INTRODUCTION
The Ministry of Education is working jointly with the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) to convene a ‘National Policy Dialogue on Education for Youth Skills Development for Employment’. The conference will bring together Government Ministers, senior policymakers from different ministries, education and training practitioners, sector industry and finance leaders, youth organisations, academics and youth representatives in Liberia to consolidate their position and proffer integrated strategies for promoting skills development to enhance youth participation and empowerment.

BACKGROUND
Since Independence the youth empowerment agenda has been a priority for the Government of Liberia. This has been in recognition of the vast number of youth with little or no education and skills to enable them to support their livelihoods or to become active in the mainstream economies of their countries. In recognition of this the Government, through the Ministries of Education and Youth have approved various programmes as a guiding strategic framework for youth employment creation.

The framework aims to provide essential packaged interventions to address the challenge of youth unemployment in Liberia. The programme calls for a participatory and collaborative approach which involves Government, the private sector, civic society and other cooperating partners, the youth and communities in formulating policies, strategies and programmes to promote employment creation for youth. Some essential features of ZIYEN include:

- Integration of National Policies related to employment creation;
- Development of National Action Plan on Youth Employment;
- Transformation of Vocational Skills Training curricula to the concept of Training for Enterprise (TFE) model;
- Infusion of entrepreneurial training in all levels of education system through curriculum reform and informal education programmes.
- Establishment of credit guarantee facilities to support youth businesses.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES
a. To foster an enabling environment for integrated visioning and planning for youth development and empowerment among all stakeholders.
b. Provide a platform for national sharing of experiences and good practices on skills development and youth economic empowerment.
c. Showcase Liberia’s youth skills development and economic empowerment strategies and programmes.
d. To provide a platform for young people, policy-makers and social partners to exchange views on the youth employment and empowerment situation.

CONFERENCE OUTCOMES
a. A consolidated perspective of integrating youth empowerment with industry development and national development planning processes.
b. Guidelines for action plan to identify skill requirements for sector entrepreneurial activities for youth employment.
c. Identify partnerships and networks for resource mobilization, collaboration and creating synergies.