

The G20 Delineated Priorities and Objectives to be deliberated upon during the 2025 P20 Youth Parliament

- **Industrialization and Employment:** Supporting Industrial Development and Creating Employment Opportunities.

Industrialization and employment can address South Africa's pressing challenges, such as unemployment. The support of industrialization will bring many benefits to South Africa, as this will ensure that employment is created. The immediate start of industrializing the South African economy will be very beneficial in dealing with many societal and economic challenges, as these challenges are intertwined. Industrialization entails the country's economy transforming from an over-reliance on the agricultural sector to manufacturing.

Industrialization is necessary to create much-needed employment, and the fact that the South African agriculture sector has stabilized and is doing well necessitates this move. In the first quarter of 2025, South Africa's agricultural exports totalled US\$ 3,36 billion, up 10 percent from the same period the previous year, according to data from Trade Map. This economic transition to industrialization requires a mechanized method of mass production, which is essential to ensure that employment is created in manufacturing.

Industrialization is associated with a greater average income and improved living standards for the citizens. Through industrialization, the living standards of many in countries like ours, who still bear the scars of the past, will significantly improve and create much-needed employment with better income. The transformation of South Africa's economy towards an economy based on mechanized manufacturing must be a priority for the country to address challenges that affect our society, particularly young people facing the unemployment crisis.

Industrialization can be driven by a combination of factors, including government policy, labour-serving inventions, entrepreneurial ambitions, and demands for goods and services. It has profound positive implications for the population, causing a wave of migration from rural areas to cities and towns where jobs can be found. South Africa must take learnings from countries like China, where government policy changes in the late 20th century led to the nation's transition from an economy based on subsistence farming to a global manufacturing powerhouse.

As part of the recommendation to ensure success regarding industrialization and employment in South Africa, the government must be at the forefront, providing

policy direction and ensuring implementation, with strict monitoring and evaluation as transition occurs. From a policy point of view, red tape, bureaucracy, and policy indecision must be dealt with through clear policies that foster industrialization. The free-market approach encourages foreign trade, providing new outlets for industrial output, which will be a step in the right direction.

- **Meaningful Youth Engagement:** Involving Young People in Shaping Global Policies

Young people must be actively involved in shaping global policies; this shaping of global policies must start at home in our country, where a conducive platform is created for young people to contribute. In South Africa, young people form a crucial demographic in our society and make up nearly one-third of the population. Young people in South Africa represent a dynamic generation navigating a rapidly evolving society influenced by the labour market, poverty, crime, and access to quality education.

According to the 2024 mid-year population estimates, approximately 21 million young people account for 33,1 percent of South Africa's population, underscoring the significant role in shaping the nation's social and economic landscape. These statistics cement the role of young people in shaping nations' and global policies to ensure that young people are not left behind but are active participants. The global youth population is on the rise, with Africa being estimated at a seven percent rise. This signifies the importance of young people as the change makers globally in terms of policy making and contribution.

With the global youth population on the rise and the nation's youth a huge demographic, this must be a clear indication that youth participation must not be treated as a tick exercise box, but it must be meaningful and one that can bring change—involving young people in decision-making processes and initiatives that directly impact their lives, empowering young people to contribute their perspectives and experiences in shaping global policies. This shift in meaningful youth engagement will shape global policies in a positive and impactful way for young people.

Importantly, meaningful youth engagement must exceed the scope of simply consulting young people, but it must be characterised by actively involving young people as equal partners when making policies, ensuring the voices of young people are heard and their contributions are valued. This approach of meaningful youth engagement fosters youth development, strengthens community relationships from a youth perspective, and creates more inclusive and responsive policies and programmes that will directly address the challenges of young people.

At the core of this meaningful youth engagement will be inclusivity, ensuring a diverse range of young people are engaged, equality, treating youth as equal partners, sustainability, ensuring long-term engagement, not just one-off engagement,

accountability, an established mechanism for youth to hold stakeholders accountable, and receive feedback from their contributions. This will also include empowerment, providing opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, take on responsibilities, and contribute to shared goals.

This meaningful youth engagement will improve policies and programmes, where the youth perspective can help identify gaps and address challenges more effectively, particularly those affecting young people. This will also increase the social responsibility for young people and foster stronger communities where youth engagement can foster stronger relationships between youth, adults, and communities during the development stage of policies.

- **Inclusive Social Development: Promoting Social Inclusion and Reducing Inequality**

Inclusive social development is essential to ensuring that no segment of society is left behind in South Africa's journey toward prosperity. The country remains deeply unequal, with a large portion of the population facing poverty, social exclusion, and limited access to basic services. ActionSA believes that inclusive development must begin by dismantling structural barriers that prevent communities from meaningfully participating in the economy and society.

As South Africans, we must pursue a nation where opportunity is not determined by geography, race, or class. Inclusive social development demands intentional investment in historically marginalised communities, including improved access to quality healthcare, education, housing, and safety. Bridging the inequality gap will not be achieved through welfare alone, but through policies that empower individuals to become self-sufficient contributors to the economy.

We must pursue a capable and ethical state that prioritises service delivery and removes inefficiencies that breed exclusion. Youth, women, and persons with disabilities must be given a central role in development programmes, and local governments must be empowered to lead community-specific responses. An inclusive South Africa is one where every citizen has a stake in our democracy and can access the tools to thrive.

- **African Development: Aligning with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Promoting the Development of the African Continent**

Africa's future must be driven by Africans. ActionSA supports a developmental vision for the continent that is rooted in accountability, self-reliance, and the strategic harnessing of Africa's immense human and natural resources. In alignment with the



African Union's Agenda 2063, we advocate for accelerated infrastructure development, continental trade integration, and the advancement of peace, good governance, and human rights.

South Africa must take its rightful place as a leading voice for ethical leadership and regional cooperation. We believe in strengthening intra-African trade, particularly under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which will unlock economic opportunities for millions of young Africans. However, trade must be fair, regulated, and mutually beneficial, ensuring that the benefits reach ordinary citizens—not just political elites or foreign entities.

We must also prioritise intercontinental cooperation in the fight against corruption, illicit financial flows, and the plundering of Africa's wealth. African development will be achieved when African governments are accountable to their people, investments are directed toward critical infrastructure and human capital, and development is inclusive and sustainable.

- **Universal Access to Education: Advancing Universal Access to Higher Education**

Access to education remains one of the most powerful tools to break the cycle of poverty and uplift individuals and communities. ActionSA stands firmly for universal access to quality education, with a strong emphasis on equitable access to higher education. The persistent barriers to tertiary education in South Africa—including high costs, inadequate infrastructure, and unequal basic education outcomes—must be addressed with urgency.

We envision a South Africa where no young person is denied the opportunity to pursue higher education because of financial hardship. This requires not only expanding funding models beyond NSFAS but also ensuring that basic education adequately prepares learners for tertiary success. The conversation must also include the expansion of TVET colleges, skills development programmes, and digital learning platforms to accommodate diverse learning needs and future-focused careers.

Furthermore, institutions of higher learning must be held to high standards of governance, performance, and student support to create conducive environments for success. Education must not be reduced to a privilege but restored to its rightful place as a public good. By investing in universal access to education, we are investing in the future of our country and the leadership that will carry our continent forward.