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## IN COMMEMORATION OF YOUTH DAY—'Building a better World: Partnering with Youth.'

12th August marks International Youth Day (IYD) every year and the theme assigned by the United Nations for this year's celebration is **'Building a better World: Partnering with Youth.'**

Throughout 2012, there has been tremendous focus on youth issues. This has been evident at the global, regional and national levels where unemployment has clearly emerged as one of the most critical issues facing youth. The 2012 Global Employment Trends Report highlights the fact that close to 75 million young persons are currently unemployed. This fraction consists of persons who have never worked as well as those who have lost their jobs one way or the other.

In Africa, the problem is even worse as the unemployment rate covers about 60% of the youth bulge which is 70% of the continent's one billion people. This problem is due to factors such as the weak implementation of developmental policies or worse, the absence of policies that focus on employment creation.

ITUC-Africa stresses that **'Building a better World: Partnering with Youth'** is a call for continuous and sustainable progress in areas of societal development that concern youth. While the efforts of governments, public and private institutions as well as civil society organizations are important for advancing this, it is at the same time essential that young people are actively involved and that they can claim ownership of such positive efforts.

On this occasion of IYD, ITUC-Africa commends all African youth who are working hard for a better future and urge them to stay relentless in their efforts to build a better world.

Happy Youth Day Celebration!!!

In Solidarity,

**Kwasi Adu-Amankwah**