

AN INITIATIVE OF



# 6<sup>th</sup> African Youth And Governance Conference

LUSAKA 2014

African  
Youth and  
Governance  
Conference



## resolution booklet

SIXTH AFRICAN YOUTH AND GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE

4th-8th August 2014

Benin Botswana Burkina Faso Burund Cameroon Cape Verde  
Republic Chad Democratic Republic of Congo Republic of  
Ivory Coast Djibouti Egypt Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Ethiopia  
Guinea Guinea Bissau Kenya Lesotho Liberia  
Malawi Mauritania Mauritius Morocco  
Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone  
Somalia South Africa South Sudan  
Tunisia Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe

## Conference Overview

Africa is experiencing the most rapid urbanization in the world today, and has 65% of her over 1.1 billion population under the age of 35 years. According to a Mo Ibrahim report of 2012<sup>1</sup>, it is estimated that between 2000 and 2100, Africa will gain 340 million young people, compared to a net increase of 137 million in the whole world, due to diminishing cohorts in Europe, Latin America and Asia and this will increase the continent's share of the global youth population from 15% to 41%.

Cognizant of the fact that investment in African youth will generate substantial national and continental development multiplier, Youth Bridge Foundation (YBF) initiated in 2009 the African Youth and Governance Conference (AYGC). The initiative provides the opportunity for the youth to discuss and find solutions to issues affecting them and the development of the continent whilst advocating for their inclusion in policy development processes and the broader governance realm.

In 2014, GIZ on behalf of the Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany under its "Commitment for Africa" Programme, supported YBF to collaborate with the International Office of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) to organize the first ever **Euro-African Youth Parliament** in Berlin, from 27th March to 4th April, 2014. The event, which was attended by 100 youth delegates (50 from 20 African Countries), served as a unique platform for cross-cultural learning and capacity building on the EYP model of youth engagement and participation.

Building on the outcomes of previous AYGC-Conferences and the hosting to southern Africa, the 6<sup>th</sup> AYGC was held at the MIKA Convention Center in Lusaka, Zambia from the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. The Lusaka 2014 conference introduced the use of Committee system, Team Building, Grande Debate (General Assembly), delegates-led media and event coordination as capacity building and hands-on learning opportunities for attendees. This enabled conference participants to deliberate and reflect on continental and global issues using knowledge, skills and creativity for Africa's development.

Targeting youth aged 18-35 years, the conference was anchored on the three pillars of Policy, Participation and Mobilization. The conference approach involved the following 3-pronged engagements:

- **Youth to Youth:** Promote youth interactions, networks and partnerships across cultures/borders. This comprised the use of **Committee** system, which allowed delegates to engage with fellow youth, carry out research on issues to produce informed recommendations in the form of resolutions the conference climax -Grande Debate (General Assembly). The Committees were chaired by pre-selected and trained youth delegates who report to the Conference Board comprising the President and Vice Presidents of the session.
- **Youth and Policy Makers:** Empower and support youth as agents of social inclusion and peace. This comprised complementary engagements between the committees and subject area specialists' dubbed **expert sessions** to offer delegates with practical knowledge and information to guide the preparation of their resolutions and presentations at the Grande Debate.
- **Youth and Corporate Africa:** Partnerships for youth development, peace and business development. This comprised plenary engagements on cross-cutting themes of employment, business development and entrepreneurship, investment and sustainable development. This session included delegate engagements with **corporate sector practitioners** on personal development and investments for start-up and future life.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/downloads/African-Youth-Fulfilling-the%20Potential.pdf>

## Preamble

We, youth delegates at the 6<sup>th</sup> African Youth and Governance Conference held from the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> of August, 2014 at the MIKA Convention Center in Lusaka, Zambia on the theme “*Investing in Africa’s Human Capital for Peace and Development*”, organized by the Youth Bridge Foundation (YBF) ;

**Considering** that with 65 percent of her over 1.1 billion population under the age of 35 years, Africa remains the only continent with a significantly growing youth population;

**Acknowledging** the assertion by the Heads of States in the preamble of AU Youth Charter that the youth represent the continent’s greatest resource,

Further **noting** initiatives such as the Agenda 2063 and declaration of the period 2009-2018 as decade for African Youth Development by the African Union (AU) to promote youth development;

**Concerned** about the growing challenges of unemployment, education, participation in governance and development processes, among others confronting African youth and the member countries;

**Alarmed** that:

- ✓ **although literacy rate is increasing, Africa lags behind the rest of the world;**
- ✓ **Young Africans are more literate than their parents, but their generation is more unemployed;**
- ✓ **Youth unemployment increases with education level in Africa;**
- ✓ **over the next 10 years, there will be 108 million more school-age children on the continent, but now only 2/3 of students’ progress from primary to secondary education in Africa;**

**Recognizing** the need for the youth to play active roles in ensuring the continent reaps greater benefits from its human resource in a changing and competitive global world,

**Gathered** together as young people from the continent on the seven thematic (through committees) and two cross-cutting issues as follows:

COMMITTEES	CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES
International Relations	Investment And Sustainable Development
Education and Culture	Employment & Entrepreneurship Development
Agriculture and Food Security	
Governance and Leadership Development	
Health And Post 2015 Agenda	
Environment & Renewable Energy	
Peace And Security	

This booklet highlights the specific committee resolutions and recommendations for policy advocacy by youth and broader civil society at continental, national and local levels.

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY**  
**THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Submitted by: Bwembya Lusanso (ZM), Chisepo Chirwa (ZM), Brighton Ross Kinemo (TZ), Jane Zulu (ZM), Joan Mtaja (Chairperson, ZM)

*As Africa looks to strengthen its position in international relations how can African countries ensure that their interest and that of future generations are protected in all the partnership agreements they enter into with the rest of the world? What mechanisms could be put in place to ensure youth participation and ownership of Agenda 2063?*

**The 6<sup>th</sup> African Youth and Governance Conference,**

- A. Considering that more than 60% of Africa's population (36.9% of its work force) are youth;<sup>1</sup>
- B. Endorsing AU's recognition of the youth as the greatest resource of the continent in the preamble of the African Youth Charter;
- C. Alarmed by the fact that young people under 25 represent three-fifth of sub-Saharan Africa's unemployed population, and 72 percent of the youth population live on less than \$2 a day;<sup>2</sup>
- D. Recognizing that a major challenge facing African governments, UN agencies, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and civil society is providing tools in creative and thoughtful ways that engage young people to work collaboratively in improving their communities;
- E. Realising that 36 of the 54 Member States have, as at April 2014, ratified the African Youth Charter and that<sup>3</sup>;
- F. Note with concern that half-way past the Decade of Youth Development 2009-2018 and the Action Plan of Youth Development, its implementation is slow, time-lines are not being met and youth actors are not involved;
- G. Fully aware that African Heads of States declared Agenda 2063 in order for the continent to effectively learn from the lessons of the past, build on the progress underway and exploit all possible opportunities to ensure socioeconomic transformation within the next 50 years;
- H. Mindful of the importance of science and technology for the transformative agenda of Africa;
- I. Cognizant of the low levels of technology development, transfer and the continent's capacity deficits with respect to technology;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.africa-youth.org/>

<sup>2</sup> World Bank, 2010

<sup>3</sup> Africa Union, 2014



- J. Observing that many partnership agreements are entered into without the involvement and consultation of youth in the negotiation process; bearing in mind that the signing of trade and partnership agreements that have long gestation periods can compromise the growth and development of African States particularly of future generations;
- K. Fully aware of the coordinating role of AU in African affairs at global and continental level;
- L. Alarmed at the failure of regional blocs such as ECOWAS and SADC to adhere to AU recommendations for Member States to halt the signing of the EPAs with the EU;

1. Recommends the de-coupling of the Portfolio for Human Resources, Science and Technology;
2. Entreats AU to commit to making budgetary provisions for the recommended Commissioner for Youth Affairs and his/her Staff;
3. Calls upon AU to, through broader consultation with key actors, review the Action Plan for Youth Development and set priorities for the remaining five years;
4. Urges Member States that are yet to ratify the African Youth Charter and enact national youth policies to do so in order to create needed opportunity for young people in their countries;
5. Entreats AU to task Ministers of States responsible for youth to report on their countries' performance on the implementation of the AYC at the 5<sup>th</sup> and subsequent Sessions of African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Youth (COMY) to promote the effective monitoring mechanisms to address implementation gaps;
6. Recommends the improved information dissemination, education and communication of the policies and activities of AU to ensure that the youth are sensitized and capacity developed to actively be involved in its processes and participate in making decisions that affect them at all levels;
7. Strongly urges the popularisation and efforts to enhance youth ownership of the AU Agenda 2063 through a well-coordinated civic education program;
8. Encourages intrinsic engagement of the youth at all levels of decision making;
9. Emphasises the need for youth to be actively involved in the negotiation processes at partnership platforms to ensure that Member States make informed decisions on the basis of expert advice;
10. Requests that African leaders negotiate partnership agreements in blocs and taking the stance of an equal partner;
11. Recommends that the existing Anti-corruption bodies should be well resourced to work independently of the government to ensure that state officials responsible for brokering such partnership agreements are held accountable for their actions;
12. Urges AU to create an enabling financial and regulatory environment: to improve access to home-grown technological and environmentally sound innovations;
13. Further requests the need for the AU to ensure that the Assembly has one voice and is united during partnerships to push forward the Continental Agenda;
14. Recommends that the AU in consultation with Member States enacts and implement legislations that provide stricter sanctions over member bodies that violate them.

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

*In trying to shape its future through education, what appropriate educational policies can Africa design to drastically reduce high dropout rates and build the required competencies of its youth?*

Submitted by: Tolulope Helen Aladesuyi (NG), Sibongile B. Sibango (ZM), Kelvin Aongola (ZM), Ernest P. Koranteng (GH), Lumbiwe Lulu Limbikani (Chairperson, ZM)

### **The 6<sup>th</sup> African Youth Governance Conference,**

- A. Noting with regret that more than 50 percent (133 million young people) of Africa's youth are illiterate;<sup>1</sup>
- B. Concerned that although Africa spends more on secondary education than the global average, youth unemployment increases with education level in Africa
- C. Fully aware of the progress made by African countries in improving access to enrollment and access to basic education targets in the Millennium Development Goal 2015<sup>2</sup>;
- D. Alarmed that the over-concentration on access through increased enrollment without consideration for quality and retention beyond the basic level and therefore only 2/3 of children progress from primary to secondary education in Africa<sup>3</sup>;
- E. Concerned further that the MDGs overly focused on basic education, which led to many African countries initiating policies limited to primary education at the expense of secondary and tertiary education in terms of access and quality.
- F. Noting that existing policies<sup>4</sup> have limited scope for addressing drop-out rates particularly among girl-child in schools in Africa;

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank, 2010

<sup>2</sup> Millennium Development Goals - [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/downloads/2013/2012-facts-and-figures.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> African Youth Charter, Agenda 2063, AU Youth Decade Plan of Action

- G. Recognizing the important linkage between adolescent reproductive health and education;
- H. Noting with deep concern the high dropout rate in schools in Africa<sup>5</sup>;
- I. Taking into consideration the poor quality of the current education systems in Africa;
- J. Further recognizing the lack of required competencies<sup>6</sup> for African youth to contribute to the development of the continent;
- K. Noting with regret the lack of work experience and internship opportunities for young people with private companies and corporations;
- L. Fully aware of the availability of natural resources in Africa but the void of corresponding educational methodologies to facilitate the harnessing and value addition of these resources;

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<sup>5</sup> UNESCO Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2011

<sup>6</sup> UNESCO, *Youth and Skills: Putting Education to Work* (Paris: UNESCO, 2012); fundamental skills of literacy and numeracy; transferable skills of analysis, communication and problem solving and technical and vocational skills in aspects such as computers, agriculture and carpentry. Of these the first two are very important and the longer a person stays in school the better to acquire the mentioned competencies

1. Calls upon African governments to adhere to and implement existing policies and frameworks such as the AU Youth Decade Plan of Action and national level educational policies in order to reduce dropout rates;
2. Encourages African governments to offer a second window to those that have left school to return through integrated adult education and tertiary education initiatives;
3. Emphasize the need for continued investment in Educational infrastructure to progressively accommodate more young people in schools at secondary and tertiary levels by African governments and relevant international agencies;
4. Urges African governments to enhance the quality of education by having qualified and motivated teachers, who teach relevant material to produce required competencies;
5. Further reminds African governments to fully implement the African Youth Charter (AYC) which provides for Education and Skills Development (Article 13 );
6. Governments should review their education polices and infrastructures to make it possible for People with Disabilities (PWDs) to access quality education at all levels
7. Requests African governments to implement recommendations and policies that:
  - (a) keep children healthy in school by providing food,
  - (b) adopt free but high quality education up to high school level which should be included in a country's budget,
  - (c) promote development through relevant education for the youth in skills that can be applied in the future,
  - (d) improve the quality and conditions of the teaching service,
  - (e) provide reproductive health education early on in the curriculum to avoid drop out of girls due to pregnancy and early marriage;
8. Recommends the introduction of national service in countries where they do not exist, for graduate college and university students in order to:
  - (a) provide work experience for young people who cannot get internship and any other work exposure,
  - (b) promote young people's participation in decision making processes in government institutions as part of their training;
9. Further calls for private companies and organisations to provide internship opportunities for young people;
10. Implores young people to recognize and readily seize available opportunities to build on their skills and competences.



## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

*Against the background of the declaration of the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, and the fact that the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has been running for the past ten years, what practical measures should be adopted by Africa to achieve the desired results?*

Submitted by: Alfred Tembo (ZM), Alice Dakubo (GH), Madalitso Mbewe (ZM), Mukalo Namwinga (ZM), Lombe Tembo (Chairperson, ZM)

### **The 6<sup>th</sup> African Youth and Governance Conference**

- A. Fully aware that in Africa budgetary allocation and investments in agriculture are inadequate although the sector contributes more than 75% of the livelihood of the people<sup>1</sup>;
- B. Alarmed by the fact that in Africa, the agricultural sector and particularly farming is less attractive to young people, hence most farmers tend to be older persons and this impacts on productivity and in turn food insecurity;
- C. Further distressed by the fact that over half of the continent's 1.1 billion people are under the age of 25 but 60% of young Africans are jobless<sup>2</sup>;
- D. Noting with regret that the awareness and participation of young people in agriculture sector policies and programmes such as the CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme) remain low;
- E. Deeply concerned that with weak controls and general leakages (corruption) which leads to diversion of allocated resources are having negative impact on African country ability to realise the desired goals of the CAADP;
- F. Aware of the over reliance on human labour and under-utilisation of modern technology towards agriculture and food security;
- G. Bearing in mind that the lack of development of infrastructure such as irrigation and storage facilities, motorable road networks in farming communities are a major drawback towards food security in Africa;
- H. Deeply conscious of the weak intra-African trade links (only 12% of Africa's total trade), which is exacerbated by high taxes and bureaucracy<sup>3</sup>; due to
- I. Noting with concern the fact that one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally, which amounts to about 1.3 billion tons per year<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/mb060e/mb060e00.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.economist.com/blogs/baobab/2013/04/intra-african-trade>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/mb060e/mb060e00.pdf>

1. Urges African national governments to increase allocation of financial resources towards the agricultural sector in line with the CAADP;
2. Calls upon national governments, research institutes, regional agriculture institutes and other stakeholders to improve living conditions for farmers through:
  - (i.) Provision of specialised medical insurance to registered farmers at state, national and regional levels,
  - (ii.) Investing in more agricultural equipment that eases farming practice,
  - (iii.) Educating agriculture personnel to improve overall productivity;
3. Recommends that organisers of such programs in the CAADP should come up with ways of involving youths such as mainstreaming agriculture education early at primary level in African schools and engage youth on agri-policy development processes;
4. Calls for the training of more auditors and intensive follow up on registered beneficiaries to ensure accountability and transparency in Agric sector by African national governments;
5. Advocates that African national governments and extension officers<sup>5</sup> should collaborate with young people to identify and introduce innovative technologies to improve agricultural productivity along the entire value chain of the sector.
6. Requests that African national governments should reduce taxes on trade of agricultural produce within Africa;
7. African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) must ensure that their policies on agricultural trade create an enabling environment that will encourage intra-Africa trade;
8. Calls for African governments to create an enabling environment for infant industries to thrive, particularly in manufacturing in order to improve agro-industry linkages;
9. Requests that young people in agriculture should organize themselves through:
  - (i.) Partnerships to diversify and upscale their production and marketing,
  - (ii.) Investments in infrastructure, transportation, food industries and packaging industries;
10. Encourages young people to take advantage of the employment and entrepreneurship prospects in avenues of agriculture that do not focus on farming alone.
11. The AU should support the establishment of Agri-sector incubators to attract and build capacity of the teeming youth population of Africa to contribute to productivity and overall food security on the continent.

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<sup>5</sup> an advisor employed by the government to assist people in rural areas with methods of farming and home economics

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY  
THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

*How can African countries increase the involvement of the youth in governance and key leadership activities at the national and regional levels? How can the African youth be positioned to effectively contribute to defining the continent's development priorities in the next decade?*

Submitted by: Constance Pelete (ZM), Chilomba Chilungi (ZM), Isaac Yeboah Afari (GH), Malama Andrew Chinungi (ZM), Tinashe Kasweshi (ZM), Delight Haangala (ZM), Benjamin Larbi (Chairperson, GH), Lilly Mensah (Chairperson, GH)

**The 6<sup>th</sup> African Youth and Governance Conference**

- A. Recognizing efforts by the African Union to adopt youth-related policies and instruments such as the:
- African Youth Charter (AYC)<sup>1</sup> which entreats all member bodies to develop a National Youth Policy (NYP)<sup>2</sup>,
  - AU Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018;
- B. Aware of the limited youth participation in governance processes and decision making at the national and local levels in many African countries;
- C. Concerned about the poor implementation and domestication of continental policies which Member States such as the enactment of national youth policies and establishment of youth parliaments;
- D. Noting with regret the general lack of well-coordinated capacity development and mentorship programmes in to adequately prepare the youth for future leadership roles;
- E. Realizing the reluctance on the part of the decision makers to appoint youth into leadership positions due to dissatisfactory performance of some youth entrusted with leadership roles in the past;
- F. Deeply concerned about the lack of confidence among some young people to take up leadership positions due to deeply-ingrained cultural barriers that relegate them to the background on a number of societal and communal issues;

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<sup>1</sup>African Youth Charter is a political and legal framework for youth empowerment and development activities at continental, regional and national levels and endorsed in July 2006

<sup>2</sup> National Youth Policy is an essential planning tool guiding the country's approach to youth development.

- 1) Encourages the AU to ensure that member states ratify and fully implement the African Youth Charter (AYC), through the establishment of appropriate monitoring mechanisms, which make provision for,
  - a) Sustainable livelihood and Youth employment (Article 15),
  - b) Youth Participation (Article 11),
  - c) Youth Development (Article 10),
  - d) Development of a Comprehensive and Coherent National Youth Policy (Article 12),
  - e) Education and Skills Development (Article 13 );
- 2) Further recommends Member States of the AU to formulate guidelines and roadmaps to implement the National Youth Parliament (NYP) required by them in Article 11 of the AYC which should make provision for:
  - a) Participation of youth in national policy formulation processes,
  - b) Leadership structured programs,
  - c) Good governance,
  - d) Coordination and collaboration,
  - e) Mentoring;
- 3) Calls upon African governments to institute mentorship programmes in the public sector to groom future leaders/public officials;
- 4) Urges African governments to scale up investments in strengthening and resourcing existing manufacturing industries in order to provide economic empowerment for young people, thus providing them with a means to developing their latent leadership skills;
- 5) Enjoins member countries to adopt progressive mentoring and capacity building initiatives such as the National Service Scheme in Ghana and Nigeria to provide graduates of tertiary education with corporate apprenticeship which would help them transit from academic to corporate world;
- 6) Entreats African governments to strengthen and resource already existing programmes geared towards empowering illiterate and literate youth with entrepreneurial skills;
- 7) Recommends Development partners to sponsor and support young people to participate in programmes and conferences such as the African Youth and Governance Conference

(AYGC) that help young people to develop research, problem solving skills, communication/public speaking skills which are crucial skills for leadership;

- 8) Further invites corporate entities in Africa to support programmes that seek to educate youth on governance and economic issues and encourage youth participation in leadership activities;
- 9) Request corporate entities to create internship and volunteering opportunities to equip young people with vital management and leadership skills for development;
- 10) Encourages young people to take proactive measures to empower themselves with needed skills in order to make informed decisions by showing commitment to continuous self-development.



## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND POST 2015 AGENDA**

*“With the deadline of MDGs drawing closer, what specific measures can African countries adopt to accelerate its efforts in bridging the inequitable access to basic health services? What space and mechanisms can African countries put in place for youth appreciation and support in ensuring effective country implementation on continental and global decisions on health [e.g. Abuja Declaration and the Common African Position (CAP) on Post 2015 Agenda]?”*

**Submitted by:** Charles Steve Kazembe (ZM), Kahilu Samuyachi (ZM), Modester Tembo (ZM), Darlington .K. Chiwanza (ZM), Tresford Manda (ZM), Olojede Victor (Co-Chairperson, NG), Dr. Chris Abrahams Mlelemba (Chairperson, MW)

### **The 6<sup>th</sup> African Youth and Governance Conference,**

- A. Taking into account, that most African countries have poor health systems;
- B. Alarmed by the high doctor-patient ratio in our health facilities;
- C. Recognizing that despite efforts of African governments in providing new health facilities in their countries, access to these facilities remain a challenge particularly for the poor and vulnerable in rural areas;
- D. Noting that despite the progress made, progress on the health related MDGs such as child and maternal mortality remain insufficient to achieve the targets by 2015;
- E. Bearing in mind that most African countries have high poverty levels and poor nutrition practices;
- F. Further noting with regret that most African governments do not engage the youth in the formulation and implementation of health policies including adolescent reproductive health policies;
- G. Deeply concerned that some African countries still record high levels of early marriages, infant and maternal mortalities ;
- H. Fully aware that in most rural and deprived communities in Africa, births still occur in homes or outside the health facilities without the help of a skilled attendant;
- I. Welcoming the idea that some of the African countries have adopted the promotion of girl child education to reduce early marriages and related, infant and neo-natal mortality;
- J. Encouraged by the efforts and youth consultations on 'The World We Want' as part of the Post 2015 Agenda;
- K. Concerned however about the inclusion and development of youth specific goals and associated targets in the final Post 2015 document to be agreed upon by world leaders;
- L. Stress on the importance of male medical circumcision as one of the effective ways of reducing the prevalence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), infant urinary

tract infection, penile cancer (in men) and cervical cancer (in women), and human papilloma virus which aids to reduce infant mortality;

1. Calls upon African youth in both urban and rural areas to fully participate in programs and activities that contribute towards achievement of the MDGs and successor the Post 2015 Agenda;
2. . Encourages African youth to, through sensitization campaigns and research-based advocacy, help monitor country progress on the MDGs and make policy demands for African governments to keep their MDGs/Post 2015-related promises.
3. Calls on African governments to provide and monitor for high standard, effective and approachable youth focused health centers especially on issues of Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health;
4. Urges African governments and various stakeholders such as international organizations including the United Nations Agencies to train and support Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA's) in executing their work professionally;
5. Further requests that African governments through their Ministries of Health to improve distribution and access to medical equipment in both urban and rural areas to enhance health service delivery;
6. Encourages all African governments and stakeholders to invest more in health related research in order to have accurate data on epidemiological trends;
7. Enjoins CSOs in health to mobilise and support the participation of youths in health policy formulation;
8. Advocates for the AU to set up independent fund to support countries to implement universal and equitable access to improved health care<sup>1</sup> for mothers, newborn and children as a targeted intervention to reduce deaths;
9. Further invites the youth in the media to assist in advocacy and dissemination of information and other awareness campaigns in areas of:
  - a) Under- 5 mortality,
  - b) Maternal mortality,
  - c) HIV and AIDS,
  - d) Malaria and other related diseases.

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<sup>1</sup> Improved medical infrastructure including local manufacturing of health commodities, health systems and financing and putting in place monitoring and evaluation, and quality assurance systems

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY  
THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

*In exploiting its natural resources to meet domestic and international market demands, what strategies/approaches can Africa adopt to ensure that the negative impacts of such extractive activities on the environment are reversed and/or avoided to promote environmentally sustainable development?*

Submitted by: Tinashe Mombemuriwo (ZW), Cynthia Tembo (ZM), Chali Mwape (ZM), Bolarinwa Iyanuoluwa Simon, (NG), Mutubwa Mpundu (ZM), Christabel Machila (ZM), Bob Mandinyenya (Chairperson, ZW)

**The 6<sup>th</sup> African Youth and Governance Conference**

- A. Acknowledging that African countries are underdeveloped, and rely on natural resource extraction for economic development;
- B. Fully aware that natural resource exploitation occurs in forms such as:
  - i. Mining of mineral and land resources,
  - ii. extraction of forest products,
  - iii. drilling for crude oil and gas industry,
- C. Noting with regret that the exploitation of these natural resources often lead to environmental pollution of land and water bodies of local communities,
- D. Fully aware that despite the potential benefits of employment, foreign exchange and development of local infrastructure, the social, economic and environmental cost of natural resource extraction in Africa is almost becoming synonymous with the proverbial “Dutch Disease”;
- E. Further noting that, the negative environmental impact of extracting natural resources, such as:
  - i. deforestation,
  - ii. soil erosion,
  - iii. emission of green house gases (e.g. methane) – which leads to Climate change,
  - iv. pollution,
  - v. habitat destruction & ecosystem disruption,
- F. Noting with concern that although natural resource exploitation provides job opportunities for young people, some youth are deeply engaged in illegal mining as a source of income and adopt environmentally unfriendly practises;
- G. Alarmed by the poor waste management systems used in the extraction of natural resources;
- H. Noting with concern that progress on the environment related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa has lagged behind and insufficient to achieve the targets by 2015;
- I. Keeping in mind that public knowledge and enforcement of environmental laws are generally poor, hence noncompliant by some individuals and organisations involved in extraction of natural resources;

1. Calls upon African countries to revise and strengthen their Environmental Legislation by ensuring that all environmental laws are disseminated extensively to the public in major local languages particularly in areas where natural resource exploitation is rife;
2. Encourages African countries to resource and enhance capacity of their Environmental enforcement bodies to enhance their operational effectiveness;
3. Calls for the AU and the United Nations to improve support and funding to organisations and individuals that revitalise and resuscitate the environment (i.e. through afforestation etc);
4. Further recommends the initiation of educational programmes to sensitize rural communities on the effects of natural resource extraction such as deforestation and illegal mining on the environment etc;
5. Urges African Governments and private sector operatives to invest in alternative energy sources such as;
  - i. solar energy systems<sup>1</sup>,
  - ii. liquid petroleum gas (LPG)<sup>2</sup>,
6. Further invites African governments to set up or support the setting up of waste management industries such as recycling and composting to reduce the effect of poor waste management;
7. African Governments, Corporate Africa and Civil Society/Non-Governmental Organizations to, collaboratively prioritize the availability of potable water supply for all and closing the sanitation gap;
8. Express its hope that African Governments will support young people with entrepreneurship skills and initiatives which are environmentally friendly;
9. African Governments to encourage Research, Innovation and Development (RID) programs on environmentally friendly waste management practices in tertiary institutions;
10. Call upon African youths to actively support governments to minimise negative environmental activities by :
  - i. desisting from illegal mining activities,
  - ii. initiating Environmental campaigns within their communities,
  - iii. improving knowledge through study programmes in sanitation and environment.

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<sup>1</sup> A system that harvests energy from sunlight by capturing the sun's radiant energy falling within the system's aperture and converting it to a desired form of energy such as electricity or heat carried by a fluid.

<sup>2</sup> A gas liquefied by compression, consisting of flammable hydrocarbons, as propane and butane, obtained as a by-product from the refining of petroleum or from natural gas: used chiefly as a domestic fuel in rural areas, as an industrial and motor fuel, and in organic synthesis, especially of synthetic rubber.

**MOTION FOR RESOLUTION BY  
THE COMMITTEE ON PEACE, SECURITY AND DEFENCE**

*How can African member states, their civil societies and the AU work together towards the prevention of conflict? What approaches should be used to reintegrate and positively harness the potential of youth in post conflict countries. How can youth be engaged in peace building process?*

Submitted by: Racheal Rutendo Chilengi (ZM), Francinah Mhende (ZM), Shaffik Muyaka (ZM) Kacwanda Ngalande (ZM), Ebenezer Nii Martey (Chairperson, GH), Kennedy Walusala (Chairperson, KE)

**The 6<sup>th</sup> African Youth and Governance Conference,**

- A. Taking note that many African countries are experiencing some sort of conflict ranging from civil wars, genocide, political instability and ethnic conflicts inter alia;
- B. Realising the protracted nature of conflicts in the region;
- C. Aware of the threat of military interventions in governance process through frequent overthrow of governments which results in general instability and deaths of citizens;
- D. Deeply concerned about the existence and growth of Militia groups and ex-combatants <sup>1</sup> constantly being recruited as mercenaries to destabilise other member states;
- E. Observing that most conflicts in Africa are centred on the quest for power, status, values and resources;
- F. Fully alarmed by the proliferation of small arms in conflict and post conflict countries with the total number of guns being more than the total population's size as in the case of Somalia;
- G. Taking into account the effects of conflicts in Africa which includes loss of life, economic retrogression, displacement of both human and natural resources and the abuse of fundamental human rights;
- H. Noting with regret that the youth are mostly perpetrators of crime and conflict and also recruited during wars as child soldiers or mercenaries;
- I. Considering that the engagement of young persons in armed conflicts has disastrous psychological and emotional effect on their lives during and after the conflicts;
- J. Recognising that peace building is a process that require concerted and broad support from all actors;

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<sup>1</sup> Illegal Armed groups, States ( e.g. M23 in DRC, Al Shaba , Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR);



1. Calls on the AU to:
  - a. to provide decisive leadership and interventions in conflicts on the African continent;
  - b. quickly respond to conflicts in member countries before they escalate into war,
  - c. involve the various youth focused Civil Society Organizations (CSOs<sup>2</sup>) in its continental peace building processes,
  - d. avoid lumping youth-focused CSOs with the institutionally bigger CSOs in order not to suppress specific concerns of the youth;
  
2. Calls on member states to:
  - a. involve social stakeholders in conflict resolution by creating education on peace building programs (civic education<sup>3</sup>),
  - b. adopt and initiate early warning systems like zone mapping, citizen alerts/vigilantes, rapid responds signals amongst others to detect conflict threats,
  - c. inculcate peace building in the educational curriculum,
  - d. initiate de-mining<sup>4</sup> actions in post war countries to prevent further loss of lives and programs that reintegrate and provide support for actors and victims of conflicts,
  - e. re-integrate ex-combatants into the country through:
    - i. organise of counselling and guidance sessions on peace and justice programs for ex-combatants and community members by the government,
    - ii. encouraging self-surviving techniques in agriculture and basic livelihood skills to ex-combatants by CSOs;
  
3. Further request the UN, AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs<sup>4</sup>) to adopt a participatory approach in:
  - a. involving the local people found in conflict areas in decision making,
  - b. supporting the participation of women in peace-building and their involvement on negotiation tables;
  
4. Calls upon Member States of the AU and Africa's Development partners to increase and release funding timeously for regional and in-country peace keeping activities.
  
5. Encourages more CSOs to initiate innovative practices such as the use of videos, articles and local dramas at various social institutions<sup>5</sup> to inform public about conflict and peacebuilding processes;

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<sup>2</sup> Civil Society Organisations are actors distinct and separate from the government but compliment governments activities and interventions.

<sup>3</sup> Involves peace building educational programs aimed at teaching cultural norms and social protocols

<sup>4</sup> Regional Economic Councils are the regional blocks in Africa - ECOWAS, SADC and so on.

6. Endorses more conferences and cross- cultural exchange programs like AYGCC to be organised by youth groups, communities and CSOs to help cross cultural understanding and mentorship among the youth on the continent;
7. Supports that all perpetrators of crimes and conflicts are held accountable and brought to justice by the governments,
8. Call upon AU to establish an independent Court of Justice to deal with perpetrators of heinous crimes and human rights abuses noting that justice and fairness are critical to conflict management and peace building;
9. Calls on the youth:
  - a. to channel their energies into the formal and informal education
  - b. especially cadres and political foot soldiers to be involved in reconciliation and peace building activities instead of being perpetrators of violence,
  - c. to take active steps to be involved in the peace building and conflict resolution processes in conflict prone countries and non-conflict prone areas

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<sup>5</sup> These includes churches, schools and communities





Session Board (President with Vice Presidents)



A delegate reading a motion



Open debate



Award presentation to a committee



Rep. from African Inst. of Sanitation and Waste Management



YBF Programs Manager doing a pre-General Assembly briefing



Asst. Director, Min. of Foreign Affairs, Gh.

# General Assembly

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Visually impaired delegate (left) defending a motion



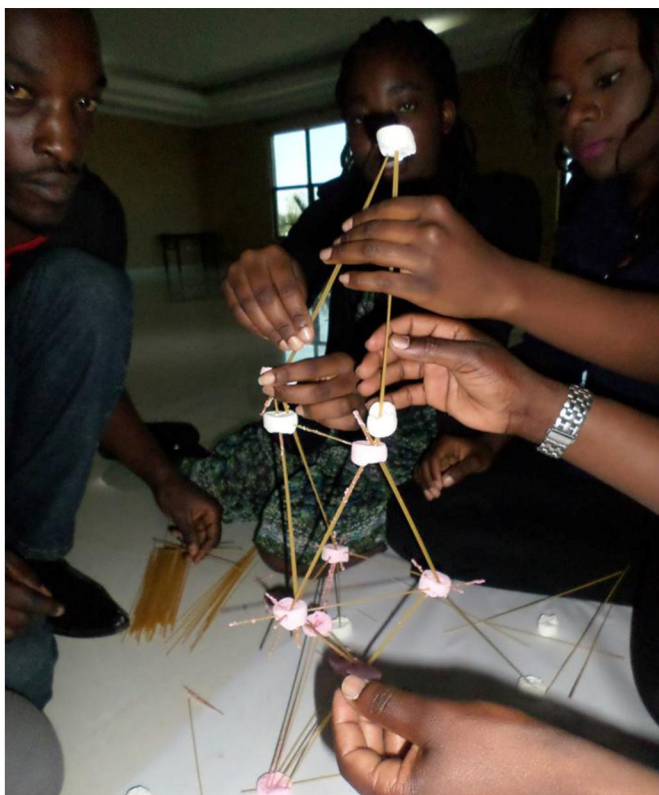
A cross section of conference delegates



Address by YBF Country Director



## Team Building & Committee Work



Delegates Building a tower with spaghetti and marshmallows



The Spider web challenge



The trust walk



Committee Expert Session with Prof. Lumumba



Committee work



Committee Expert Session with Mr. Seth Oteng



Committee work





**A.** Interactive Session with Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, first President of Zambia

**B.** Conference attendance by His Worship Mulenga Sata, host Mayor and Lusaka city Mayor





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Educational, Scientific and  
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because everyone counts



A member of Standard Bank Group



## AYG CONFERENCE Secretariat ZAMBIA CHAPTER

14 Bamboo Street, East Legon  
P. O. Box CT 5543, Cantonments, Accra-Ghana.  
+233 -(302) 936 326 / +233-302-936326,+(233)-  
(20)-9016886,+(54)-0748532  
Email: [info@youthbridgefoundation.org](mailto:info@youthbridgefoundation.org)  
[info@aygconference.org](mailto:info@aygconference.org)  
Website: [www.youthbridgefoundation.org](http://www.youthbridgefoundation.org)  
[www.aygconference.org](http://www.aygconference.org)

ZAMBIA Branch: Plot 32, Bwinjimfumu Road  
P. O. Box 30267 Lusaka, Zambia  
Tel: +260 -95-5783449 / 955 -783949  
Email: [ybf-zambia@youthbridgefoundation.org](mailto:ybf-zambia@youthbridgefoundation.org)

Algeria Angola  
Central African  
Congo Cote d'Ivoire  
DRC Ethiopia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
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