, mass media and cultural institutions and develop into citizens imbued with ethical values and have a profound knowledge of their cultures.

- Enable youth to have a good knowledge of their country's and people's genuine history, cultures, customs and rituals as well as natural, cultural and historical heritages; to protect and preserve them and use them for development purposes; and actively participate in such ventures and benefit therefrom.

- Enable youth to be actively involved in and benefit from activities which are directed for expanding and constructing youth-focused recreational, cultural and sports institutions and centers.

- Develop the arts in such a way that they would inspire, motivate and encourage creative work, research activity, and a spirit of competitiveness among the youth, and

thereby increase their participation and benefit therefrom.

- Enable in-school and out-of-school youth to widely participate in physical education, physical fitness exercises, cultural sports trainings and competitions and benefit therefrom.

- Increase the participatory and beneficiary roles of youth in the process of preventing and eradicating harmful traditional practices and expand and consolidate the useful ones.

5.8. Youth, Environmental Protection and Social Services

- Enable youth to have wide access to education, information and technological results so that they would be able to participate in environmental, natural and cultural heritages protection and preservation.

- Create enabling conditions for the youth to participate in voluntary environmental protection and social services and thereby benefit themselves and the community at large.

5.9. Youth and Internationalism

- Create enabling conditions for the youth to have understanding and sufficient information about the wide-spreading globalization system and actively participate in and benefit from the process.

- Create enabling conditions for the youth for bringing about national unity, establishing relations and partnerships with sub-regional, continental and international counterparts, based on the overall direction of the country and enable them to work together in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity to ensure the protection of their interests from the globalization process.

5.10. Youth that need Special Attention

- Special attention shall be given to females, pastoralists, those living with HIV/AIDS, the physically and mentally disabled, those victimized by social evils and orphaned youth to enable them seize opportunities to participate in and benefit from equally.

- Create favorable conditions for the youth with special needs to obtain political, economic, social and cultural support that would ensure their participation and benefiting fairly therefrom.

Section Six

Implementation Strategies

6.1. Organization and All round Participation

- Youth shall be provided with professional, technical and leadership capacity building supports to enable them get organized in their own interests and common goals in order to ensure their rights and benefits to the level best as enshrined in the Constitution of the nation.

- Youth shall be encouraged to develop and consolidate a culture of voluntary movement that would enable them to use their untapped potentials and talents for the building of a democratic system as well as development programs and strengthen their benefits therefrom; to work together and maintain cooperative relationship amongst them with a view to gain new experiences and skills which will benefit them later in life; to develop a shared common national consensus for rendering useful services to the society.

- Youth organizations initiated by the youth themselves to ensure their rights and benefits and at the same time

movements of voluntarism shall be encouraged and supported to actively participate in environmental protection and community services which will contribute towards the interest and prosperity of their own and the society at large.

6.2. Implementation Capacity Building

- Conducive legal, policy, strategy and program environment shall be created for enabling youth to actively participate in and benefit from political, economic, social and cultural activities of the nation.

- The necessary and phase-by-phase efforts shall be made to construct and strengthen youth-focused recreational, cultural, sports, information and communication and similar learning centers as well as youth-to-youth services by making them accessible at residential and working places of different administrative levels at both urban and rural settings, in order to nurture personal contacts amongst youth, their educational development, participation and benefit therefrom.

- Efforts shall be made to make various suitable centers and services to be accessible at close distance to youth with special needs in order to increase their participation and benefits by narrowing the presently existing gaps.

- Youth entrepreneurs and those with special talents and capabilities shall be provided with various forms of capacity building and technical support to enable them further develop their production capacity and productivity, and thereby to increase their participations and benefits.

- The necessary capacity building as well as technical support and assistance shall be provided for those major youth policy implementing federal and regional youth associations, youth bureaus, government bodies, civic society and other social institutions to enable them effectively execute the policy by enhancing their implementing capacity.

6.3. Information, Awareness and Advocacy

- Efforts shall be made to enable youth to benefit from the information and communication technologies and

services in order to develop their overall competence and capacity, to participate competitively and protect their benefits through having a close access to the ongoing political, economic, social and cultural development activities both at national and international levels.

- An information exchange network shall be set up, which will facilitate an efficient and integrated exchange of youth-focused information amongst various youth organizations, government bodies, the private sector and civil society in such a way as to ensure an active participation and fair benefits of the youth.

- Awareness creation and advocacy activities shall be undertaken, to bring about behavioral change amongst government bodies, civil society, the private sector, the general public, the family and youth on the rights and duties of youth; their participation and proper upbringing, modern and traditional harmful practices that have negative impacts on their personalities, and measures that should be taken to reduce and eliminate these practices.

- Measures shall be taken to make youth have a proper awareness and understanding of human and democratic

rights, to have them acquire experiences and practices that would enable them to actively participate in and benefit from the efforts being made to build a system of peace, justice and good governance, in order to make them properly shoulder the responsibilities of tomorrow's leadership role.

- Integrated information, education and communication programs shall be worked out and put into effect with a view to enhance youth initiative for work, creative, talent, strengthen their participation in education and training, protect their health and in general build their capacity to actively participate in and benefit appropriately from development interventions.

- Different festivals, exhibitions, contests, tours and camping programs shall be organized to enable the youth have a knowledge of cultural values and norms of nations, nationalities and peoples; participate in and benefit from efforts being made to preserve these values and hand them down to posterity and thereby build a nation moving forward in partnership with an equal opportunity.

- National youth day shall be celebrated every year under various themes to draw the attention of all sectors of society and enable youth to make their voices heard on issues relating to overall youth participation and benefits as well as on other current youth agendas.

6.4 Encouragement and Support

- Various competitions shall be organized in schools, residential areas and work places from kebele to national administration levels in order to enable youth develop a spirit of competitiveness and to score better results in their participation and achievement and getting benefits therefrom.

- Various award and encouragement programs shall be organized for youth who become role models in jobs creation; scoring outstanding achievements in production and productivity through the use of their special talents and capabilities in order to encourage them to be more devoted to their work, and further develop their participation and benefits.

- Suitable and motivating competitions shall be organized for youth who need special attention, to enable them participate in and benefit from such competitions.

6.5. Data, Research and Studies

- Special attention shall be given to youth focused database to be strengthened in sectoral as well as national data collection activities carried out in the country, while youth centered data collection program shall be designed and put into effect in defined time intervals, in order to consolidate the youth database.

- Continental and international youth-targeted studies and research findings shall be organized in a way that is convenient for practical use and experience exchange and will be made accessible to all the sectors of the community in general and to the youth in particular to increase their participation and benefits.

- Continued and sustained study and research activities shall be carried out both at regional and national levels, to identify practices that have negative or positive impacts on overall development of youth and indicate remedial measures; identify work opportunities where youth can be deployed in urban and rural areas and expand work creation and deployment and deal with other issues related to youth-focused activities. Measures would be taken to the effect that youth shall be able to directly participate in and benefit from the research and data collection activities carried out.
- An integrated information system shall be established to enable the nation's policy and decision makers, cooperating and funding partners and general users have access to the database and research findings.

6.6. National and International Partnership

- Youth shall be provided with technical and professional support in their effort to create unity and solidarity at regional and national levels, so as to ensure their common rights and benefits.

- Steps shall be taken to the effect that the youth shall establish bilateral and multilateral relations of cooperation that would enable them create unity and partnerships, which in turn would put them in a better position to act jointly at continental and international levels.
- Ethiopian youth shall be encouraged to play constructive roles in realizing the establishment of African Youth Union by making use of the existing enabling environment made available to them.
- Youth issues shall be incorporated into the bilateral and multilateral relations and cooperation's, in order to enable youth establish contacts and partnerships with various continental and international youth movements, associations and councils and thereby increase their international participation and ensure benefits from the globalization process.

6. 7. Cooperation and Coordination

- An appropriate framework shall be provided for bringing about the linkage that should exist between children and youth and strong working relations and

network will be established with those parties who work with these sectors of society.

- Youth Councils which coordinate and integrate various youth associations, clubs, movements etc, and serving as a bridging with stakeholders aiming at ensuring the rights and benefits of youth as well as make them fulfill their duties, shall be established at federal and regional levels.
- In order to bring a holistic impact from a comprehensive youth initiative, an **Inter-Federal Government Offices Committee** shall be formed through the coordination of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. The members of the decision-making committee shall comprise representatives of Federal Government executive bodies. Likewise, **Inter-Regional Bureaus Committee** shall be formed through the co-ordination of regional youth affairs bureaus.
- **A Consortium of Non-Governmental Bodies** shall be formed at federal and regional levels, in order to make them result-oriented by avoiding duplication of youth-related activities carried out and efforts made by various civil society institutions and the private sector.

- **A Nationwide Youth Forum** shall be formed at federal level through the co-ordination of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. The nation-wide youth forum shall comprise representatives drawn from inter-federal government offices committee, the consortium of non-governmental bodies, youth councils, regional youth forums, and regional youth bureaus. Likewise, Regional Youth Forums shall be organized in the regions.

- Federal and Regional Youth Bureau joint consultation forum shall be organized regularly.

Section Seven

Responsibilities of Government, Youth, Family and the Role of Civil Society

Needless to say, youth make significant contributions towards the nation's political, economic, social and cultural development endeavors. Thus, youth can employ their creative talent for productive work and support themselves and the community if the youth themselves, the family, the society and the government provide the necessary support and properly discharge their respective responsibilities and obligations. The youth have the right to be provided with everything they require for their development and, correspondingly, they are responsible for the tasks which they perform.

Therefore, in order to enable youth to be acutely aware of their responsibilities and the roles other segments of society play in the implementation of this policy, the responsibilities of government, youth, family and civil society are presented below.

7.1. Government Responsibility

The Government shall have the responsibility to direct, coordinate, integrate and build the capacity for the implementation of this policy.

7.2. Youth Responsibility

- Be loyal to the Constitution,
- Actively participate in the national development and democratization process,
- Develop the culture of democratic thinking,
- Empowering ones capacity to work and shoulder responsibilities,
- Become a citizen imbued with ethical values and dedication to work.

7.3. Family Responsibility

As a frontline social institution, the family shoulders the responsibility to give advice, to care for, and extend support to youth and see to it that they are brought up as healthy, well-bred and productive citizens imbued with patriotic spirit.

7.4. Role of Civil Society

The civil society shall, by focusing on the policies and strategies issued by the government for the overall development, have the role of undertaking various capacity building activities that enable youth to strengthen their participation and ensure their fair benefits in development ventures which are initiated whether individually, in groups or in associations.

Section Eight

Miscellaneous Provisions

8.1. The responsibility for policy implementation falls on the youth, the family, the government, civic society and the general public.

8.2. For this policy to be implemented, various strategies, short, medium and long-term programs and manuals shall prepared and put into practical action.

8.3. The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture and, likewise, youth bureaus established in the regions shall have the responsibility to coordinate, integrate and evaluate the policy implementation, and assess youth participation and benefit and indicate the directions that should be undertaken prospectively.

8.4. Activities that enhance the implementation capacity and youth participation and benefits shall be mainstreamed in the strategic plans of various implementing ministries, organizations, regional bureaus, development institutions, civic society and the private sector.

8.5. Follow up, monitoring and evaluation systems that would enable those concerned to review the policy implementation shall be put in place.

8.6. Issues not dealt with but come up during the policy implementation process and because of information limitations shall be studied, rectification measures shall be taken and implementation strategies shall be formulated at policy revision meetings to be held every five years in which all stakeholders from regional to federal level shall participate.