



YOULEAD SUMMIT 2024 COMMUNIQUE

4-8 November 2024 | Arusha Tanzania

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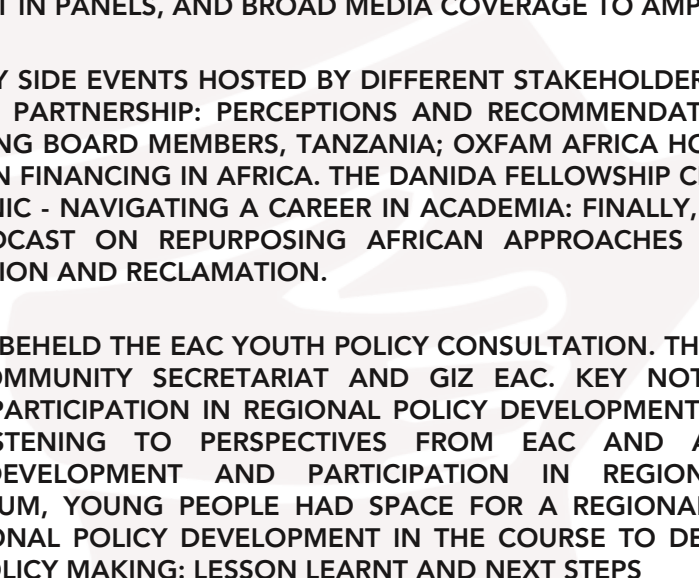
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COMMUNIQUE OF THE 8TH AFRICA YOUTH LEADERSHIP (YOULEAD) SUMMIT

4th-8th November 2024 Arusha, Tanzania

1. THE 8TH AFRICAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP (YOULEAD) SUMMIT CONVENED BY THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND MS TRAINING CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, DANIDA FELLOWSHIP CENTRE AND OXFAM INTERNATIONAL AMONG OTHER PARTNERS WAS HELD FROM 4TH TO 8TH NOVEMBER 2024 IN ARUSHA TANZANIA. THE THEME FOR THE YOULEAD SUMMIT 2024 WAS "IGNITING THE POTENTIAL OF AFRICA'S YOUTHFUL POPULATION: REINSTATING EDUCATION AS AN IMMINENT PUBLIC GOOD". THE SUMMIT WAS HELD IN A HYBRID FORMAT, WITH PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL DELEGATES FROM ACROSS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AND BEYOND. THE ANNUAL SUMMIT HAS BEEN ORGANIZED ANNUALLY SINCE 2017 IN LINE WITH PRIORITY 14 OF THE EAC YOUTH POLICY (2013).
2. THE OPENING OF THE YOULEAD SUMMIT (MONDAY 4TH NOV 2024) FEATURED REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MS TCDC DR. ANA HAULE; AND MR. DAVID ONEN, THE PRINCIPAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICER OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY. THE KEY THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS OF THE DAY INCLUDED; 'YOUTH IN POLITICS' HOSTED IN FORM OF THE UNDER 40 POLITICAL LEADERS FORUM "IF YOU SAT WHERE THEY (THE LEADERS) SIT". PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND CHAIRPERSONS OF NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS FROM EAC PARTNER STATES. THE SESSION EXAMINED THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE EXISTING POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN RELATION TO THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION ENABLES MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP, THE LEVEL OF COMPETENCE AND SKILLS THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO APPARENT NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE YOUTH. THE CONVERSATION FURTHER EXPLORED WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ADVANCE THE QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA IN THE COURSE TO MAKE AFRICA'S YOUTH BECOME THE VANGUARDS FOR THE AFRICA WE WANT.
3. COMPLIMENTARY TO THE UNDER 40 POLITICAL LEADERS FORUM WAS THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND POLICY MAKERS ROUND TABLE THAT WAS CO HOSTED WITH THE EMBASSY OF DENMARK TO TANZANIA AND EAC AND OXFAM INTERNATIONAL, AIMED AT EXAMINING THE ROLE OF POLICYMAKERS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN CREATING AN ENABLING EDUCATION AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT. THE SESSION OFFERED A PLATFORM FOR SUGGESTION OF REFORMS AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WITH NEXUS TO THE NECESSITIES AS ALLUDED BY YOUNG PEOPLE, HIGHLIGHTING THE SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES IN RECENT PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND RELATED INTERVENTIONS.
4. THE SDG'S FORUM ENSUED, WITH OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON ACCELERATING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA TO ASSESS HOLISTIC AND INCLUSIVE PROGRESS. THE SAME EXPLORED STRATEGIES TO ACCELERATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS DRAWING INSIGHTS AND EXPERTISE FROM YOUTH PRACTICES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT SO FAR.
5. THE DANIDA FELLOWSHIP CENTRE, EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT AND MS-TRAINING CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION CO-HOSTED BOTH THE GRADUATION OF THE SECOND COHORT OF EAC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP; AND THE LAUNCH OF THE MANIFESTO: MORE WOMEN IN RESEARCH, AIMED AT OFFERING PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO BRIDGE THE GENDER GAP IN THE ACADEMIA; WHILE THE LATER INSISTED ON YOUTH TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING TOWARDS THE AFRICA WE WANT.

6. DAY ONE OF THE SUMMIT WAS WINDED UP BY THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND THE FIRESIDE CHAT, YOUNG PEOPLE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO HEAR FROM H.E. MR. AMARA KALLON, MINISTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE; H.E. MR. JESPER KAMMERGAARD, AMBASSADOR OF DENMARK TO TANZANIA AND EAC; AND H.E. MS. CHRISTINE GRAU, AMBASSADOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO TANZANIA AND EAC.
7. THE SECOND DAY OF THE SUMMIT (5TH NOV 2024) WAS DEDICATED FOR 'YOUTH IN BUSINESS, TRADE AND ENTERPRISE CAPITALIZING ON EDUCATION TO EMPOWER AFRICAN YOUTH INNOVATORS AS CONTRIBUTORS IN MAKING THE AFCFTA MAGIC HAPPEN'. THE UNDER 40 BUSINESS LEADERS FORUM FOCUSED ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT(AFCFTA), YOUTH BUSINESS (SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES), AND DEFINING HOW BEST THE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS CAN BE MORE ENABLING FOR YOUTH LED CROSS BORDER TRADE AND REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TO BE FULLY ATTAINED.
8. THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER MR. ADRIEN NJAU, AG. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EAST AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL REPRESENTED BY MR MOSES KANYESIGYE, YOUTH AND WOMEN IN TRADE EXPERT, EAST AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL EMPHASIZED THAT THE AFCFTA IS STRUCTURED TO BENEFIT PRODUCERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND CONSUMERS ALIKE, CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE ECOSYSTEM TO ENHANCE TRADE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. MR. ADOMAKO DESMOND, AN AGRIBUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR, HIGHLIGHTED THE AFCFTA AS A CRUCIAL MECHANISM FOR SCALING YOUTH-LED BUSINESSES ACROSS BORDERS, PARTICULARLY IN AGRICULTURE—A SECTOR CENTRAL TO AFRICA'S ECONOMY. HE ADVOCATED FOR ADAPTABLE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES THAT ADDRESS THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF YOUTH BUSINESS. MR. ANDREW JULIAN MAHIGA UNDERScoreD THE NEED TO BUILD ECOSYSTEMS THAT ENCOURAGE INNOVATION, COLLABORATION, AND ACCESSIBLE MARKETS, POSITIONING YOUTH NOT MERELY AS PARTICIPANTS BUT AS KEY DRIVERS IN AFRICA'S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION. THE FORUM STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ENABLING POLICIES AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS TO FULLY HARNESS THE AFCFTA'S POTENTIAL, MAKING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS INSTRUMENTAL IN SHAPING AFRICA'S FUTURE.
9. SUCCEEDING EVENTS FOR DAY TWO INCLUDED THE EAC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - BUSINESS COHORT PITCHING. THE SESSION REVEALED IMMENSE PROMISE FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS, OFFERING A PATHWAY TO REGIONAL AND GLOBAL MARKET ACCESS AND PROSPECTIVE FUNDABLE IDEAS, SHOWCASING TECHNIQUES AND PRACTICAL INSTINCTS ACQUIRED FROM THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS BOOTCAMP UNDER THE EAC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
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11. THE GENDER EQUALITY FORUM FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO GENDER EQUALITY AND ADVANCING THE ACTION COALITION'S COMMITMENTS. SPEAKERS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE SYSTEMS AND THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN VARIOUS FIELDS, INCLUDING EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND LEADERSHIP. MS. JANE SEMBUCHE (COUNTRY DIRECTOR, PLAN INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA) HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEMS, WHILE OTHERS UNDERScoreD THE IMPACT OF REPRESENTATION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES IN RESEARCH. THE GENDER EQUALITY FORUM HIGHLIGHTED THE URGENCY OF EMBRACING INCLUSIVITY AND PROMOTING SYSTEMIC CHANGES TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS ALL SECTORS.THE FORUM ALSO RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT THE SLOW PROGRESS TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY AND THE UNDERREPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH.

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- 12.** THE CLOSE OF DAY THREE WAS MARKED BY THE GRADUATION OF THE THIRD COHORT OF THE LEAD(H)ER FELLOWSHIP. THE SAME WAS CO-CONVENED BY EAC SECRETARIAT, OFFICE OF THE AFRICAN UNION YOUTH ENVOY, MS TRAINING CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND PLAN INTERNATIONAL. THE FELLOWSHIP IS AN ATTESTATION OF YOUNG AFRICAN WOMEN NURTURED IN SKILLS, EXPERTISE AND ASPIRATIONS IN THE FIELDS OF POLITICS, BUSINESS AND PEACE AND SECURITY.
 - 13.** THE FOURTH DAY OF THE SUMMIT (7TH NOVEMBER 2024) WAS DEDICATED TO DEVELOPING THE POST-SUMMIT AGENDA. DELEGATES IN COUNTRY GROUPS, POLICY MAKERS, PARTNERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS SPENT THE DAY DEVELOPING COUNTRY FOCUSED AND REGIONAL OUTLOOK OF WORK PRIORITIES FOR 2025, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF DAYS 1, 2 AND 3. THE POST SUMMIT AGENDA OUTLINED KEY ACTIONS FOR REGIONAL TEAMS ACROSS AFRICA, EMPHASIZING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, CLIMATE ACTION, AND GENDER EQUALITY. KEY ACTION POINTS FROM COUNTRY GROUPS INCLUDED ENHANCED YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, AWARENESS ON AFCFTA AND EABC OPPORTUNITIES, PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE INITIATIVES, AND ENCOURAGING WOMEN AND YOUTH INCLUSION IN DECISION-MAKING. OTHERS INCLUDED AFFIRMATIVE ACTIONS IN EDUCATION, YOUTH ELECTION TRAINING, PEACE CAMPAIGNS, EQUAL REPRESENTATION AT THE SUMMIT FOR YOUTH ACROSS THE CONTINENT, DECISION-MAKER INVOLVEMENT IN PANELS, AND BROAD MEDIA COVERAGE TO AMPLIFY KEY ISSUES.
 - 14.** DAY FOUR WAS CONCLUDED BY SIDE EVENTS HOSTED BY DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS AS HEREAFTER ALLUDED: AFRICA-EUROPE (EU) PARTNERSHIP: PERCEPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF YOUTH HOSTED BY EU YOUTH SOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS, TANZANIA; OXFAM AFRICA HOSTED A SESSION ON TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FINANCING IN AFRICA. THE DANIDA FELLOWSHIP CENTRE HOSTED A CAREER AND MENTORSHIP CLINIC - NAVIGATING A CAREER IN ACADEMIA: FINALLY, THE YOUTH HUB ARUSHA HOSTED A LIVE PODCAST ON REPURPOSING AFRICAN APPROACHES TO EDUCATION: DECOLONIZATION, LIBERALIZATION AND RECLAMATION.
 - 15.** THE FIFTH DAY OF THE SUMMIT BEHELD THE EAC YOUTH POLICY CONSULTATION. THE INTERVENTION WAS CONVENED AFRICAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT AND GIZ EAC. KEY NOTE SUBMISSIONS INCLUDED FOSTERING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION; LISTENING TO PERSPECTIVES FROM EAC AND AU ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. AS AN ULTIMATUM, YOUNG PEOPLE HAD SPACE FOR A REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN REGIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN THE COURSE TO DEMYSTIFY YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL POLICY MAKING: LESSON LEARNT AND NEXT STEPS