LONDON, 10 February 2020

High Flyers Programme Training to Support Sustainable Enterprise in Africa through Innovation
Kampala, Uganda

From 11th to 13th February 2020, key players in the field of youth entrepreneurship support from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Africa will come together at a Youth Business International (YBI) event in Kampala on how to use innovation in their work. The event is hosted by YBI in partnership with two of its African members: Enterprise Uganda and ICCO Uganda, and this is the first time that YBI puts together a workshop for its members across the whole African continent.

The event will also bring together young entrepreneurs from each of the member organisations to benefit from training in innovation under YBI’s High Flyers programme, in Kampala.

The training will address the fact that despite entrepreneurship becoming a viable solution to growing youth unemployment in Africa, only 50% of start-ups are reportedly likely to survive the first year.

Through sessions led by continental innovation experts, InkDot, and youth consultants on the African Free Trade Agreement, Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA), the workshop will build young entrepreneurs’ skills in innovative thinking and user-centred design workplace practices such as developing innovative products and services, creating new business models, transforming internal culture and creating an enabling environment for unlocking innovation potential. It will also increase their capacity to practically use the recent Continental Free Trade Agreement to grow their businesses.

The event is part of an annual Community of Practice meeting of 11 YBI member organisations across Africa. It will foster learning, create new networks and provide an opportunity for entrepreneurs to share experiences and propose solutions to challenges that affect African young entrepreneurs’ potential to develop robust businesses that contribute to national development.

The YBI Community of Practice is part of YBI’s High Flyers programme working with Enterprise Uganda and ICCO Uganda to support young entrepreneurs to grow from micro to small businesses, funded by Argidius Foundation, the Government of Uganda and others. It aims to support 1700 young high-potential entrepreneurs to increase their income and generate sustainable employment opportunities in communities.

Anita Tiessen, CEO of YBI, said: “This is a very exciting event for us, as for the first time we are bringing together entrepreneurs from across Africa and we are very grateful to the Argidius Foundation, Enterprise Uganda, ICCO Uganda and the Government of Uganda for their continued support in making it possible. The young people attending the workshop are established entrepreneurs, whose small businesses are the engines of economic growth in their countries and
provide jobs for others in their communities. We hope that by facilitating meaningful connections between them we will help foster learning, create new networks and provide an opportunity to share challenges and find innovative solutions.”

Charles Ocici, Executive Director of Enterprise Uganda, added: "We are honoured to host this important event which shall enable like-minded organisations supporting young entrepreneurs across Africa to come and learn from each other. We are positive these exchanges shall go a long way in strengthening our networks and equipping us to better support our young entrepreneurs.”

Piet Spaarman, Interim Country Manager of ICCO Uganda, said: "Through the High Flyers programme, ICCO is supporting 1000 young entrepreneurs with existing agro focused businesses in northern Uganda to build strong structures that can facilitate sustainable business growth. Through our tried and tested ICCO Terrafina methodology focussing on accessing finance, we are enhancing their business development and financial literacy skills. We also expect to boost the entrepreneurs' potential to access longer-term youth entrepreneurship loan products and new markets by linking them to financial entities and experienced mentors."

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Note to editors:
Youth Business International (YBI) is a global network of expert organisations in over 50 countries supporting underserved young people to turn their ideas into successful businesses, creating jobs and strengthening communities. Our vision is a world where youth entrepreneurship is recognised for driving sustainable economic development and all young people who want to set up a business can fulfil their potential. We connect our members to share expertise and collaborate on solutions to common challenges. Visit www.youthbusiness.org.

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