

YOUTH, PROSPERITY, AND SECURITY INITIATIVE

Part of the CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development

Newsletter: Issue #5 | July 1, 2014

We are pleased to present this fifth issue of the newsletter for the CSIS-IYF [Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative](#). Throughout the spring, the Youth Initiative hosted and participated in numerous events and roundtable discussions on issues related to economic opportunity, education, and health and released several commentaries and publications. Perhaps most excitingly, in April 2014 the Initiative launched its flagship project, the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index*, which has received worldwide recognition for its innovative approach to youth inclusion in the global development conversation. Launched in January 2013 in partnership with the International Youth Foundation, the Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative is exploring the near- and long-term economic, social, and geopolitical implications of youth development trends around the world. Dr. Nicole Goldin is the founding director of the Initiative.

The Launch of the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index* (April 3, 2014)

In April, the Youth Initiative launched its flagship project, the [Global Youth Wellbeing Index](#). To mark the occasion, CSIS, in partnership with the International Youth Foundation and Hilton Worldwide, hosted a special global launch event. With over 200 stakeholders from the public and private sector in attendance, the event began with introductory remarks from Dr. John J. Hamre, CSIS president, CEO, and Pritzker Chair, who also presented the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index* [video](#). A plenary panel, a presentation of the key findings of the Index, and a response panel followed.

The plenary panel featured Christopher J. Nassetta, president and chief executive officer, Hilton Worldwide; William S. Reese, president and chief executive officer, International Youth Foundation, and Kathleen Hicks, senior vice president, Henry A. Kissinger Chair, and director of the International Security Program at CSIS; and was moderated by Alyona Mink, host of HuffPost Live. Panelists highlighted why the index was needed given current information gaps, and how it can play an important role in shaping policy and investment decisions that can improve youths' lives and promote prosperity and security for all.

"There's a huge economic impact to have 75 million youth that are not engaged in the economies around the world. There is both an opportunity and necessity

for us to be involved...we need the youth to be employable. You can't manage what you don't measure. There has been a massive lack of transparency in data with which to make good investment decisions. The Wellbeing Index is the start of that...it's an amazing launch into the next layer of creating transparency...and increasingly trying to engage the business community."

—Christopher J. Nassetta, president and chief executive officer, Hilton Worldwide

Following the plenary panel, Nicole Goldin presented the Index, detailed key findings and trends, and addressed audience questions and answers. A response panel followed, featuring Ebrahim Rasool, ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to the United States; Carla Koppell, chief strategy officer, U.S. Agency for International Development; Lori Harnick, general manager, Citizenship and Public Affairs, Microsoft Corporation; Angga Dwi Martha, youth advocate, UN Population Fund; and Emmanuel Jimenez, director, Public Sector Evaluations, Independent Evaluation Group, and lead author of the World Bank's 2007 World Development Report (WDR), *Development and the Next Generation*. Daniel F. Runde, director, Project on Prosperity and Development and William A. Schreyer Chair in Global Analysis, CSIS, moderated the conversation. Panelists discussed the unique conditions youth face around the world and the application of the Youth Wellbeing Index for a variety of stakeholders.

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“I wish we had had this Index when we started that work [in the WDR]. One of the things I think this Index does is to start the conversation not with the people who are already committed to youth development, but the economic policymakers who really thought that this was a niche social issue, as opposed to really essential to how economies develop in all countries. Youth development is essential, not just for youth, but the whole country.”

—Emmanuel Jimenez, director, Public Sector Evaluations, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank

“There’s an incredible gap in the data and evidence with regard to the status of youth at large, what is working where, and how to chart a path forward, and this is an important tool for enabling us to do a better job as we design, implement, and evaluate interventions. To enable comparisons and contrasts is another really important way to use an Index. I see enormous applicability and utility to this as we move forward.”

—Carla Koppell, chief strategy officer, United States Agency for International Development

For more information on the Global Youth Wellbeing Index, please visit the [Index website](#). A video recording of the launch event is available [here](#).

A Roundtable Discussion on Engaging Youth in Agriculture (April 28, 2014)

The Youth Initiative, in partnership with the CSIS Food Security Program, held a roundtable discussion on the opportunities and constraints youth face in participating in the global agricultural sector and current efforts to increase youth role in securing food security. Participants included Paul Weisenfeld, vice president of global programs, RTI International; Hiram Larew, director, Center for International Programs, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA; Lisa Lauxman, division director, Division of Youth and 4-H, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, and Robert Buerghenthal, senior director, International Strategy, Government International Group, Thomson Reuters Tax & Accounting. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion.

Panelists recognized that, in an age of the global “youth bulge,” the global farming population is rapidly aging. In Africa and other regions of the world, youth represent a

potential asset, but stakeholders must identify productive opportunities to increase youth interest within the sector. This requires linking training and market demand and the creation of opportunities for at-risk youth. Additionally, addressing poor infrastructure and services, issues of stigma, land rights, and increasing sustainability, education, technological innovation, and capacity within the sector could draw youth interest.

UN ECOSOC Youth Forum 2014 (June 2–3, 2014)

At the 2014 UN ECOSOC Youth Forum in New York, Nicole Goldin moderated a session on “Promoting Youth Employment: Creating Jobs for a More Sustainable Future.” Panelists included Alian Ollivierre, Barbados Youth Development Council (iVolunteer Barbados) and SIDS Caribbean Focal Point for UN Major Group of Children and Youth; Matteo Landi, industrial development officer and youth employment expert, UNIDO; Esther Agbarakwe, cofounder, Youth Climate Coalition, Nigeria; Anette Trettebergstuen, member, Labour and Social Affairs Committee and the Elections Committee of Norway, and member of the Inter-Parliamentarian Union; Dino Corell, program analyst, International Labor Organization; and Andrea Taylor, director, North America, Citizenship and Public Affairs, Microsoft Corporation. The speakers discussed opportunities and constraints to youth employment, labor market and skills mismatches, and the role of innovation and youth entrepreneurship in the post-2015 era. A video recording of the session is available [here](#).

Additionally, on June 3 Nicole Goldin led a UN ECOSOC Youth Forum side event on “Introducing the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index*.” Dr. Goldin’s presentation of the Index was followed by responses and considerations of the applications of the Index with Andreas Karsten, executive editor, Youthpolicy.org and research lead, Youth Policy Labs; and Vivian Onano, a Moremi Africa’s spokesperson for education, a ONE Campaign congressional district leader, Half the Sky campus ambassador, and UNA-USA campus advocate. Ahmad Alhendawi, the UN secretary-general’s envoy on youth, provided closing remarks.

World Cup 2014: Let’s Get Serious about Youth in Soccer (June 23, 2014)

On Olympic Day, and in the midst of the 2014 World Cup, Nicole Goldin moderated a special event on soccer, youth development, gender equality, and peace, with Briana

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Scurry, two-time Olympic gold medalist and World Cup champion, U.S. Women's National Soccer Team; Awista Ayub, director, South Asia Programs, Seeds of Peace, and author of the *Kabul Girls Soccer Club*; and Paul Teeple, director, Sport-for-Development, Partners of the Americas.

"Why should we think about youth in soccer? It's passion, and young people want to be passionate about what they do and what they learn. There are so many good things we can learn from soccer. We can use soccer as a unifying force...and there are many lessons. But we need more evidence. What are the elements, what is the value added of sport in our model?"

—Paul Teeple, director, Sport-for-Development, Partners of the Americas

Around the world, soccer is being used as a unique and flexible tool to promote multiple aspects of youth development, girls' empowerment, and peace. Participants discussed the significance of soccer in promoting employment readiness through skills acquisition, gender equality among players and coaches alike, and more inclusive development outcomes for all. The participants also considered the opportunities and challenges for soccer in supporting young people and promoting social progress and discussed the need for greater data and outcomes measurements to assess the impact of programs in place. A video recording of the event is available [here](#).

Other Events, Publications, and Multimedia

Stavros Niarchos Foundation International Conference on Philanthropy (June 26–27, 2014)

At the third SNF International Conference on Philanthropy in Athens, Greece, Nicole Goldin participated on a plenary panel on the theme of "Recharging the Youth" and more specifically on "The Private Sector and its Responsibilities." A video recording of the event is available [here](#).

"Information and Communications Technology in the Global Youth Wellbeing Index"

By Nicole Goldin, June 18, 2014 [\[Publication\]](#)

Nicole Goldin details findings and implications of the ICT domain in the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index* in this TechChange blog post.

Launch of the IMF's *Regional Economic Outlook for the Western Hemisphere* (June 17, 2014)

Nicole Goldin participated on a panel at CSIS on the launch of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) recently released *World Economic and Financial Surveys: Regional Economic Outlook, Western Hemisphere: Rising Challenges*. A video recording of the event is available [here](#).

A Panel Discussion at the 2014 Laureate Leadership Summit (June 9, 2014)

At the 2014 Laureate Leadership Summit, Nicole Goldin moderated a panel discussion on Laureate Education and Zogby Analytics' newly released *2014 Global University of the Future Student Survey*.

Role of Technology in Education, Society for International Development Washington Annual Conference (May 20, 2014)

At the SIDW 2014 Annual Conference, Nicole Goldin participated on a panel on "The Role of Technology in Education: False Starts and Emerging Hopes." A video recording of the discussion is available [here](#).

"What Is the Wellbeing of Youth Globally?"

By Nicole Goldin, May 19, 2014 [\[Publication\]](#)

Nicole Goldin details key findings in the Education domain of the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index* in a Global Partnership for Education blog post.

"#BringBackOurGirls. And, Create a Brighter Future for all Nigeria's Youths"

By Nicole Goldin, May 13, 2014 [\[Publication\]](#)

Nicole Goldin discusses the importance of greater opportunity and inclusion for Nigerian youth to create greater social stability.

"Global Youth Index Shows Young People Worldwide Have a Rough Deal" (*The Guardian*)

By Oliver Balch, April 10, 2014 [\[Publication\]](#)

Oliver Balch's piece on the Index highlights findings and the need for cooperative, cross-sectoral efforts to promote greater youth wellbeing, and features commentary from Nicole Goldin.

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“Sun, Sea and Schools Put Australian Teens on Top of the World” (*The Times*)

By David Taylor, April 4, 2014 [[Publication](#)]

This article highlights the role of perception-based indicators, or the “aspirations gap,” in the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index* country rankings and features commentary from Nicole Goldin

“Global Report Highlights Challenges Facing Youths” (*U.S. News & World Report*)

By Allie Bidwell, April 3, 2014 [[Publication](#)]

Allie Bidwell of *U.S. News & World Report* interviews Nicole Goldin; Bill Reese, president and CEO, International Youth Foundation; and Chris Nassetta, president and CEO, Hilton Worldwide, on the launch of the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index*.

“How to Help the World’s Youth” (*CNN*)

By Nicole Goldin, April 3, 2014 [[Publication](#)]

Nicole Goldin discusses main findings from the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index* and highlights the importance of the youth voice in any discussion on youth wellbeing.

The Global Youth Wellbeing Index

By Nicole Goldin, Payal Patel, and Katherine Perry, April 3, 2014 [[Report](#)]

On the release of the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index*, the Youth Initiative released the accompanying *Global Youth Wellbeing Index* report.