

## Chapter 19

# Towards Practical, Principled Youth Mainstreaming

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Youth mainstreaming is a society- and sector-wide approach to ensuring social equality for youth, measured by gains in young people's social status, access to education, healthcare, and other services and resources. YM is not activities as ends in themselves, but fully assessed, co-ordinated and principled processes informed by positive, egalitarian social norms. Youth mainstreaming will be a success where there are solid partnerships among sectors and continuing dialogue with society on policy and planning for and with youth.

The seeds for youth mainstreaming (among institutions) were planted at the beginning of the twenty-first century via the Commonwealth, UNESCO and the World Bank. Since then, momentum has been building, including with the African Union Commission, UNDP, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and other bilateral and multilateral agencies that recognise the need for youth mainstreaming within their institutions.

It is now time to bring youth mainstreaming into the spotlight, especially in the context of achieving and surpassing the SDGs.

The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Youth Council hope that member countries will make use of this publication to continue, and strengthen, youth mainstreaming in your countries.

We hope the three parts will help you analyse your own contexts and provide robust solutions for young people and with them.

