

3rd APRM youth symposium



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4th - 9th
JULY 2022
KAMPALA,
UGANDA

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

Theme: "AU@20; Repositioning the Youth
Agenda for a Transformative Continent"



3rd African Peer Review Mechanism

CONTINENTAL YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

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UGANDA

**Theme: "AU@20; Repositioning
the Youth Agenda for a
Transformative Continent"**

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Foreword, Prof Eddy Maloka APRM Continental Secretariat CEO

On behalf of the APRM Continental Secretariat, I am pleased to present the report of the 3rd African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Youth Continental Symposium held under the theme: AU@20; Repositioning the Youth Agenda for a Transformative Continent, from 4-9 July 2022 at Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort, Kampala, Republic of Uganda. The APRM family is grateful for the support of the H.E President of Uganda, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni whose leadership resulted in the successful hosting of the symposium.

I am especially grateful to H.E President Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the APR Forum of Heads of States and Government for his steering leadership in tabling this youth report to the 36th AU Assembly of Heads of States and Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Our principles, AU Heads of States and Government with Assembly/AU/Dec 851(XXXVI) decided on the following:

ACKNOWLEDGES the APRM Annual Youth Symposium as the highest platform for ensuring meaningful participation of youth in the APRM processes and provides youths with an opportunity to share experiences and best practices in democracy and good governance;

ADOPTS the Outcomes of the Third Youth Symposium and **ENCOURAGES** the APRM Continental Secretariat to continue organising the Annual Youth Symposium, in close collaboration with the African Union (AU) Commission and Member States, as a platform for youths mainstreaming in the promotion of democracy and good governance on the Continent.

The symposium attracted the physical and virtual attendance of international and local youth delegates, Cabinet Ministers, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, Ministers representing youth from African Union Member States, members of the AU's Permanent Representatives Council (PRC) Sub-Committee on Human Rights and Democracy, the APR Panel of Eminent Persons, Representatives of AU Organs, the African Union Youth Envoy, the European Union Ambassador to Uganda,

representatives from the Uganda National Youth Council and leaders of youth led organisations from the African continent and the African diaspora.

This report provides an overview of all the thematic areas covered by the symposium including Innovative approaches to sustainable youth employment; Youth and Governance; the Role of Youth in Transfer of Science, Technology and Innovation; the Role of Youth in combatting Climate Change and the Promotion of Green Growth; Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights; Food and Income Security and Peace; Digital Transformation; Youth in the Implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as Development Finance for Youth and the Role of Youth in Domestic Resource Mobilization. Critically, every thematic area covered at the symposium and discussed in this report consists of '*Calls to Action*' which are key, especially in support of implementation of the African Youth Charter.

Implementation and custodianship of Africa's long term development plan, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want lies in the hands of youth. Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 recognizes the role of youth by calling for 'An Africa Whose Development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African People, especially its Women and Youth, and caring for Children.'

The APRM therefore calls for multilateral institutions to upscale their support for youth development and increase the aspect of peer-learning and benchmarking. Youth in Africa are often deprived of opportunities, lack adequate skills development and experience skills mismatches, an unstable labour market, gender discrimination and inappropriate or a lack of career guidance in schools. By attending to the development bottleneck of poor governance, Africa will move forward, and its youth will take up their rightful positions in the global community.

The APRM appreciates the technical and financial support received from the Government of Uganda, the African Union Commission Women, Gender and Youth Directorate, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the European Union Mission to Uganda, the International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, GIZ and the Youth for Tax Justice Network.

The APRM remains fully committed to continue advocating for youth mainstreaming and providing space for the sharing of best practices in the advancement of Africa's democracy and good governance. We believe that through working together with youth, shoulder-to-shoulder with governments, civil society, and development partners, we will realize the full potential of the African continent. This is in line with the APRM's mission to "promote AU shared values of democratic governance and inclusive development among African Union Member States through voluntary participation in the self-driven peer review processes and related governance improvement interventions."

Prof Eddy Maloka,

Chief Executive Officer, APRM

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AfCFTA: African Continental Free Trade Area

AGA: African Governance Architecture

APRM: African Peer Review Mechanism

AU: African Union

AUC: African Union Commission

COMESA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

DRM: Domestic Resource Mobilization

EAC: East Africa Community

ECOWAS: Economic Community of Western African States

EU: European Union

GBV: Gender-Based Violence

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

IFFs: Illicit Financial Flow

IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority for Development

M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation

SADC: Southern African Development Community

SRH: Sexual Reproductive Health

TVETS: Technical and Vocational Education and Training

UN: United Nations

UNECA: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

VAWG: Violence Against Women and Girls

WGYD: Women Gender and Youth Directorate

WYFEI: Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion Initiative



1. Background

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by African Union (AU) member States as an African self-monitoring mechanism. It is often described as “Africa’s unique and innovative approach to governance” with the objective of improving governance dynamics at the local, national, and continental levels. The APRM has prioritized youth mainstreaming as a critical element for building prosperous, secure, and self-sustaining African economies. The continent has the youngest population in the world, with over 70% of Africa under the age of 30. The AU’s Agenda 2063 aspiration 6 aims to foster an Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially youth where they are all actively involved in decision-making in all aspects of development, including social, economic, political, and environmental. Therefore, positioning, empowering, and engaging the youth in governance processes is a cornerstone to sustainable development. Since the youth form the backbone of the African population, the continent’s sustainable development hinges on harnessing the demographic dividend. Africa will leverage and harness the economic and social benefits of a young and growing dynamic population only if these new generations are fully empowered to realize their best potential and are engaged in the governance processes.

The 3rd APRM Youth Symposium was hosted by the APRM Continental Secretariat with support of the Government of Uganda, European Union Mission to Uganda, African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, GIZ, and Youth for Tax Justice Network. With participants from AU Member States, the gathering was geared at celebrating the African Union’s 20th Anniversary under the theme: AU@20: Repositioning the Youth Agenda for a transformative continent. The Symposium agenda was tailored to bring together youth and decision-makers for an intergenerational

dialogue to upscale youth participation in democracy and good governance.

2. Objectives of the Youth Symposium

The general objective was to develop recommendations for empowering youth to contribute meaningfully to the Socio-economic transformation of their respective countries. The specific objectives of the Symposium were to:

1. Empower the Youth to participate in governance, leadership and development
2. Strengthen the role of the youth in the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063, SDGs and related country aspirations.
3. Assess the role of youths in domestic resource mobilization and control of illicit financial flows.
4. Promote a continental platform for dialogue in sharing and harnessing opportunities within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area; and
5. Intensify the implementation of the objectives of the south-south triangular cooperation.

3. Expected outputs of the Symposium

The expected outputs from the Symposium included:

1. Developed recommendations report on empowering the Youth in Governance;
2. An enlightened youth that is informed of the economic and socio-economic opportunities available to them to improve their lives and to actively participate in the development of their countries, and
3. An active network established for interaction, learning and sharing views, ideas and strategies for tapping into the opportunities available to meet their interests.

4. Participants

The Symposium was attended by approximately 800 youth from across Africa. They included; National youth leaders including Youth Ministers, Advisors, Presidential Aides and Members of Parliament and representatives of national youth structures (youth councils, youth leagues, youth authorities, youth parliaments, etc.) from the continent; Youth Ministers; APRM Focal Points; National Governance Council members; Youth Members of Parliament; National Youth Organizations; Youth representatives from the informal sector Youth representatives from Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Global South; Youth activists from the Civil society; Representation from Religious Institutions; Student representatives from tertiary, secondary and other levels of the



academic hierarchy; Youth business entrepreneurs; Young people working with international regional and diplomatic offices such as the European Union, African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union (AU), ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, COMESA, etc.; Policy makers from the AU, Regional and National Agencies; and Renown speakers and entrepreneurs.

5. Structure of the Symposium

The Symposium took the shape of presentations, panel discussions, plenaries, and side sessions. 15-panel discussions focused on topical areas impacting young people, discussed how they can effectively engage, and concluded with a Call to Action. This report details the discussion outcomes and the Call-To-Action.

6. Setting the Scene

Opening Ceremony: Statements

1. Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi, Minister of State for Children and Youth Affairs, Uganda



Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi, Minister of State for Children and Youth Affairs, Uganda said the theme of the symposium- “AU@20; Repositioning the Youth Agenda for a Transformative Continent” called on African youth to redefine, rediscover and reposition themselves to identify the amazing opportunities and choices that exist in Africa and global networks through enhanced youth participation, innovation, skill development, networks and market access. She was categorical that the socio-economic agenda of Uganda and other African countries cannot be achieved without strategic leadership. And true to this, young people have continued to prove instrumental to Africa’s growth and integration. Therefore, through participatory engagement, young people can become drivers of peace and development across Africa, she added.

Aspiration 6 of the AU Agenda 2063 calls for an Africa whose development is people-driven relying on the potential of the African people. This highlights the role of young people in achieving set goals, especially the Africa Agenda 2063 and SDGs. “We must continue to ensure that young people are centres of development; we must prioritise the meaningful participation of young people in governance- it is useful for ownership, inclusivity and youth engagement,” she told the gathering. In Uganda, the participation of youth in matters of governance is very central to the Government of Uganda. This is a commitment that has been demonstrated by the policy and legal frameworks that have been put in place for the empowerment of young people in all settings.

She observed that Uganda has youth structures from grassroots levels to the national level. Through affirmative action, the government had allocated 5 elective slots for youth MPs for regional representation and 1 slot for women representatives. In Uganda’s Parliament, 23% of members are below 35 years of age. All these examples are efforts of young people’s representation in Uganda. She reiterated that the youths of Africa are not only actors but partners in achieving the Africa we want. “For a transformative Africa, we must continue to create an interface between young people and national governments on development, and continuously engage young people, youth-led and focused organisations,” Ms Mateke went on.

1. Hon. Amara Kallon, the Deputy Minister of Public and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone



Hon. Amara Kallon, the Deputy Minister of Public and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone, said Africa must find permanent solutions to the ills haunting its youth. Hon. Kallon who represented the Chairperson of the APR Forum of Heads of States and Government, H.E. the President of Sierra Leone Brigadier (Rtd) Dr Julius Maada Wonnie Bio, noted that youths in the continent were beset with many woes, among them related to climate change, youth unemployment, violent extremism and financial literacy.



The time is nigh, he added, to mainstream the youth agenda into national development plans and priorities. And for a continent whose fast-growing population is projected to hit 1.6 billion people in just 8 years, investments in youth vocational education, training, employment and entrepreneurship are more than necessary being vital elements of a prosperous, peaceful and proud Africa that needs support from development partners across the world, he noted.

“Africa’s prosperity and stability matter immensely to not only itself but also, critically, to the world at large,” Mr Kallon added. Worth noting, he continued, was the European Union Delegation to Uganda teaming up with the Government of Uganda and the APRM Continental Secretariat to discuss at the Youth Symposium, issues of concern to the EU and Africa such as disorderly and heart-wrenching migration and climate change.

Calling on African countries to deliberately plan for the future of their youth, Mr Kallon was categorical that continental stability, integration and prosperity can only be achieved through addressing the very legitimate demands of the young people. African youth, he added, were a case study in brilliance, boundless courage and perseverance, virtues that had driven them to network and strategise to face up the near unsurmountable societal challenges.

“I, therefore, urge youth leaders to develop smarter ways of networking both online and offline. The APRM Youth Network and youth symposia are fantastic opportunities to meet, strategize and launch initiatives that will put youth matters front and centre,” he quipped.

While encouraging youths to employ group action in driving change, he called on individuals to also champion causes that could alleviate Africa’s many woes. He heaped praise on Vanessa Nakate, a Ugandan who has demonstrated, through her relentless activism, the perils of climate change that Africa bears the brunt of, as witnessed by the regular drought, floods and heatwaves that have ravaged the Horn of Africa, Beira in Mozambique and the province of Kwazulu Natal in South Africa.

The Sierra Leonean Minister observed that though climate change is a threat to Africa more than other regions, African perspectives are seldom presented at international conferences. However, Nakate’s activism was changing this anomaly.

He urged the African youth to take up the mantle and make known the grim impact of climate change on Africa at COP 27 which will be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, later this year. He went on, *“This will be an unprecedented opportunity for African and more so the youth voices to present the grim impact of climate change on Africa. African activists need to be more prominent in conversations on climate change for the cogent articulation of our realities, as a continent, will elevate the global priority that our plight warrants.”*

He hoped that this third APRM Youth Symposium edition would be ambitious and adopt outcomes that will advance the interests of the youth on the continent.

2. H.E. Attilio Pacifici, Ambassador – Head of the European Union Delegation to Uganda



His Excellency Attilio Pacifici, Ambassador – Head of the European Union Delegation to Uganda reinforced calls that young people should be given a stronger voice and capacity to influence and steer the future of societies. He said youths have a major role to play, to empower societies to find solutions to the many challenges societies face. They must be given opportunities, and they are key drivers of social change. *“We believe it is crucial to provide youths space to participate in designing the policies that will shape the future of our societies, and also to implement those policies,”* Pacifici told participants.

He said that the EU is committed to supporting young people’s participation in the decision-making process. In particular, 2022 is the EU Year of Youth, and the First Youth Action Plan in the EU had been drafted. Last year, he added, the EU established the first Youth Sounding Board comprising 25 people, from across the globe, Africa included. The team will advise on how to create long-lasting change in how the EU engages with the young people in its development cooperation to build a better future, (that is) more brilliant and safer, and more digital.

Citing the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027, the ambassador said, *“We need to harness young people’s motivation and energy for positive changes. We also want to ensure that stereotypes around gender and age will not hinder young women’s participation as women are essential partners in the development of policies and standards and implementation.”* He noted that increased youth participation does not come without challenges.

While an increasing number of young people are finding space to engage and are contributing to shaping public policy, there is still a long way to go. Those participating are still too often from the



privileged sections of society and do not reflect the diversity of young communities across the continent.

One of the objectives of the AU-EU Partnership is to put young people/youth at the forefront, give them a stronger voice, and include them in sharing policies for a better future. He highlighted the “youth day” organised in the margins of the 6th AU-EU Summit of Heads of State held in Brussels in February 2022, which resulted in a set of concrete recommendations by the youth track. The Ambassador went on to highlight initiatives such as the AU-EU Youth Hub and the “Youth Lab 3.0” which support youth involvement in innovative pilot projects. Noting that climate change is a threat to the world, he praised the role of the youth in Uganda in advocating for the mitigation of its effects.

3. Prof Eddy Maloka, CEO of APRM Continental Secretariat



Prof Eddy Maloka, CEO of APRM Continental Secretariat, thanked the Government of Uganda for hosting the 3rd APRM International Youth Symposium, and the different partners for coming together and partnering in hosting this Symposium. Prof Maloka told the Symposium that the APRM Secretariat takes seriously the mandate of mainstreaming youth in Africa’s democracy and good governance. He added, *“The youth occupy an important place in the APRM philosophy, methodology and processes, because without them our efforts at strengthening democracy and good governance on our continent, will be without a heartbeat and the energy we need.”*

He said that while the primary mandate on youth affairs in the AU system rests elsewhere, APRM’s contribution is to ensure that African youth are present actively in APRM reviews and that their issues receive the attention they deserve in APRM’s review reports and recommendations. It is through such efforts, that many of the national structures across Africa now have a youth desk as was the case at the continental level.

He explained that at the APRM Continental Secretariat, *“We work with the support of Member States of the APRM to empower youth and bring*

them closer to decision-making tables of the APRM”. He identified some of the successes as:

1. The human resource of the continental secretariat has deliberately targeted young people thus making the Secretariat one of the organs of the AU with the most youthful staff.
2. The APRM Secretariat has managed to set up a Youth Desk leading its efforts in bridging the gaps in youth participation in APRM Country Reviews and programmes.
3. The annual Youth Symposium has become the flagship youth gathering after successfully convening in Ndjamen, Chad in 2019, and Nairobi, Kenya in 2021.
4. The Targeted Review on Youth Unemployment by Namibia and its recommendations for subsequent inclusion into the National Development were largely influenced by youth advocacy in the APRM process.
5. The APRM Youth Toolkit that was to be presented at the symposium for young people’s input is another milestone, and once it is finalized, a review of the Member State’s governance of young people would follow. The Toolkit will be used in APRM reviews.

He added to previous speakers’ voices on the intention of the deliberations in Kampala. He said the symposium was geared to produce a set of recommendations and guidelines to advise governments to reposition the youth agenda towards Agenda 2063’s aspirations. He promised that the recommendations would go through all the relevant APRM Structures and get tabled for the Heads of States Forum for all participating APRM Member States’ consideration. This was in tandem with APRM’s deliberate efforts to bring young Africans closer to decision-making tables through the facilitation of engagements between government and citizens.

“I, therefore, hope that youth delegates physically here and those online will provide solutions and actionable ideas to improve the condition of young people,” he remarked.

He regretted that the young people of Africa are currently beset with myriad challenges. They have to contend daily with deadly migration efforts to Europe to escape the scourge of unemployment and conflict in some of our regions, excursions that ended wrong for a sizeable number who drowned in the Mediterranean Sea or were brutalised by border patrol police and armies.

Still, terrorist organizations on the prowl are recruiting the youth, taking advantage of their frustrations and dire conditions Elsewhere, youth are pouring into the streets during instances of unconventional changes of government happening in Africa.



And Prof Maloka went on, “*Digital apartheid is rife, with access to the internet and smart digital devices inaccessible in the global age of the Internet of Things and Digital Economy, and our planet is heating up, posing an existential threat to humanity and our planet.*” He was optimistic that the Symposium would provide insights into how the thorny issues could be mitigated. He implored participants to use the Symposium to freely speak, while also demonstrating tolerance and discipline to listen to others. He concluded, “*We value your advice. We are here to listen, to be educated, to be guided.*”

5. Ms Chido Mpemba, AU Youth Envoy (speaking on behalf of the AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Mahamat Faki)



Ms Chido Mpemba, AU Youth Envoy (speaking on behalf of the AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Mahamat Faki), thanked Uganda for hosting the Symposium. She said, “*We continue to advocate that young people must be seen, must be heard and included in every process that considers their future, and particularly their needs... there is increased need for capacity building and skills development; in trade, knowledge transfer, digital transfer and e-commerce, among others.*”

She asserted; the vulnerabilities of young people cannot be ignored. It was necessary to expand business-related ventures such as financing for start-ups, and enterprises. She said, “*We believe that budgetary reforms should be continuous. Key decision makers, the international community, and regional organisations need to advocate for practical budgetary processes that meet the needs of youth and show adequate funding of inclusive public services for raising awareness of important issues in their nations inclusive of young people.*” and added, “*Mr Faki’s message, was: We must not forget the marginalised communities. As we speak about the young people, let us not forget about the young people in marginalised communities. Let us not forget the youth with disabilities.*”

6. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja Prime Minister, Uganda



Hon. Robinah Nabbanja Prime Minister, Uganda stated that repositioning the youth also meant providing opportunities for improving livelihoods so that they can be independent and productive. Notably in Uganda, the youth occupied a central place in government programmes, she cited the representation of the youth to Parliament as an idea of President Yoweri Museveni, saying “*Today, we have five slots reserved for the youth in Parliament. We have positions at District Council level, and at the sub-County level.*” In what she termed as a youth-friendly electoral environment, Hon. Nabbanja noted that Uganda Parliament “*is a place generally for younger people,*” who comprise more than 60% of the entire parliamentarians. There were other youth representation structures from the village to the national level. Most of the National Youth Council members had been trained and had years later become senior officials in government including ministers and permanent secretaries.

“*Sustained youth empowerment in Uganda had stability peace and security to take credit,*” she said. She emphasised on peace and security saying African countries must embrace the two for the youth and everyone to thrive. Education was key to enabling the provision of the much-needed labour and innovation that helps create jobs, she said as she lauded the NRM Government for its support of education in Uganda. The Prime Minister told participants, that challenges still existed, top among them youth unemployment. The Covid-19 pandemic had worsened the situation, leading to massive job losses among young people, mainly when their businesses collapsed.

She urged the private sector and development partners to come to the government’s rescue on youth unemployment, and young people to establish enterprises to take advantage of the Government’s funding for the sections of the population still out of the money economy. The Youth Livelihood programme dedicates 30% of the fund going to young people.



OPENING CEREMONY



Opening Ceremony

This session was marked by several speakers who gave their opening remarks. Below are excerpts of their statements:

1. In his welcome remarks, **Uganda's Senior Presidential Aide In-Charge of Youth Affairs, Mr Daniel Obal** termed it a great honour for his country to host the Symposium during the celebrations to mark 20 years of AU since it was formed from OAU. He said young people have a role they must play in ensuring that they contribute meaningfully to the development of their countries and Africa. They must also champion youth issues and find meaningful solutions to the problems facing their peers across the continent. He called upon delegates to discuss solutions to the most pressing challenges that affect young people, and how meaningful they can contribute to the transformation agenda African countries so much desire.

Obal added, *"Our meeting here is meant for us to see how we can reposition the youth agenda. This has brought together ministers and senior leaders in government together with young people for the intergenerational discussions to see what meeting points we can address together."*



2. **Mr Lennon Monyae, APRM Continental Secretariat Youth Liaison Officer**, said the symposium would draw up an outcome document that would be presented to all APRM representatives Head of States for their consideration in upscaling youth participation in democracy and good governance. Monyae said the symposium was very important because it was not only young people speaking amongst themselves but also engaging leadership – making the gathering an intergenerational dialogue. Calling for the young people to network and unite for a purpose, he posed, "How can we use the symposium to get our leadership to listen

to us and solve the problems facing us? How can we get them to upscale youth mainstreaming and funding for youth?"



3. **Ms Esther Nankya, the Vice Chairperson of the Uganda National Youth Council** observed that young people have time and again demonstrated that creating an enabling environment not only empowers but also catalyses their capacity to address Africa's challenges. Throughout Africa, she added, an increasing population of young people are driving change and practical action in the areas of climate change, and social, political and economic development. However, she regretted, youth unemployment had continued to pose a challenge in Uganda and across Africa.

Young people in Africa are duty bound to strengthen governments, democratic practices, the rule of law, and social and economic development, she offered. Consequently, they must go out of their way to tackle instability, conflict, corruption and many other cases of abuse by the state.

She reminded the young people that power was in their hands- they must take charge as young people and rise to the task. "We must lead, we must not sit back and relax. We must be ready to take up responsibility... We must also reposition ourselves to play a role on the global stage, in our continent Africa and our motherlands," she thundered.

She implored the youth at the meeting to contribute effectively to the discussions. Their voices should be heard, and their active engagement felt. She noted that the AU had initiated a Covid-19 vaccination (Bingwa) initiative for which she called upon the young people to contribute to and make the vaccination agenda come out stronger. On the other hand, the African Union had initiated a One Million Next Level Initiative that was set to create opportunities for all 200 million young people. The AUC Chairperson's initiative is tailored to create opportunities for young people



through Education, Employment, Engagement, Entrepreneurship and Health and Well-being (4Es+H).



- Ms Chido Mpemba, AU Youth Envoy** termed the Symposium a “historic moment” for Africa owing to its rich array of delegates of young people and their leaders from across Africa and a huge representation of the continent’s governments. She hoped that the deliberations and the resolutions coming out of the 5-day workshop would impact not only the current but also future generations on the continent.

Ms Mpemba was positive that by joining hands with governments, AU member states, the international community, the development sector and young people can scale heights that previously were but dreams. Her involvement as a Youth Envoy to AU had seen to the development of the APRM Toolkit on Youth Participation in Governance and Development. She made a call of action to AU member states to embrace this toolkit as a vehicle for addressing common youth issues in member states.

“It is also the opportunity for AU member states to peer review and benchmark other solutions and also provide an opportunity for youth leaders to collaborate, to cooperate and to learn from one another,” she added.

She welcomed young people to actively engage with the Bingwa and the One Million Next Level initiatives. Further, she cautioned against working in silos, as she encourages the young people to join up with peers, the government, and the AU to ensure that their efforts to see the needs of young people being met across the continent bear fruits.

She asserted that the tide is shifting in favour of young people in that “we are increasingly being recognized as significant agents of communities and national development”. She cited the cases of young people spearheading positive changes and leading community development initiatives across Africa. Consequently, it had become more apparent that “we” stand to lose by overlooking the power of young people.

She further made a call of action- that the 17 AU member states which have not ratified the Africa Youth Charter to do so at the earliest opportunity. The Charter addresses itself to the rights and needs of young people. She noted that it is a service document that looks at the development of the (young) people and how they can work together as a best practice across the continent.

She expressed the wish of young people who she said constitute 60% of Africa’s population to be included in governance and policy building and suggested that it be done through the national youth councils across the continent. To much applause, she said, “Young people still need to be on the table of decision making; we need more voices on the decision-making table.”

Yet, she lamented, the young people continue to bear the brunt of both immediate and future consequences of action changes including climate change, inadequate access to education, livelihoods, nutrition, and gender equality. To address the gaps, Ms Mpemba called on Africa to collectively and decisively include the youth in seeking solutions that would drive concrete political actions and commitments from all duty bearers. Collective action is key to young people’s challenges the world over, she said, adding that the power of collaboration over competition should be emphasised.

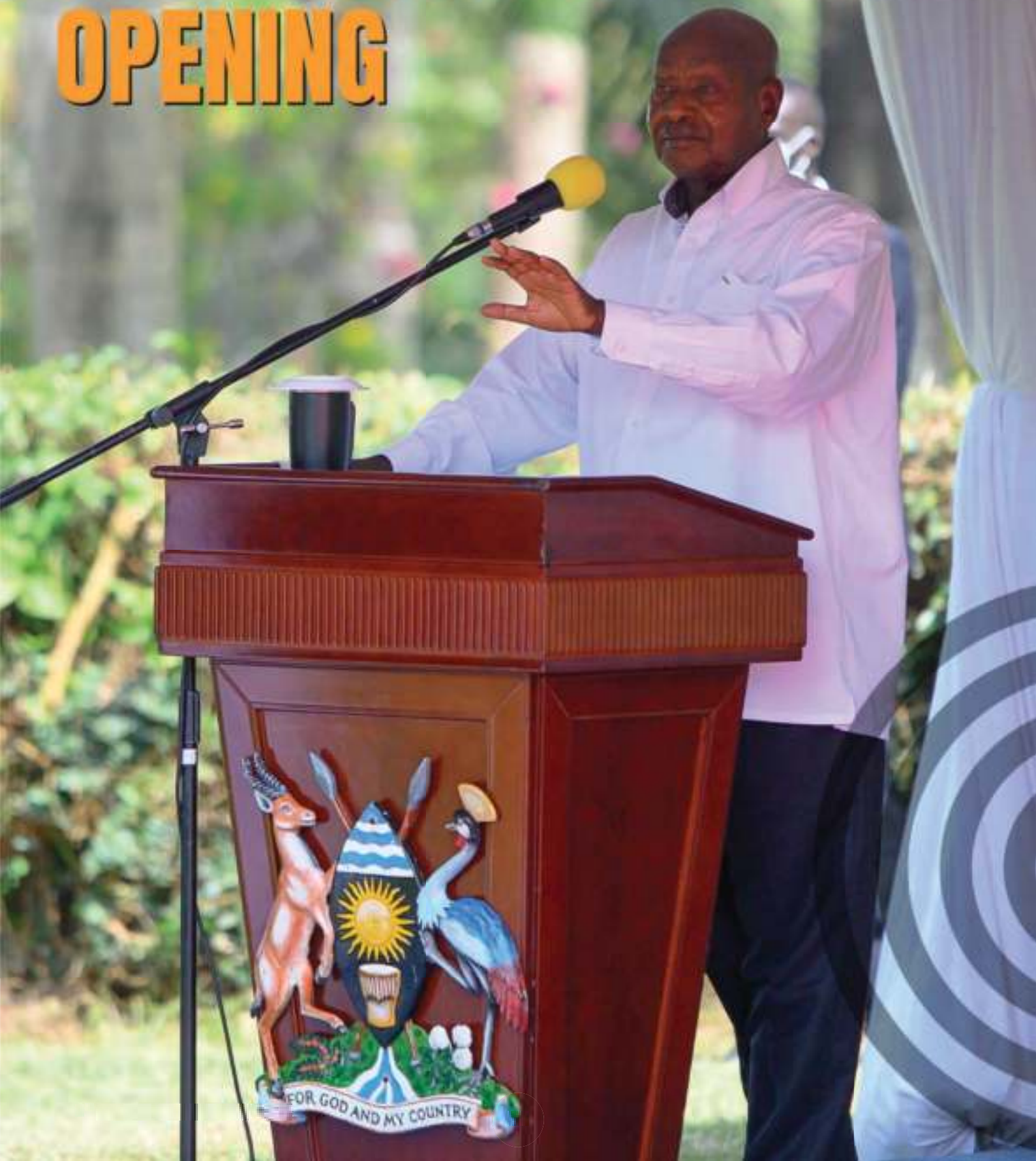


1.1.Call To Action

1. AU member states embrace the APRM toolkit as a vehicle for addressing common youth issues in member states.
2. That the 17 AU member states which have not ratified the Africa Youth Charter do so.
3. Include young people in governance and policy building through AU Member States National Youth Councils.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND OFFICIAL OPENING



7. Keynote Address and Official Opening

By H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda



The following are excerpts of President Museveni's speech.

His remarks were centred around advice to the young people, "on what you want to do if you are going to go far!". He reminded all participants that "the issues of the youth are issues of biology." The 'biology' he said constitutes youth who have different ideas – bright ideas or wrong ones. The bottom line, he said, is for one to have bright ideas; "it is not difficult for the African youth to find these ideas, because they are clear-cut." The President broke them down into the following two categories:

1. **Category 1:** What is the mission of the African youth, now and in the future? The mission constitutes the following two elements:
 - a. **Mission 1:** How do you get *prosperity* for the African people? Taking cognizance that poverty or lack of prosperity is part of the problem. Prosperity, he said, is achieved by producing goods, services and selling them. The youth he said must be in the vanguard of producing goods or services which they can sell within their respective countries, the continent and abroad. He stressed that "Every youth should

be able to produce or participate in producing a good or service that he/she sells."

He underscored that once market integration in Africa is in place, it will lead to the growth of businesses and increased employment and increased payments of taxes that will lead to a prosperous continent.

- b. **Mission 2:** How to create *strategic security* in Africa: This can be achieved through political unity or coordination among African countries. The youth, he said, should have an ideological position.
2. **Category 2:** If the youth want to succeed in Mission 1 & 2 (prosperity and strategic security), they must have a minimum of the following ways of self-belief (ideology):
 - a. *Patriotism* to one's country. The youth should not accept sectarianism in their countries and instead work for the prosperity of their respective countries.
 - b. *Pan-Africanism*: Love Africa
 - c. Change and become modern which leads to socio-economic transformation. Avoid the precapitalist model of life.
 - d. Maintain *Democracy*

The summary of his speech was as follows: **Youth + Biology + Ideology = A Forward Movement**

"Because of lack of unity, what is a small problem becomes big." President Yoweri Museveni

The signing of the Uganda 1 million Next Level Initiative

By H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda

The One Million Next Level Initiative was set up to create opportunities for all 200 million young Africans. The AUC Chairperson's initiative is tailored to create opportunities for young people through Education, Employment, Engagement, Entrepreneurship and Health and Wellbeing (4Es+H).

H.E Yoweri Museveni, in his address before launching the Uganda 1 million Next Level Initiative, committed to reaching 1 million youth in Uganda in the next year. He then went ahead to sign the Uganda 1 million Next Initiative.



1.2 Call To Action by H.E. President Yoweri Museveni

The African youth should:

1. Create prosperity through the production of goods and services (wealth creation).
2. Ensure political unity or coordination among African countries that would then lead to economic integration.
3. Have an ideology.
4. Be Patriotic, Pan-Africanists, ensure Democracy and become modern which then leads to socio-economic transformation.
5. Maintain democracy.





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Session 1: Intergenerational dialogue: Leveraging the 1 Million Next Level Initiative to unleash the potential of Youth



8. Session 1: Intergenerational dialogue: Leveraging the 1 Million Next Level Initiative to unleash the potential of Youth

Session Chair: Ms Chido Mpemba, AU Youth Envoy.

Moderator: Ms Janice Khumalo, Youth Division AUC

Panellists:

1. Prudence Ngwenya, Acting Director, Women Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD)
2. Patrida Paul, Former Youth Advisory Council Member, African Union Commission
3. Ann Sizomu, Program Specialist Lead on Adolescents and Youth, UNFPA Uganda
4. Sam Ogwal, National Youth Council Uganda
5. Dr Edward Addai UNICEF Representative to the AUC and ECA (Online)
6. Ms Daisry Mathias, Presidential Advisor, Youth and Enterprise Development, Namibia
7. Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi, Minister of State for Children and Youth Affairs

The following were the discussion outcomes by each of the Panellists:

The Aisha Video

The session began with a Video on young Aisha's life. A life faced with the option of a life of turbulence or one where she gets equipped with tools to unleash her potential and fulfil her dreams. She chooses the latter through **education**. The documentary highlights how the path she chose empowered her to get through the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on her school, work and mental health.

The narrator concludes by charging the viewer to recommit focusing on education and sustained partnership engagements with youth engagement being at the forefront of development.

1. Prudence Ngwenya: Acting Director, Women Gender and youth Directorate (WGYD)

Ms Ngwenya gave a background of how the One million Next Level Initiative started as a challenge to the then AUC Chairperson to reach one million young people concretely. This was to be achieved by the year 2021 when his term came to an end. Implementation began in 2019 and was aligned then to the 4E's¹. They surpassed the number resoundingly by reaching 8.7million young people. The African Union Commission and partners then agreed that there was the need to intensify the efforts to the young demographic and move forward; the One million Next-Level was born. It seeks to reach 300 million young people by 2030. Health was then included in the 4E's.

The objectives of the One Million Next-Level:

1. To test new ideas and solutions around youth development and engagement.
2. To scale up across the continent, promising practices that have been successful in some countries.
3. To sustain multi-stakeholder partnerships and create public-private youth engagement.
4. To keep youth at the centre of everything and amplify their voices.

Ms Ngwenya outlined the following approach as the pathways to achieving the objectives:

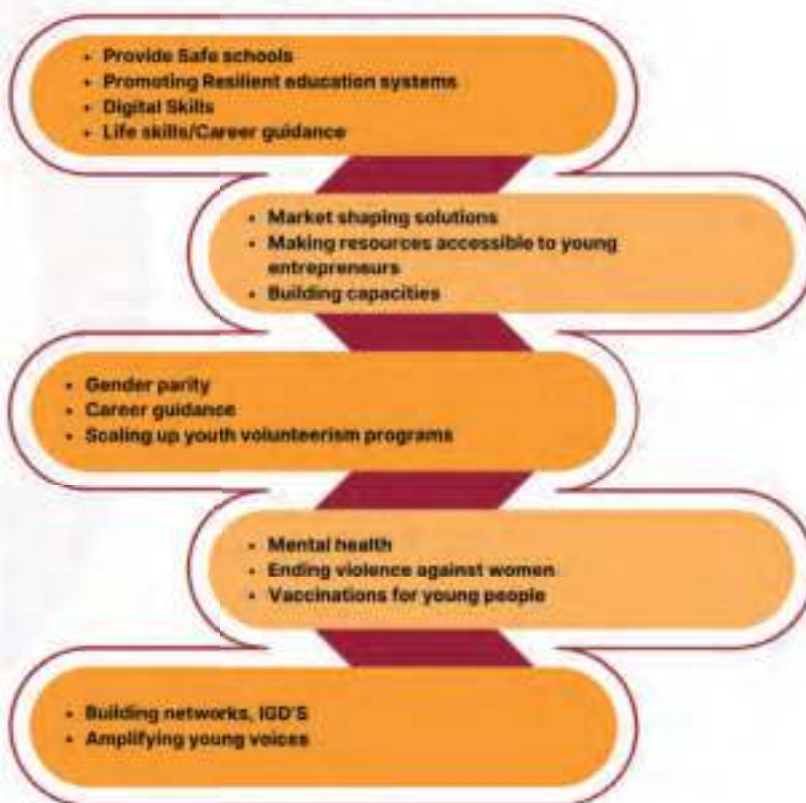
1. Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, Youth Engagement, Health



OBJECTIVE



APPROACH TO ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE



In conclusion, Ms Ngwenya said that member states are at the centre of the implementation of the initiative because “this is where the scale and the impact is”. The initiative is, therefore, adaptable to all nations according to their context.

2. **Patrida Paul, Former African Union Commission for Youth Advisory Council Member**

Ms Paul began her session by reiterating that the 1 Million Next Level Initiative is not another philosophy but is a binding step. She implored the participants to think beyond how best to reposition the youth agenda and implement it in their respective countries.

She gave the following recommendations for the challenges facing the 4Es:

1. *Unemployment:* Invest more in working with existing youth bodies at the grass-root level like national youth boards and youth programs in-country
2. *Education:* Only those privileged to have an education can represent themselves and their issues: Those not educated lack representation; the forum should seek to galvanize efforts to ensure more children get an education.
3. *The gender gap in GBV:* Young girls are violated and more prone to violence. The subject of GBV needs to be deliberated more.

4. *Health:* Introduce peer champions to mobilize communities.

5. *Mental Health:* This subject needs to be deliberated further.

3. **Dr Mary Otieno – Represented by Ann Sizomu - Program Specialist Lead on Adolescents and Youth, UNFPA Uganda**

Ms Sizomu challenged participants to transition the One Million Next Level from being a catalytic initiative to where it can be sustained in terms of committing resources to youth empowerment. She noted that when youth are empowered and allowed to be part of the decision-making process, they become effective drivers of change.

She gave the following recommendations:

1. UNFPA launched an initiative of young professionals from Africa which is in cohorts and helps young people to join for employment and experience. The youth need to join the cohorts when the opportunity arises.
2. Prioritize Sexual Health Education
3. Inclusion should be a reality at the next level. No young person should be left behind. Ensure it is broadly inclusive to those underprivileged like refugees and those living with a disability.
4. Scaling up partnerships to include the private sector and existing youth networks. There is a



need to leverage existing networks as well as create new ones.

5. Dissemination: Ensuring the information is disseminated to all young people for them to know what the opportunity available to them.
6. Innovation: Support and enhance innovation by taking the risks and walking the journey with the young people. The need to create space for young people to innovate.

Ms Sizomu concluded her remarks by encouraging the youth to:

1. Start where they are by Studying for and getting work in the area through volunteering.
2. Share knowledge with peers.
3. Rally and be active participants in youth matters.

4. Sam Ogwal - National Youth Council Uganda

In his remarks, Mr Ogwal outlined the approaches that can be taken to achieve the One Million Next Level through a Nationalist or Continental approach. He opted to follow the Nationalist approach and showcased what his country (Uganda) has done so far on the 4E's+H.

Mr Ogwal cited the following challenges that can impede achieving the One Million Next Level Initiative:

1. Are voices being heard and being considered? Are they being taken seriously?
2. Unclear youth programs
3. Unstructured economic empowerment initiatives.

5. Dr Edward Addai UNICEF representative to the AUC and ECA

Dr Addai pointed out that the 4Es +H provides an opportunity to transform the African continent and bring hope to the youth. He reminded the youth that the world is changing and to cope they must be Resilient and Differentiated. To achieve this, he highlighted the following 4A's:

1. *Aptitude*: Education does not end; learning must be lifelong.
2. *Attitude*: Have a "Can do" attitude; be solution focused.
3. *Awareness of environment*: Adjust accordingly to remain relevant.
4. *Accountability*: Be accountable to others, self and the work that you do.

Education



- There is universal primary education
- Universal secondary [TN1] education is currently implemented giving all an opportunity to get an education. A key challenge, however, is the high number of youths in rural areas not proceeding with education.

Employment



The world is now very dynamic- education papers are no longer the only requirement to qualify for a job as the opportunities are fewer. The youth should now look beyond qualifications and figure out what else they can do.

Engagement



Uganda has a very vibrant engagement culture with its youth



He concluded by reinforcing UNICEF'S commitment to the implementation of the One million Next Level Initiative.

6. Ms Daisry Mathias, Presidential Advisor, Youth and Enterprise Development, Namibia

Ms Daisry spoke about how the One Million Next Level Initiative program has achieved even greater impact and overshoot its target because of the role of partnerships. Governments, she said, have to foster enduring partnerships and work together with all stakeholders for its successful implementation. On the flip side, she also noted that this could also be a reflection on the dream of the initiative - that perhaps it was not big enough.

On behalf of the government of Namibia, she affirmed the country's commitment to the tenets of the One Million Next Level Initiative on the 4E's+H: She concluded her presentation by extending an invitation to APRM and informing the delegates that Namibia was willing and ready to model the One Million Next level Initiative and replicate it in their national programs.

7. Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi, Minister of State for Children and Youth Affairs, Government of Uganda

Hon. Nyirabashitsi gave the following status of what Uganda is doing regarding the 4E's+H and the steps being taken to towards unleashing the potential of its youth:

1. *Engagement* – Laws, and policies have structures all the way from grassroots to the top (National parliament) to engage with leaders. This approach has helped address and put youth issues on the government's agenda and programmes.
2. *Empowerment*: Amidst disapproval from the delegates, she stated that there were specific programs for the youth and they were planning for it. She referred to a program that had been stopped due to financial misappropriation and said that if it was sorted it would get back on track.
3. *Health and well-being*: The government has put in place programs for vaccination and immunization.
4. *Employment*: This remains a key challenge. The government has done a lot; there is, however, little documentation, if any, to show the extent.



1.3 Call To Action

1. African Union Member States, Development Partners, Private Sector and Civil Society were urged to respond to the crisis of youth unemployment & underemployment, climate change, youth inclusion in democracy and good governance, education, peace and security, skills development, entrepreneurship, health and lifestyle, adolescent youth health and covid-19 resilience.
2. The 1 Million Next Level Initiative is the successor to the One Million by 2021 Initiative, and it aims to reach youth 300 Million Youth by 2030. Participants requested AU Member States to Launch the 1 Million Next Level initiatives in AU Member States.
3. African youth to be aware of African Union Normative Frameworks and Policy guiding youth development such as the African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (2019-2023).
4. The APRM to continue providing platforms for youth to be sensitised about the work of the African Union and youth development frameworks such as the African Youth Charter, AU Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth and Targets on Youth Enshrined in the Agenda 2063 Ten Year Implementation Plan.
5. AU Member States, corporate sponsors, and development partners upscale their support to entrepreneurs. In addition, promotion of decent jobs and income for young people by promoting interventions that support youth start-ups and SMEs to thrive under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
6. AU Member States, and development partners lower of costs of trade through reduction in cross-border trade restrictions.



Session 2: Validation of the APRM Youth Toolkit for targeted review



9. Session 2: Validation of the APRM Youth Toolkit for targeted reviews

Session Chair: Ms Chido Mpemba, AU Youth Envoy

Moderator: Mr Lennon Monyae, APRM Continental Secretariat & Youth Liaison

Presenter: Mr. Ivan Atuyambe YouLead Director

Panellists:

1. Hon. Nyamuturo Phiona, National Female Youth MP & Vice-Chair Parliamentary Forum of Youth Affairs, Uganda
2. Ms Daisy Mathias, Presidential Advisor: Youth Matters & Enterprise Development, Namibia
3. Mr Daniel Aryee, Youth Program Officer, Team Member at Office of the AU Youth Envoy, Ghana

The following were the discussion outcomes by each of the Panellists:

1. Mr Ivan Atuyambe YouLead Director

Mr Atuyambe gave a presentation on the APRM toolkit for strengthening youth participation in the governance and development process.

He reported that Africa is the world's youngest continent; the young people retain the right to be included in political decision-making processes and shape their narrative on inclusive democracy and human development. Over the past 20-30 years the youth representation and participation avenues have opened up in several African countries with a fair share of gender balance. Some have successfully secured elective positions and appointments; special assignments have also opened up for the youth.

The millennials are calling for more inclusive leadership; recent research shows that 91% of youth aspire to be leaders, however, lack of proper training, mentorship and support hinder these aspirations.

To this end, there remains limited or no avenues to hold governments and representatives accountable for this task. There is a disconnect between the political inclination, policy choices and behaviour of current leaders and institutions on one hand to the needs, hopes and aspirations of the young people on the other.

The APRM toolkit, he said, will provide a formatting checklist that will determine whether the various stakeholders participating in the process have responded to the commonly agreed youth concerns; it will also offer a convenient summary that provides an overview of the results and recommendations to APRM participating countries own self-assessment processes on youth participation and empowerment. The Youth Toolkit will be applied either as a

supplementary to the main APRM country review process or as a targeted review on youth democracy, good governance challenges and solutions addressing youth leadership participation concerns.

The expected results will be in the identification of youth leadership capacity gaps, develop leadership training programmes; enhanced dialogue, exchanging accountability between youth, governments and their political representatives; fostering cooperation and exchange between youth representatives at the country, regional and continental levels;

2. Ms Daisy Mathias, Presidential Advisor; Youth Matters & Enterprise Development, Namibia

She reaffirmed the country's commitment to continuous improvement on youth matters and retaliated that the Namibian framework is Pro Youth and Pro-Poor.

3. Mr Daniel Aryee, Youth Program Officer and Team Member at Office of the AU Youth Envoy, Ghana

Mr Aryee reported on some of the interventions the government has undertaken to include the youth. These are the development frameworks like the African New Charter, National Builders Corp etc. These are assisting young entrepreneurs to have access to capital.

Country Commitments on the Toolkit

1. Kenya: Has committed to piloting the toolkit
2. Namibia: Has committed to advancing the interests of the youth
3. Sierra Leone: Is undertaking a second-generation review. Some of the components of the APRM Youth Toolkit will be assessed.



1.4 Call To Action

1. The APRM Youth Toolkit serves as a checklist to determine whether the various stakeholders participating in the process have responded to commonly agreed youth concerns. APRM Member States were requested to use the Toolkit during APRM Country Reviews and Targeted Reviews.
2. APRM Member States to use the Youth Toolkit to identify youth leadership capacity gaps and respond with leadership training.
3. APRM Member States to utilize the APRM Youth Toolkit for Targeted Reviews on youth challenges in governance and development.
4. Youth requested to use the Toolkit to enhance dialogue, exchange accountability between youth, governments, and their political representatives, and foster cooperation and exchange between youth representatives at the country, regional and continental level.
5. APRM Member States pilot the Youth Toolkit, which includes 15 standard frameworks that inform the basis for assessment. These are Continental & National Development Plans (Agenda 2063 & SDGs), Implementation of the African Youth Charter, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, The AU Demographic Dividend Roadmap, African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment, African Governance Architecture Youth Engagement Strategy, African Union Youth for Peace, and African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).





Session 3: Tackling Youth Unemployment in Africa: Leveraging ICT for sustainable employment and job creation



10. Session 3: Tackling Youth Unemployment in Africa: Leveraging ICT for sustainable employment and job creation

Moderator: Mr Lennon Monyae, APRM Continental Secretariat Youth Liaison Officer.

Presenter: Hon. Mayemba Simon, Director, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance - Uganda

Panellists:

1. Mr Oswald Anonadaga Wadam, CEO Floodgates Youth Initiative Ghana
 2. Mr Raymond Ouma Ochieng, Secretary Youth Affairs – Ministry of ICT and Youth Kenya.
 3. Ms. Zulaiha Dobia Abdullah – Divaloper Initiative, Ghana
1. A keynote address on youth unemployment in Africa was given by **Hon Simon Mayembe, the Director of ICT and National Guidance Uganda on behalf of Dr Aminah Zawedde the Permanent Secretary.** Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is transforming the world by creating new job opportunities by making labour markets more innovative, inclusive and globally connected. ICT offers greater connectivity, digitization of more aspects of work and more globalized skills. He reported that Uganda has invested in Indigenous National ICT Innovation Hubs, Digital literacy, and mindset change among other areas of interest related to ICT.
 2. **Mr Oswald Anonadaga Wadam, CEO Floodgates Youth Initiative, Ghana** spoke on how the 4th Industrial revolution is creating employment in Ghana. The digital space in Ghana has grown tremendously and has even been recognized for offering technology solutions. There has been pivoted by the digital literacy programs run by the government and the many institutions offering ICT and computer science-related degrees. There is an increase in software engineers who are establishing software start-up companies, while others are engaging in online content creation and the gig economy. The government has also offered support to technology institutions through tax breaks for technology start-ups for a few years
 3. **Mr Raymond Ouma Ochieng, Secretary Youth Affairs – Ministry of ICT and Youth Kenya** gave an overview experience with youth and unemployment and the role of ICT. Kenya, he said, has tackled the issue of youth and unemployment through a threefold approach, affirmative action

which makes it possible for the youth to access funds; the *Ajira* digital program which has created online work for over 2 million young people; and the internet access through hubs located in various parts of the country. He emphasized that with ICT and the digital revolution there are no barriers to the market. He spoke on the robust National Youth Council which is fully financed, the well-articulated National Youth Policy and the presence of six Cabinet Secretaries who are below the age of 35.

4. **Ms Zulaiha Dobia Abdullah – Divaloper Initiative, Ghana,** spoke on ICT being fast moving forward in the global market and it is crucial to have sustainable security measures, grow wealth and compete globally Divaloper initiative is a social enterprise that trains and mentors females to pick up careers in technology and to bridge the economic gap in the Tech space. ICT is fast moving. It is also coming up with a new initiative to broaden quality education in Africa and the creation of a portal for teaching. As a continent, we have a lot of potential and resources that the world currently needs.

Also present for the intergenerational dialogue addressing issues of youth unemployment were:

1. **The Ugandan Minister of Gender and Youth:** It was said issues to do with the youth are cross-cutting in all government ministries. There is training, support for the youth and funds for innovators.
2. **Ambassador Taonga Mushayavanhu, the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe:** informed delegates that there is a department that coordinates youth policies in his country. He challenged the youth to tap into data as it is the new oil.
3. **The Permanent Representative Council Member of Uganda** stated that the government works with the youth, especially in cyberspace. She challenged the delegates to maximize cyberspace to create employment for themselves and other youth.
4. **The Permanent Representative Council Member of Sierra Leone:** reiterated that youth issues are cross-cutting. A directorate of science and technology has been established in the country whose staff are mainly the youth. The government is running youth programmes in carwash, agriculture and in providing free education. It is also reviving the sports culture in the country.
5. **Mr Eric Wafukho, Chief Administrative Secretary of Finance, National Treasury and Planning, Kenya,** talked about what the country is doing to tackle youth unemployment as follows:
 1. Education system: the government is investing resources and training towards reviewing and overhauling the Kenyan



- education system to a Competence-Based Curriculum.
2. Policies: these have been put in place to empower and strengthen the private sector to create jobs by ensuring easy access to credit.
 3. Financial literacy/entrepreneurship: there is continuous investment in capacity building in these areas for the youth.
 4. Six members of the Kenyan Cabinet are below the age of 30 years.
- Deliberate efforts need to be in place to put the youth on the decision-making table;

1.5 Call To Action

1. The AU work with the Member States to equip young people with skills to compete globally. The Digital Age requires special skills, upskill, reskill and integrate young people.
2. Enhance Digital Literacy of the Citizens/youth and overcome Digital Apartheid caused by lack of access to smart devices and connectivity.
3. Invest in reliable and efficient Network Connectivity.
4. Subsidize Hardware and Software to be universally Affordable.
5. Invest increasingly in Innovation in the ICTs.
6. Invest in Appropriate Education Reforms that deliver Job Creators and NOT Job Seekers.
7. Ensure that the quality of internet services in Africa is improved.
8. Make efforts to lower the cost of internet services (data and reduce the frequent downtime that exists in almost all African Countries).
9. Ensure consumer protection and cyber security.
10. Incubation and giving young people a chance to move from the nascent stage of ideation to actual implementation and starting SMEs in ICT.
11. Share clear proposals for action with relevant authorities & government to support youth-led Public-Private Partnerships.
12. Improve the legal framework governing copyright and patents for ICT innovations.
13. Upscale and leverage women's participation in the digital space.
14. AU Member States to upscale opportunities in the Gig Economy by establishing Youth Development Centres / Empowerment Centres.
15. National Youth Development policies to strengthen ICT access, especially for young women and girls.
16. Attract investments in ICT through tax breaks and subsidies for companies/ businesses in the Gig economy.
17. Take lessons from Youth innovation during the Covid-19 Pandemic.
18. Strengthen youth quality education through remote learning and the provision of ICT skills.
19. The Republic of Kenya has merged the Ministry of ICT and Youth. The AU Member States benchmark the best practices in the Kenyan experience with ICT reform.
20. African countries could leverage ICT and Digital Revolution by closing the gap in regional integration.
21. AU Member States institute affirmative action and access to finance for ICT start-ups.





Session 4: Peace and Security in Africa: Highlighting the contributions of youth



11. Session 4: Peace and Security in Africa: Highlighting the contributions of youth

Moderator: H.E Amuge Otengo Rebecca

Panellists:

1. H.E Amuge Otengo Rebecca, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative of AU, IGAD, UNECA and Member of Peace and Security Council
2. Mr David Abuga Momanyi: Executive Director Horn of Africa Youth Network, Djibouti
3. Ms Muneinazyo Kujeke, Research Officer, Institute for Security Studies, South Africa
4. H.E Ms Jainaba Jagne, Ambassador of the Republic of Gambia to Ethiopia & AUC Permanent Representative Council.
5. Ms Hager Loftfy, African Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat –Youth Representative
6. Ms Yousra Ndiaye, APRM National Secretariat, Republic of Chad



The following were the discussion outcomes by each of the Panellists:

1. Remarks by H.E Amuge Otengo Rebecca, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative of AU, IGAD, UNECA and Member of Peace and Security Council

In her remarks, H.E Otengo Rebecca referred to the speech by H.E. President Yoweri Museveni on strategic security for the continent which is critical towards moving the youth agenda forward in Africa. The biggest challenge, she said, is peace. She urged the youth to articulate what must be done to get peace and maintain it.

2. Mr David Abuga Momanyi: Executive Director Horn of Africa Youth Network, Djibouti

In his remarks, Mr Momanyi stressed that for peace and security to be maintained in the region, the youth must be engaged. The youth population is high in the continent and to be able to have a transformative agenda, the youth must discuss issues of peace. Frameworks have been put in place to engage the youth in the continent and internationally; for instance, the AU in July 2020 adopted a Continental Framework for youth peace and security that reiterates the involvement of youth in security within the continent.

He based his presentation on the following 5 Pillars: (Participation, Prevention, Protection, Prosperity and Partnership)

1. *Participation:* Stakeholders must advocate and promote active meaningful youth participation. If you are not on the table, you are on the menu. National youth councils- Uganda had the most progressive youth councils in the continent. Tensions will arise if the youth are not involved in the peace process.
2. *Prevention:* Stakeholders must strengthen and build youth capacity in conflict prevention. Somalia was cited in its efforts to strengthen youth capacity in prevention by having grass-root organizations partner with development partners in training on issues of mediation and establishment of youth caucuses that champion peace.
3. *Protection:* Stakeholders to advocate and promote the protection of youth peace. Many countries led by Nigeria have developed a national action plan that enhances declarations with emphasis on the need to strengthen coordination that boosts regional integration on protection systems and mechanisms at the national and continental levels.
4. *Prosperity:* For shared prosperity across borders and for the African Continental Free Trade Area to become a reality, there is a need to strengthen peace.
5. *Partnerships:* Stakeholders to facilitate effective communication for coordination and collaboration by creating mutual understanding among the youth.

3. Ms Muneinazyo Kujeke, Research Officer, Institute for Security Studies, South Africa

Ms Kujeke stated that there is a continental framework for peace and security with an implementation plan of ten years. In this regard, she emphasized the need for member states to work with national youth councils and youth ministries. The youth, she said, need to be engaged to determine whether they are speaking the same language on how they understand peace. The context is important based on their origins and that they understand the various triggers. She cited an



example of the youth in one country who were seen taking selfies with a bomb in parliament; in another country that has experienced conflict (South Sudan), this would be taken as being insensitive.

4. H.E Ms Jainaba Jagne, Ambassador of the Republic of Gambia to Ethiopia & AUC Permanent Representative Council

Ms Jagne introduced the two schools of thought on the youth in peace and security in Africa and emphasized the need to examine the two. The public perceptions of youth are a mix of opportunities and threats. She cited the following:

1. *Youth as Threats*: There is a widespread view that they are responsible for the collapse of public order in many countries. Popular narratives see them more as threats because of the violent actions of some of them. These perceptions presume that youth are easily lured to participate in violent actions in the context of widespread unemployment and economic vulnerabilities.
2. *Youth as enablers of peace*: Many of the youth are actively involved in tackling problems that threaten peace and security. They are the champions of innovation and social changes that contribute to peace and security as well as economic growth and development; they are a conduit to and enablers of peace.

The African Youth Charter article 17 highlights the important role of youth in peace and security through:

1. Strengthening the capacity of youth-led bodies in peacebuilding
2. Use of education to promote a culture of peace
3. Mobilization of youth in post-conflict rehabilitation

The Peace and Security Council, she said, held their 807th meeting in November 2018; it called on member states to develop national action plans and remove structural barriers to youth participation. The meeting requested permission from the AU to undertake a study in determining the role of the youth in promoting peace and security and to submit the findings to the council for consideration and action where deemed appropriate. Pursuant to the above, the AU Peace and Security Department inaugurated the Youth for Peace Program in 2018 with the key objective of mainstreaming African youth into peace and security.

Case Example of Gambia: Ahead of the 2016 elections in the country, the National Youth Parliament facilitated inter-party dialogues about the conflict along tribal lines fuelled by politicians on the campaign trail. It brought all relevant stakeholders to develop a Code of Ethics and Memorandum of Understanding between political parties. These talks were complemented by the nationwide peace

awareness campaigns by the National Youth Council. In recognition of the efforts, the political affairs Peace and Security Council of the African Union trained the National Youth Council as election monitors. The election was peaceful and transitioned without significant bloodshed. This was made possible all because of the contribution of youth.

Ms Jagne, in closing, gave the following recommendations:

1. Mainstream youth participation in youth and security.
2. Implement affirmative action of youth quota of representation.
3. Popularize continental normative frameworks and track their progress.
4. Strengthen youth participation at the regional level.
5. Build capacity, strengthen and mainstream youth programs.
6. Strengthen networks at the national, regional and continental levels.

5. Ms Hager Loffty, African Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat –Youth Representative

In her remarks, Ms Loffty informed the meeting that AGA has developed a Unified African manual for enhancing youth participation in political and electoral processes. The manuals seek to help the youth effectively engage in the political process; it is made up of the Guiding, Facilitators and Participants manual. In 2021, Gambia requested for the manual. It was tested ahead of the country's elections to help young people to effectively participate in the electoral processes.

6. Ms Yousra Ndiaye, APRM National Secretariat, Republic of Chad

The speech was in French: the translating equipment failed around the room.

7. Plenary and Discussion Session

The following were the key outcomes:

- 1.1 *The definition of peace*: This needs to be properly defined and the term understood by all. Food and hunger are termed as insecurity in a country. This definition should include the welfare of the individual and communities as well as lobbying, which is part of peace and security.
- 1.2 *Peace in Congo*: Peace in Congo is peace in the region. Regional mechanisms are underway towards finding a solution to the conflict. The youth in Congo should use social media to create awareness about the challenges being experienced in the country by creating a hashtag for DRC.



1.3 The role of the youth in peacebuilding

1.3.1. *Case of South Sudan:*

1.3.1.1 The youth have driven both the conflict and also peace process. A youth delegation is in place to lobby the government to join APRM and ratify the Youth Peace and Security Resolution.

1.3.1.2 The youth in the country needs to work with the Institute for Security Studies to determine approaches to developing national action plans for peace and security in the country.

1.3.2 *The Case of English-speaking Cameroon:* It has had no peace for six years. The youth have been part of the problem because of a lack of knowledge but with time they have been educated on the importance of peacebuilding. The AU needs to do more to change the ideologies of young people.

1.6 Call To Action

1. The AU Member States promote peace, security, and governance by signing, ratifying, and domesticating all crucial governance instruments
2. Youth familiarize themselves with Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council; The African Union Post-Conflict and Reconstruction Policy Framework; the Conference on Stability, Security, Development and Democracy (CSSDCA); the AU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; the African Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.
3. The fast-track deployment of the Africa Standby Force in the flashpoint of violence.
4. Youth to support their countries to implement constitutionalism and the rule of law in line with AU Shared Values. It means rejecting Unconstitutional Changes of Government and Respect for the Rule of Law.
5. Advocate for the inclusion of the Youth Peace and Security agenda into Continental Initiatives and National Action Plans. The African Union, African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP), was commended as a practice to replicate at the grassroots level. Therefore, African nations must strive to urgently appoint African Youth Ambassadors for Peace at the grassroots level.
6. Increased Youth Engagement initiatives at the local level allowing youth to participate as enablers of Peace and Security.
7. Request for interpretation /understanding of "peace" beyond guns. In the contemporary world, security encompasses the welfare of the community. For example, access to food is now a security matter, and climate change significantly contributes to insecurity.
8. All AU member States requested to support the DRC to end armed conflict in its eastern region.
9. Strengthen women's role in peace and security in decision-making and negotiations of peace agreements.
10. South Sudan youth have started lobbying their government to join the APRM. Youth are encouraged to utilize the APRM as a vehicle to share lessons in peace building.
11. The AU empower Somali citizens to take care of their destiny in their country.
12. The youth should be included as election observers because they are the majority and would increase faith in the electoral processes.



Session 5: Leveraging Mobility for Youth Development in Africa



12. Session 5: Leveraging Mobility for Youth Development in Africa

Sponsored By:



Moderator: Ms Jemima Idinoba, Research Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Liaison Office to the AU and UNECA

Panellists:

1. Peggy Ayesige: OPM: *OPM, Protection Officer (representing the Hon. Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Uganda)*
2. Sarah Badr - Official Egypt Spokesperson for the World Youth Forum and Regional Focal Point for UN MGCY Migration Working Group in MENA
3. Gloriah Soma – Executive Director, Titi Foundation, South Sudan
4. Getrude Mookho Letele – Youth Empowerment Advocate, Lesotho
5. Nadia Owusu – United Youth Initiative for Africa, Ghana
6. Nnamno Enang – Lead Ambassador, Youth Ambassadors for Free Movement of Persons in Africa (YAFTEMOPA)



1. **Remarks by Ms. Peggy Ayesige: OPM, Protection Officer (representing the Hon. Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Uganda).**

In her remarks, Ms Ayesige stated that Uganda hosts more than a million refugees inclusive of women and children who are in search of a dignified life and restoration through education and health access. She stated that Uganda intends to use migration as a tool for development in several ways which include;

1. Uganda as a country has an open-door policy for refugees.
2. Harness migration through externalization of labour and strengthening protection policies; this is being done through bilateral labour agreements with labour importing countries to enhance the protection of labour. The country intends to work on policies that increase white-collar job seekers in other countries.
3. Returnees are being skilled through the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development and money lending
4. The Refugees ACT 2006 and 2010 seek to promote rights and access to education for nationals and refugees through the integration of services.
5. The country remains committed to the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) concerning forced migration, protection mechanisms and reducing the trafficking of persons.
6. Creating coordination platforms like the NCM to increase coordination and policy harmonization on migration-related matters.
7. Engaging and working with partners; IOM, and IGAD on migration-related matters
8. Policy harmonization for the region through the East African migration Policy.

In closing, she affirmed that Uganda remains committed to harnessing migration as a tool for the development and protection of the youth through durable solutions such as;

1. Working with the diaspora to create platforms for the investment of monies made in foreign countries.
2. Voluntary return of refugees to the country.
3. Engaging with partners like World Bank to implement programs to benefit refugees so as there is the restoration of the dignity of youth living in the country.
4. Developing new approaches on how best to regularize migration of youth in the country.

The following are the key outcomes from the panellist discussions:

1. **Key facts:** When a discussion on migration is started, it depicts a picture of a young person



in the process of leaving the continent. 8/10 persons migrating prefer to migrate within the African continent.

2. *Migration Triggers:*

2.1. Political factors

2.2. Economic and social factors

2.3. Environment factors, including climate change

3. Challenges that have arisen:

3.1. Triggers put a strain on the basic needs of human life like access to education opportunities.

3.2. It is difficult for migrants to have their qualifications recognized in the countries of migration alienating them from the opportunities sought.

3.3. Exclusion of migrants from decision-making circles.

3.4. No gender-focused policies thereby exposing women migrants to exploitation and trafficking.

3.5. The difficulty experienced by migrants in getting work permits.

4. Recommendations on what member states are doing to respond to the migration issue

4.1. To ratify the FMPA protocol to ensure free movement of persons.

4.2. Child-sensitive policies are put in place as policies like detention deprive children of their basic rights to be part of society.

4.3. Full implementation of the AfCFTA for market integration.

4.4. Implement the actions that arose from the Malabo Summit.

4.5. State-led and AU-led frameworks to harness the benefits of migration and the development of people through movement.

4.6. Kenya is making and creating safe spaces for Africans starting with housing where they are given opportunities to own homes and create their community.

5. How to get young people with limited resources and reach the local level:

5.1. For the government to give conducive spaces through dialogues as well as recognize the abilities young people may bring to the table.

5.2. For donors to put resources to tap into innovative knowledge and skills.

5.3. For the youth to be allowed to learn skills that would help alleviate unemployment.

The following were the key outcomes of the Plenary Discussions:

1. Unemployment and Exploitation are a big issue in Africa through labour export to the Middle East. This can be attributed to the following:

1.1. Governments failing to create enabling environments thereby pushing young persons out of the region.

1.2. Dealing harshly with persons exploiting the naivety individuals/labour.

1.3. Have the necessary policies in place to ensure young people are protected against exploitation.

2. Climate change and how the youth can ensure the protection of the environment

2.1. Promoting partnerships that share resources to collectively make policies to tackle issues of climate change.

2.2. To facilitate technology usage within farming to reduce the adverse effects on the environment.

2.3. Financing and capacity building on food development.

2.4. Youth advocacy through social media with the right information.



1.7 Call To Action

1. African people are encouraged to view and use migration as a positive phenomenon for development in Africa
2. AU organs assist in popularizing the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment, and other state-led/AU-led frameworks to harness benefits of migration and development of people through movement.
3. Youth are requested to raise awareness on trafficking of persons and modern-day slavery
4. AU is encouraged to investigate pull and push factors and look at factors influencing migration, such as political issues that lead to war, thus enhancing the refugee crisis in the continent.
5. The Free Movement of People Protocol needs 15 countries to ratify; 4 countries have done so, and 11 more are required for it to come into force.
6. The AU Member States sign and ratify the Protocol on Free Movement to ensure the free movement of persons. Youth are requested to participate in trade, tourism, and education policy formulation. However, the FMPA protocol cannot work without the AfCFTA.
7. The AU Member States are requested to apply child/minors sensitive policies as part of immigration laws.
8. The African Humanitarian Fund be used to mitigate migration caused by humanitarian crises and better preparedness for disasters linked to migration. The AU Member States are encouraged to invest in Early Warning Systems.
9. African countries are encouraged to develop and implement diaspora strategies to create spaces for those in the diaspora to benefit from access to Africa through migration, develop policies that put in place minimum wage laws even for exported labour.



Session 6: Africa-Europe Relations: Impact of global shocks (COVID-19 & regional conflict) on youth opportunities in Africa



13. Session 6: Africa-Europe Relations: Impact of global shocks (COVID-19 & regional conflict) on youth opportunities in Africa

Moderator: Mr Daniel Obal, Uganda's Senior Presidential Aide In-Charge of Youth Affairs

Panellists:

1. H.E. Ambassador Arthur Kafeero - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Uganda
2. Ms Bitania Lulu Berhanu, Former Advisor on Youth Matters to the European Union Commissioner for International Partnerships
3. Ms Jessica Leanne Hagan, Africa No Filter Program Lead, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
4. Ms Annette Sagri, of the AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub Cluster for Business and Job Creation



Mr Daniel Obal, the session moderator said Covid-19 put the AU and EU on a table to dissect the issues of interest to them. Discussions on Covid-19 vaccination came out strongly. He noted that a good number of the African populace were in Europe for study and continued to depend on Europe for strategic and important aspects of development.

By Ambassador Mr Arthur Kafeero - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Kafeero noted that Africa and Europe have a structured relationship between the AU and EU. In February 2022, they had their first meeting at Heads of State level since the onset of Covid-19.

Africa has the highest youth population, (15-35 years of age) at over 400 million, a group that was hit hard by

Covid-19. The pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities of individual countries and the continent too, he said. A more united Africa, he observed, would have withstood the Covid-19 pandemic better. He noted that Covid-19 exposed the unequalness in the world: Africa with 18% of the global population received a dismal 1.6% of the global share of vaccine doses. The lack of access to vaccines was a lesson to Africa. The lessons include the realisation that the world is interconnected and interdependent.

The African youth have a role to strengthen this interdependence, by way of speaking and promoting it. Issues like Covid, climate justice, transboundary crime, and terrorism affect the whole world, hence the need to work together.

Another lesson from Covid was that there are strategic interventions that need to be made to make socio-economic investment possible, he said adding that again, the youth had a role, advocacy herein. Thirdly, if Africa is to make progress going forward, "we must embrace the digital age and adopt digital technologies to production and services."

Regrettably, he added, the digital gap affecting young people is most pronounced in developing countries and Africa specifically. This in turn called for the empowerment of the young people to develop the requisite capacities to foster development and progress.

Mr Kafeero said that despite the Covid-19-related challenges, Africa remained a continent on the rise. With a population of about 1.4 billion and a combined GDP of USD2.7t, "the continent remains an attractive destination for increased investment". To accelerate growth in Africa, the youth have a role. Tapping and harnessing their skills will work for Africa's prosperity.

Agenda 2063 is critical for which the AU is emphasising, the importance of a peaceful and secure continent where development is people-driven. The Agenda recognises the role of women and the youth in playing out this role- more so for reasons of how much impact peace and security (or lack of it) has had on the two groups.

He urged the youth to play their role in cementing relations with other regions of the world such as Europe and beyond, and also in fostering peace and security in Africa and the world.

He said, "I urge the youth to play a role, first, by championing the integration of Africa as a peaceful continent, and secondly, to champion the importance of working in a continent that is interconnected and has value to add in ensuring global peace, security and prosperity,"

Ms Bitania Lulu Berhanu, Former Advisor on Youth Matters to the European Union Commissioner for International Partnerships highlighted the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the youth. She said there were losses of many jobs universally



in Africa and Europe and mostly affecting young people. Further, Covid-19 drastically hit the informal businesses and SME sector, especially in Africa where most economies are run by the informal sector. Ms Lulu observed that the education sector was also affected by the lockdowns and school closures. The young people could not go or access school unless they had digital access, which in turn increased the digital divide. Africa, she noted is doing poorly on the digital front. In Ethiopia, she noted, only about 4% of its population were using digital technology, according to an economist's analysis report.

"I find the results hard to believe, but which is actually true," she commented on the digital technology access in her home country.

She noted that despite the Covid-19 shocks, there was still a positive side to it. To adopt Covid-19's "New Normal", digitization has spurred while creativity and innovation have increased drastically as well, which "is a very good highlight that Covid brought". The world is now technologically connected more than ever- they can work online.

She continued, "So digital platforms, data and internet connectivity have been the three major tools that have helped people go about doing their jobs and promote products and new investments as well as provide access to information about the global situation in the wake of the pandemic."

She said because Covid-19 impacted the whole world, Africa and Europe stood in solidarity to fight their common enemy, the pandemic. She noted that the AU-EU Summit in February 2022 agreed on the following:

1. *A Joint Vision:* Aware of unprecedented and mounting common challenges and opportunities, the leaders of the EU and AU committed to a Joint Vision for a renewed Partnership to build a common future, as closest partners and neighbours.
2. *A Renewed Partnership:* The AU-EU renewed partnership addresses both the immediate opportunities and challenges, as well as the long-term possibilities offered by the partnership.

She said that during the AU_EU Summit, there was a youth track that brought CSOs and youths from both worlds together to set their priorities post-Covid-19 and also the demands of young people from both continents. The Africa-Europe Week on the sidelines of the Summit was organized to bring together young people, civil society and the private sector from Africa and Europe to discuss the aspects of the Africa-EU Partnership that matter to them the most. Lulu observed that before the Africa-Europe Week, there were great efforts and months, if not years of preparations since the last AU-EU Summit in 2017 in Abidjan.

She applauded the #YourVoiceYourFuture digital campaign, the U-report, launched by the African

Union, European Union and UNICEF to directly engage young people and gather their identified topics affecting their future and relevant to the partnership between the two continents.

"All the consultations that took place in the youth track were guided by and themed around the key recommendations from the 450,000 children and young people that took part in the U-report from across Africa and Europe," she told her audience.

She outlined a summary of what young people from Africa, Europe and the diaspora demanded;

1. *Youth political participation:* - that is, for the recognition of the leadership roles of young people; Demand for a seat at the decision-making and negotiation tables; intergenerational co-leadership; Youth engagement in Peace and Security; Accountability and transparency from governments, and; A 35% quota systems for youth, 50% of which are for women.
2. *Accelerating human development:* - this called for among others:
 - 2.1. Intensifying team Europe's efforts as well as support AU Covid Response Fund to strengthen the fight against the pandemic and vaccine injustices; and beyond Covid, Financing to strengthen health systems, including access to quality, affordable and youth-friendly SRHR services; Knowledge and cultural exchange platforms to enhance people partnership between African, European, and diaspora youth;
 - 2.2. Invest(ment) in quality and comprehensive education; not only in formal education but equally in informal education, TVET and civic education.
 - 2.3. Accelerating the green and digital transition, and sustainable growth and decent jobs: the demands were:
 - 2.4. On the digital transition: increase access to digital technologies, internet, capacity building, and digital literacy skills development, as well as job readiness and entrepreneurship training;
 - 2.5. Green transition: Youth inclusive climate action and environmental preservation actions
 - 2.6. Improvement of disaster risk preparedness, resilience and management systems/strategies for food security, with young people as key informants and contributors.

Ms Lulu told participants that the outcome documents from the various tracks were distributed to the Heads of State at the EU-AU Summit. This was also mentioned in the final declaration (Point 8).

"Despite the endorsements from AU and EU leaders, it is up to us, the youth to ensure the achievement of these aspirations by working with our initiatives, creating a movement and holding our governments accountable," she said.



Ms Jessica Leanne Hagan, Africa No Filter Program Lead, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, said that besides the financial implications Covid-19 has had on the world at both ground and government levels, the pandemic had disproportionately affected the emotional, mental and spiritual state of young people in Africa.

A Multiple Award-Winning Playwright, Ms Hagan, identified Covid-19's *negative impact* as massive job losses in Africa, a continent which already has high unemployment rates, the fear of death, a prolonged Covid presence and a lack of trust in healthcare systems, cancellation of programmes, cancellation of travel opportunities for school and studies and more.

In terms of *positive impact*, she observed that workers are no longer sitting in hours of traffic before getting to the office, there has been more time to invest in skills, an overall increase in digital literacy and the opportunity to join large online communities from all over the world.

On why Arts & Culture matters, Ms Hagan explained that an Ernst & Young study (2015) established those cultural industries in Africa and the Middle East were worth US\$58 billion in revenues; they employed 2.4 million people and contributed 1.1% to regional GDP. Arts & Culture initiatives lead to job creation and promotion of countries.

Ms Annette Sagri, of the AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub Cluster for Business and Job Creation, discussed the hubs governance cluster project called Sauti youth. A “young digital expert” within the project, Ms Sagri described the project as linking two continents through Tanzania and Ireland. The project is giving children and young people a voice to participate in Climate Action which is one of the global shocks on the horizon. She said the project has potential replicable models as she went on to describe the hub as an example of how the cooperation of two continents has been fruitful.

She told participants that due to the global nature of the (Covid-19 and regional conflicts) crises, the youth have an opportunity to collaborate across the continent to find innovative social solutions. They could also take part in the implementation or at least make their voice heard. She remarked, “We all know that for innovative solutions and new perspectives we need diverse expertise and insights to be able to aim higher and provide replicable, practical solutions.

She recalled that to solve these common problems, the AU- EU Youth Hub united young African, European and diaspora youth with a wealth of experience helping and working with youth communities and beyond in their respective countries and continents. Through the hub, the project has reached thousands of youths.

With seven ongoing pilot projects, some of the pilots were already showing strong results and have replicable models, Sagri observed. One of such projects is the *SAUTI Youth Pilot Project*.

“It provides the youth with tools and knowledge to monitor political commitments on climate action to locally tackle this global challenge,” the digital expert added.

She enumerated some of the concrete results that the pilot project model Citizens Voice and Action (CVA) under the project had achieved.

1. Both youth and community awareness of their local and national climate-related public policies and rights had grown over time.
2. There is now more meaningful youth participation in policy and decision-making processes-, e.g., in the Tanga district of Tanzania, the local environmental committees are legally required to include youth in their composition. The youth involved in the project have successfully demanded their inclusion within the Village Environment Committees.
3. There has been engagement in meaningful dialogue between youth and local authorities. In the Tanga district due to a lack of local job opportunities, many young people migrate to the cities to seek work. Instead of long commutes they wanted to start local sustainable businesses but were not able to do so with a lack of access to finance. Through the project, several youth groups were able to get support from the government and started tree nurseries and bee-keeping enterprises.

Ms Sagri remarked, “*I hope more youth through or without another global shock will be able to collaborate and create not only opportunities but also solutions. Examples like the HUB and Sauti project give me hope for a better future and further cooperation.*”



1.8 Call To Action

1. Governments of Africa to take the lead in investing in Arts & Culture and recognising it as one of the key pillars of innovation as well as a sector that champions and platforms for African youth.
2. Leverage and scale multilateral initiatives like the AU- EU Youth Hub to bring youth from Africa and the EU to tackle common issues such as climate change whose triggers are local and impact global.
3. Follow-up on the youth track recommendations from the AU-EU Summit held in Brussels.
4. Youth use the "Your Voice Your Future Campaign" initiative, a campaign aimed at elevating the voices of young people across the EU and Africa
5. Youth are encouraged to upscale their political participation and demand to be recognized for their leadership roles, sit on the decision-making table, and have intergenerational co-leadership.
6. Youth are encouraged to demand accelerated human development through strengthened health systems, access to quality and affordable health care services, development of people partnership through cultural exchanges.



AU @20: Repositioning the Youth Agenda for a Transformative Continent



Session 7: AUC/UNICEF Session: Transforming Education in Africa Youth Consultation/Pitch-to-Youth



14. Session 7: AUC/UNICEF Session: Transforming Education in Africa Youth Consultation/Pitch-to-Youth

Moderators: Ms Prudence Ngwenya, Acting Director, Women Gender, and Youth Directorate (WGYD), AUC, Mawuena Adjeidu, Youth Division AUC

Panellists:

1. Mawuena Adjeidu, Youth Division AUC
2. Rossy Agoi, Secretary General, UNESCO National Commission



The following were the discussion outcomes by each of the Panellists:

1. Mawuena Adjeidu, Youth Division AUC

In her remarks, Ms Adjeidu implored the youth to put their leaders to task and ensure that they lead with content. She went on to review the 4E'S +H and emphasized that while the target is to reach 300 million in the One Million Next Level, the target for Education was 60 million. This would be done by providing safe schools, Lifeskills, TVETS, etc. She reminded the delegates that education opens doors. Young people need to be educated and turned into education advocates.

2. Rossy Agoi, Secretary General, UNESCO National Commission

Ms Agoi stated that the youth question is one of UNESCO's key mandates. She stressed the need to:

1. Renew public action and solutions to deliver on existing commitments to recover learning losses during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns.
 2. Forge a new social contract to deliver on unfulfilled promises of the past.
 3. Have meaningful engagements with stakeholders to invest in education.
 4. Have education at the centre of political debates.
3. Session Activity: Participants were asked to list three challenges their countries were facing in education. Using "Slido" to help with participation, they gave the following results from a set of key questions:





The last part of the session featured individuals who spoke on the practical approaches they are undertaking, as individuals or organizations, towards helping address the education crisis facing Africa.

Ms Marilena Maragkou from the AU-EU youth cooperation hub presented her work on **“WE AFRI Hug”**, an educational project aiming to bring closer Africa and Europe through Erasmus+.





Session 8: The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Opportunities for Youth within the AfCFTA framework



15. Session 8: The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Opportunities for Youth within the AfCFTA framework

Moderator: Mr Seth Mulli, Senior Manager Allen and Gill Gray Philanthropy & APRM Youth Network

Keynote Address: Hon. David Bahati, Uganda Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Co-operatives

Panellists:

1. Hon. Akosua Manu, Deputy CEO, National Youth Authority of Ghana
2. Mr Roy Sasaka Tewela, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya National Youth Council

Focus of the Session:

1. Available opportunities for young people within the framework of the AfCFTA.
2. What is being done in Kenya and Ghana to provide opportunities for youth within the AfCFTA framework.

1. Keynote Address: By Hon. David Bahati, Uganda Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Co-operatives

The following are the key excerpts of Hon. Bahati's Keynote Address:

Hon. Bahati defined AfCFTA as a market for Africa that needs goods and services. It was signed in 2018 and out of the 55 African countries, 44 countries have signed up. He stated that currently, the population of Africa stands at 1.2 billion; in 2050 it is expected to be 2.5 billion, with the total number of young people estimated to be 1.8 billion. As it stands, the African continent imports goods worth US\$554 billion and yet it boasts of massive natural resources that can produce these goods.

To fully take advantage of the AfCFTA, Hon. Bahati advised young people to:

1. *Be innovative:* Innovatively use technology to promote investments and trade on the continent. To achieve this, he stated that young people would need access to funding. In this regard, he stated that the government of Uganda had set up a fund totalling US\$120 million with part of it having been set aside for young people. He hoped that countries across the continent would do the same to help young people have access to cheap capital to start producing goods and services. He further hoped that countries would have favourable tax regimes that would spur local production

and discourage the importation of goods and services.

2. Have the *right skills*
3. Have the *right business mindset*. He challenged young people to have a continental mindset when going into business.
4. *Be focused and not be used as pawns* to create instability on the continent.
5. Take advantage of the *value addition* of products (raw materials). In the case of Uganda, it is illegal to export anything unless the item has been locally processed.

In closing Hon. Bahati stated that what is needed to spur business growth across the continent is:

1. Standardisation of products and services that will be acceptable across the continent.
2. Setting up common connectivity across the continent; rail, road and air.

2. Hon. Akosua Manu, Deputy CEO, National Youth Authority of Ghana: Case of Ghana

The following are excerpts of Hon. Manu's remarks:

Overall benefits of the AfCFTA:

1. An expanded market for African countries comprises over 1.2 billion people and an estimated GDP of US\$3 billion.
2. Facilitating cross-border investments and the free movement of goods and services.
3. Attracting investments into Africa with strong regional and local content.
4. Enhance access to an expanded market for SMEs in Africa on preferential trade terms.
5. Enhanced policies and institutional reforms to improve the competitiveness of local industries.
6. Improved business reforms and increased foreign direct investments, market expansion and development strategies.
7. Enhanced public/private dialogues.
8. Enhanced capacity building.

Benefits of the AfCFTA framework to the youth:

1. Job creation.
2. Stimulate the expansion and creation of youth enterprises.
3. Provide market opportunities for the youth of Africa.
4. The AfCFTA provides for the development of a protocol for women and youth to ensure that they have access to and derive the intended benefits.
5. Fostering competitive manufacturing and offering the opportunity for this sector to double in size to approximately US\$ 1 trillion by 2025. This will help create over 40 million jobs for the youth.



6. Capacity building and opportunities for skills development.

Key challenges that young people in Africa currently face:

1. Lack of access to finance or funding opportunities.
2. Lack of adequate market access, information or intelligence.
3. Lack of technical vocational schools (TVETS).

Examples set by Ghana to bolster its youth skills and their enterprises:

1. Implemented free senior high school education. 1.4 million young people have so far benefited from free education.
2. The government has set aside US\$125 million to be accessed by young entrepreneurs as a source of financing for their businesses.
3. Free business advisory services are provided to young entrepreneurs for a period of three years to enable them to grow their businesses.
4. The government has allowed youth to join TVETS where they will get trained on technical subjects for free.

3. Remarks Mr Roy Sasaka Tewela, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya National Youth Council

The following are excerpts of Hon. Manu's remarks:

The Kenya National Youth Council is a safe space for young people and young leaders to amplify their voices and agendas to inform policy and legislation.

How impactful will a borderless Africa be for us all?

"For you to be a great leader, you need to work on your unique brand; how can you continuously invest in your brand through education, professional, mentorship and showing up?" Mr Roy Sasaka Tewela

In the realization of the African dream, Mr Tewela sighted access to trade-related information and access to funding by young people to grow their businesses as one of the key reasons. He cited the following as some of the approaches that can be applied to ensure young people take ownership of AfCFTA

1. Involvement of young people in the discussions to ensure they are at the centre of policy formulation and implementation through policy dialogues.
2. Access to information and knowledge of trade-related issues. There is a need to champion and create awareness about the AfCFTA protocol.
3. Linking goods to the market (market access).
4. Ensure African youth buy African goods to build Africa (culture, perception and attitude).
5. Cushioning existing enterprises to grow their resilience to be able to compete at the international level.
6. Access to productive, affordable and financial funding for young people to advance their businesses, without necessarily having to present collateral.
7. Capacity building for SMEs: Focus needs to be directed to building SMEs' capacity to be able to effectively compete at the continental level; this could be through, for example, providing them with technical assistance to develop goods that can compete on the international stage.
8. Skills training and development: Access to TVETS, in some countries, is free. Young people need to join these training institutions to grow their skills and knowledge in their areas of specialization.



1.9 Call To Action

1. Create increased awareness of the AfCFTA among the youth and take deliberate steps to involve them in its implementation.
2. For the youth to leverage on opportunities that the AfCFTA presents.
3. The need for deliberate youth-sensitive interventions from a range of actors including banks and other financiers to adopt financial inclusion initiatives for the youth that include, among others, grants, low-interest loans, long-term financing schemes as well as other innovative trade financing solutions.
4. Strengthen the digital economy and decrease the digital divide in Africa.
5. Increase and enhance technical and vocational education offerings for the youth.
6. For member states to demonstrate sustained political will and commitments from the highest level of executive authority to guarantee the successful implementation of industrialization in the continent.
7. Policies to be put together and implemented with the inclusion of young people.
8. For all international actors, AUC, APRM, etc to revitalize, revive and re-energize the Pan African Youth Union.
9. Advocate for respective countries to put in place policies for youth and women.



Session 9: Youth and Domestic Resource Mobilization: Financing Youth Priorities; The role of youth leaders in enhancing domestic resource mobilisation and the fight against illicit financial flows from Africa



16. Session 9: Youth and Domestic Resource Mobilization: Financing Youth Priorities; The role of youth leaders in enhancing domestic resource mobilisation and the fight against illicit financial flows from Africa

Moderator: Mr Allan Murangira, Team Leader, Youth Tax Justice Network

Keynote: By Lylaa Latif, Lecturer, Nairobi University and University of Cardiff

Focus of the Session: Domestic resource mobilization and how states can raise resources to finance youth priorities

Panellists:

1. Mr Tirivangani Mutazu, Africa Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)
2. Ms Evelyn Muendo, Tax Justice Network Africa (TJN-A)
3. Mr Mukasiri Sibanda, Stop The Bleeding Consortium (STB)
4. Ms Caroline Mutsago, Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC)
5. Ms Mercy Munduru, Action-Aid International, Uganda



The following were the discussion outcomes by each of the Panellists:

1. Address by Lylaa Latif, Lecturer, Nairobi University and University of Cardiff

The focus of Ms Latif's remarks was on financing youth priorities. Below are key excerpts of her remarks.

Africa is battling with the rise in living costs, high unemployment rates and increasing levels of debt and taxation as well as the introduction of austerity measures. As governments look for ways to mitigate these economic challenges, the continent is struggling to address several economic challenges including the impact of the Ukraine war, balancing inflation versus growth and exchange rate adjustments. All this, she said, is against the pervasive problem of illicit financial flows (IFFs) which is costing the continent US\$89 billion annually.² This is also against the shortages of money that are required to finance the SDGs, mitigate climate adaptation and mitigation as well as the dwindling tax base.

How the youth can help their countries strengthen their DRM capacity:

1. To demand accountability and transparency in the conduct of government business.
2. To demand responsible governance in fiscal policymaking.
3. To be involved in public participation in so far as decision making is concerned, specifically around:
 - 3.1 External borrowing schemes can have an impact on their future financial liquidity.
 - 3.2 Tax policy making for foreign companies – this approach can work towards dissuading their governments from giving tax incentives and exemptions to foreign multinational companies.
 - 3.3 Advocate for social protection for those working in the informal sector.

The youth being the majority population of the continent have a voice which should be channelled towards the demand for a human rights-based approach to borrowing. These conditionalities that are attached to debt and foreign direct investment must instead be attached to re-distribution towards health and education and not towards further liberalized economies. The liberalization model is what is making the African continent susceptible to IFFs.

² This amount is only what can be reported



African youth need to challenge their respective countries towards ensuring borrowings are partly redistributed towards youth funds. They should partner with civil society and their governments to ensure that there are no more budget deficits for core areas that are required for the empowerment of the youth. Electricity and internet supply are critical and should be placed on the youth agenda to lobby the government to ensure a steady supply. The youth should also demand curriculum development and curriculum improvement in public schools and universities, scholarships as well as training and internship opportunities that will help open up digital literacy in their countries. This approach and knowledge gained will help open up market opportunities through the investment of digital business models.

2. The role of the youth in helping fight IFFs:

From the extensive panel and plenary discussions, the following were the key outputs on the role the youth can play in fighting IFFs:

- 2.1 Hold their governments accountable and ensure there is transparency in the way business is conducted by the government.
- 2.2 Understand where the problem of IFFs sits and how to generate DRM out of the industry and be able to ask the right question; for example, demanding public scrutiny of mining or exploration licenses.
- 2.3 Lobby their governments to do away with ministerial discretions since where there is discretion there is financial secrecy; this is the greatest enabler of IFFs.
- 2.4 Lobby for the standardization of the minimum rates for artisanal small-scale miners so that the minerals that are extracted by these miners are bought at the market rates by multinational companies. This will increase their income as well as DRM for the country.
- 2.5 Getting educated on tax and tax-related issues so that they can give their voices, for example, at the global political level.
- 2.6 To take interest in public finance management issues around debt, DRM, IFFs, etc. Research is necessary to get the power to influence.
- 2.7 To make Africa a rule maker and not a rule-taker on the issues it is facing.
- 2.8 To demand for responsible borrowing from their governments and play an oversight role in its use. They also need to demand to see the developmental impact of the money that has been borrowed.
- 2.9 The youth need not be apologetic about being African. They need to buy African to build Africa.
- 2.10 To effectively engage in affairs at regional and continental levels – AfCTA, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, SADC.
- 2.11 To incrementally strengthen African agencies at all levels of policymaking; national, regional, continental or international levels.
- 2.12 Build a knowledge ecosystem to engage in matters around IFFs and their impact on the youth across Africa.
- 2.13 To move as a force to slow down negotiations, especially those related to tax.
- 2.14 To get the right actors involved in fiscal policymaking. It is their future, and they need to take control of it.

3. Key outcomes from the panellist presentations

The following are the key outcomes from the panel presentations:

- 3.1 When states are not able to raise resources through fair taxation they go ahead and borrow. Austerity measures are then put in place, especially in sectors that can be of direct benefit to young people. Case Example, in Uganda the budget for debt financing and repayment was much more than that allocated to health, education and agriculture combined.
- 3.2 The African continent is faced with three crises; DRM, IFFs and Debt.
- 3.2. The demand for accountability and transparency, especially in the use of public resources cannot be gainsaid.
- 3.4 The voice or role of the youth around discussions in debt by countries is not visible.
- 3.5 Debt servicing in the next ten or twenty years will be the responsibility of today's youth.
- 3.6 Debt is not bad perse; it is the way it is accrued and utilized. The youth should be empowered to be able to evaluate its developmental impact on the lives of the citizenry.
- 3.7 The youth in parliaments should, i) evaluate the debt policies that their governments are putting in place in parliament and change them, ii) advocate for debt resources in productive sectors.
- 3.8 Taxation's main function is not only to raise revenue; it can be used in other ways of financing youth priorities (wealth redistribution to fight inequalities).



3.9 Good public financial management can only be seen in the quality of life of the country's citizenry. This will tell how well a country is managing its public finance.

3.10 Africa needs to own its factors of production and not leave them to foreigners.

1.10 Call To Action

1. African countries are encouraged to develop a realistic and accurate assessment of the volumes and sources of these outflows in their economies.
2. African governments are encouraged to address IFFs to maximize their tax returns, keep investable resources within their economies, and impede criminal and corrupting activities.
3. The AU make specific recommendations of practical, realistic, short- to medium-term actions that can arrest illicit financial flows and draw up a road map for these strategies.
4. On Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) & Debt Management: Young People need to:
5. Demand to see the development or impact of the funds borrowed – good public finance management as seen in people's quality of living.
6. Be involved in public participation in decision-making and public finance management issues.
7. Be engaged in politics and resource allocation; use the platforms available and be able to articulate their priorities.
8. Promote market integration and benefit from the resources within our communities.
9. Demand accountability and transparency from their governments (contract disclosures).
10. Demand for the removal of ministerial discretion.
11. Be informed of the subject areas, ask the right questions, and challenge government (building knowledge ecosystems).
12. Effectively engage with regional and continental bodies and provide them with the needed solutions to enable the youth of Africa to prosper.



Session 10: African Union Youth Division: Youth Engagement

Session: Amplifying the Bingwa Initiative



17. Session 10: African Union Youth Division: Youth Engagement Session: Amplifying the Bingwa Initiative

Sponsored by:



Moderator: Janice Khumalo: Youth Division AUC

Keynote: Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi: Minister of State for Children and Youth Affairs, Government of Uganda

Panellists

1. **Ms Prudence Ngwenya: Acting Director, Women Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD), AUC**
2. **Mr Ibraheem Sanusi: Head of Project, Strengthening Crisis and Pandemic Response in Africa (Support to Africa CDC) GIZ**
3. **Mr Jepthe Muvondo: Policy and Advocacy officer UNICEF Office to the AU**
4. **Daisry Mathias, Presidential Advisor, Youth and Enterprise Development, Namibia**
5. **Dr Chris Kaniki, Senior Technical Officer, Africa CDC**

The following were the discussion outcomes by each of the Panellists:

Mentorship

1. **Hon Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi: Minister of State for Children and Youth Affairs**

Hon. Nyirabashitsi in her discussion stated that all the planning done in her ministry is done with persons living with disability in mind. Her ministry, she said, has a database of a huge percentage of those living with disability in the country. A key challenge, she stated, was that some parents of children living with disability do not share this information with the authorities.

On bridging the gap between mentors and mentees she stated that the onus rests on the mentee to engage the mentor; young people have a misconception that

mentors are unreachable due to their position. She told the young people that she maintains an open-door policy for all those wanting to reach out to her for advice.

On reaching out to underprivileged youth, she stated that the government has set structures in place to reach all youth, right down to the village level.

2. **Ms Prudence Ngwenya: Acting Director, Women Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD), AUC**

Answering a set of questions directed to her Ms Ngwenya stated that under the One Million Next-Level Initiative, mentorship will be available to all youth, including the underprivileged. States will be encouraged to ensure mentorship is done from a national level and in a balanced way for both boys and girls

With regards to getting quality jobs, she urged the youth to reorient themselves with the education requirements needed and upskill and re-skill themselves to be marketable. She urged them to further their knowledge and obtain multiple skills.

3. **Mr Ibraheem Sanusi: Head of Project, Strengthening Crisis and Pandemic Response in Africa (Support to Africa CDC) GIZ**

Mr Sanui answered a set of questions directed to him regarding the pandemic response in Africa. To strengthen this response, Mr Sanusi advised on the importance of having strong regional organizations to effectively coordinate any efforts that may be needed in responding to a pandemic. He stressed the importance of having strong national institutions to implement surveillance and detection from the local communities to the continental level. They should be well resourced and have the capabilities to effectively respond. He gave an example of Africa CDC which effectively responded to the Covid-19 crisis in a way that was mindful of Africa's context – by Africa for Africa.

Regarding the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the mental health of the African youth, he stated that the youth division of the AUC has an entire department that is focused purely on mental health issues and provides the necessary support. He urged the youth, as a way to overcome mental health challenges, to leverage Africa's culture of community and as much as they can, share their issues or challenges.

4. **Mr Jepthe Muvondo: Policy and Advocacy Officer UNICEF Office to the AU**

Mr Muvondo, in his remarks, urged the young people to have a purpose in life, beyond their profession. He urged them to embrace the principle of endurance and have the ability to reinvent themselves, for example, when their businesses go bust. He urged them to actively engage various institutions including



banks, the government and organizations that can give mentorship on growing their businesses.

5. Daisry Mathias: Presidential Advisor, Youth and Enterprise Development, Namibia

In her remarks, Ms Mathias stated that women are the most disenfranchised demographic as they are the most uneducated and most unemployed. Ensuring that women are meaningfully engaged in entrepreneurship, education, economic participation and skilling is imperative. Access to information is also critical to advancing their knowledge and skills. Enterprise development, she said, is the remedy for employment; she, however, cautioned that technology can fuel or kill it.

Amplifying The Bingwa Initiative

6. Dr Chris Kaniki, Africa CDC Senior Technical Officer

Dr Kaniki, in his remarks, stated that so far vaccinations are at 19.4% and herd immunity at 70% which is way behind other continents. The AU Covid-19 Bingwa Initiative was developed by the Youth Division of the AU to help achieve the required number of vaccinated people. This is being done using a framework the AU used to reach the community- the MOCAAP framework.

1.11 Call To Action

1. For communities - to be empowered where they have a network, infrastructure and an enabling environment ...for equality.
2. Member States - that have subscribed to the African Youth Charter should be held accountable going by the terms of subscription.
3. For youth to receive more opportunities than government handouts.





Session 11: Domestication of the African Youth Charter & responsibility of the youth towards a transformative continent



AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER



18. Session 11: Domestication of the African Youth Charter & responsibility of the youth towards a transformative continent

Moderator: H.E Taonga Mushayavanhu, Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe to Ethiopia & AUC Permanent Representative Council (PRC)

Presentation: Prudence Ngwenya, AUC Youth Representative

Panellists:

1. Amara Kallon, Deputy Minister of Public and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone
2. Ms. Mariam Wangabwa- Uganda Human Rights Commission
3. Mr. Moussa Kondo, APRM Youth Network Chairperson
4. Ms. Chido Mpemba, AU Youth Envoy
5. Mr. Sam Ogwal, Uganda National Youth Council

The following were the discussion outcomes by each of the Panellists:

1. Amara Kallon, Deputy Minister of Public and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone

Amara Kallon, Deputy Minister of Public and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone discussed three issues on how to domesticate the African Youth Charter and what responsibility youths have to achieve a transformative Continent, Africa. These were:

- 1.1 **Leadership and Accountability:** He observed that accountable leadership remained one of the biggest challenges to development in Africa. He quipped, *“Leadership in Africa have not always responded effectively to the needs of the continent, but there is hope in the rising generation of youth who could play a critical role in building accountability for successful economic transformation, representation, and public service.”* He urged that when young leaders reach positions of influence, they should focus on building strong institutions for accountability and educate people about the importance of broad accountability for a successful continent. He was also upbeat that youth leaders can advance civil society growth, poverty reduction, economic expansion, and innovation throughout the continent by strengthening the participation of women and youth, promoting human rights, facilitating access to justice, and ensuring the inclusion of all communities.

- 1.2 He proposed that to fully grasp the impact of youth on the economy and governance in Africa, more formal mechanisms of monitoring and evaluation should be devised to track and enhance youth engagement at all societal levels. Implementing reliable systems of assessment would also lead to more effective youth participation, representation, and policy influence.

- 1.3 **Reorient the Mindset:** Mr Kallon was equivocal that youths should use their brain, creativity, strength, and skills to effect meaningful change in their society, so it can function as best as possible.

2. Mr Crispin Kaheru, Commissioner of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)

Mr Crispin Kaheru, Commissioner of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) noted that in Uganda, 71% of the youth (18 – 30) live in rural areas. He said that this statistic alone beckons for the taking quality services to the rural areas. He said governments are called upon to take the following critical services to the villages: Production, Storage, Processing and Marketing; Infrastructure and Economic Services; Financial Inclusion services; Social services; Management Information systems; Governance and Administration services; and Mindset change.

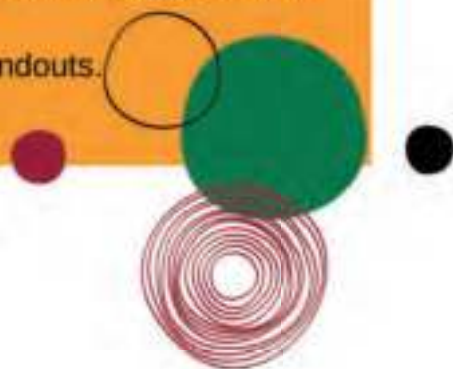
He observed that by taking services and the economy to the rural countryside, it will reframe the imagery of the village. *“From rural as a symbol of poverty, scarcity, insufficiency, poor services, poor infrastructure to the rural being a place of scenery, rolling fields, organic food, clean air, clean water, clean energy, employment, innovation, cradles of natural resources etc. If we succeed to change the outlook of villages, we will change the mindset of youth towards villages,”* he told the Session participants.

He suggested that youth must now be the vanguards of a new urban-to-rural migration with a purpose. On the other hand, governments must incentivize this type of reverse migration by digitizing and mechanizing the countryside; by extending financial inclusion services to the rural areas, and; by building inclusive food systems in the villages.



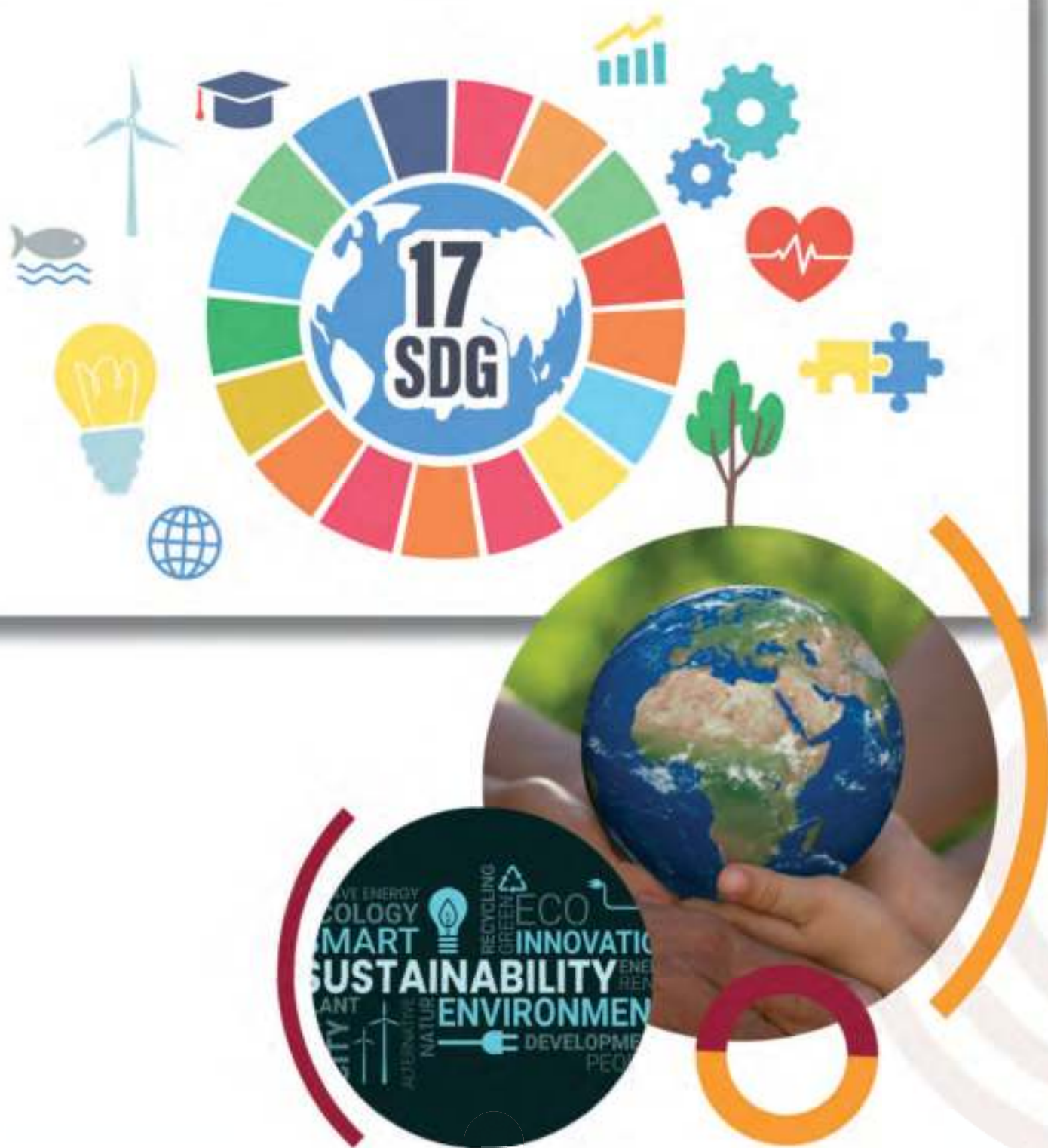
1.12 Call To Action

1. For communities - to be empowered where they have a network, infrastructure and an enabling environment ...for equality.
2. Member States - that have subscribed to the African Youth Charter should be held accountable going by the terms of subscription.
3. For youth to receive more opportunities than government handouts.





Session 12: Youth as Drivers and Beneficiaries of Development Agendas: The role of youth in implementing the Agenda 2063, SDGs & National Development Plans/Visions



19. Session 12: Youth as Drivers and Beneficiaries of Development Agendas: The role of youth in implementing the Agenda 2063, SDGs & National Development Plans/Visions

Keynote: Mr Aggrey David Kibenge, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Government of Uganda

Panellists:

1. Mr Alfred Eli Kwasi, President of Federation for African Law Students Association, Ghana
2. Mr Michael Chukwuemeka, APRM Nigeria Youth Vanguard
3. Ms. Sarah Hamouda, Agenda 2063 & SDGs Expert, AUC
4. Hon Lydia Kanyottu – Panel of Eminent Person of APRM
5. Mr Eric Wafukho–Chief Administrative Secretary, National Treasury and Planning, Kenya



The following were the discussion outcomes by each of the panellists:

1. Mr Aggrey David Kibenge, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development

Mr Aggrey David Kibenge, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development set the platform for discussions as he gave a broad overview of the development agendas and their local context. The 2030 SDG, African Union 2063 and the National Development Plans are all synchronized in their desire to ensure that everyone participates (inclusiveness) and contributes to the economic growth and enjoys peace and prosperity on a safe

planet. Structures have been put in place to allow youth to participate and be part of the governance. Their leadership is nurtured right from the grassroots level to the national and decision-making level.

The youth form a significant segment of the most active population with huge potential to cause social economic and political transformation. They are seen as active architects in the development agenda in terms of their participation in decision making, advocacy, awareness creation, implementation, uptake of the programs, monitoring review and ensuring transparency and accountability for devolvement, and policy documents.

However, in reality, the youth are faced with numerous challenges like unemployment and underemployment, poverty, lack of access to quality education, mental illness and psychological breakdowns, early and unwanted pregnancy, Gender Based Violence (GBV), HIV, drugs and human trafficking. Even as infectious diseases, livelihood crises and extreme weather effects (climate change) remain the world threat today plus the widening gap in the digital space.

To harness the potential of the youth in implementing the SDGs, Agenda 2063, and National Development Plans and visions there is a need to equip youth with skills, resources and networks; seek to promote and achieve universal and equitable access to education (quality and relevant education); create platforms to enable youth to connect, learn and act as a collective voice and finally enhance access to jobs opportunities and markets for their economic empowerment. To this end, ICT was seen as the deal breaker.

2. Mr Eric Wafukho, Chief Administrative Secretary of Finance and Planning, Kenya

Mr Eric Wafukho, Chief Administrative Secretary of Finance and Planning, Kenya mentioned the 4 levels of learning as Global (MDG to SDG), Continental, National level and the Devolved unit which youth are part of the planning process. He added that the manifestos of the presidential candidates are incorporated into the national plan for accountability as promises after the general elections.

3. Mr Alfred Eli Kwasi, President of Federation for African Law Students Association, Ghana

Mr Alfred Eli Kwasi, President of Federation for African Law Students Association, Ghana spoke about the need for strong institutions to facilitate the implementation of the agendas and national plans of governments. He talked about the importance of unification and the youth as agents of change.

4. Mr Michael Chukwuemeka, APRM Nigeria Youth Vanguard

Mr Michael Chukwuemeka, APRM Nigeria Youth Vanguard, talked about how the youth are in all the departments and are exercising their civil rights in the elections. He challenged them to be part of the



electoral process and at the age of 25 go for the electoral office as that is how it starts. The creation of awareness is crucial for the youth so that they can be intentionally involved in the process of implementation and framework development.

**5. Hon. Lydia Wanyoto Mutende,
Representative of the APRM Panel of
Eminent Persons**

Hon. Lydia Wanyoto Mutende, Representative of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons, emphasized the importance of data disaggregation as a reflection of the trends and patterns when it comes to the youth as the drivers and beneficiaries of the agendas and national plans. She talked about the symbiotic relationship between ideology and biology in the youth, the importance of mentorship and internship and the benefits of NYS if well-polished and remodeled.

**6. Ms Sarah Hamouda, Agenda 2063 & SDGs
Expert, AUC**

Ms Sarah Hamouda, Agenda 2063 & SDGs Expert, AUC, spoke about the platforms available to motivate the youth to effectively participate in the implementation of the SDGs.

1.13 Call To Action

1. Youth are encouraged to contribute towards Agenda 2063, SDGs, and National Development Plans and take advantage of the synchronized nature of Agenda 2063 and SDGs. In addition, alignment of national visions with the AU Agenda 2063 and UN SDGs.
2. Stakeholders in youth development develop transformative youth leaders who can drive progressive change and have attributes or qualities including vision, innovation, integrity, inclusivity, responsiveness, and effectiveness. Orient these youth leaders towards achieving AU Agenda 2063 aspirations and global UN 2030 (SDG) objectives.
3. Youth consider factors such as climate and social and economic conditions currently affecting the achievement of Agenda 2063 and SDGs.
4. African countries are encouraged to involve young people in political systems and provide more opportunities to have a say in Agenda 2063, SDGs, and National Development Plans.
5. Development institutions nurture youth leadership at the local and national level to incubate leaders to take up positions in the government, CSOs and NGOs.





Session 13: Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Youth Employment



20. Session 13: Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Youth Employment

Moderator: Mr Peter Katwesige, M&E Officer APRM Secretariat South Africa

Keynote: Prof. Johannes John- Langba University of Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa

Panellists

1. Dr Julius Okello Office of the Prime Minister Uganda
2. Ms Munyenembe Patience Southern Africa Youth Parliament
3. Mr Koen Van Acoleyen, Embassy of Belgium to Uganda
4. Ms. Onyama Laura Anyeni Laura Onyama Foundation, Cameroon



The following were the discussion outcomes by each of the Panellists:

1. Keynote: By Prof. Johannes John- Langba University of Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa

In his remarks, Prof. Johannes stated that the long-term effects of persistent poverty and unemployment on the mental health of the African youth are a topic that needs to be critically addressed. He broke down the mental health aspect of unemployment into eight key areas.

1. *Africa Youth unemployment and mental health:* Youth unemployment has been on the rise in the last decade. Leaving school to find employment is a difficult transition for the youth that can affect their mental health; this can linger into their adulthood and result in long-term effects.
2. *What is Mental health?* There is an apparent lack of consensus on the definition of mental health thereby making it difficult, especially for young people, to understand the concept. It has, however, been defined as, “a state of well-being

in which an individual realizes his or her abilities can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively and can contribute to his or her community.”

3. *Multi-dimensional determinants of mental health in Africa:* Mental health is an integral and essential component of the health of African societies. It is more than just the absence of mental disorders or disabilities. It is determined by, i) biological, psychological and social factors, ii) protracted conflict and violence, and iii) persistent poverty and income inequality.
4. *The Covid-19 pandemic and mental health:* The lockdown measures had a heavy socio-economic cost on livelihoods. It has impacted millions in Africa and compromised those infected and affected, with low-income earners at the highest risk.
5. *Mental Health and Stigma and Discrimination: A south Africa Case study*
6. *Call for greater investment in the mental health of provision in Africa:* Key facts, i) for many African countries less than 1% of the budget is spent on mental health with most of it going into institutional care, hence there is no access for care, especially in rural areas, ii) most African countries have one psychiatrist per million people and sometimes none, iii) there are not enough health personnel to attend to mental health issues; most of those available are in urban areas.
7. *A message to the African Youth and Change Makers:*
 - 7.1 Focus on self-care.
 - 7.2 Talk to someone about your feelings and mood: there is no shame in seeking help.
 - 7.3 Don't complicate your lives by believing life must be perfect.
 - 7.4. If you can escalate the stress - you can deescalate.
 - 7.5. Sleep well and exercise.
 - 7.6 Take good care of yourself and each other.

2. Dr Julius Okello, Office of the Prime Minister Uganda (Personal Testimony)

Dr Okello gave the following recommendations:

1. Provide the youth with incentives, for example, banks should not charge youth interest on loans.
2. Allow the youth not to be taxed for a while to allow for them to achieve disposable income.
3. Trauma; is an issue that needs to be addressed in Africa.
4. Decisive deliberate action for access of opportunities to those who don't have networks and connections. Calling on APRM/ AU, when making decisions- including the youth to the table of decision making.



5. Offer the youth internships that pay for a while then deploy elsewhere.
6. Provide tax concessions across borders for products of businesses owned by youth.

3. Ms Munyenembe Patience, Southern Africa Youth Parliament

Ms Patience defined sustainable youth employment as *“a concept that entails a strategic approach to dealing with high levels of unemployment by deploying means and initiatives that create opportunities, not just for the current cycle but create a multiplier effect.”*

She outlined the following as some of the strategic approaches being used to cut down the high levels of unemployment:

1. Vocational training.
2. University education.
3. Facilitating credit to youth: In Malawi, there is a fund that requires the youth to get into groups of 10 and come up with ideas which are funded through loans.
4. Youth-friendly loans.
5. Investment in power generation/ renewable energy required for businesses to guard against power outages.
6. Focus on aquatic studies (the blue economy).

She urged the youth to have a mindset change and move away from just the thought of a white-collar job to being business owners.

4. Mr. Koen Van Acoleyen (representing H.E Rudi Veestraeten , Ambassador of Belgium to Uganda)

He gave an overview of what Belgium is doing in Africa to skills its citizenry towards reducing the levels of unemployment. He, however, stated that skilling is crucial, but it is certainly not enough. The Embassy of Belgium invests more in support of after-training like life skills, mentoring, green skills and 21st-century skills.

5. Ms. Onyama Laura Anyeni Laura Onyama Foundation, Cameroon

Ms Onyama stated that in the context of political conflict, education ceases to be a basic need as the struggle for survival is down to food and shelter. Her foundation deals with displaced children. They provide them with required help in going to school including, school materials, and uniforms as well as psychological help.

She highlighted the following as some of the challenges Cameroon is facing around unemployment.

1. The education system in the country is not adequate; it needs to be overhauled, away from training for just jobs to include entrepreneurship.
2. In Cameroon the Ministry of Agriculture gives grants but they end up with relatives of government officials.
3. Industrial zones in Cameroon are in one place. They need to be de-centralized.

6. Plenary Discussions

The following were the key outcomes of the discussions:

1. Key challenges or areas of concern that the youth felt need to be adequately addressed:
 - 1.1 Fund allocation to the youth by government: Who gets these funds?
 - 1.2 Internship programmes: Where can they be found? It was reported that in some countries, this programme has worked, case of Nigeria.
2. The youth were encouraged to enrol in TVETS to broaden their skills.
3. Grants to small businesses: This was recommended as opposed to giving loans.





Session 14: AUC Youth Division: Egumeni Session: "You are not alone: Flattening the curve of the Shadow Pandemic (Violence against women and girls)"



21. Session 14: AUC Youth Division: Egumeni Session: “You are not alone: Flattening the curve of the Shadow Pandemic (Violence against women and girls)”

Moderator: Nalugu Sharifah

Panellists:

1. Tembeng Eli-Anne Anwi, Cameroon
2. Nalugu Sharifa, Uganda
3. Susan Sabane, Uganda
4. Sossou Dédé Marilyse Erudie Brian, Ex-coordinator of the drug project at Social Watch Benin

Session Objective: The focus of this session was on the *shadow pandemic*, which, in other words, is violence against women and girls (VAWG). Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been increased and exacerbated cases of sexual and gender-based violence. This session sought to, i) discuss the “shadow pandemic” - experience sharing by women who have undergone violence, and ii) for young people to give their recommendations on how to end VAWG.

1. Case Example of a woman living with HIV/AIDS

Context: A study conducted by UN Women in South Africa revealed that many women living with HIV who expected support from their families instead experienced a continuum of violence in all aspects of their lives perpetrated by partners, families, friends, and community members as well as service providers alike. Several women described how they have chosen to move away from their communities to get a fresh start in a new community where people are unaware of their HIV status. As a young woman living with HIV, how true is this statement?

Feedback by Nalugu Sharifa, Uganda: She is a young Ugandan woman born with and living with HIV. The statement from UN Women, she said, is a true reflection of the experiences women living with HIV go through. The stigma they face is from those they truly believed in for support and love. When she revealed that she was living with HIV, her family members did not want to associate with her – they distanced themselves from her, not inviting her to events such as family gatherings, etc. The family, she said, felt that she would portray a bad picture for them.

Women should not be marked because of their HIV status; they should not be judged. An environment

needs to be created whereby women living with HIV can fully exercise their full potential.

2. Case Example of a woman living with a disability

Context: Several studies have shown that women and girls living with disabilities are at greater risk of violence and sexual abuse than women without a disability. They suffer up to three times greater risk of rape; are twice as likely to be survivors of domestic violence and other forms of GBV, and are likely to experience abuse over a longer period and have more severe injuries than women without disabilities. What is your experience as a young woman living with a disability?

Feedback by Susan Sabane, Uganda: Susan is a young woman living with a disability called Cerebral Palsy. People living with disability, she said, are commonly faced by stereotypes regarding their sexuality, such as being infertile, incapable of reproduction, hyper-sexual, etc. Their sexual reproductive health and rights continue to be contested not prioritised.

As a person living with a disability, Susan narrated how she went to a health service provider for SRH services; upon seeing her, the workers concluded that she was mentally ill, instead of first looking at the person before looking at the disability or impairment. Where access to health services is restricted SRH is almost negligible.

She gave the following recommendations:

1. The public needs to be aware of the issues surrounding disability and SRH.
2. The importance of including disability issues in all programmes, including those in humanitarian situations.

The sexual and reproductive health of people living with a disability is not a unique, complex or highly specialised issue; it, however, is an issue that needs immediate attention because “nothing is for us without us” and disability is not an inability.’

“They need to be part of the design to voice their own needs”

“You need to look at the person first before looking at the disability”

“Nothing is for us without us” because disability is not inability”

3. Case Example of a woman who has undergone GBV

Context: Globally it is estimated that almost one in three women has experienced some form of violence in her lifetime. Women in low- and middle-income countries are disproportionately impacted. Based on your own story, can you tell us about the GBV challenges young women face?



Feedback by Tembeng Eli-Anne Anwi, Cameroon:

She considers herself a proud survivor of rape, because. "It is only when we talk it out that we can give a voice to others." She was raped at the age of seven by a close relative. She had nobody to talk to about her ordeal. Years later when she decided to open up to her family, the first response she got was, "if you did not like it, you would have spoken out." The aspect of the family not listening to what she was saying and believing in her, is the same thing that is happening in communities.

She listed out the following challenges women face around GBV:

1. Some people do not believe in the ability and voices of women. When women come out as being victims of GBV they are blamed for bringing it on to themselves, while some may consider her statement false. Communities do not believe in the voices of people who have suffered GBV.
2. Communities not believing in the testimonies made by GBV survivors.
3. Stigmatization.

These challenges have resulted in many GBV survivors closing up and not talking about what they are going through or have gone through.

Tembeng Eli-Anne Anwi had the following three asks for communities when they encounter a person who has undergone GBV: Listen, Believe & Support.

In conclusion, she stated that on GBV and rape, "it does not take one person to stop it, it does not take the survivors or activists to stop it; it is a collective effort. If we all work as one, we shall end rape and GBV in our communities."

4. What is being done to reduce VAWG (Violence against Women & Girls)?

Context: What is your organization doing to reduce VAWG in your community? What tips can you give youth-led initiatives to implement impactful activities to reduce VAWG in women and girls?

Feedback by Sossou Dédé Marilyse Erudie Brian:

Her association works towards building the capacity of girls around VAWG and counsels girls who have undergone it. A lot of this violence is from close relatives of the victims as well as close friends. This violence happens in homes, schools and workplaces. Education of young men on VAWG needs to be prioritised, including its effects; the community's perception too on the same needs to be changed and the voice of victims listened to. Positive masculinity, she said, needs to be promoted, taught and implemented at community, regional and country levels.

5. Closing Remarks by Ambassador Adekunle J.M. King, Ambassador Sierra Leone to Ethiopia

The following are excerpts of his remarks.

In the year 2000, the UN Security Council for the first time adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. This Resolution called on sovereign states to adopt national plans for the protection of women, children and young girls. Sierra Leone, he said, is putting strategies in place to fulfil its global commitment to this resolution. He listed the following as key milestones made towards achieving Resolution 1325:

1. Developed a gender policy to help address inequalities being suffered by women. He gave the example of a policy that has led to the inclusion of women into the country's military.
2. To address equality in education, he said that the government of Sierra Leone initiated a free quality education for two million school-going children; both boys and girls.
3. The government, in 2021, lifted a ban that prevented pregnant school-going girls from attending classes.
4. A new law is in place that states that if a woman lives with a man for a continuous period of five years, under the laws of the country, they are considered married. The wife can, therefore, lawfully inherit the husband's property upon his demise.
5. The sexual violence Act has been amended to make it more robust and set up family support units at police stations.



1.14 Call To Action

1. Support the prevention of VAWG as well as support the survivors of GBV.
2. The public needs to be aware of the issues surrounding disability and SRH.
3. Disability issues need to be included in all programmes, including those in humanitarian situations.



Session 16: AUC Youth Division: Youth Validation of the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion Initiative (WYFED) 2030 Strategy



22. Session 16: AUC Youth Division: Youth Validation of the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion Initiative (WYFEI) 2030 Strategy

Moderator: Bahdon Ismael, Youth Division AUC

Panellist:

1. Ononuju Okwaraogoma, Innovative and Partner Associate, Youth Division of the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate
2. Ivania Mondlane, Youth Division AUC
3. Dr Tapiwa Uchizi Nyasulu Rweyemamu, Head of Gender and Policy Development, Women, Gender and Youth Directorate, AUC
4. Opening Remarks: By Ononuju Okwaraogoma, Innovative and Partner Associate, Youth Division of the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate

In his remarks, on behalf of the Director of the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate, Mr Okwaraogoma stated that the validation session would act as an opportunity to ensure that young people own the WYFEI initiative and that it reflects the collective vision for financial inclusion for women and young people across the continent. The final strategy will be holistic and will speak to young people

Going forwards, with regards to the WYFEI Strategy, the AUC Youth Division will work closely with the AU Champion of Gender (the President of Ghana) to ensure the mainstreaming of women and youth, financial and economic inclusion across all levels is initiated.

5. Overview of the (WYFEI) 2030 Strategy: By Ivania Mondlane, Youth Division AUC

Ivania Mondlane gave an overview of the WYFEI 2030. The following are the key highlights:

The WYFEI 2030 Strategy is a public-private-women and youth partnership that seeks to scale up women and youth financial and economic inclusion. It specifically seeks to help women and youth climb the ladder of change and keep their dreams alive. The key steps in the ladder of change are geared towards empowering women and youth around the following key areas:

1. Having cash flow through employment or entrepreneurship.
2. Building savings through, for example, fund pooling.
3. Investment through asset purchases and accumulation.

4. Protection against losses, through, for example, insurance covers, pension and providing credit.

Objectives of the Strategy:

1. Increase the income of women and youth through advocating for parity in employment and entrepreneurship.
2. Promote the financial sector reform to make innovative financial products and services available, accessible and affordable to women and youth at the bottom of the ladder.
3. Implement women and youth-friendly macro-economic policies that enable the growth of small and medium-scale enterprises.

The WYFEI 2030 seeks to build and leverage existing continental initiatives that include:

1. The AU SME Strategy.
2. The African Union's Trust Fund for African Women (TEAW).
3. The African Youth fund (AYF).
4. The African Smart Finance and Digital Banking Initiative.
5. Affirmative Finance Action for Women (AFAWA).
6. The Pan African Payments and Settlement Systems, Rotating Savings and Credit Association (ROSCAS) and Accumulating Savings and Credits Associations (ASCAS).
7. The African Women Leadership Fund (AWLF).

Key Actions of the Initiative:

1. Member States: As enablers and regulators of the national and fiscal economy.
2. Central Banks, African Development Banks and Micro-Credit Institutions: As providers of financial products and services.
3. Training Institutions: To provide the necessary skills for production, value addition and business management.
4. Mobile Telecoms Companies: As providers of technology platforms.
5. Private Sector Representatives: As key implementing partners.
6. Women and Youth: As co-creators, co-owners and primary beneficiaries of the initiative.
7. Development Partners: As possible financiers and providers of technical assistance.
8. The Media: as amplifiers of key messages.
9. AUC and AU Organs: A whole Commission and AU approach will be adopted.



The AUC will invest in establishing a community of engaged implementers that will contribute meaningfully and substantially to WYFEI 2030 implementation by committing to:

10. Align their strategies, programmes and investments to WYFEI 2030 principles and objectives
11. Integrate gender and youth into their programmes
12. Share knowledge, best practices, experiences and resources
13. Report their contribution to the African Union

What will the success of the initiative look like?

1. AUC **achieve quotas** in youth and women empowerment.
2. **USD 20 billion** was mobilized and disbursed to women and young entrepreneurs.
3. **1 million** women and youth are **trained** in financial literacy.
4. At least **80 per cent** of women and youth use e-banking services.
5. At least **50 per cent** of AU Member States are implementing the initiative.
6. **At least 3** functional, high-performing communities of action take place.
7. Development partners making substantial financial and technical contributions to the initiative.
8. **At least 80 per cent** of national and continental banks have included WYFEI as part of their portfolios.
9. **Trust Fund for African Women (TFAW) and the African Youth Fund (AYF)** are operational and effective.
10. **At least 300 million women and youth** are empowered through employment, entrepreneurship, education, engagement, and health & well-being.

Contribution of the youth to the initiative: The session allowed the youth to make their contributions and recommendations towards the initiative (this represented the voices of the youth in Africa needed in the strategy document). They were informed that a scorecard will be in place to track progress against the WYFEI 2030 indicators and targets; it will be updated annually by collating information from stakeholders that have signed up and are contributing to the initiative.

The young people in the session *made their voices heard by answering a set of questions given to them by the session moderator*. This feedback will reflect, within the WYFEI 2030, the collective vision for financial inclusion for women and young people across the continent. The following are the questions the young people responded to:

1. What are the ways that African women and youth can enhance their income?
2. What should the financial sector do to promote and increase the financial inclusion of women and young people in the financial space?
3. Have all the actors of the initiative been mentioned; who should be added?
4. How do we build the ecosystem?
5. What does success mean to you?
6. What are the conditions for success?
7. **Closing Remarks: By Dr Tapiwa Uchizi Nyasulu Rweyemamu, Head of Gender and Policy Development, Women, Gender and Youth Directorate, AUC**

In her remarks, Dr Tapiwa commented all the youth present for taking the time to attend the key event on the WYFEI 2030 initiative validation session. The session, she stated, was key in ensuring the voices and opinions of the youth – including the young women, on issues regarding financial and economic inclusion are held, analysed and reflected in the strategy as well as in the work of the AUC.

Following the soft launch of the Strategy, the AUC has since created, validated and update the strategy with key stakeholders in the private, government and CSO sectors. It has also created a partnership framework for the WYFEI initiative for its implementation and mainstreaming across member states and the general internal structure for its success.

Moving forward towards its implementation, the African Union Champion on Gender and Development issues, who is the AU Champion of Gender (President of Ghana) will support the launch of the WYFEI 2030 and push its agenda across various platforms at the highest level to promote mainstreaming.

She concluded her remarks by encouraging the young people to join the initiatives clusters which are key partnership frameworks which will ensure that harmonized interventions are provided in the different areas of the 10-point agenda. She thanked all the young people for their robust contribution to the strategy.



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3rd APRM
youth symposium

3rd APRM
youth symposium

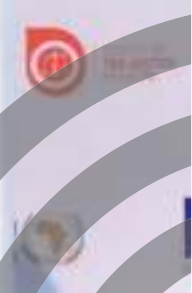
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youth symposium

3rd APRM
youth symposium



Session 17: Road to COP27, Climate Justice & Clean Energy Transition - the role of youth in delivering a just and equitable energy transition



22. Session 17: Road to COP27, Climate Justice & Clean Energy Transition - the role of youth in delivering a just and equitable energy transition

Moderator: Ms Mukupa Nsenduluka, Tax Justice Network Africa, Kenya

Panellists:

1. Mr Hassan Ali Ghazaly- Ministry of Youths of Egypt, APRM Youth Member
2. Claude Sodokin, AU-EU Youth cooperation hub, Ecolotrip Youth Platform

The key role of the session was to situate the role of the youth in combating climate change and the promotion of green growth in Africa. Climate change is a great challenge and jeopardizes the aspirations of the current generation. One of the proposed solutions is the energy transition from fossil fuels to more renewable energy. However, from the energy justice view; is this transition possible in Africa? With fuel poverty and struggle to energy access? The countries in the west developed their economies through the use of fossil fuels like coal and oil. Africa is at a stage where it is developing through the use of these fuels. What would taking this away mean for Africa?

1. Mr Hassan Ali Ghazaly – Ministry of Youths of Egypt, APRM Youth Member

Mr Hassan Ali Ghazaly – Ministry of Youths of Egypt, APRM Youth Member in his speech gave an overview of the COP27 and the preparations that are taking place in Egypt. He highlighted the importance of COP27, the biggest global convention on issues of climate change. There are measures and mechanisms taken to engage and empower young people in climate action by benefiting from their ideas and enhancing their participation on COP27. Delegates were urged to articulate the important things they would want to see on the agenda by asking the right questions, challenging our policymakers to ensure a fair & just energy transition.

It is worth noting that the COP27 theme is “Together for implementation” which highlights the unique cultural identity of Africa and its ancient Egyptian civilization; the logo highlights the sun as the source of life and the symptoms of hope.

In Tanzania, climate change is being made attractive to the youth by connecting it to livelihood and economic empowerment. There is capacity building and provision of subsidies to those interested in the energy sector, leading to job creation and income generation.

2. Mr Claude Sodokin, AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub, Ecolotrip Youth Platform

Mr Claude Sodokin, AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub, Ecolotrip Youth Platform, talked about the Ecolotrip Youth Platform which was formed in 2018 to build the capacity of young people on matters of advocacy for climate change in the local, regional and international arena. In another initiative, the young people from Africa are working together to find solutions to common problems and to unpack the climate change philosophy.

1.15 Call To Action

1. Pledge for an adaptation fund, which is the African priority given the context of climate change and vulnerability, and not climate finance which focuses on mitigation.
2. African Youth use the Cop27 (UN Climate Change Conference) to advance African global climate interests, mobilize action and provide opportunities to look at the impacts of climate change and innovative solutions for Africa.
3. Youth and other marginalized groups such as migrants, women, and children are encouraged to participate and have their voices heard at COP27.
4. African governments and the private sector are requested to increase their use of ICT and technology in fighting climate change.



Session 18: African Union Youth Division: Volunteerism as a pathway to employability



23. Session 18: African Union Youth Division: Volunteerism as a pathway to employability

Moderator: Marie Benyomo, Youth Division, AUC

Panellist: Dr Meshesha Shewarega, Youth Division, AUC

Dr Meshesha Shewarega, Youth Division, AUC presented the key address virtually on “*Volunteerism as a pathway to youth employment*”. He cited Africa’s runaway youth employment predicament thus: Youth unemployment remains a big challenge, and young people are nearly four times more likely to be unemployed than adults. And when it comes to recruitment, the processes are largely informal- even depending on whom one knows.

And when employment is found, Dr Meshesha went on, there is a high level of informality, placements available in unregistered companies, family businesses, or still, the vacancies are never advertised, among others. Worse still, a majority of jobs do not qualify as decent work either.

He said the AU had taken the issue of youth unemployment serious as demonstrated in the various policies and frameworks, He outlined the various continental policies and corresponding frameworks on youth employment. They include the African Youth Charter (Article 15 on Sustainable Livelihoods and Youth Employment), AU Agenda 2063, AU Reform, and Ouagadougou +10.

“*This demonstrates the commitment of the AU to Africa’s youth employment,*” he summed it.

He described other initiatives in the continent to conclude: *The One Million by 2021 Initiative*. The initiative now at the formative stage aims at providing a million African Youth with opportunities in Education, Entrepreneurship, Employment and Engagement by 2021.

He added that the *One Million Next Level Initiative*, the successor of *The One Million by 2021 Initiative*, is another AU platform tackling youth unemployment. It is concerned with scaling-up youth development and engagement strategies and initiatives for impact. It is a multi-stakeholder partnership involving the public and private sectors, and the young people of Africa.

He added, “*Currently, we have six pillars unfolding under the ambit of the AU Commission to tackle youth unemployment and to promote the youth employability and support the member states.*” He identified the various programs under the AU on volunteerism as AUYVC (AU Youth Volunteers Corps), AU Fellowships, Internships, Junior (YPP) Professional, Exchange programs (that facilitate

south-south and south-north exchanges of Youth), and the Leadership & Mentorship.

On the contribution of volunteerism to youth unemployment, he said it is believed that the country’s evidence also testifies particularly the recent evidence tracked from Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal. ILO was clear that volunteerism is serving as a pathway or transitioning mechanism to decent work in the AU member states. Indicators that volunteerism was a pathway to decent employment include expanding social capital, social resources (includes a range of connections), avails social relations, trust, mutual understanding, as well as shared ethos, and values. Volunteerism also contributed to opportunities for networking, that is, forging professional contacts that can help a volunteer secure employment.

“*Volunteerism also develops human capital that includes skills, knowledge, ability to labour and good health,*” he told his online audience. The skills could be classified as either soft or hard skills.

Prof Meshesha stated that hard skills are job-specific, technical skills, which are often the main criteria for recruitment. Further, another human capital contribution of volunteerism is the so-called soft skills. Also referred to as core skills or portable skills, soft skills are transferable between jobs. They include *time management, orientation, handling organizational cultures, adapting to different rules and procedures, and favourable attitudes such as a sense of service.*

Further, volunteerism could signal the possession of desirable work-related competencies to employers. It also offers the opportunity to develop a new skill set and build capacity– try new vocations, and new specializations and gain experience that could lead to employment or aid in entrepreneurship.

ILO also offers that volunteerism contributes to economic empowerment. This empowerment includes employability, leadership and social skills of young people, all facilitating jumpstarting the career of young people.

Volunteers are also able to enjoy the building of their CVs to make them more marketable or more attractable by enabling them the much sought-after experience often required by employers.

He said from experience in Ethiopia, Rwanda and the Global South, particularly in Asia, volunteerism had been found to contribute to encouraging governments and the private sector to try out new models of employment--building an online government (e-government) presence. Volunteering also has a hand in contributing to entrepreneurship, via creating opportunities to develop innovative enterprise ideas.

For thriving volunteerism, Prof Meshesha listed conditions necessary. These are:



1. Formalization of volunteerism through Act, Policy, Structured Volunteer Programmes.
2. Get buy-in from State and Non-state actors.
3. Creating structures and institutional mechanisms: through regulatory framework/coordinating body.
4. Establish a framework linking volunteers to the job market.
5. Integration of volunteerism into the youth development program, national employment strategy, educational curriculum.
6. Recognition and promotion of volunteerism.
7. Committed national leadership.
8. Sustained financing – regular budget line.



#APRMYOUTH

Trending

Trends for @APRMYouth

1. **APRMYOUTH**
4.2M Tweets
2. **Uganda**
1.5M Tweets
3. **Ministry**
1.5M Tweets
4. **President Museveni**
1.5M Tweets

Dirigenda 0
10/21/22

The 3rd APRMYOUTH Symposium has come to an end.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this event possible, including the honorable guests and the #BOG+ attendees who brought their experience and visions to the discussion.

See you at the 4th Symposium next year!

Thank you!



Phillip Hamanya NPM
10/21/22

I had the distinct honor to represent @AIDSOrlando at the recently concluded APRMYOUTH 3rd APRM Youth Symposium that took place in Kampala, Uganda under the theme "AU20: Repositioning the Youth Agenda for a Transformative Continent".



African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and 4 others
10/21/22 · 10:14 AM · 10/21/22 · 10/21/22 · 10/21/22

Ray Ochieng, HSC *awatching* · 08 Jul 22

Dr. Ray Ochieng, joined the Prime Minister of Uganda, Rt. Hon. @RuhakanaIRW in announcing the commitment made by Uganda Government to mainstream Youth in all their Programs @Uganda @APRMYouth @RuhakanaIRW



Isaac Nyanja (APRMYOUTH)
10/21/22

Flashback: African Union APRM Continental Youth Symposium was lit 🔥 with Uncle Save in the house. I presented the APRM Youth Participation Toolkit, Uncle Save said youth need to be equipped with both Biology + Ideology for effective participation



10/21/22 · 10:00 AM · 10/21/22

Victoria Nyamunyuli Kimberly
10/21/22

As the APRM Symposium closed, the importance of protecting women and children through implementation of non-discriminatory policies was emphasized and we got a chance to meet Ambassador Rebecca Amuge and Lemson Mwanza (APRM Continental Secretariat) @APRMYouth



Osama Mohamed *WEaretheafrica* · 10 Jul 22

Young people are no longer reading from the book of lamentations but are now reading from the book of acts!

Delegation, 3rd APRMYOUTH AU20
Repositioning the Youth Agenda for a Transformative Continent that was held in Kampala, Uganda.

"Young person = Biology + Ideology"



UNICEF Office to the African U. · 07 Jul 22

APRMYOUTH Symposium: Mentoring @EngagementAfrican

"Children & young people need to be supported in ways that support their autonomy & that make the systems that serve them adaptive to their needs." **Ms. @SantoshMishra** - Policy & Advocacy Officer, @UNICEF @Africa

Sumitraningrum



African Union Youth Program · 07 Jul 22

State Department for Youth Affairs & The S.
10/21/22

The 3rd APRM Continental Youth Symposium currently in Kampala Uganda under the theme repositioning the youth agenda for a transformative continent seeks to empower the Youth to participate in governance, leadership & development. Follow live on air by @Africa @APRMYouth



Mungonye Catherine *with Account*
10/21/22

We are honoured to host The 3rd @APRMYouth Youth Continental Symposium under the theme: Repositioning the Youth Agenda for a Transformative Continent.

APRMYouth



10/21/22 · 10:00 AM · 10/21/22

Sarah Akhavan *YOUTH* · 09 Jul 22

During the African Youth Symposium, @AkhavanSarah said she is an intergenerational dialogue. Therefore she does not agree with solutions that are imposed on her. She has urged youth to use this symposium as that and leaders can listen to her ideas.



African Union Youth Program Co. · 18 Jul 22

@TheAfricanUnion

On the margins of the 3rd APRM Youth Symposium, the President of @Rwanda, @PaulineRwandaise pledged support to the @APRMYouth association @Rwanda Initiative.

Read to accelerate Africa's economic rise. by TTV @amw

APRMYouth



Theresa K. Mwanuzi
10/21/22

First, of all, we cannot become prosperous by begging, but rather by being the vanguard of producing goods and services, protecting Africa against all threats, and guarding our countries against the politics of sectarianism stoked by external forces.



10/21/22 · 10:00 AM · 10/21/22

Petrick Paul *APRMYouth* · 11 Jul 22

3rd APRMYOUTH Youth Symposium 2022

Health

We see the great exemplary work @AIDSOrlando 5000+ young people across Africa and the diaspora championing to mainstream and promote universal health coverage let's double the number and have APRMYOUTH youth champion!



Ray Sanku Ntwasa, ODW / FCBPS L. · 15 Jul 22

3/2 - Highlight of the 3rd @APRMYouth Youth Symposium (theme): Repositioning the Youth Agenda for a Transformative Continent.

-The need for gov'ts to prioritize youth issues in country's development @RaySankuNtwasa @AkhavanSarah @SantoshMishra @PaulineRwandaise @TTV @WagishaMwanuzi



Daisy OBAI
10/21/22

At concluded 3rd APRM Youth Symposium, I delivered 3 interventions on validation of a continental Youth Day Toolkit to be supplemented to Member State Country Reports; affirmed the commitment to AU 1 Millen Next Level & #RisingUp initiative so we intensify collaboration @APRMYouth



10/21/22 · 10:00 AM · 10/21/22

TRENDING ON TWITTER



CLOSING CEREMONY



24. Closing Ceremony

Moderator: Hon. Diana Nankunda Mutasingwa, Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President

Keynote Speaker: H.E. Rtd Maj. Jessica Alupo Epel, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda.

Speakers:

1. Mr Daniel Orbal, Senior Presidential Aide in Charge of Youth Affairs/Special Envoy on Youths
2. Ms. Caroline Andriaensen, Head of the Cooperation, EU Delegation in Uganda
3. H.E. Ms. Jainaba Jagne, Ambassador of the Republic of Gambia to Ethiopia & AUC Permanent Representative Council
4. Prof. Eddy Maloka, APRM CEO
5. Hon. Lydia Wanyoto Mutende, Representative of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons
6. Ms Prudence Ngwenya, AUC
7. Hon. Amara Kallon, Deputy Minister of Public and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone
8. Hon. Amongi Betty, Minister of Gender, Labour, and Social Development:
9. Rt. Hon Justine Kasule Lumumba, Minister for General Duties, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Uganda



In the Closing Ceremony Session, several speakers gave their remarks. The Session Moderator *Hon. Diana Nankunda Mutasingwa*, Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President invited each of them to give their brief statements.

Below are excerpts of the statements made by each of the invited speakers:

1. **Mr Daniel Obal, Senior Presidential Aide in Charge of Youth Affairs/ Special Envoy on Youths:** Mr Obal gave a detailed overview of the outcomes of the 3rd APRM Continental Youth Symposium, citing the key outcomes from each session as well as the Calls to Action.

2. **Ms Caroline Adriaensen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation in Uganda³:** In her remarks, she stated that the Symposium had confirmed that the contribution of the youth is essential in shaping the future of Africa and beyond. She listed the following as the key takeaways from the Symposium by the European Union:

1. Meaningful youth engagement in policy and programme design goes beyond consultation. The youth need to be listened to, trusted, empowered, and offered opportunities as well as an enabling environment.
2. Education is still at the heart of everything. It is a key resource and a lifesaving intervention; it is also an entry point to work for and with the youth at different levels.
3. There is a need to address discriminatory social norms and power imbalances toward gender equality. Gender equality remains a key priority.
4. The need to unlock financing for young entrepreneurs. The youth in Africa have limited ability to meet the traditional criteria for access to finance for their businesses. Financiers need to be creative, and open-minded and serve young people by developing criteria that fit their needs.

She concluded by reiterating the EU's commitment to the youth agenda in the African continent and beyond and that young people are at the core of the EU's external action.

3. **H.E. Ms Jainaba Jagne, Ambassador of the Republic of Gambia to Ethiopia & AUC Permanent Representative Council:** In her remarks, Hon. Jagne quoted a statement made by Kathy Calving, former CEO of the United Nations Foundations which reads, **“young people are not the leaders of tomorrow; they are the leaders of today and tomorrow.”** This statement, she said, resonates immensely with the position of the AU with regards to the youth playing essential roles in all aspects that relate to governance, sustainable development, peace and security. The role of the youth, she said, is critical for the attainment of the vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. They are indispensable stakeholders in the programmes that are instrumental to the attainment of Agenda 2063 goals and the SDGs. She outlined several initiatives all geared toward youth empowerment in Africa.⁴

Hon. Jagne outlined the following Calls for Action which, she said, arose from the Symposium:

3 Representing H.E. Attilio Pacifici, Ambassador - Head of Delegation of the European Union of Uganda

4 These are precisely captured under aspirations 4 & 6 of the AU agenda 2063



1. Increase domestication and implementation of the African Youth Charter by aligning national laws and policies with provisions of the Charter.
2. Enhance entrepreneurship and skills development to increase job creation and self-reliance.
3. Ensure good governance, peace, security and stability.
4. Increase youth participation in decision-making at national, regional and continental levels.
5. To mainstream youth and women's projects and programmes in the development of national blueprints.
6. Protect the rights of children and all youth against all forms of violations in situations of conflict.
7. Increase awareness campaigns of the rights, responsibilities and empowerment of the youth.
8. To increase investment in ICT, agriculture, climate change and the environment to improve the livelihoods and sustainable development of the youth.

4. Prof. Eddy Maloka, APRM CEO: Prof Maloka stated the youth have powerful potential and hence the need to have the courage to change old ideas. He referred to the opening remarks made by H.E. President Yoweri Museveni, where he said, "what makes a prosperous youth is not so much their biology but also their ideology."

In closing, he thanked the government of Uganda for hosting the Symposium, which was a success and for all the honourable guests who made time to support and attend it.

5. Hon. Lydia Wanyoto Mutende, Representative of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons: Hon. Mutende in her remarks reiterated that good governance, development and democracy cannot materialize at a continental level without the active participation of the youth who make up the bulk of the African population, the highest in the world. APRM, she said, believes that putting the youth at the forefront of ICT will place them in the vanguard of new technologies which will secure Africa's place in the fourth industrial revolution. Hon. Mutende outlined the various approaches the APRM is undertaking to engage and mobilize young people in Africa so that they can be able to contribute more positively to the national, regional and continental development processes.

In closing, she gave the following Calls for Action:

1. Africa's Heads of State and government to ratify and domesticate the AU Youth Charter.
2. For governments to prioritise youth issues, such as access to quality education, health and employment.

6. Ms Prudence Ngwenya, AUC: In her statement, Ms Ngwenya said that the AUC commits to work with the Republic of Uganda to contextualise the continental 1 million Next Level initiative and adapt them to the country's context. It also commits to work with national and international partners toward supporting the implementation of the initiative.

In conclusion, she stated that the AUC is committed to working with the government of Uganda in terms of in-country mobilisation and implementing the 'Bingwa' initiative to increase the number of people vaccinated against Covid-19. She challenged the youth to continue championing the 'Bingwa' initiative cause within their communities.

7. Hon. Amara Kallon, Deputy Minister of Public and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone: In his remarks Hon. Kallon stated that an empowered generation of youth is what Africa requires for peace and prosperity. He challenged the youth to work for the growth of the African continent.

He concluded his remarks by stating that Sierra Leone pledges its support and commitment to make sure the APRM becomes a tool that will transform Africa into the "Africa We Want". It will do this by carrying out the following:

1. Taking the 1 million Next Level initiative to Sierra Leone
2. Fully incorporate the Youth Toolkit into the questionnaire that will be developed.

Remarks Hon. Amongi Betty, Minister of Gender, Labour, and Social Development:

Hon. Amongi in her remarks stated that the African Union, through its various structures and instruments, has been working towards amplifying the voices of the youth and providing concrete plans of action for their inclusion. These instruments, she said, give emphasis towards an Africa whose development is people-driven and relies on the potential offered by African people and especially the youth.

Remarks by Rt. Hon Justine Kasule Lumumba, Minister for General Duties, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Uganda

In her remarks, Hon, Lumumba began by thanking the government of Uganda, and specifically *H.E. President Yoweri Museveni* and his Vice President, *H.E. Rtd Maj. Jessica Alupo Epel* as well as the Prime Minister, *H.E. Robinah Nabbanja* for ensuring Uganda hosted the Symposium and that it was a success. She specifically thanked the President for taking time, out of his busy schedule, to spend four hours at the Symposium whereby he advised the youth to have clear ideologies, with regards to where they want to go in life and with whom they want to move to attain their desired goals. She challenged the youth in the Symposium to always carry positive energy with them and have a mindset of success.



She further challenged them to “be the salt of Africa, remembering they are representing the wider youth of the continent.

In closing, she thanked the Symposium’s organizing committee in Uganda and all government officials for going out of their way to ensure the Symposium was a success.

1.16 Call To Action

1. The need to create and strengthen the structures of the AU should be radical, different, creative and boasts of collaborative efforts and unity.
2. For the youth to work towards bringing back Africa towards the road to recovery in breaking the cycle of poverty, conflict, hunger, and inequality that have plagued the continent.
3. The Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development will effectively undertake what H.E. President Yoweri Museveni and his Vice President pledged in the Symposium and ensure it is operationalized through the necessary government structures.



CLOSING REMARKS BY THE H.E. RTD MAJ. JESSICA ALUPO EPEL, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



Closing Remarks by the H.E. Rtd Maj. Jessica Alupo Epel, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda

The following are excerpts of her speech:

In her remarks H.E. Rtd. Maj. Jessica Alupo Epel, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, began by stating that the youth are the greatest resource of any country. They represent the future of society and therefore meetings, such as the APRM Symposium, are critical for them to gain knowledge on how to take up individual and national responsibilities.

The APRM Symposium, she said, is in line with Aspiration 6 of the AU Agenda 2063, 'fostering an Africa whose devolvement is people driven, relying on the potential of the African people and especially the youth.' She reminded the youth of the advice given to them by H.E President Yoweri Museveni, in his Opening Remarks whereby he challenged them to be actively engaged in the production of goods and services as well as finding the market for them. He further challenged them to endeavour to create unity to end all security challenges facing the continent; this he said can be achieved by having socio-economic transformation and democracy on the continent. She urged the youth to keenly reflect on the Presidents advice.

The Symposium, she affirmed, has helped in understanding the depth of the challenges facing African youth, with unemployment being the main challenge in Africa, and which has been further exacerbated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. To alleviate poverty and create employment in the continent, and in their respective countries, she challenged the youth to:

1. Be innovative and try out new mechanisms as well as think critically to embrace change in the direction of technology and practically deal with the challenges facing Africa.
2. Creatively develop value-addition cottage industries within their communities as a starting point.
3. Have the right mindset to do any available work which they can start with.
4. Develop a framework to communicate with one another and with the leadership in their respective countries for guidance and mentorship to effectively deal with the challenges that Africa faces.

In closing, she urged African leaders to listen and work with the concerns of the African youth.

H.E. Rtd. Maj. Jessica Alupo Epel then declared the 3rd APRM Symposium officially closed.



APPENDIX 1: COMMUNIQUE OF THE THIRD APRM YOUTH SYMPOSIUM HELD IN KAMPALA, REPUBLIC OF UGANDA FROM 4 - 9 JULY 2022



25. Appendix 1: Communique of the Third APRM Youth Symposium held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda from 4 - 9 July 2022

Under the patronage of H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, the 3rd African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Youth Continental Symposium was held from 4-9 July 2022 at Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort, Kampala, Republic of Uganda under the theme of “AU @20: Repositioning the Youth Agenda for Transformative Continent”. The Symposium was organised by the APRM in collaboration with the Government of Uganda and the African Union Commission Women, Gender and Youth Directorate.

The Symposium was supported and attended by the following partner institutions: African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, European Union Mission to Uganda, International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, GIZ, and Youth for Tax Justice Network.

Over 800 international and local youth delegates participated in the symposium. H.E. Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda was accompanied by his Cabinet, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the APRM Forum of Heads of State and Government (name of the representative), Ministers from African Union Member States, AU Permanent Representatives, APRM Panel of Eminent Persons, Representatives of AU Organs, the African Union Youth Envoy, European Union Ambassador to Uganda, representatives Uganda National Youth Council and leaders of youth led organisations. The Symposium agenda was tailored to bring youth and decision makers for an intergenerational dialogue to upscale youth participation in democracy and good governance.

THE SYMPOSIUM:

RECALLED the Decision by H.E. Idris Derby Into, the late President of the Republic of Chad, Chair of the APRM Forum of Heads of State and Government (2018-2020) and AU Champion of Youth, for the APRM to host an annual APRM Youth Symposium so as to mainstream youth participation in the APRM Processes and in promoting democracy and good governance on the continent.

FURTHER RECALLED, the Outcomes of the First APRM Youth Symposium held under the patronage of H.E. Idris Derby Into, the late President of the Republic of Chad, in Ndjamena, Republic of Chad, in July 2018, which amongst others called for youth mainstreaming in APRM processes and in the

promotion of democracy and good governance as well as the institutionalization of the APRM Youth Symposium.

INSPIRED, by the Outcomes of the Second APRM Youth Symposium held under the patronage of H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya, in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya, in September 2021, which amongst other requested APRM Member States to consider targeted reviews on youth governance issues, inclusion of youth APRM National Governing Councils and upscaling of youth participation in APRM processes and in the promotion of democracy and good governance.

NOTED, that African youth occupy an important place in the APRM philosophy, methodology and processes and therefore efforts of strengthening democracy and good governance will only be strengthened with their meaningful participation and contribution.

RECALLED, the African Youth Charter adopted by the 7th Ordinary Session of AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Banjul, The Gambia, on 2nd July 2006, particularly, Article 11, which promotes youth participation in democracy and good governance in all spheres of society.

AFFIRMED FULL SUPPORT of the African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment, African Youth Charter, AU Decision on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth, and Targets on Youth articulated in Agenda 2063.

WELCOMED WITH GRATITUDE, the launch of the 1 Million Next Level Initiative for Uganda, an idea by H.E Moussa Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and a follow-up on the 1 million 2021 Campaign, to create opportunities for young people through Education, Employment, Engagement, Entrepreneurship and Health and Wellbeing (4Es+H) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention launch of the AU COVID-19 Vaccination Bingwa Initiative.

CONCERNED, by the levels of youth unemployment and underemployment exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic and historical socio-economic context of African countries.

URGED, AU Member States to draw lessons from the APRM Targeted Review on Youth Unemployment recently conducted in the Republic of Namibia, and urgently act in addressing lack of youth skills development, skills mismatch, unstable labour market, gender discrimination, inappropriate or lack of career guidance in schools for youth and lack of access for experience for youth in addressing the scourge of youth unemployment.

FURTHER CALLED on African governments to address Illicit Financial Flows to maximise their tax returns, keep a pool of resources within their economies, combat criminal and corrupt activities and mobilize resources for youth development.



REQUESTED AU Member States, Private Sector, Civil Society, Development Partners and African Youth to look at ICT as a new source of job creation and value addition on African products and services on the international market.

FURTHER REQUESTED, AU Member States to upscale digital literacy of the citizens/youth and overcome digital divide caused by lack of access to smart devices and connectivity and urgently legislate laws to protect data and intellectual property.

UNDERScoreD THE NEED, for African youth to pay attention to the resurgence of Unconstitutional Changes of Government that have reemerged in AU Member States and request youth to reject Coup d'état's and uphold constitutionalism, rule of law and the ideals enshrined within the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

URGED, AU Member States to promote peace, security and governance by signing, ratifying and domesticating all crucial governance instruments and for youth to support the implementation of Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council; The African Union Post-Conflict and Reconstruction Policy Framework; the Conference on Stability, Security, Development and Democracy (CSSDCA); the AU Convection Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; the African Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; the African Union Convection for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

NOTED, with concern the climate change disastrous consequences on the livelihood of African people and calling for youth and youth-led organizations to lead in developing strategies to fight climate change ahead of the COP26 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

FURTHER NOTED, the need for adoption of the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessments (CSVRA's) into National Early Warning Mechanisms for AU Member States and request youth to develop African Youth position on climate actions for implementation on national levels.

UNDERScoreD, the need for AU Member States and Youth to prioritize and leverage the potential of the African Diaspora and use migration as a positive phenomenon that can be harnessed for development of Africa.

ENCOURAGED, by the AU Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment and other Member State and AU led frameworks to harness benefits of migration and development of people through movement and requests young people to promote the framework.

FURTHER ENCOURAGED, the inclusion of Youth Peace and Security Agenda into Continental Initiatives and National Action Plans & further recognising

The African Union, African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP) as a good practice that could be replicated at the grassroots level. Therefore, calling on AU Member States to urgently appoint African Youth Ambassadors for Peace at National and grassroots levels.

NOTED WITH APPRECIATION, the APRM Bi-Annual Africa Governance Report (AGR): African Governance Futures 2021 prepared by the APRM and the African Governance Architecture Platform Members.

CALLED on African Youth through National Youth Councils to contribute towards the development of the African Governance Report 2023 whose focus is on Unconstitutional Changes of Government and will be championed by H.E Julius Maada Wonie Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the APRM Forum of Heads of State and Government at the 36th Ordinary Session African Union Assembly of Heads of States and Government scheduled to take place in February 2023.

EXPRESSED FULL COMMITMENT to implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 particularly Aspiration 3, Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, Aspiration 4, a peaceful and secure Africa, and Aspiration 6, Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by its people, especially women and youth and caring for children.

REAFFIRMED, the role of the National Youth Councils as legitimate representatives of youth in Member States and key stakeholders in youth development.

REQUESTED the concerned stakeholders to revitalize and reinvigorate the Pan-African Youth Union, which has been recognized by the 14th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council held in January 2009, through Decision EX.CL/Dec.468(XIV). The Executive Council through as the continental coordinating body for youth organizations and as the focal agency of the African Union on youth matters.

EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION to the Republic of Sierra Leone, Republic of Namibia, and Republic of Kenya for committing to pilot the APRM Youth Toolkit for Targeted Reviews.

FURTHER EXPRESSED PROFOUND APPRECIATION to the coming into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and commencement of trade by Member States under the agreement.

CALLED on AU Member States to promote descent jobs and income for young people by promoting youth start-ups and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to thrive under the AfCFTA lowering costs of trade and free movement of people.



ACKNOWLEDGED WITH GRATITUDE, the unwavering support provided by the Government of Uganda, the AU Policy Organs, the African Union Commission Woman, Gender and Youth Directorate, The Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and other AU Organs and Institutions, the International Organization for Migration, European Union in Uganda, UNICEF, GIZ, Youth for Tax Justice Network and Uganda National Youth Council.

REQUESTED, an APRM Member States from either the North African or Southern Africa regions that have not yet hosted the Symposium to offer to Host the next APRM Youth Symposium.

FURTHER REQUESTED, the APRM Continental Secretariat, the African Union Commission, the Host State and the relevant stakeholders to organize the next APRM Youth Symposium earnestly and mobilize the necessary resources for the successful organization of the meeting.

CALLED on the APRM Continental Secretariat, the African Union Commission to present the Outcomes of the Third Youth Symposium to the relevant APRM Structures and AU Policy Organs for consideration and possible action.

DONE ON 9 JULY 2022 IN KAMPALA, REPUBLIC OF UGANDA





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