

Resolution

Booklet 2020

Theme

**COVID-19 Recovery:
Building Partnerships for Youth-led
Community Development in Africa**

Virtual Edition



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PREAMBLE

The African Youth and Governance Convergence (AYGC) is an institutionalized platform convened by the Youth Bridge Foundation (YBF) to address the gap between the youth and government as well as create a sustained avenue to prepare young people in Africa for governance and leadership. Since 2009, the AYGC has served as a year round leadership grooming program with annual convergence of young people and their mentors. It serves as an important platform in grooming young people in Africa in the areas of:

(a) Leadership Grooming

(b) Cascade of Mentorship

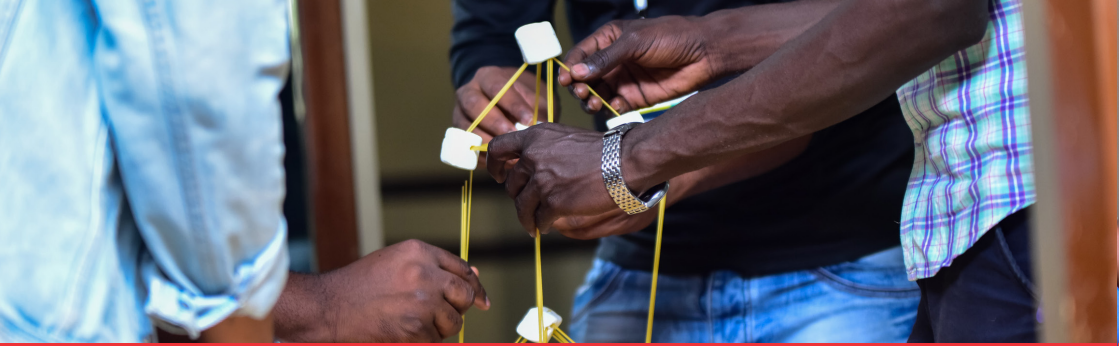
(c) Community Impact and

(d) Networking & Exchanges

With the heightened level of COVID-19 incidences during the scheduled period of the 12th edition of AYGC, YBF was guided by World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations to cancel the physical convergence of AYGC 2020. Inspired by the commitment to build a connected Africa and Diaspora youth and sustaining the joy of seeing barriers fall as we bond at the annual convergence, a VIRTUAL AYGC 2020 was hosted from September 16-18, 2020 on

Zoom Platform. The Virtual Convergence hosted about hundred (100) young people drawn from Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa and the diaspora as well as eight (8) Coaches drawn from Africa and Diaspora. The updated AYGC 2020 theme “COVID-19 Recovery: Building Partnerships for Youth-Led Community Development in Africa” hints on the value of partnerships for sustainable recovery. It also offered the youth delegates the opportunity to initiate conversations around the continent’s youth-centered rebuilding agenda.

The 12th Edition had for the first time participating youth from Lusophone Africa with the opening ceremony addressed by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo (Former President of Nigeria and AYGC Eminent Fellow). Key among the activities undertaken was plenary and syndicate sessions guided by professional coaches and moderators. Delegates under their assigned sector Committee had deliberative syndicate sessions, researched and proposed solutions by Drafted Motions that was debated upon at the General Assembly and eventually passed a Resolution for post AYGC Action.



MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

The AYGC produce its outcome statements in the format of resolutions. The Resolution is a formal statement of opinion proposed by the Convergence delegates on how to deal with specific topical issues. As the goal of each Committee, the resolution works and serves as a statement of resolve to progress in a specific matter outlined in it. The goal of the resolution is to inform and educate readers to inspire action. To do this, resolutions do two things:

- + Identify and explain the problem that needs to be addressed (the introductory clauses); and**
- + Propose a solution that would address the problem as identified (the operative clauses)**



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

In the spirit of the African Youth Charter, Heads of African States assert their claim to be “CONVINCED that Africa’s greatest resource is its youthful population and that through their active and full participation, Africans can surmount the difficulties that lie ahead”.

About 41% of Africa’s population is below 15 years old while another 19% are youth between 15 and 24 years old. The continent’s young population is mirrored in the East African Community (EAC) where around 45% of the 150 million people in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda are below 15 years and a further 28% are youth between 15 and 24 years old. Africa is projected to grow rapidly, reaching 1.7 billion in 2030 and more than double by 2050, to 2.5 billion in 2050 and 3 billion in 2063. Africa remains the youngest continent with an average 72% of the continents population aged below 35years (the upper ceiling of youth definition per the African Youth Charter.

The Continent, however, is yet to reap the immense opportunities of its rich resources including human capital since the critical issues underlying the continent’s demographics, especially those relating to the young generation have not been addressed.

The prolonged youth marginalization, low levels of education and capacity as

well as high rate of unemployment in Africa must be considered a major source of economic insecurity that can lead to destabilization of any political and social system. The political and corporate leaders of Africa therefore need to initiate sustainable processes for dealing with the burden of youth marginalization.

Recognizing that the consequences of COVID-19 on economic and social lives in Africa are grave, the virtual 2020 Convergence theme: “COVID-19 Recovery: Building Partnerships for Youth-Led Community Development in Africa”, underscored the value of partnerships for sustainable recovery. The reality is that a sustainable Recovery Plan for Africa requires collaborative efforts that include building youth-centered partnerships among government, private sector, civil society and the citizenry.

As our modest contribution to building an ‘army’ of empowered African and Diaspora youth contribute to addressing the grave inequalities in the socio-economic fabric amidst COVID-19, the African Youth and Governance Convergence has since inception, served as an important platform for **grooming, mentoring, networking and community impact** for young people in Africa and Diaspora.



We, youth delegates at the 12th African Youth and Governance Convergence held virtually on zoom platform from September 16-18, 2020 under the theme “COVID-19 Recovery: Building Partnerships for Youth-Led Community Development in Africa”, organized by the Youth Bridge Foundation;

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

Considering that with 72% of her over 1.3 billion population under the age of 35years, Africa remains the only continent with a significant growing youth population; President of the Session

Recognizing that Africa’s current demographic dynamics (growing youth population) presents both threats and opportunity for national and continental development;

Gravely concerned that one-third of adolescents of lower secondary school age (12-14 years) and more than half of youth of upper secondary school age (15-17 years) are not in school. Africa is still home to more than half of out-of-school children of primary age (6-11 years) globally.

Alarmed by the continuous marginalization of the continent’s majority – the youth, as well as persons with disabilities (PWDs) in accessing quality education and employment at all levels of society and recognition in governance and major public decision making processes;

Convinced that the coalitions of youth inclusive actors are needed to realize Agenda 2063;

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

Gathered together as young people from the Continent and the Diaspora to deliberate on eight (8) merged thematic issues through Committees:



The delegates worked in the following Committees:

1. Committee on Agriculture and Food Security
2. Committee on Education
3. Committee on Governance, Leadership and Accountability
4. Committee on Gender, Equality and Social Inclusion
5. Committee on Foreign and Diaspora Affairs
6. Committee on Employment and Entrepreneurship Development
7. Committee on Health
8. Committee on Creative Arts and Culture



HIS EXCELLENCY OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, FORMER PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA AND AYGC EMINENT FELLOW

Keynote Address, AYGC 2020 VIRTUAL

Historical Perspective

“They that deny History, will not only fail to learn from it but are essentially like a people without a compass. We must analyze History, we must critique History, and we must draw the right lessons from COVID 19 to lead us!

Food Security

“A major fallout of COVID 19 is Hunger. Food security is a foundational pursuit that we must get right in the COVID 19 Recovery. Once we do that and build partnerships with the Youth, everything will follow suit.

Community Development and the Youth

“I believe the first thing that we must do as Youth to must come together to make sure that the recovery in the COVID 19 Economy becomes permanent.

“We must together in partnership with the Youth, agree for Community Development that will be in the best interest of the Continent.



RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal Two (SDG 2), which aims to end hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and improve food security by 2030.

Alarmed by the combined effect of COVID-19 along with poor implementation of policies resulting in disruption to food systems, and its consequent poor health, malnutrition and famine,

Noting with deep concerns the declining public investment and poor adoption of new technologies in Agriculture, despite their potential to improve partnerships in youth led community development programmes and reduce food insecurity during and post COVID-19 era,

We:

Recommend the need for member states to encourage innovative solutions such as Agroforestry that creates resilience and regeneration in food systems and also involve public-private partnership in securing food for countries in Africa;

Appeal to the African Union (AU) member states to promote partnerships between actors in the private sector, especially small and medium enterprises and international funding agencies

harnessing technologies for agriculture's development;

Encourage governments to create a co-rural working space, where youths and rural farmers will work hands in gloves to birth innovative solutions involving market development, production, value addition, logistics and supply chain.

Submitted by:

Titilayo Kemi Kings – Chair, Oluwadare Erioluwa Jesutofunmi, Echoga Daniel Abu, Adedotun Aanuoluwapo, Akinwunmi Ayanwale, Mramba Clara, Ogunbowale Esther Sinmitoluwa, Omoleye Mayowa Jacobs, Fatunde Esther Olayinka, Oladipo Oluwatobi Joel, Oluwagbemi Israel Adegbile, Obani Chika David, Olorunsike Tosin Michael, Fashola Joseph Olamide.

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RESOLUTION BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Noting with regret, that about 258 million children and youth of school-going age were out of school before the start of the pandemic;

Deeply disturbed, that the pandemic has further widened the inequality gap in educational, with 89 per cent of learners without access to household computers and other electronic devices and 82 per cent lack Internet access, half of whom are in Africa;

Fully alarmed, that the number of children in third world countries unable to read a simple sentence by the end of primary school will increase and many pre-tertiary to tertiary students in Sub-Saharan Africa are unlikely to return to school;

Recognizing that the Covid-19 pandemic could reduce aid to education by 12 per cent, as donor priorities are likely to shift to the health sector and other emergencies.

We:

Recommend, that governments give educational systems more attention than they enjoyed before the pandemic, through increased investments in infrastructure needed to support e-learning across countries;

Call on donor agencies to maintain aid to education as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact the sector, to ensure adequate funding is available for the sector's recovery.

Further, recommend that teaching is not limited to e-learning platforms alone but also through radio, information centres and television to cater to many pupils without access to connectivity to ensure continuous learning.

Invite educational institutions to partner Internet service providers to zero-rate their Learning Management System (LMS) to allow students access as teachers are trained to access and utilize e-learning platforms for effective teaching and learning remotely.



Submitted by:

Dorothy Abokuma Mensah, James Kodjie, Cosme Zinsou Odjo, John Agbevem, Daniel Abu, Ransford Osei Asare, Zuweira B.Mohammed, Juliana Kaale Okine.

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RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Recognizing that young people below the age of 35, who account for majority of the Continent's labour force, remain marginalized by gerontocratic political leaders who are less accountable;

Observing that African youth are perceived as too young to hold certain leadership positions in the political governance of their countries;

Reaffirming that access to technologies needed in the global communications space is essential to reducing corruption and promoting transparency in African governments.

Noting with regret, the lack of commitment of member states of the Pan-African e-Network (PAeN) to allocate resources to build the Pan African Tele-Education and Tele-Medicine network with content in other African Union official languages (French, Arabic and Portuguese).

Noting with deep concern that the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership is unable to identify leaders deserving of the Prize every year due to bad leadership.

Deeply concerned about the high cost of entry into politics in Africa that keeps young voices on the sidelines, rather than prepare them for active

participation in governance,

Deeply concerned about the limited operationalisation of e-governance and use of ICT in governance coupled with ineffective monitoring systems at the local and national levels,

We:

Call for governmental support financially and logistically, to expand and strengthen youth-led platforms such as Africa Youth and Governance Convergence (AYGC) and the Youthconnekt platform to serve as national youth convergence platforms.

Strongly recommend the adoption and use of Information and Communication Technologies in governance to ensure the sustainability of the Pan-African e-Network (PAeN) especially in post covid recovery measures.

Recommend strong collaboration between government and private actors to provide targeted policies and services to adequately prepare youth populations for leadership position at all levels.



Submitted by

Ibrahim Hussein Bancie, Confidence Dominic Bedzina, Daniel Akinyemi, Ishmael Adjei, Louise Jechonias Fantongnon, Seth Konadu Awwuah, Blessing Simon, Prince Uzoma Omenihu, Bogui Paul Thierry.

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Acknowledging that the International Labor Organization estimates that 195 million jobs could be lost to the Covid-19 pandemic, impacting women in the informal sector, as African economies contract by 1.4% to 7.8% in GDP.

Deeply concerned that Gender Based Violence increased by 148% within a year, globally due to confinements that have resulted in tensions and strains created by insecurity, health and money-related stress.

Noting with regret that the most affected groups are persons with disabilities, people from impoverished communities as well as women and children, who lack access to essentials such as food, healthcare and vital services,

We:

Recommend that governments invest more in the informal sector and micro, small and medium enterprise development to create more employment opportunities that accommodate practical skills.

Strongly urge inclusion of marginalised populations in key decision making to ensure that laws and policies adopted empower them in the post-COVID era.

Recommend that governments, non-governmental organisations and the private sector develop strategies to collect data on all persons with disabilities to offer them support during and after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Submitted by:

Aarathi Burtony, Obani, Chika David, Thandeka Jabane, Sharon Nana Abena Oteng, Afolabi Isaiiah.

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Acknowledging with deep concern that the Covid-19 pandemic has hindered the continent's ability to leverage human resources in Africa and the Diaspora for international partnerships and impacted support systems for African youth.

Understanding that existing internal mechanisms within regional institutions have the potential to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic and future crises.

Observing that implementation of the 'African Sankofa Savings Account' within Ghana could be replicated in Africa and encourage 'investment opportunities from [the] Diaspora Community Worldwide,' in the post-Covid-19 era.

We:

Advocate for provisions to allow first generation of the African Diaspora to be given permission to join the African Union as dual citizens, to allow them to contribute to the economic and social growth of the continent.

Strongly encourage states to support existing mechanisms within regional institutions such as the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention to promote intelligence and information sharing in the fight against COVID-19 and other similar threats.

Recommend that the African Union-ran AU COVID-19 Response Fund is used to mitigate the socio-economic and humanitarian effects of the pandemic in Africa.

Submitted by:

Nakie Davies [Committee Chairperson], Estelle Quaye [Rapporteur], Nimatu Ibrahim, Kagiso Makhudu, Ishaqa Olagunju, Bonaventure Gwelengwe.

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RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

Deeply disturbed by the collapse of businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic due to their inability to access relief funds allocated because they lack structures to qualify for such packages;

Noting with regret that Africa is largely import-dependent due to limited injection of technology into its production processes resulting in low productivity;

Alarmed that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to massive job losses, as businesses try to stay afloat, significantly diminishing incomes of many African households.

We therefore:

Call upon governments to support indigenous businesses by promoting import substitution strategies, encouraging increase in production and consumption of domestic products, while reducing the consumption of imported goods;

Further propose construction of efficient road and rail network, connecting the whole of Africa to help move logistics across borders and promote export across the continent.

Recommend that the African Development Bank (AfDB) works with governments to support

entrepreneurship for wealth creation for young Africans;

Further recommend that the AfDB partners youth-led organisations to provide digital skills training for capacity development that positions young people for jobs in the tech space;

Strongly recommend that governments work with labour unions to implement employment retention and social protection measures that provide incentives to employers in times of distress.

Submitted by:

William Adegoke, Okewa Owwoeye, Seth Adjaben, Olushola Oyeranmi, Isaac Oluwagbemi, Nathaniel Luz, Thierno Oumar Diogo Bah, Babatunde Badewa, Aissatou Bella Bah, Goodness Eniola, Bukola Ojo, Charles Oduro-Gyamfi.

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RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Referring to the Sustainable Development Goals three (3) that focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;

Further recalling that the 2019 World Health Statistics indicated that despite progress towards the SDGs, the healthcare indicator shows stalled progress and negative growth in non-communicable diseases;

Noting with deep concern the chronic lack of investment in the healthcare sector that deprives majority of the population access to adequate healthcare delivery;

Recalling that despite the numerous advantages that the adoption of SDG goal 3 and 17 can bring to Africa's health outcomes, not many meaningful partnerships have been formed for the purpose;

Recognizing that every young African, rich or poor, male or female should protect his or her physical, mental and social health;

We:

Recommend that governments invest in healthcare delivery and initiate a holistic restructuring of the health systems for efficient, transparent and quality healthcare delivery;

Charge youth-led initiatives to leverage partnerships with government and private sector to drive the full recovery (both mentally and socio-economically) of identified or yet to be identified covid-19 survivors (of especially young Africans) through;

Encourage African youth to seek social counseling when they experience signs of depression, exercise regularly, eat healthy and take advantage of free online courses offered by many universities on mental health.

Submitted by:

Dr. Job Kasweshi-Chair, Tanko Kpeb Nura Mabrukutu, Komilogbon Gift, Oyindamola Ilesanmi, Grace Uwizeye, Precious Afaoma Chiazor, Daniel Mizinga, Eliseus Olaoluwa, Pumulo Mutemwa, Louisa Esperance Jere, Sally Atieno Odunga, Godwin Oladele Akelemon.

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[africa-covid-19-exposes-healthcare-shortfalls](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/06/08/africa-covid-19-exposes-healthcare-shortfalls)



RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CREATIVE ARTS & CULTURE

Recalling that the creative economy's contribution to inclusive development is gaining support at national and global levels due to culture's contribution to sustainable development;

Reiterating culture's role as a promoter of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, through provision of employment and decent work for all;

Recognising that the pandemic has exposed the Creative Industry to economic uncertainties taking a toll on its contribution to national and global prosperity;

Acknowledging that the effect of the pandemic spells negative consequences for an already neglected sector;

Noting further, that the global market value of traded creative goods and services that reached \$547 billion in 2012, could increase significantly with consistent support;

Convinced that this support could come in the form of official development assistance and domestic resource mobilisation;

Noting further that neglecting this sector that generates up to 3% of global GDP, points to the lack of awareness of the value and economic potential it has to create employment for the youth.

We:

Call on our governments to introduce policies for the advancement of the creative industry, while enforcing regulations to protect intellectual property rights.

Recommend that creative bodies train their members in content development to drive the growth of the industry in line with SDG 17.

Further recommend that governments put in place systems for collecting accurate data from the relevant agencies and stakeholders, through research projects that capture the generated revenue, economic value and opportunities in the creative industry.

Submitted by:

Ekene Ezeji, Timothy Yaw Acheampong, Gboyega Arowolo, Moody Simasiku Mwiya, Patrick William Dodo

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Committee Coaches



ANDRÉ MASSINA (MOZAMBIQUE)
Employment and
Entrepreneurship Development (EED)



EKENE EZEJI (NIGERIA)
Creative Arts and Culture (CAC)



REV. DR. GEORGE ANSAH (CANADA)
Governance, Leadership and
Accountability Committee (GLA)



WAYNE HAMILTON (CANADA)
Committee on Foreign and
Diaspora Affairs (FDA)



GRACE SEBUGAH (GHANA)
Committee on Agriculture &
Food Security (AGRI)



EUNICE OSEI ASSIBEY (GHANA)
Committee on Education
(EDU)



DR. BARBARA HAMILTON-HINCH (CANADA)
Committee on Health
(HTH)



COLIN CAMPBELL (CANADA)
Committee on Foreign and
Diaspora Affairs (FDA)



PROF. JOEL H. SAMUELS (USA)
Committee on Gender Equality &
Social Inclusion (GESI)

TESTIMONIALS



“ I was a delegate at the African Youth and Governance Convergence, a gathering of more than 25 countries, where I participated as a member on the Employment and Entrepreneurial Development Committee. We discussed the impact of COVID 19 and the way forward as a continent. Networking is the new gold mine in our time, and accessing global communities the way forward. That's why I love the fact that I connected with amazing people across the globe. It was an amazing event worth the time and sacrifices put into organizing it. The experience was mind blowing! I am looking forward to AYGC 2021!

Okewa Omorinade Owoye, AYGC 2020 Alumni

My experience at AYGC this year has left me very hopeful about the change we desire to see on the African Continent, as led by our youthful population. Most of the delegates I met attended the Convergence because they believe in the African Youth's potential. Their contributions during committee sessions sought to ignite the passion of the African Youth to arise and take up the reigns for the continent's Development especially in Governance, Leadership and Accountability.

Ibrahim Bancia Hussein, Committee Chair, AYGC 2020



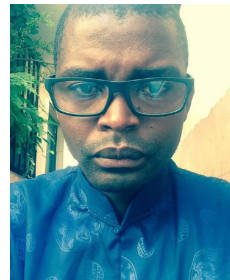
“ Don't tell me young people aren't disciplined, hardworking and intelligent. I can confidently say they are all this and more, because on Day two of AYGC 2020, I worked till late on the motions draft with my youthful and responsible team, on the committee on Creative Arts and Culture. It was in preparation towards the debate at the next day's General Assembly where we hoped our motions will be voted in, and for potential outings at the United Nations, UNESCO etc. I am truly inspired that there is hope for the future of Governance in Africa!

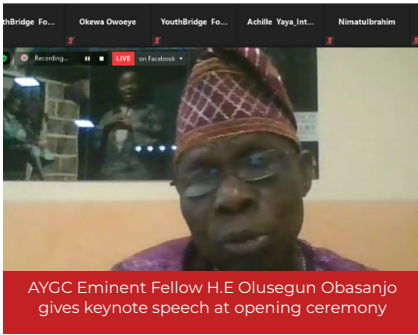
Ekene Ezeji, Committee Coach, AYGC 2020

Until AYGC 2020, I had always felt that Africans will continue to be separated because of language barriers; Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone divisions, yet the Secretariat and YBF Team did well to bridge this gap by the provision of Convergence documents in Portuguese and French and also providing translation hence making deliberations with the over 100 participants very lively.

After the Convergence, I wrote an article on my website "Epito Repórter" (in Portuguese) that has resonated and gained visibility across the Lusophone region of Africa. I look forward to participating in, learning from and contributing my knowledge at AYGC 2021.

Simão Pascoal Hossi, Angola (Lusophone Africa)



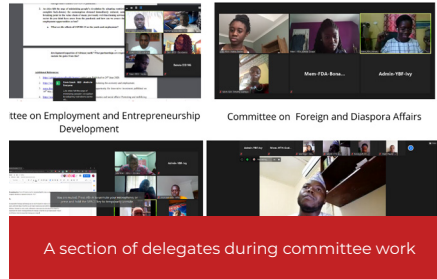


AYGC Eminent Fellow H.E Olusegun Obasanjo gives keynote speech at opening ceremony



André Massina, coach Employment and Entrepreneurship

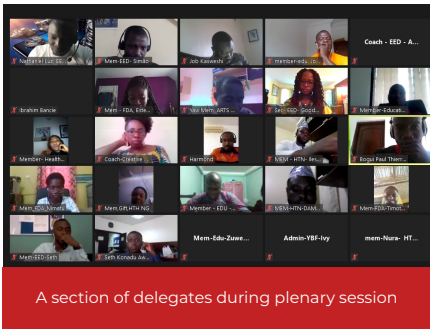
GALLERY OF AYGC 2020 ACTIVITIES



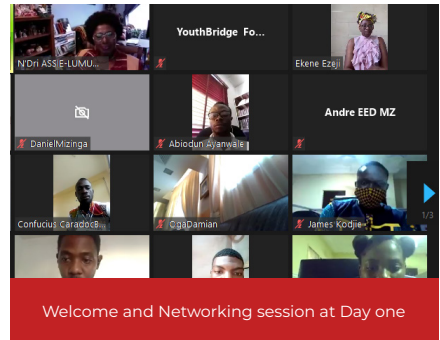
Committee on Employment and Entrepreneurship Development

Committee on Foreign and Diaspora Affairs

A section of delegates during committee work



A section of delegates during plenary session



Welcome and Networking session at Day one



Coach
Committee on
Creative Arts/Culture
Ekene Ezeji, Nigeria

Ekene Ezeji, Moderator AYGC 2020

OLUSOLA AMUSAN

4th. United Nations (UN) World Economic Forum, the Author of *Are You Banned or Blessed?* (2019), a Global Fellow of the World Economic Forum.

He is also a member of the Country Support Mechanism (CSM) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Executive Director of the African Union (AU) Centre for Entrepreneurship.

He is passionate about social entrepreneurship as a way to unlocking Africa's immense potential.

In January 2019, he received a scholarship from the African Union (AU) to attend the 'Africa's Future' program that has trained 500+ leaders in Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Innovation, and Technology.

He is a frequent speaker at international conferences and has been featured in various media outlets including CNN, BBC, and the World Bank.

He is a strong proponent of digital technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, and has been a frequent speaker at international conferences and has been featured in various media outlets including CNN, BBC, and the World Bank.

Olusola Amusan, Moderator AYGC 2020



Youth Development Center



Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe



Head Office:



14 Nuumo Kwei Goozi Street, Adjiringanor - Accra GD-166-1621



P. O. Box CT 5543 Cantonments, Accra - Ghana



+233 30 293 6326



+233 20 822 6315



programs@youthbridgefoundation.org



www.youthbridgefoundation.org



YouthBridgeFoundation



@YouthBridge2



Northern Zonal Office



Deha Street, Off Zo-Simli Roundabout Plot No: 114, Kaladan Residential Area, Tamale, Northern Region NT-0051-2074



+233 37 209 4204 / +233 20 807 4886



Southern Zonal Office



AN 03/05 Anibre Street, South Agona Nkwanta, Western Region



+233 31 229 2765
+233 50 916 7607



Nigeria Coordinating Office



c/o Youth Bridge Foundation Youth Development Centre Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Presidential Boulevard, Oke-Mosan, Abeokuta, Ogun State Nigeria



+234 802 754 5142



ybf-ng@youthbridgefoundation.org



Southern Africa Regional Office (Zambia)



Plot 25539, Woodlands Extension



P. O. Box 30267 Lusaka, Zambia



+260 96 610 2828



ybfzambia@youthbridgefoundation.org