



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE PRESIDENCY

Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender

State Department for Youth

Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019
Popular Version

"Empowered Youth for Sustainable Development"



Key Policy Definitions

Youth

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) Article 260 defines youth as individuals in the age bracket of 18-35 years. The youth make 35% of the total population and 55% of the labour force.

Youth Development

The term Youth Development therefore means improving the lives that the youth lead, giving them more freedom and opportunities to live the lives they value.

Government

Consistent with the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the word Government refers to the two levels of government: The National Government and the 47 County Governments. The Policy applies to the two levels of Government.

Youth Empowerment

Youth empowerment is both a means and an end, an attitudinal, structural, and cultural process whereby youth gain the ability, authority, and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own and other people's lives both now and in their adulthood while bearing responsibility for the consequences of those decisions and actions.

Stakeholders

These include private sector, development partners, Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Youth Serving Organisations (YSOs) and individuals.

Youth Participation

Youth participation refers to the youth having influence on and shared responsibility for decisions and actions that affect the lives of the youth within a context that acknowledges and respects their talents and strengths and supports them in finding ways to deal with the issues that affect them.

Youth Employment

This Policy defines youth employment as a means of providing youth with opportunities for work that are productive and deliver a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for the youth to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment.

Youth Work

The Policy defines youth work as all forms of youth engagement that build personal awareness and support the social, political and socio-economic empowerment of youth.

Youth Worker

A Youth worker is a suitably trained and knowledgeable individual who undertakes youth work, engages and responds to young people from a place of deep contextual understanding and co-creates with young people spaces and activities that support their agency to organize their lives and engage positively with their communities and the world.

CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND



1.0 Introduction

Youth-related issues are a priority to the government. This is partly because the youth are relatively marginalised in socio-economic outcomes including employment. A majority of the youth remain on the periphery of the country's social, economic and political affairs.

The Government of Kenya (GOK) and other stakeholders have continued to design and implement various interventions to address the needs of the youth. Some of these interventions include the overarching Kenya Vision 2030 and its associated Medium Term Plans (MTPs); the Sector Plans; the Constitution of Kenya (2010), Devolution and the Big 4 Agenda.

The overall objective of the National Youth Policy, Sessional Paper No. 3 of July 2007 was to provide policy framework for addressing issues affecting the youth, notably employment creation, health, education, sports, and recreation, environment, art and culture, partnership and empowerment.

The Kenya Youth Development Policy (KYDP) (2019) is part of the Government policy commitment for a greater cohesive society, equitable, inclusive and participatory economic and social process for sustainable development.

The Policy is important in achieving the aspirations of the country and in particular the Kenya Vision 2030. The Policy is written in the context of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) existing sectoral policies, national development plans, international policies and charters to which Kenya is a signatory including: the Charter of United Nations, African Youth Charter, the Commonwealth Youth Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations World Programme of Action for the Youth to the year 2007 and beyond; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2030), African Union (AU) 2063 Agenda and the United Nations (UN) Youth Strategy.

1.1 Dimensions of youth profile in Kenya

The Policy recognizes the categories of the youth as listed below, while being cognizant of their unique diversity, expectations, challenges and opportunities. These are:

- (i) Male and female;
- (ii) Educated and uneducated;
- (iii) Formally trained and informally trained;
- (iv) Rural and urban residents;
- (v) In-school and out-of-school;
- (vi) Adolescents and young adults;
- (vii) Physically challenged and able-bodied;
- (viii) Economically engaged or not;
- (ix) Detained and not-detained;
- (x) Migrant and non-migrant;
- (xi) Skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled;
- (xii) Street and vagrant youth;
- (xiii) Youth infected and affected by HIV/AIDs;
- (xiv) Unemployed youth;
- (xv) Incarcerated youth; and
- (xvi) Youth in humanitarian settings

CHAPTER TWO

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

2.1 An overview of youth potential and achievements

Kenya has a generally youthful population

In the political sphere, the youth constituted 51 per cent of registered voters in 2017 elections as compared with 46 per cent in 2013.

In the economic sphere youth are a national resource. They present an opportunity to accelerate economic growth when engaged productively. Their potential is also in education, skills, energy, creativity and innovation.

In the social sphere, inclusive access to social amenities by the youth improved over time but was not equitably distributed.

2.2 Challenges affecting the youth

Although the youth present a potential resource that can make contribution to national development; in their current state, the youth experience various challenges.

The following are the challenges identified as affecting the youth, the KYDP seeks to address these and other emerging challenges through a series of strategies also already identified, stakeholders will also be key in this process as they are the gatekeepers in the lives of the youth.

a) The labour market

- i. The challenge of youth unemployment;
- ii. Youth underemployment;
- iii. The challenge of vulnerable employment and working poor youth;
- iv. The challenge of high levels of youth inactivity;
- v. Youth labour migration; and
- vi. Skills shortages in the ICT labour market.

b) Access to resources

- i. Lack of collaterals and bureaucracies in accessing loans;
- ii. Health related challenges;
- iii. Skills mis-match;
- iv. The challenge of out-of-school youth; and
- v. Low youth participation in agricultural economic activities.

c) Social issues

- i. Early and unintended pregnancies;

- ii. Crime and defiant behavior; and
- iii. The challenge of drugs use and substance abuse.

d). Societal environment

- i. Limited participation in economic and political spheres;
- ii. Limited access to safe public spaces;
- iii. Limited and poor housing;
- iv. Poor prison facilities;
- v. The challenge of limited access to information and communication technology (ICT);
- vi. Cyber-crime;
- vii. Sexual and gender-based violence;
- viii. Challenge of weak values among youth; and
- ix. Climatic conditions

2.3 Key legal, Policy, Planning and Institutional Frameworks on Youth Issues

The Government has put in place various legal, institutional and policy frameworks to address the issues affecting the youth. These include passing legislation and developing policies on youth development. The Kenya Youth Development Policy (2019) therefore recognises and draws its framework from, the supremacy of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), which underscores the importance of youth in national development. This institutional frameworks include the following;

2.3.1 National frameworks

- i. National Youth Service Act, 2018
- ii. Youth Enterprise and Development Fund State Corporations Act of 2007
- iii. National Youth Policy 2007, Sessional No. 2 of 2007
- iv. Women Enterprise Development Fund, 2017
- v. National Youth Council Act 2009
- vi. Constitution of Kenya (2010)
- vii. Medium and Small Enterprise Act 2012
- viii. Technical and Vocational Education and Training Act of 2013
- ix. Uwezo Fund (Public Finance Management Act 2014)
- x. Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act of 2015
- xi. Employment Policy and Strategy for Kenya Sessional Paper no. 4 of 2013
- xii. National Government Affirmative Action Fund (Public Finance Management Act 2012)
- xiii. National Employment Authority Act, 2016

2.3.2 International frameworks

- i. World Program of Action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond;
- ii. Lisbon Declaration, 1998;
- iii. Dakar Declaration on Youth Empowerment (2000)
- iv. African Youth Charter (2006)
- v. East African Youth Policy, 2013;

- vi.** Commonwealth Plan of Action for youth empowerment (2006);
- vii.** 1998, United Nations Youth Strategy (2030); and
- viii.** International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (1994-2014) and ICPD Beyond 2014

CHAPTER THREE

KENYA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY (2019) FRAMEWORK

Goal: Promote holistic empowerment and participation of the youth in socio-economic and political development for themselves, the country and the future.

Aim: Ensure adequate youth development and empowerment while harnessing their potential for productive engagement at local, county, national and international levels.

Vision: A society where youth have an equal and responsible opportunity to realize their full potential and aspirations in socio-economic and political spheres, through honest and hard work.

Mission: To guide the National and County governments and all stakeholders involved in the planning and implementation of interventions and programmes targeting the youth in the country.

Values

Pursuant to the envisioned role of the youth, the following values shall inform aspect of policy programming and drive its implementation:

- i. Patriotism
- ii. Respect of diversity and ethical values
- iii. Equity and accessibility
- iv. Inclusiveness
- v. Good governance
- vi. Accountability
- vii. Self-reliance
- viii. Honesty and integrity

Principles

The Youth Policy seeks to appreciate the stipulation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and especially the National Values and Principle of Governance under Article 10. The Policy addresses key strategies needed to engage the youth in ensuring their active participation and holistic engagement in actualizing National Values and Principles of Governance. The overarching values were based on the principles of responsiveness, access, participation, inclusion, integration, diversity, empowerment and equity.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF STAKEHOLDERS

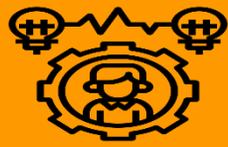
THE YOUTH	THE STATE	PRIVATE SECTOR/PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patriotism and Loyalty• Protecting democracy and rule of law• Volunteerism• Creating employment• Respect for humanity• Supporting the vulnerable and disadvantaged• Protecting environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the youth policy• Provision of quality education• Secure tenure to those in informal• Providing internship and volunteerism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job creation and employment of the youth• Provision of quality education• Internship/ apprenticeship/ mentorship/coaching• Entrepreneurial development• Youth mainstreaming• Fulfill their obligation• Provision of information and transfer of technology & skills

CHAPTER FOUR

CHAPTER FOUR YOUTH POLICY OBJECTIVES, PRIORITY AREAS AND MEASURES

4.1 Introduction

This section focuses on policy objectives, policy priority areas, interventions and measures aimed at empowering and harnessing the potential of the youth while contributing to the Country's sustainable development. The overall objective of the Policy is to empower the youth and harness their potential for realisation of sustainable development. The specific objectives include to

 1.HEALTH AND WELLBEING	 2.TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION	 3.AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-BUSINESS	 4.CREATIVE TALENT DEVELOPMENT	 5.SECURITY AND PEACE BUILDING
 6.PATRIOTISM AND VOLUNTEERISM	 7.SKILLS INVESTMENT AND TRAINING	 8. ACTIVE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT	 9.ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT	 10.ICT DEVELOPMENT
 11.CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY AND ACTION	 12.PREVENT DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE	 13.PREVENT RADICALIZATION AND EXTREMISM	 14.SOCIAL INCLUSION	

4.2 The Policy priority areas

The Constitution of Kenya (Article 55 in the Bill of Rights) obliges the state to take measures, including Affirmative Action programmes, to ensure that the youth access relevant education and training; have opportunities to associate, are represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; have access to employment; and are protected from harmful retrogressive practices and exploitation. The government therefore prioritizes youth policies and interventions that are consistent with the country's development priorities, the Constitution, international conventions and the global trends relating to the youth agenda.

The interventions shall be mainstreamed into the wider sustainable development agenda. The key priority areas for the Policy intervention include:

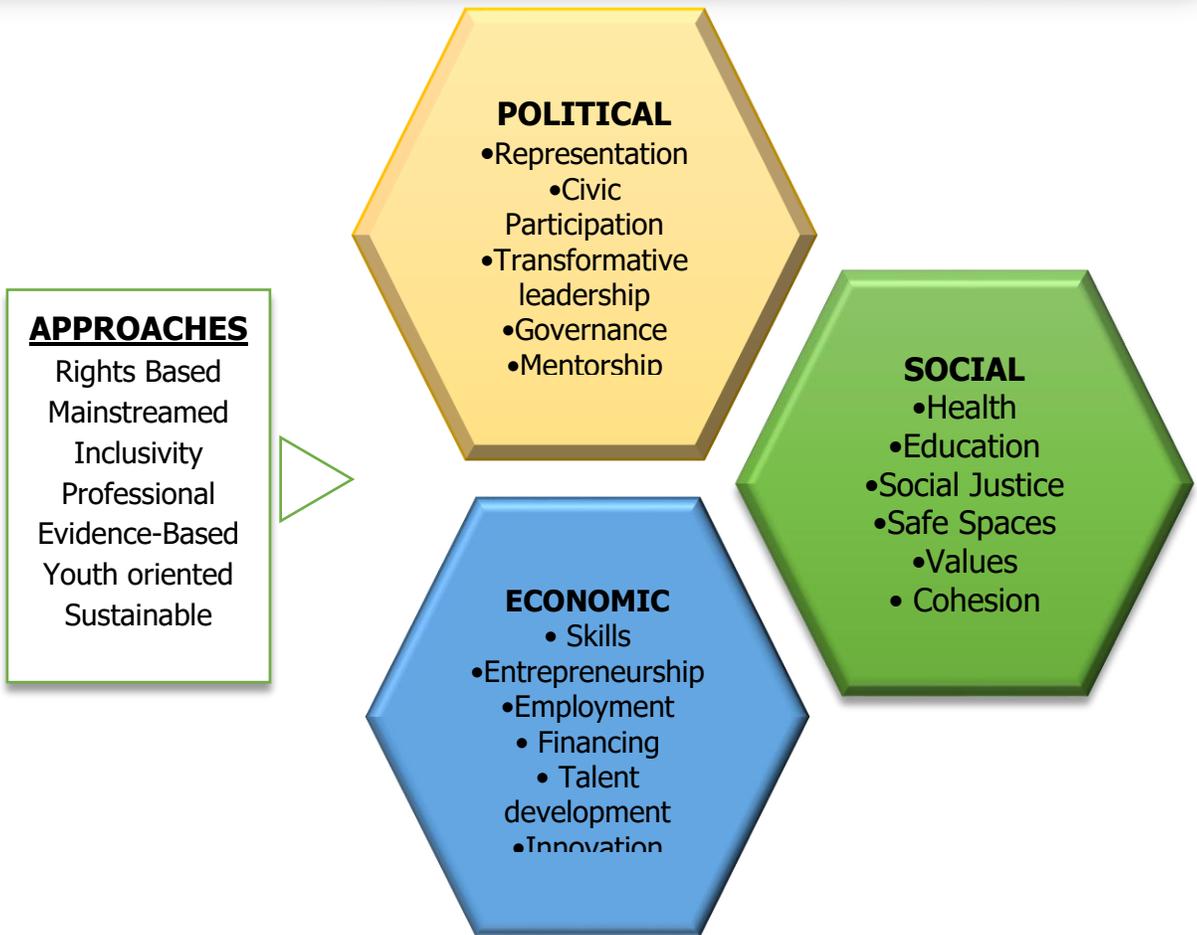
- i. Support youth development, health and nutrition, and wellbeing;
- ii. Supporting transformative leadership, mentorship, participation, and representation;
- iii. Transforming agriculture to make it attractive to youth;
- iv. Creativity, talent identification and innovative development;
- v. Tackling crime and supporting security and peacebuilding;
- vi. Entrenching patriotism and volunteerism;
- vii. Investing in skills, apprenticeship and entrepreneurship development, apprenticeship training and employment;
- viii. Active Youth engagement
- ix. Supporting Entrepreneurship and employment
- x. Supporting information, communication, and technology (ICT) development and innovation;
- xi. Supporting the environment and sustainable development;
- xii. Eradicating drugs and substance abuse among youth;
- xiii. Curbing radicalization and violent extremism; and
- xiv. Youth mainstreaming and inclusion in social, economic and political initiatives.

4.3 KYDP Framework:

Empowered Youth for Sustainable Development



Empowered youth who are healthy, safe, competent, earning decent livelihoods, creative, innovative, patriotic, upholding ethical values, volunteering, participating in decision making and protecting the environment.



Multiagency Interventions



LEGAL, PLANNING AND POLICY FRAMEWORK
Constitution of Kenya 2010, Kenya Vision 2030, NYS Act, SDGs (2030), AU Agenda 2063, Agenda 2030, PFMA (YEDF, WEF and UWEZO Funds) and Public and Private Partnership Act`

Chapter 5

Policy Coordination and Implementation

5.1 Introduction

The policy shall be implemented through an implementation plan detailing strategy, activities, target group, performance indicators, responsibility holders, time lines and resource requirement (both financial and non-financers). The implementation will be undertaken through a collaborative framework involving relevant government MDAs, county governments, Public Benefit Organizations, private sectors, FBOs, youth organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs) and all stakeholders involved in youth affairs. The implementation plan shall be renewed on an annual basis and monitoring set targets. The policy shall be reviewed after every 5 years as any other Government Policy.

5.2 Approaches for implementing the Policy

The coordination and implementation of the Policy objectives, priority areas, programmes, projects and activities by all stakeholders shall be based on the following fundamental approaches as guiding philosophy:

1. **Rights-based approach:** The Constitution of Kenya (2010) provides that the State shall take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth— (a) access relevant education and training; (b) have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; (c) access employment; and (d) are protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation. The Policy therefore holds that all organs and agencies of the state have a responsibility to deliver specified rights to citizens aged 18 to 34 years.
2. **Youth Mainstreaming:** The needs, aspirations, opportunities and challenges facing the youth are concerns for the whole society. The Policy therefore aims at ensuring that youth issues are reflected in all sectors of national development, at both the national and sub-national levels, within the public, private sectors and society. The Policy underscores the importance of affirmative action for the youth as a strategy of participation in decision making and empowerment.
3. **Professional Approach:** Noting the centrality of youth work and workers involved in youth related activities, the Policy holds that the activities will be conducted within a framework that upholds ethical practice, coherent competency and professionalism.
4. **Coordinated Approach:** The Policy interventions during the implementation of this Policy cut across various sectors and will be undertaken simultaneously by multiple partners and stakeholders. The Policy shall ensure adequately coordinated approach to enable proper targeting, prioritization, pooling of resources and monitoring of impact of the various interventions. All stakeholders will therefore align their activities with the coordination framework set out in the Policy.
5. **Evidence based and knowledge sharing approach:** This Policy holds that all stakeholders will in designing and implementing youth programmes, projects and activities endeavor to act on the basis of evidence-based strategies. In addition, this Policy holds that stakeholders will

work to establish a baseline data bank on all areas of focus in order to set a foundation for measuring impact.

6. **Youth Oriented (Co-creation):** This policy emphasizes that the young people will be placed at the core of all efforts undertaken in advancement of youth development. Projects, programmes and activities shall be informed and propelled by youth. This Policy therefore adopts the principle of co-creation and anticipates that the youth will be co-creators of solutions and actively engaged as “solvers” where projects and programmes are initiated by youth and decision making is shared among youth and the stakeholders.
7. **Sustainable development:** This Policy upholds the approach of continuous investment in the development of improved services and opportunities for long term impact and development.

Kenya Youth Development Policy (KYDP) Coordination Framework

Ministry Responsible for Youth



Kenya Youth Development Steering Committee

Chair: CS Youth; Deputy Chair: Chair, Youth Committee-COG, Membership: PS Youth, Secretary Youth, Chairpersons of NYC, YEDF & NYS, Chairpersons of Umbrella formations of Private Sector, Chair Development Partners group on Youth, CSs for Labour, Education, ICT, Devolution, Agriculture, National Treasury and Planning (MEET BI-ANNUALLY)



Kenya Youth Development Technical Committee

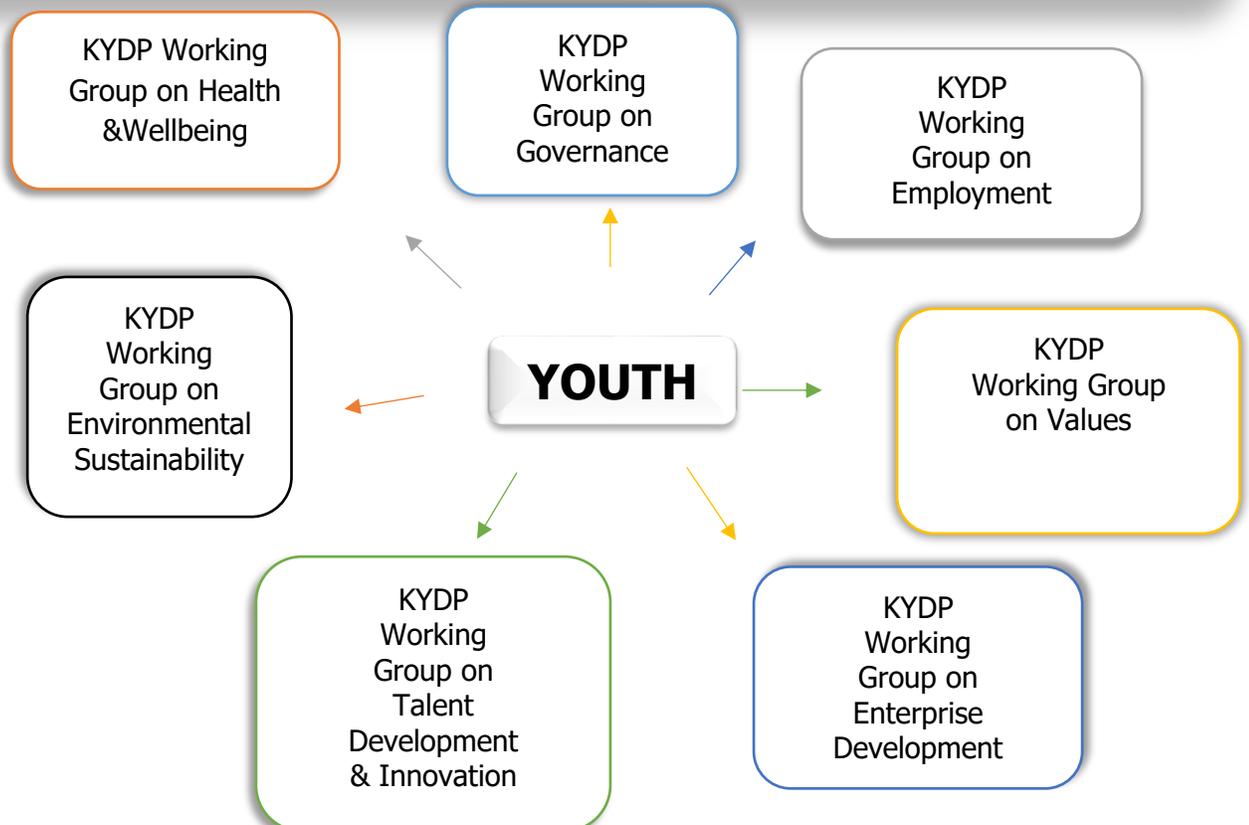
Chair: PS Youth; Membership: PS Early Learning and Basic Education, TVET, ICT, CEO-CoG, Secretary Youth, CEOs of NYC, YEDF, NYS and Sector Group Chairs (MEET QUARTERLY)

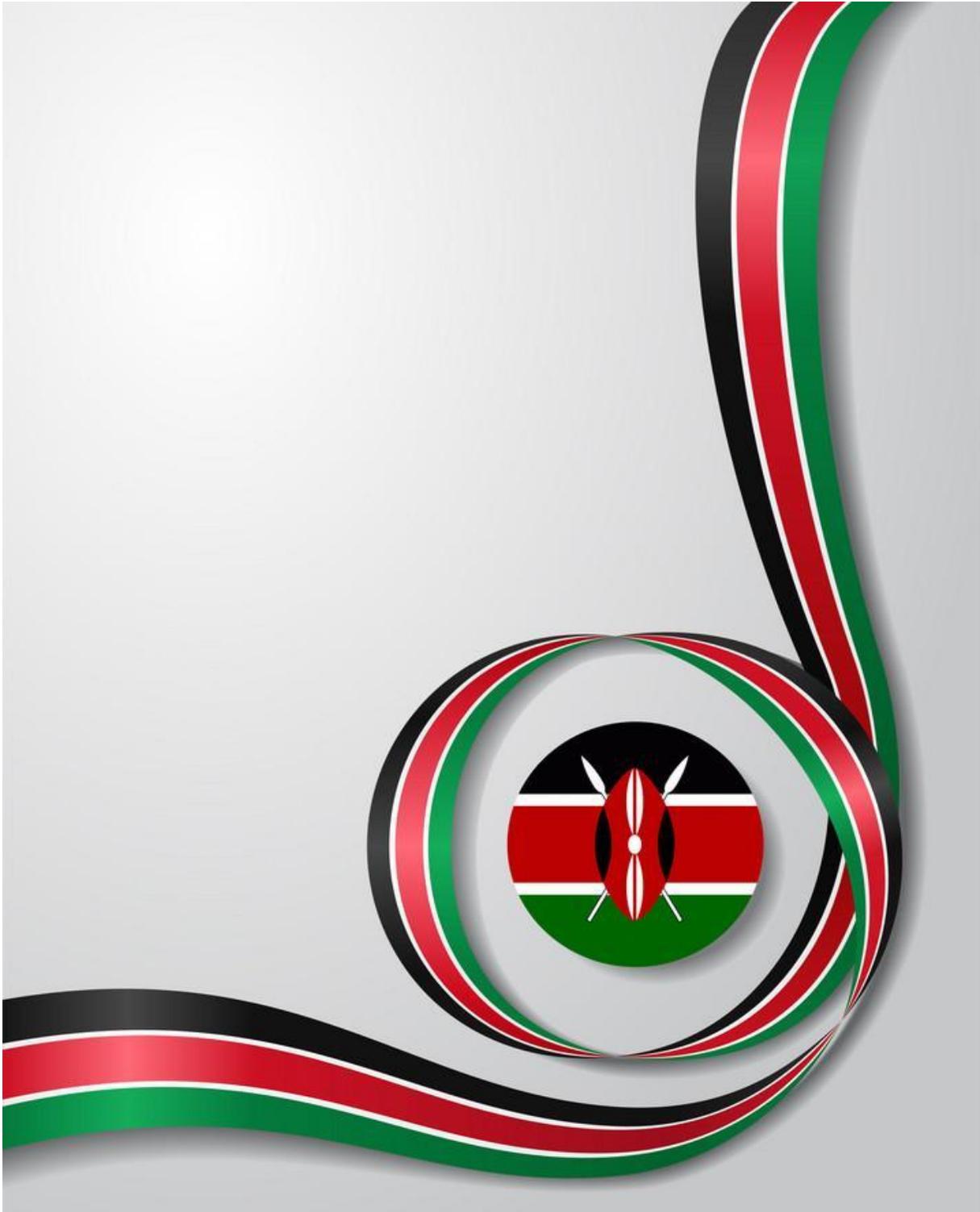


Technical Working Group (MEET QUARTERLY):

National Level: Chair- Secretary Youth Affairs; Secretary- Technical Officer from relevant Sector; Members: All relevant stakeholder representatives including private sector, CBOs, MoE, TVET, ICT, FBOs, NGOs, NYC YEDF, NYS,

County Level: Chair- CEC in charge of Youth; Secretary- County Director of Youth (NG); Members: All relevant stakeholder representatives including private sector, CBOs, FBOs, MoE, GOs, NYC, YEDF, NYS among others





The Kenya Youth Development Policy full version: www.youthaffairs.go.ke



State Department for Youth



@SDY_k