



African Youth  
and Governance  
Convergence



Bridging Gaps for Positive Youth Development



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FOUNDATIONS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### 13<sup>th</sup> AFRICAN YOUTH AND GOVERNANCE CONVERGENCE 2021 (VIRTUAL)

#### Preamble

**We**, youth delegates from 25 African Countries and Diaspora at the 13<sup>th</sup> African Youth and Governance Convergence held virtually, from the 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> of August, 2021, under the theme *“Forging a connected Africa and Diaspora youth front in the COVID-19 Recovery Agenda”*, organized by the Youth Bridge Foundation;

**Recognizing** COVID-19 has further exposed the grave inequalities in the socio-economic fabric as well as injustice in Africa requiring swift action by ALL;

**Concerned** that mental health is gaining the impetus as invisible disability amongst Africa and Diaspora youth;

**Commending** all the youth-led initiatives across the continent to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on economic and social lives in Africa;

**Acknowledging** that the adoption of the AU Agenda 2063 provides an opportunity for Africa to reshape its destiny especially as we plan a recovery from COVID-19;

**Noting** that Africa is projected to grow rapidly, reaching 1.7 billion in 2030 and more than double to 2.5 billion in 2050 and 3 billion in 2063;

**Considering** that Africa remains the only continent with a significant growing youth population with 72% of the continents over 1.3 billion population under the age<sup>[1]</sup> of 35 years;

**Recognizing** that Africa’s current demographic dynamics presents both threats and opportunity for national and continental development;

**Deplored** by the absence of adequate opportunities to build the capacities of the youth to meaningfully engage in the development dialogue processes;

**Affirm** the reality that a sustainable COVID-19 Recovery Agenda for Africa requires a united Africa and Diaspora youth front beyond borders;

**Remain Committed to** complement AU Agenda 2063 to transform Africa “into the global powerhouse of the future”;

## **We therefore:**

1. **Urge** AU Youth Division working with AU Member States to initiate new and strengthen existing platforms and models to encourage and nurture Africa and Diaspora youth connectedness;
2. **Remind** AU Member States that although there is the call and growing need to increase internet connectivity, Cyber Security should be given equal priority;
3. **Charge** AU working through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat to prioritize the 'youth factor' and building of a connected Africa and Diaspora youth front to strengthen the economies of Africa AU with the introduction of (AfCFTA);

## **Call on Youth:**

4. To build networks and cooperatives, identify and work towards addressing social challenges like food security, health, education and access to justice;
5. To build and pursue entrepreneurial partnerships with peers and private sector;

***Having brainstormed for 3-days in Plenary and Committee Sessions under the 2021 AYG C theme in the eight (8) Standing Committees, delegates make the following youth-led proposals;***

### **Agriculture and Food Security (AFS)**

- Mobilize 1,000,000 youth across Africa to boost food production and develop a farming system that is not only productive but also climate-resilient, sustainable, and nutrition-responsive through tree planting managed and monitored under a social provider platform (web/mobile based).

### **Education (EDU)**

- Make accessible practical STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) learning centers for hands on experience to challenge innovation among young people across the continent.

### **Governance, Leadership and Accountability (GLA)**

- Civil society organizations like the Youth Bridge Foundation through AYG C and other partners should sponsor voter's education programs and also encourage AYG C Delegates to carry out sensitization programs in their various constituencies to ensure youth involvement in Governance through voting and active participation in politics.
- To mobilize a united youth led movements towards an increased participation in political activities.

### **Gender, Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)**

- Partner Africa and Diaspora youth to build a support program with private sector/institutions to increase access to essential services like health, education and employable skills for minority groups like PWDs, young women and the youth

## Health (HTH)

- Collaborate and work in partnerships with institutions and multi-national stakeholders to establish a center for Mental Health Awareness that promotes an enabling environment that will accept persons suffering from mental issues.

## Foreign and Diaspora Affairs (FDA)

- Introduce IT survival skills at the early stage of youth development to close the technology gap with the emphasis on connecting the Africa and Diaspora youth.

## Employment, Entrepreneurship Development (EED)

- AYGC together with other stakeholders such as banks/financiers and private firms will organize competitions, rewarding citizens/youth to develop solutions that solve continental employment issues. Provide necessary mentorship to finish the product for mass manufacturing and sale and export.

## Creative Arts and Culture (ARC)

- Mobilize African and Diaspora youth to build bridges through Arts and Culture
- Inter Country Trade Fair for African and Diaspora youth from all sectors of the Creative industry
- Creation of Continental Digital Platform to promote trading of African goods and services

### LIST OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Angola	Benin	Botswana	Cameroon	Canada	Cote D'ivoire
DR congo	France	Ghana	Guinea	Kenya	Liberia
Mauritius	Mozambique	Namibia	Niger	Nigeria	Rwanda
Sao Tome Principe	Senegal	South Africa	Spain	Tanzania	Togo
Turkey	United Kingdom	United States of America	Zambia	Zimbabwe	

**Adopted on virtual platform by youth delegates of AYGC 2021 on Friday, August 27, 2021**

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