

**Generation Unlimited Global Leadership Council Meeting**

**September 25, 2025**

**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Concept Note**

**(Draft)**

**1 Billion Futures: Unlocking Youth Livelihoods through Public – Private Action**

By 2035, 1.2 billion young people across the Global South will come of working age—but the world is only projected to create 400 million new jobs. Without bold, coordinated action, the gap between aspiration and opportunity will fuel instability, deepen inequality, and squander the most powerful engine of sustainable development: the next generation.

Despite growing recognition of the challenge, public-private collaboration on youth livelihoods remains fragmented, underfinanced, and constrained by short-term, projectized efforts. 2025 marks a decisive inflection point: with the world falling off-track on the SDGs, and the twin disruptions of climate change and AI transforming labor markets, we must act now or lose a generation.

Hosted by the Government of Qatar, the 2025 Generation Unlimited Global Leadership Council (GLC) meeting during the UN General Assembly will bring together Heads of State and Government, CEOs of global companies, multilateral and civil society organizations, and youth changemakers to chart a bold new path, moving from fragmented projects to national-scale solutions to generate youth employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, co-created through deep government-business-youth collaboration.

The meeting will be opened by a high-level representative from Qatar (*TBC with Government of Qatar*), and co-chaired by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell and PwC Global Chairman Mohamed Kande. Akeem Chandler-Prescod, a renowned young poet from Barbados will deliver a spoken word performance, followed by a keynote from H.E. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Global Chair of Generation Unlimited's Green Rising initiative.

CNN International's Larry Madowo will moderate dynamic, high-energy panel discussions featuring H.E. John Mahama, President of Ghana, H.E. Duma Boko, President of Botswana,

H.E. Kashim Shettima, Vice President, Nigeria, H.E. Lesogo Chombo, Minister of Youth & Gender, Botswana, Mohamed Kande, Aiman Ezzat, CEO of Capgemini, Jozef Sikela, EU Commissioner, International Partnerships, and other global leaders.

The meeting will tackle entrenched barriers that have stalled progress—from siloed programming and skills mismatches to misaligned incentives and inflexible financing models—and spotlight breakthrough models that are already delivering impact.

Key solution areas include:

- **Policy breakthroughs** embedding youth skills and employment in national economic strategies;
- **Innovative financing mechanisms** that unlock blended capital and de-risk private investment in youth;
- **Future-ready solutions** that skill young people and link them directly with opportunities in fast-growing sectors, including in digital, green, and blue economies.

The meeting will also amplify **youth-led climate action**—from regenerative agriculture to ocean conservation—highlighting how young people are driving inclusive green growth and climate resilience.

Key advocacy messages from the meeting will be carried forward to shape commitments at the World Summit for Social Development, COP30, and other key fora. With over 1 billion futures on the line, this is the moment to rewrite the playbook—and forge a new pact for a generation that has no limits.

## Draft Agenda

Note: Agenda and panel compositions (including number of speakers) may change based on final confirmations. Qatar will revert on role of Fahad Al-Sulaiti, Director-General, Qatar Fund for Development.

Time	Session
11:00 – 11:07 a.m.	Welcome Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High level representative from Qatar (TBC with Government of Qatar)</li></ul>
11:07- 11:12 a.m.	Opening Remarks, GLC Co-chairs & Board Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Catherine Russell, Executive Director, UNICEF (<i>confirmed</i>)</li><li>• Mohamed Kande, Global Chairman, PwC (<i>confirmed</i>)</li></ul>
11:12 – 11:15 a.m.	Update from GenU Board Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christian Klein, CEO, SAP (<i>confirmed</i>)</li></ul>
11:15 – 11:20 a.m.	Spoken Word Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Akeem Chandler-Prescod, Spoken Word Artist (<i>confirmed</i>)</li></ul>
11:20 – 11:30 a.m.	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister, Barbados (<i>confirmed in principle but depends on timing of intervention at General Debate, following up</i>)</li></ul>
11:30 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.	Panel Discussion - Powering Green & Blue Growth: Public-Private Action for a Sustainable Future <p><i>This high-level panel will explore how governments, the private sector, and young people can join forces to unlock green and blue skilling and economic opportunities for youth at scale. With climate change accelerating and natural ecosystems under pressure, investing in green and blue growth is both an environmental and economic imperative, and aligns with youth aspirations to protect our planet. Panelists will examine how public-private collaboration can drive large-scale investment in sectors like renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable tourism, and ocean-based industries, while equipping young people with the skills and resources needed to lead and thrive in these emerging areas. The discussion will spotlight innovative national efforts, bold policy and financing solutions, and the central role of youth in shaping a just, inclusive, and sustainable future.</i></p>

	<p>Moderator: Larry Madowo, CNN International Correspondent <i>(confirmed)</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Duma Boko, President, Botswana <i>(formally confirmed)</i></li> <li>• H.E. John Mahama, President, Ghana <i>(informally confirmed)</i></li> <li>• Aiman Ezzat, CEO, Capgemini <i>(informally confirmed)</i></li> <li>• Jozef Síkela, EU Commissioner, International Partnerships <i>(invite sent – following up)</i></li> <li>• Christina Williams, GenU GLC Member &amp; Youth Representative <i>(confirmed)</i></li> </ul>
<p>12:05 – 12:40 p.m.</p>	<p>Panel Discussion - The Youth Livelihood Imperative: Advancing Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship through Public-Private Partnership</p> <p><i>This panel will delve into how public-private partnerships can be transformed from siloed initiatives into national-scale engines for youth employment and entrepreneurship. Panelists will examine how strategic policy reform, catalytic financing, and private sector innovation can expand pathways for youth livelihoods, especially in high-growth sectors such as AI/digital technology, care, green jobs, and small enterprise development. The discussion will highlight models that move beyond short-term projects toward systemic solutions, co-designed with young people, to unlock opportunity at scale and power inclusive economic growth.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Larry Madowo, CNN International Correspondent</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Kashim Shettima, Vice President, Nigeria <i>(informally confirmed)</i></li> <li>• H.E. Josephine Lagu Yanga, Vice President, South Sudan <i>(invite sent, following up)</i></li> <li>• Mohamed Kande, Global Chairman, PwC <i>(confirmed)</i> or Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Chairman, Access Holdings <i>(invite sent, following up – if he can attend, he would replace Mohamed Kande)</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randeep Sarai, Secretary of State for International Development, Canada (<i>invite sent – following up</i>)</li> <li>• Rania Al Mashat, Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation, Egypt (<i>invite sent – following up</i>)</li> <li>• Lesogo Chombo, Minister of Youth &amp; Gender, Botswana (<i>confirmed</i>)</li> </ul>
12:40 – 12:55 p.m.	<p>GenU Updates &amp; Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kevin Frey, GenU CEO</li> <li>• Partner announcements (specifics are TBC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sonia Ben Jaafar, CEO, Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation (TBC)</li> <li>○ Standard Chartered (TBC)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12:55 – 1:00 p.m.	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catherine Russell, Executive Director, UNICEF</li> <li>• Mohamed Kande, Global Chairman, PwC</li> </ul>