

# YouLead Summit 2024

IGNITING THE POTENTIAL OF AFRICA'S YOUTHFUL POPULATION



# YOULEAD SUMMIT 2024

# REPORT

4-8 November 2024 | Arusha Tanzania

*Igniting the Potential of Africa's Youthful Population;  
Re-instating education as an eminent public good*



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# About YouLead Summit

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**YouLead Summit is Africa's largest and most diverse forum that brings together government, private sector and other stakeholders to craft responses to the region's rapidly growing youth population, their challenges and opportunities within the EAC region.**



The summit is jointly organized annually by the East African Community Secretariat, Training Centre for Development Cooperation and other partners in line with the provisions of the EAC Youth Policy (2016) priority 14 which mandates the EAC Secretariat to build networks and partnerships to, 'Institute an Annual Youth Leaders' Forum with the EAC Secretary General as a regional platform for youth engagement with the EAC leadership and ensuring their inclusion in the regional integration agenda.

## Preface

This report contains a structured exposition of the deliberations, resolutions, and action points arrived at during the YouLead Summit 2024 which brought together youth across the African continent to discuss on the practical and enabling reforms required to reconstruct education and education systems in the continent.

At the heart of the discussions was the prospect for breathing life into African Union's 2024 theme, 'Educating an African youth fit for the 21st Century'. The theme forms part of the build-up to this year's edition of the YouLead Summit which has focus on Re-instating education as an eminent public good"

Clustered along five (5) day-long sessions, this report will contribute towards the existing stock of knowledge on matters pertaining to the mooted transformation of the continent's pedagogical formation(s) in so far as learning is concerned and parity to the demands for opportunities, creativity, jobs, sustainable solutions and improved livelihoods.



# Message

## Dr Ana Haule, Executive Director, MS-Training Centre for Development Cooperation

Youth of Africa: my attendance at the 8th YouLead Summit, which was my first summit, attests to the magnitude of creativity, resilience, innovation and **hope** that all of you carry in the joint pursuit of the Africa We Want. It is that energy that motivates MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation in its daily work to achieve social justice and equality for all.

It was a profound honor to hear your remarkable journeys and aspirations to foster the meaningful participation of youth in politics, business and entrepreneurship, peace and security and gender equality. Despite the unbalanced power dynamics which affect you in your daily realities, your passion for youth engagement is the testament of why **you are the leaders of today.**



It was equally inspiring hearing the interconnection of education – formal and informal – and its relevance to ensure that Africa's youth are skilled and competitive at both continental and global levels. Throughout the deliberations, I have reconciled that Education must again play the role it did in the period of its birth, forming part of the driving forces of the community. The rebirth of education on the African continent requires a cross-sectoral and intergenerational effort, and as deliberated during the policymakers and development partners roundtable, this effort is possible.

As we dive back to the core principles of education and reconstruct it as an eminent public good, it remains wise to upskill young people as is the core wish of YouLead Africa's Patron, H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, to which goes my gratitude for his remarkable support. Equally, a vote of thanks goes to Hon. Veronica M. Nduva, Secretary-General of the East African Community Secretariat, whose mandate centers young people as drivers of regional integration.

To all partners, stakeholders, young people of Africa: thank you for your commitment in investing for the Africa We Want.

# DAY 1

## 4th November

### YOUTH IN POLITICS

## Cross-Sectoral & Intergenerational Effort To Make Education In Africa Work For African Youth

*A Dialogue Between Youth Leaders, Policymakers & Development Partners*



Dr Ana Haule, Executive Director, MS Training Centre For Development Cooperation providing opening remarks on Day 1 of YouLead Summit



Mr David Onen, Principal Political Affairs Officer, East African Community providing opening remarks on Day 1 of YouLead Summit

### SESSION ONE: Welcoming Remarks by Organizers

Time: 09.15 - 11.00

**Moderator:** David Nyaribi, ActionAid Uganda

**Speakers:**

Dr. Ana Haule, Executive Director,

MS-Training Centre for Development Cooperation

Mr. David Onen, Principal Political Affairs Officer,

East African Community

The session set the pace for interlocking strategies to reconstruct and rejuvenate the purpose of education on the African context to address, among other things, the systems of democracy and governance, business and innovation, gender equality, climate justice, and peace and security.

In her remarks, Dr. Ana Haule insisted that as new threats spread across the African continent, we must prepare the current generation to be accountable citizens; we must stop waging internal conflicts against ourselves; we must expand intra-African trade and exchange of services; confront climate change and combat famine and disease. And as we struggle to upkeep the democracy race through the streets in different parts of Africa, the entire group of young people, Gen-Z and the rest, have a stake in the aspirations of a generation that longs to determine its own destiny.

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Mr. David Onen highlighted the ethos of the YouLead Summit, its existence at the core of young peoples' demands and the propositions for key actions by relevant stakeholders. Since its inauguration, the summit has been a sizeable impulse of ideas and innovative suggestions that unleashes the full potential of individual young women and young men towards the Africa we Want.

He further insisted that the actions taken to solve the challenges in the 21st century need to resonate with the young people. Relevant actors must reflect on and propose policy reformations and adjustments to education systems with requisite relevance as demanded by youth and the community.

## **SESSION TWO: The Under 40 Political Leaders Forum**

*Young Political Leaders debate on "If you sat where they (the leaders) sit" - Roundtable for National Youth Council Representatives, Young Parliamentarians and Youth Leaders*

Time: 9:15 – 11:00

### **Moderator(s):**

Ms. Hellen Sisya, Youth Sounding Board Member to the European Union Delegation to Tanzania

Mr. Manzousa Kingu, Youth Sounding Board Member to the European Union Delegation to Tanzania

### **Speakers:**

Mr. Jacob Eyeru, Chairperson, National Youth Council of Uganda

Mr. Johnson Rithaa, Head of Regulation and Coordination, National Youth Council, Kenya

Mr. Hamza Abdiwahab, Director, Youth Hub Somalia

Mr. Paul Peter Siniga, Youth Sounding Board Member to the European Union Delegation to Tanzania

Ms. Hilder Gasper, EAC Youth Fellow II Cohort

Mr. Richard Chubaka, Regional Coordinator and Youth Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo, East African Community Youth Ambassadors Platform

Mr. Lugome Abdilah Manafi, Executive Secretary, Tunaweza Organization

Ms. Winnie Nakazibwe, Administrator, Julius Nyerere Leadership Center

Mr. James Kodjie, Programmes Officer for Democracy and Good Governance, AASU

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.

### **Key issues that ensued from the Under 40 Political Leaders Forum included;**

- The use of technology-based learning, digital approaches to enhance youth engagement in different angles in line to provide personalized learning experiences.
- Access to education, especially in remote areas to ensure effective and equitable learning and improvement of livelihoods.
- Meaningful youth engagement in highlighting the critical role of young people in the decision-making processes related to development initiatives, emphasizing their desire for participation and the importance of effective communication.

In his remarks, Mr. Jacob Eyeru, Chairperson, National Youth Council of Uganda insisted on the reality that young people have dynamic needs that must be attended to by those who hold power and seat in both public and private entities. The challenge remains on how each specific young person's need can be addressed as governments and other actors tackle these issues holistically.

As a resort to the challenge, Mr. Johnson Rithaa, Head of Regulation and Coordination, National Youth Council, Kenya was of the view that the quest for limited resources to meet the needs of young people must be addressed unless otherwise we will remain stuck in seeking solutions that can't be fully realized if no investment is made to young peoples' initiatives centred on specific and/or group needs.

Mr. Paul Peter Siniga from the Youth Sounding Board Member to the European Union Delegation to Tanzania set forth the strong call to action for stakeholders to empower youth advocates with resources and involve them in advisory capacities, exemplified by the European Union Youth Sounding Board, he ultimately stressed on the significance of collaboration and inclusive leadership in driving development initiatives forward.

Ms. Winnie Nakazibwe, Administrator, Julius Nyerere Leadership Center, and Mr. James Kodjie, Programmes Officer for Democracy and Good Governance - AASU, shared a similar opinion that significance remain on the necessity of culturally sensitive programming to bridge the gap between youth perceptions and the realities of development work, as well as novel means to address to the challenges posed by entrenched hierarchies and bureaucratic structures to ease youth engagement and safe spaces for youth to voice up and channel the agenda for sustainable development.

Other propositions included review and update the EAC Youth Policy to reflect current issues and challenges faced by the youth; Establishment of measurable goals and quotas for youth representation in parliaments and other decision-making bodies; Creation of specific funding allocations for youth entrepreneurship at the regional level; and Expanding efforts to reach diverse youth groups with policy information.



L-R: Moderators- Ms. Hellen Sisiya, Youth Sounding Board Member to the European Union Delegation to Tanzania, and Mr. Manzousa Kingu, Youth Sounding Board Member to the European Union Delegation to Tanzania, with Speakers- Ms. Winnie Nakazibwe, Administrator, Julius Nyerere Leadership Center; Mr. Johnson Rithaa, Head of Regulation and Coordination, National Youth Council, Kenya; Mr. Jacob Eyeru, Chairperson, National Youth Council of Uganda; Ms. Hilder Gasper, EAC Youth Fellow II Cohort; Mr. Hamza Abdiwahab, Director, Youth Hub Somalia; Mr. Paul Peter Siniga, Youth Sounding Board Member to the European Union Delegation to Tanzania; Mr. Lugome Abdilah Manafi, Executive Secretary, Tunaweza Organization; and Mr. Richard Chubaka, Regional Coordinator and Youth Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo, East African Community Youth Ambassadors Platform, during the The Under 40 Political Leaders Forum on Day 1 of YouLead Summit.



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### **SESSION THREE: Policy Makers & Development Partners Roundtable**

*Policy Makers and Development Partners Roundtable on: Re-imagining the role of policy makers and development partners in re-thinking education for young people's competitiveness in contributing to the achievement of the Africa we Want.*

*Co-convened by the Embassy of Denmark to Tanzania, the East African Community Secretariat and Oxfam in Africa*

Time: 9:15 – 11:00

#### **Moderator(s):**

Mr. David Onen, Principal Political Affairs Officer, East African Community

Mr. Julius Muhindi, Youth Sounding Board Member to the European Union Delegation to Tanzania

#### **Speakers:**

Hon. Mr. Andrew Lentz, Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy to Tanzania

Ms Rina Lauritzen Trautner, Co-Founder and Deputy Director, 2030 beyond

Mr Eduard Francois Beukman, Transformative Education Policy and Programme Lead, Oxfam International - Africa Platform

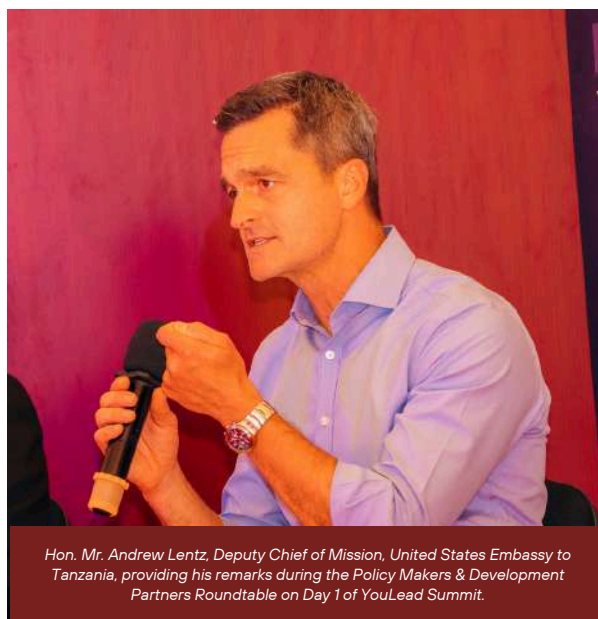
Ms Karina Dzialowska, Head of Economics and Governance, European Union Delegation to Tanzania

Mr Tobias Nauruki, Head of Protocol Africa Parliamentary Network for Values, UNDESA Staff

Ms Uwera Juliet, Researcher

Mrs Dorcas Mwakoi, Country Program Lead, AGRA Tanzania

The Policy Makers and Development Partners Roundtable examined 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. It also served as the platform for development partners and policymakers to pulse youth's priorities, reconstruct areas of work and initiatives.



Hon. Mr. Andrew Lentz, Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy to Tanzania, providing his remarks during the Policy Makers & Development Partners Roundtable on Day 1 of YouLead Summit.



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Commencing remarks from Hon. Mr. Andrew Lentz, Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy to Tanzania affirmed that University exchange programs are essential. Initiatives like the Mandela Washington Fellowship embody the strength of connection, henceforth the networking power avers avenues for best-practices and learning for youth, and that's why platforms like YouLead are invaluable.

In another note, Ms. Rina Lauritzen Trautner, Co-Founder and Deputy Director, 2030 beyond alluded that the future of Education and Skills should be centred at building a common understanding of the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that learners need in the 21st century. Partners must also support developing countries in sharing and creating new knowledge on future curriculum design, implementation, and evaluation.

Mr Eduard Francois Beukman, Transformative Education Policy and Programme Lead, Oxfam International - Africa Platform provided insightful remarks on various initiatives and challenges in the education sector across Africa. He mentioned Uganda Bucha University which supports students through scholarships and infrastructure development. In Kenya, the competency-based curriculum aims to align with international standards, but gaps remain. Tanzania's gender-related policies have improved women's education, but more work is needed in STEM and vocational training. Ghana's complementary basic education program re-educated over 200,000 children. Somalia's unified curriculum and online education systems are key. All these speak to placing emphasis on financial support towards education, learning career guidance, and psychosocial support for young people towards the Africa We Want.



*Ms Rina Lauritzen Trautner, Co-Founder and Deputy Director, 2030 beyond during the Policy Makers & Development Partners Roundtable on Day 1 of YouLead Summit.*

Ms Karina Dzialowska, Head of Economics and Governance, European Union Delegation to Tanzania highlighted that, efforts to ignite the wellbeing of youth through practical education and inclusive policies remain a key asset to ensure sustainable learning and prospects for the globe. Alliances between academia and entrepreneurs, practical training, and universal design in education must be prioritized to exhibit the relevance of learning modules and education systems in practical realities and the competence of skilled young generation as the transition goes on.

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In concluding the imperative Policy Makers and Development Partners Roundtable; Mr Tobias Nauruki, Head of Protocol Africa Parliamentary Network for Values, UNDESA; Ms Uwera Juliet, Researcher; and Mrs Dorcas Mwakoi, Country Program Lead, AGRA Tanzania, provided the below highlighted action points;

- Fostering work and meaningful engagement with the governments to encourage more women in STEM subjects and research.
- Collaboration with the private sector to improve the alignment of technical and vocational training with market needs.
- Support the governments in implementing the National Transformation Plan to ensure better coordination and resource allocation for education initiatives.
- Leverage the networks of alumni from various exchange programs to drive change in education policies and governance.



*L-R: Moderators- Mr. Julius Muhindi, Youth Sounding Board Member to the European Union Delegation to Tanzania, Mr. David Onen, Principal Political Affairs Officer, East African Community with speakers Mrs Dorcas Mwakoi, Country Program Lead, AGRA Tanzania; Ms Uwera Juliet, Researcher; Mr Tobias Nauruki, Head of Protocol Africa Parliamentary Network for Values, UNDESA Staff; Ms Karina Dzialowska, Head of Economics and Governance, European Union Delegation to Tanzania; Mr Eduard Francois Beukman, Transformative Education Policy and Programme Lead, Oxfam International - Africa Platform; Ms Rina Lauritzen Trautner, Co-Founder and Deputy Director, 2030 beyond; Mr. Hamza Abdiwahab, Director, Youth Hub Somalia; and Hon. Mr. Andrew Lentz, Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy to Tanzania during the Policy Makers & Development Partners Roundtable on Day 1 of YouLead Summit.*

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## SESSION FOUR: Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda

Holistic and Inclusive Progress: Exploring strategies for accelerating the achievement of the SDG 2030 Agenda, with a focus on fostering holistic and inclusive development. Drawing insights and expertise from youth practices on the implementation of SDGs.

Time: 14.00 - 15.00

**Moderator:** Ms Karen Agnes Wambui Waithira, Member of Nairobi's Royal Danish Embassy Youth Sounding Board, Kenya

### Speakers:

Ms Nonhlahla Elizabeth Ndimande, Royal Danish Embassy (Youth Advisor Panel), South Africa

Mr Joseph Owino Odhiambo, Member of Nairobi's Royal Danish Embassy Youth Sounding Board, Kenya

Ms Tariba Traore, Royal Danish Embassy (Youth Advisor Panel), Mali

Mr Alvina Mutebi, Royal Danish Embassy (Youth Sounding Board), Uganda

### Key issues that ensued from Agenda on Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals 2030;

- Holistic and Inclusive Progress: Emphasis was put on the importance of inclusivity and accessibility of SDG initiatives, particularly for youth with disabilities, contributors also highlighted youth disengagement from agroecological processes including apathy, lack of access to resources, and a need for a mindset shift regarding agriculture and climate-friendly farming.
- Engaging youth in sustainable waste management and agriculture while addressing their disengagement from the processes, this tackled low participation of youth in agriculture despite its significance to the continent's economy.



Ms Nonhlahla Elizabeth Ndimande, Royal Danish Embassy (Youth Advisor Panel), South Africa providing her remarks during the Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda Holistic and Inclusive Progress session on Day 1 of YouLead Summit.



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Joseph Owino Odhiambo, Member of Nairobi's Royal Danish Embassy Youth Sounding Board, Kenya reiterated the need to foster economic growth for youth through facilitating economic opportunities for youth by promoting the establishment of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in agriculture.

Ms Tariba Traore, Royal Danish Embassy (Youth Advisor Panel), Mali; and Mr Alvina Mutebi, Royal Danish Embassy (Youth Sounding Board), Uganda maintained the reasoning to encourage partnerships via building collaborations with local and international organizations to enhance knowledge sharing and resource mobilization. Other key suggestions that emanated from the discussion were; Training Programs to develop and deliver comprehensive training modules on sustainable agriculture practices, business skills, and financial literacy, tailored to the needs of youth participants. Further to this, mentorship and coaching were mentioned, including pairing youth with experienced mentors from the agriculture and entrepreneurship sectors to provide guidance and support.



*L-R: Moderator- Ms Karen Agnes Wambui Waithira, Member of Nairobi's Royal Danish Embassy Youth Sounding Board, Kenya, with speakers Mr Alvina Mutebi, Royal Danish Embassy (Youth Sounding Board), Uganda; Ms Tariba Traore, Royal Danish Embassy (Youth Advisor Panel), Mali; Mr Joseph Owino Odhiambo, Member of Nairobi's Royal Danish Embassy Youth Sounding Board, Kenya; and Ms Nonhlahla Elizabeth Ndimande, Royal Danish Embassy (Youth Advisor Panel), South Africa during the Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda Holistic and Inclusive Progress session on Day 1 of YouLead Summit.*

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## SESSION FIVE:

Time: 15.00 - 17:00

### Part A: Launch of the Manifesto: More Women in Research

Co-hosted by Danida Fellowship Centre, East African Community Secretariat and MS-Training Centre for Development Cooperation

**Moderator:** Ms Jamila Farad Mohamed, Journalist, Citizen TV



The More Women in Research manifesto – a powerful call to action aimed at addressing the significant underrepresentation of women in academia and research at all levels, particularly in Africa was initially drafted by 50 women researchers primarily from across the African continent during the More Women in Research engagement seminar in March 2024, co-organised by Danida Fellowship Centre, MS TCDC, and YouLead Africa. As an outcome, the manifesto was launched at the YouLead Summit aimed at acknowledging the vast scope and complexity of the issue limiting women engagement in research. The Manifesto therefore offers key recommendations targeted at eight crucial stakeholder groups: women in research, government bodies, higher education and research institutions, publishers, funding organizations (both local and international), the private sector, civil society, and the media.

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## Part B: Graduation Second Cohort of EAC Youth Fellowship

*Co-hosted by EAC Secretariat, MS-Training Centre for Development Cooperation and Danida Fellowship Centre*

**Moderator:** Ms Stella Agara, Program Coordinator, MS-TCDC/DFC Partnership



*Ms Kabasinguzi Mweyogyere, EAC Youth Fellow Cohort II receiving her certificate during the EAC Youth Fellowship Cohort II graduation from Mr David Onen, Principal Political Affairs Officer, East African Community; and H.E. Mr. Jesper Kammersgaard, Ambassador of Denmark to Tanzania and EAC during the Graduation Second Cohort of EAC Youth Fellowship on Day 1 of YouLead Summit*

The awarding of 30 EAC Youth Leadership Fellows, from Partner States of the East African Community, for the first time bringing in youth from the Republic of Somalia, marked the second cohort of the prestigious initiative designed to engage and empower young people in regional integration and leadership within the East African Community (EAC). Intrinsically, the fellowship harnesses youth's potential and promotes their active participation in shaping the region's future. By offering mentorship, capacity-building activities, and networking opportunities, the EAC Youth Fellowship seeks to nurture the next generation of leaders committed to regional cooperation and development.

In her remarks during the certificate awarding ceremony, Dr. Ana Haule mentioned that "We have witnessed the engagement of the first cohort of the EAC Youth Fellows, and have evidence of their inspiration, commitment, passion and enthusiasm to contribute to transformational leadership and development. Fellows attested that the Fellowship has been instrumental in the wake of their impetus to innovation and positive impact in their communities and countries."



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## Part C: Presidential Address

Convened by **His Excellency Mr. Amara Kallon, Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs, Republic of Sierra Leone.**



### Moderators:

Ms Stella Agara, Program Coordinator, MS-TCDC/DFC Partnership

Ms Jamila Mohamed, Journalist, Citizen TV

### Speakers:

Mr. Vianey Rweyendela, Country Director, AGRA Tanzania

H.E. Mr. Jesper Kammersgaard, Ambassador of Denmark to Tanzania and EAC

H.E. Ms. Christine Grau, Ambassador of the European Union to Tanzania and EAC

H.E. Mr. Amara Kallon, Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs, Republic of Sierra Leone

Ms Stella Agara posed principled questions to the contributors that jiggled the minds of the young people in the wake of leadership traits and commitment to be better leaders now and in the near future. Questions were asked of governments' allegiance for youth development and education, development partners framed priorities that meets the needs of the youth and need for integrated knowledge for youth to accommodate the wants of the 21st century.

In response to the questions; H.E. Mr. Jesper Kammersgaard, Ambassador of Denmark to Tanzania and EAC stated that the Danish government understands that education and skills help countries compare their education policies and experiences and learn from each other through large scale assessment and surveys and comparative policy analysis.

Conversational spaces like the YouLead Summit present analysis for policy makers, practitioners and researchers on a wide range of policy issues covered by governments from policy design to implementation, from student performance and well-being to teacher training and practices, to school resources, and well as youth skilling to readiness for creativity and problem solving in the community.

H.E. Mr. Amara Kallon, Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs, Republic of Sierra Leone was of the view that the demographic advantage of young people on the African continent places a huge strain on social protection systems: both in terms of demand for services and the opportunity cost of lost economic production and revenue generation. It also places young people at odds with the social and political life of their countries.

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He reiterated that the challenge facing the Youth Sector is to develop the consensus, organization, and influence to effectively drive this change in collaboration with young people themselves. Proposed national, regional and continental programs of action should seek to meet this challenge. He suggested focusing on three objectives: Pro-Youth Private Sector Development, Resilient and Effective Youth-Serving Institutions, and Youth-friendly Public Services. Together, these will aim to enable the goal of active citizenship among Africa's Young People; enabling them with the responsibility and means for their effective participation in national life.

Mr. Vianey Rweyendela, Country Director, AGRA Tanzania, and H.E. Ms. Christine Grau, Ambassador of the European Union to Tanzania and EAC shared similar opinions that both existing and new initiatives for youth development must coordinate, mobilize, mainstream, and extend youth-focused action around high priority needs; which may be, but not limited to youth jobs; active young citizens; and more youth in education at all levels.

#### **Key issues that ensued from the Presidential Address included;**

- With a relatively large youth population in Africa, failure to deal with their political and economic empowerment may reverse the gains in peace consolidation and security. Youth unemployment is further complicated by, among others, skills mismatch, lack of labour market information and limited access to land especially for young women.
- There is a strong belief among young people on the continent that their needs are not met by the national and local political structures. Although they are cognizant of the important role the governments play in delivering services to the community, they feel that the enabling environment is not present for them to participate actively in the national or local decision-making process. They are of the view that they are systemically 'shut out' of the decision-making process and that the services delivered do not meet their expectations.

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## SESSION SIX: Fireside Chat

Time: 20.00 – 21.00

*An intergenerational dialogue discussing the importance of equitable and fair education for the continent's development.*

*With H.E. Mr. Amara Kallon, Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs, Republic of Sierra Leone*

*Moderator:*

*Ms Stella Agara, Program Coordinator, MS-TCDC/DFC Partnership*



Key issues from the fireside chat included nurturing a breed of young people ready to take on the leadership baton and utilize resources available on the African continent for a sustainable future. What are the principal actions that youth must take to create opportunities, signify their presence than radicalism or being violent?

His Excellency Mr. Amara Kallon, Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone expressed that young people themselves consistently feel less positive about their situation than all other target groups. The issues that they believe are least served are reproductive health, drugs, and opportunities for leadership. There is a strong sense among surveyed youth that state agencies are falling short in their collective responsibility to provide financial support and jobs for young people.

He further insisted on other areas that African governments must address for the wellbeing of the young generation, these included continued high barriers to accessing formal, technical and vocational education, exacerbated by a disconnect between academic certification and labour market demands; Poor support (including availability of capital and skills) to young entrepreneurs and youth-orientated enterprises, combined with a negative attitude towards agriculture as a vocation among young people; Lack of sporting and recreational opportunities contributing to whole personal development; Lack of secure income or employment opportunities resulting in a failure to meet the basic needs of young people: food, water, shelter; and Unhealthy behaviors, drugs and crime resulting from a sense of marginalization, lack of education, underemployment and urbanization.



# DAY 2

5th November

## YOUTH IN BUSINESS, TRADE & ENTERPRISE

### Capitalizing On Education To Empower African Youth Innovators As Contributors In Making The AfCFTA Magic Happen

#### SESSION ONE: Welcoming Remarks by Organizers

Time: 09.00 - 09.30

**Opening remarks:** Dr Ana Haule, Executive Director, MS-Training Centre for Development Cooperation

#### **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

Dr Ana underscored that leadership is fundamentally about the choices individuals make daily. She emphasized that anyone can be a leader as long as they are informed, self-aware, and clear about their goals. Titles do not define leadership; rather, self-identity and conscious decision-making are key. Participants were encouraged to affirm their leadership identity by recognizing themselves as leaders, irrespective of their formal positions.

Furthermore, she highlighted the importance of being proactive in advocating for positive change in the world. Attendees were urged to take pride in their leadership roles and reflect on their personal growth and the lessons learned. She concluded with an empowering call to action, encouraging everyone to be the leaders they aspire to see in society and to remain engaged in their development as leaders.

Mr Moses Kanyesigye, Youth and Women in Trade Expert, East African Business Council in lieu of Mr. Adrien Njau, Ag. Executive Director, East African Business Council, discussed on the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and its potential to unify Africa's 55 countries with a combined GDP of \$3.4 trillion.



Mr Moses Kanyesigye, Youth and Women in Trade Expert, East African Business Council providing opening remarks on Day 2 of YouLead Summit.

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He emphasized the need for STEM education to empower youth and drive economic growth, noting that only 25% of high education students pursue STEM fields, with less than 30% being women. Moses highlighted challenges such as lack of infrastructure and access to education, particularly affecting girls. He called for efforts to enhance STEM awareness, align curricula, and foster entrepreneurship. He also raised questions about the potential benefits and losers of a visa-free Africa, a common currency, and other regional integrations.

### Action Items

- Participation of youth in national monetary committees on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to contribute to the implementation of the AfCFTA protocol on women and youth in trade.
- Access data, information and conduct research to better understand compliance requirements for exporting products.

## SESSION TWO: Under 40 Business Leaders Forum

*The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA): Youth Business (successes 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.*

Time: 09.30 - 10.45

**Moderators:** Mr Adam Alqali, President, Afrikan Youth Business Council

### Speakers:

Mr Niyonkuru Jean Petit, Burundi Business Incubator

Mr Adomako Desmond, CEO, Demasko Farms

Mr Andrew Julian Mahiga, Country Director Tanzania, Department for Business and Trade, United Kingdom

Mr Ibrahim Nzutu, Head of Business Advisory, NBC Limited

Ms Eve Rebecca Lanyero, EAC Youth Fellow

Ms Janice Kimaro, Project Coordinator, East African Women in Business Platform

### Key issues that ensued from the Under 40 business Leaders Forum included;

An overview of the challenges and opportunities for young entrepreneurs in Africa, particularly in relation to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The discussion included insights from various panelists representing different sectors and experiences in entrepreneurship.

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Mr Niyonkuru Jean Petit, Burundi Business Incubator reiterated on the importance of Awareness and Knowledge; young entrepreneurs must be aware of the instruments available to them, such as the AfCFTA, to effectively engage and benefit from them. There is a need for increased knowledge and awareness among young people regarding trade opportunities.

Mr Adomako Desmond, CEO, Demasko Farms made a scrutiny of challenges faced by Young Entrepreneurs, these include;

Currency Exchange Issues: Entrepreneurs face challenges with multi-currency systems and high exchange rates when trading across borders; Access to Credit: Many young entrepreneurs struggle to secure funding due to lack of collateral and high-interest rates from lenders. Gender-Specific Challenges: Women entrepreneurs face unique obstacles, including sexual harassment and bureaucratic delays at border crossings.

Mr. Andrew Julian Mahiga, Country Director Tanzania, Department for Business and Trade, United Kingdom expounded on the Digital Skills Gap, under which there is a significant need for capacity building in digital skills to leverage online trading opportunities. He further suggested the following recommendations for Improvement.

Establishing market infrastructures and storage facilities to support cross-border trade; Creating awareness and advocacy for non-tariff barrier reporting mechanisms to ease trade processes; Encouraging partnerships among entrepreneurs to share resources and reduce operational burdens; Promoting capacity-building initiatives to equip young entrepreneurs with necessary skills; and the Role of Financial Institutions - Financial institutions need to support SMEs by offering flexible lending options and recognizing alternative forms of collateral.



*L-R: Moderator Mr Adam Alqali, President, Afrikan Youth Business Council with speakers Mr Adomako Desmond, CEO, Demasko Farms; Mr Andrew Julian Mahiga, Country Director Tanzania, Department for Business and Trade, United Kingdom; Mr Ibrahim Nzutu, Head of Business Advisory, NBC Limited; Ms Eve Rebecca Lanyero, EAC Youth Fellow; Ms Janice Kimaro, Project Coordinator, East African Women in Business Platform during the Under 40 Business Leaders Forum on Day 2 of YouLead Summit.*



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### SESSION THREE: EAC Youth Fellowship - Business Cohort Pitching

Time: 11.15 - 13.00

**Moderator:** Mr. Collins Kimaro, Faculty, Bootcamp of EAC Youth Fellowship

**Judges:**

Mr. Ibrahim Nzutu, Head of Business Advisory, NBC Limited

Mr Kevin Camus Niyonkuru, CEO Spota Company

Mr Ray Kiliho, Architect and Business Leader

Mr David Yesaya, Business Development Manager, CRDB Arusha

The session was built from the Youth in Business and Enterprise Bootcamp, part of the EAC Youth Fellowship which preceded the YouLead Summit. Pitchers were EAC Youth Fellows from the Business Cohort, who showcased their innovative ideas; views from the panel of judges to strengthen the ideas and induce creativity brought more energy and impetus for piloting the solution-focused submissions by the young people.

A glimpse of each submission is pitched for scale-up and start-up businesses to engage with private sector leaders and business apex bodies is hereunder encapsulated;

**Asunta Kon - Zodiac Skincare;**

Zodiac Skincare focuses on creating 100% natural and sustainable skincare products to combat the prevalent issue of skin bleaching among women in South Sudan. The company aims to empower women by providing healthier alternatives and promoting confidence through natural beauty.



**Simon Wandera – Agrobiashara;**

Agrobiashara is an e-marketing platform that connects small-scale farmers to markets, addressing the issue of limited market access for agricultural products. The platform allows farmers to upload their products online and reach a wider audience, thereby reducing waste and improving sales.



**Gordon Victor - Gordon's Agricultural Organization;**

This organization provides small-scale farmers in northern Uganda with solar-powered irrigation solutions, seeds, and training on sustainable agricultural practices. Their goal is to help farmers overcome challenges related to climate change and resource scarcity.



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**Myriam Marara- Milele Lab;**

Milele lab is an innovative company specializing in the manufacture of poultry feed. It is a company transforming agricultural waste into valuable resources for poultry feed. This initiative strengthens the local economy while promoting environmental sustainability.

**Juliet Siava- John Kisomo;**

John Kisomo is an all-in-one learning platform designed to enhance student engagement with educational content. It offers features like flashcard generation and customized learning pathways to improve academic performance among students and researchers.

**Robert Okiror- STEM Genius;**

STEM Genius provides interactive simulation software that allows children to engage with science through play. The platform aims to improve STEM education in Africa by offering gamified learning experiences and preparing students for careers in technology.

**Merveille Shungu – AgroPafe;**

AgroPafe is dedicated to recycling plastic waste into eco-friendly construction materials. The initiative addresses the environmental crisis caused by plastic pollution in the DRC while promoting sustainable building practices.

**Bokim Beni Nihoze- Trade Legacy;**

Trade Legacy is an agritech company that supports small farmers in Burundi by using advanced farming technologies on our own 6 hectares of land and sharing these tools, training, and market access like AfCFTA to help them grow more food, increase their income, and build a better future.

**Sherleen Tunai-Angu;**

Angu specializes in adaptive clothing that combines comfort, style, and functionality, collaborating with individuals with disabilities in the design process. Our mission is to make fashion accessible and practical for everyone.



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**Peninah Orenge-Kalna Poultry Feeds Ltd ;**

Kalna provides high-quality, affordable poultry feeds to farmers in Kisumu, Siaya, Kakamega, and surrounding areas, to enhance productivity and profitability. Kalna integrates technology and agribusiness to tackle feed shortages and improve farm outcomes. Committed to social impact and accountability, A scalable solution for small-scale poultry farmers.

**Pacifique Nezerwa- NELEVAT**

NELEVAT is a social EdTech enterprise revolutionizing education in Rwanda and across Africa through inclusive and affordable digital training and innovative e-learning tools. Our blended learning solutions combine online and in-person education to create engaging, personalized experiences for both learners and educators.

**Arclaine Hashimwiyatura- Spring Communities;**

Spring Communities is a social enterprise dedicated to producing pens from recycled plastic waste. Our mission is to protect the environment, empower young people socioeconomically, and ensure access to essential school materials for youth and children from vulnerable families.

**Elisha Kato; LUKU-CHAP**

A smart energy monitoring solution empowering consumers with real\_time data about their energy usage patterns and offering capability to pay energy bills seamlessly using their mobile phones from any location with no need for manual tokens.

**Mark Leon; Plan B Recycle**

Plan B Recycle transforms waste plastic bottles into eco-bricks for affordable housing.





# DAY 3

6th November

## ARUSHA PEACE FORUM – YOUTH IN PEACE & SECURITY

### SESSION ONE: Welcoming Remarks by Organizers

Time: 09.00 - 09.30

**Speaker:** Dr Ana Haule, Executive Director, MS-Training Centre for Development Cooperation

The Executive Director revamped that Youth engagement in peace and security remains at the core of the regional integration process in EAC, and the AU respectively. The discussions should therefore be centred around the sensitization of youth participation in peace and security initiatives, focusing on training young people on electoral processes and encouraging their involvement in peaceful electoral campaigns across member countries.

### SESSION TWO: Arusha Peace Forum

Co-Hosted with the East African Youth Peace Network Steering Committee

**Time:** 09.30 - 10.45

**Moderator:** Ms Stella Agara, Program Coordinator, MS-TCDC/DFC Partnership

#### Speakers:

Dr Alidri Agatha, Gulu University

Mr Steven Malaki Mulinzi, Member of the Steering Committee, East African Youth Peace Network, DRC

Mr Robert Muhangi, Member of the Steering Committee, East African Youth Peace Network, Uganda

Mr Wani Stephen, Executive Director, ADRNET

Mr Kak Ruot Wakoh, Coordinator for Peace Building, Nile Youth Development Actions

The Session began by analyzing the work of the EAC Youth Peace Network. Mr Steven Malaki Mulinzi, Member of the Steering Committee of the Network alluded that the network conducts Youth Training in peace and security and ensuring youth Electoral Participation. On training Initiatives: emphasis was placed on training youth in election observation and protocols to ensure peaceful electoral processes. Campaigns: Notable campaigns, such as the one in Kenya during the 2022 elections, aimed to mobilize three million young advocates for peaceful elections. Similar efforts were noted in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The network also does Collaboration with Regional Bodies: East African Community (EAC): The network collaborates closely with the EAC to secure accreditation for youth observers and facilitate exchange visits to share best practices among member countries. Grassroots Engagement: Organizations like the African Union (AU) and local community-based organizations (CBOs) are engaged to localize the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2050, ensuring grassroots involvement in peace and security initiatives.

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Conflict Prevention and Resolution, mapping and targeting; the network targets youth interested in peace and security and maps organizations working in this area to enhance collective impact. The network further does documentation of practices, encouraging documenting successful practices to inform future initiatives and share knowledge across regions.

### Key issues that ensued from the Arusha Peace Forum included;

- Youth Experiences in conflict setting; Dr. Agatha shared poignant stories about youth born in conflict, highlighting their struggles with identity and societal acceptance. The need for reintegration and support for these youth was emphasized.
- Call to Action: Participants were encouraged to advocate for the rights of marginalized youth and engage in peacebuilding efforts actively.
- National Action Plans: The importance of developing national action plans for youth participation in peace and security was reiterated, with calls for member states to adopt these frameworks.
- Digital Platforms: The role of digital platforms in mobilizing youth and spreading messages of peace was discussed, alongside the need for regulations to mitigate the spread of conflict-related content online.

The discussion concluded with a strong commitment to fostering youth engagement in peace and security initiatives across the East African region. Participants were encouraged to take actionable steps towards implementing the strategies discussed and to continue the dialogue beyond the summit. The importance of collaboration, education, and grassroots involvement was underscored as vital components for achieving sustainable peace and security.



R-L: Moderator Ms Stella Agara, Program Coordinator, MS-TODC/DFC Partnership with speakers Mr Kak Ruot Wakoh, Coordinator for Peace Building, Nile Youth Development Actions; Mr Steven Malaki Mulinzi, Member of the Steering Committee, East African Youth Peace Network, DRC; Mr Robert Muhangi, Member of the Steering Committee, East African Youth Peace Network, Uganda; Mr Wani Stephen, Executive Director, ADRNET; and Dr Alidri Agatha, Gulu University during the **Arusha Peace Forum on day 3 of YouLead Summit.**

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### **SESSION THREE:** Prevention of Conflicts Arising from the Climate Crisis. Alternative Climate Solutions and Indigenous Solutions to the Climate Crisis

Time: 11.15 - 13.00

#### **Part A: Panel discussion on Alternative Climate Solutions**

**Agenda setters:** Ms Eunice Oyule, Youth and Governance Expert and YouLead Climate Justice initiative Lead

#### **Speakers:**

Mr Adel Azouni, Geologist and Climate Advocate

Mr Maxwell Beganim, Educator and Climate Advocate

Ms Monica Kamandau, Social Movements Learning Specialist

Ms Sandisiwe Qhawekazi, Young Negotiator

This distinguished panel of experts discussed the crucial role of alternative climate solutions in addressing the challenges of climate change: the panelists—Mr. Adel Azouni, Mr. Maxwell Beganim, Ms. Monica Kamandau, and Ms. Sandisiwe Qhawekazi—shared their insights on the significance of renewable energy, the importance of equity in climate action, and innovative strategies for community engagement. Their diverse perspectives highlighted the need for collaborative efforts across education, social movements, and youth involvement to create effective and inclusive climate solutions.

#### **Panel Discussion on Alternative Climate Solutions**

*Question 1: What role do alternative energy sources play in combating climate change?*

- **Mr. Adel Azouni:** Emphasized the transition to renewable energy (solar, wind, hydro) to reduce carbon emissions and highlighted the necessity of investing in these technologies for sustainable development.
- **Mr. Maxwell Beganim:** Advocated for education on alternative energy in schools, suggesting that understanding energy transitions can empower future generations.
- **Ms. Monica Kamandau:** Stressed the importance of community engagement and noted that social movements can drive demand for clean energy initiatives.
- **Ms. Sandisiwe Qhawekazi:** Focused on youth's role in promoting renewable energy projects and suggested that young negotiators can influence supportive policies.

*Question 2: How can we ensure that climate solutions are equitable and inclusive?*

- **Mr. Adel Azouni:** Advocated for policies prioritizing marginalized communities and stated that equitable access to resources is essential.
- **Mr. Maxwell Beganim:** Highlighted inclusive education on climate issues and encouraged partnerships with local organizations to reach underrepresented groups.
- **Ms. Monica Kamandau:** Stressed the role of social movements in amplifying marginalized voices, suggesting collaboration with grassroots organizations for inclusive solutions.
- **Ms. Sandisiwe Qhawekazi:** Emphasized the need for youth representation in decision-making, arguing that their perspectives are crucial for equitable policies.

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*Question 3: What innovative approaches can be taken to engage communities in climate action?*

- **Mr. Adel Azouni:** Suggested using technology and social media for awareness and recommended interactive workshops to engage local populations.
- **Mr. Maxwell Beganim:** Proposed community-based projects for active participation and educational programs to empower communities.
- **Ms. Monica Kamandau:** Highlighted storytelling as an effective way to connect communities to climate issues and suggested platforms for sharing local experiences.
- **Ms. Sandisiwe Qhawekazi:** Encouraged youth-led initiatives for community involvement, noting that peer-to-peer engagement can be powerful for advocacy.



## **Part B: Panel discussion on Seed Banking and Food Security**

### **Moderators:**

Mr David Nyaribi, Leadership and Governance Specialist, ActionAid Uganda

Mr Edgar Mutungisa, EAC Youth Fellow Cohort I and former EAC Youth Ambassador Uganda

### **Speakers:**

Ms Crystal Isanda, EAC Youth Fellow, Cohort II

Ms Kabasinguze Mweyongere, EAC Youth Fellow, Cohort II

Ms Juliet Ssewava, EAC Youth Fellow, Cohort II

The panel discussion, moderated by Mr. David Nyaribi and Mr. Edgar Mutungisa, focused on the critical role of seed banking in enhancing food security. The session included insights from EAC Youth Fellows who shared their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in this area.



## Key Issues

### • Importance of Seed Banking

**Enhancing Resilience:** Ms. Crystal Isanda stated, "Seed banking is essential for building resilience among farmers, especially in the face of climate change and unpredictable weather patterns."

**Biodiversity Preservation:** Ms. Kabasinguze Mweyongere highlighted, "By preserving diverse seed varieties, we not only secure food sources but also protect our agricultural heritage."

### • Challenges in Implementation

**Access to Resources:** Ms. Juliet Ssewava pointed out, "Many smallholder farmers lack access to quality seeds and resources, which hinders their ability to engage in effective seed banking."

**Financial Barriers:** Ms. Isanda noted, "Without adequate funding and support, initiatives to promote seed banking struggle to take root, leaving farmers vulnerable."

### • Role of Technology and Innovation

**Utilizing Digital Platforms:** Ms. Mweyongere emphasized the need for technology, saying, "Digital platforms can facilitate seed sharing and information exchange among farmers, enhancing collaboration and resource use."

**Research and Development:** Ms. Ssewava stressed, "Investing in research to develop high-yield, disease-resistant seed varieties is crucial for food security in the region."

### • Community Engagement and Education

**Awareness Campaigns:** Ms. Mweyongere advocated for "community-based education programs that inform farmers about the benefits of seed banking and sustainable agriculture practices."

**Empowering Farmers:** Ms. Isanda remarked, "Empowering local communities to take ownership of seed banking initiatives ensures sustainability and long-term success."



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## SESSION FOUR: Gender Equality Forum - Arusha Debates

Co-hosted with Plan International, the African Union Office of the Youth Envoy and Danida Fellowship Centre

Time: 14.00 - 16.00

### Opening Remarks:

Ms Jane Sembuche, Country Director, Plan International Tanzania

### Panel Discussion I - What are we missing by not having more women in academia and research?

Moderator: Moderator: Ms Sheila Mwanyigha, Journalist

Speakers:

Ms Jennifer Genevieve Falconer, Cwenga Technologies

Dr Alidri Agatha, Gulu University

Dr Soheir Hassan Ahmed, University of Hargeisa

Ms Paula Edze, KNUST

Ms Gloria Ceasar, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College

Justice Tibatemwa Ekirikubinza Lillian Winifred, Judiciary of Uganda

Dr Mette Fog Olwig, Roskilde University, Denmark

Dr Chemutai Doreen, Gulu University

Ms Cecilia Datsa, University of Ghana

Dr Tirza Julianne Mortensen-van Bruggen, Roskilde University

Dr Caroline Bosibori Mose, Mawazo Institute

Ms Aisha Wanjiru Mugo, Mawazo Institute

Dr Insubili Isaga, University Morogoro, Tanzania

The panel discussion, moderated by Ms. Sheila Mwanyigha, focused on the critical need for increased female representation in academia and research. Panelists shared insights into the barriers faced by women and the broader implications of their underrepresentation.



L-R: Speakers Ms Jennifer Genevieve Falconer, Cwenga Technologies; Dr Alidri Agatha, Gulu University; Dr Soheir Hassan Ahmed, University of Hargeisa; Ms Gloria Ceasar, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College during the "What are we missing by not having more women in academia and research?" panel discussion on Day 3 of YouLead Summit.

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## Panel Discussion II - What's the status of the Action Coalitions Commitments and how these will support the achievement of the Pact for the Future?

### Moderators:

Dr Chipso Muchabaiwa,  
Regional Youth Engagement  
Specialist, Plan International

Ms Jacqueline Godfrey  
Msambila, Youth Sounding  
Board Member to the  
European Union Delegation  
to Tanzania

### Speakers:

Mrs Dorcas Mwakoi, Country Program Lead, AGRA Tanzania  
Ms Kapwani Kavenuke, Youth Sounding Board Member to the European  
Union Delegation to Tanzania ,  
Ms Martha Waraga, Assistant Coordinator, Lead(H)er Fellowship  
Ms Jacqueline Mtamya, Lead(H)er Fellowship, III Cohort  
Ms Jovita Panthaleo, Lead(H)er Fellowship, III Cohort  
Ms Unosye Atufigwege, Lead(H)er Fellowship, III Cohort  
Ms Sandra Ruhizi, Lead(H)er Fellowship, III Cohort  
Ms. Sally Ropafadzo, Lead(H)er Fellowship, III Cohort  
Ms Linda Phiri, Lead(H)er Fellowship, III Cohort  
Ms Selina Nkoile, Executive Director, Nashipai Maasai Community  
Projects  
Ms Marion Stetchy Odhiambo,, Lead(H)er Fellowship, III Cohort



L-R: Lead(H)er Fellows 3rd cohort- Unosye Atufigwege, Marion Stetchy, Jacqueline Mtamya, Sally Ropafadzo, Lead(H)er Fellowship Alumni Dr. Glory Florentine and Selina Nkoile, Executive Director, Nashipai Maasai Community Projects during Panel 2 of the Gender Equality Forum

## Key Issues from the Panel Discussion

### 1. Progress on Action Coalition Commitments

- Issue: The panelists discussed the current status of the commitments made by various Action Coalitions and their tangible impacts.
- Quote: "While significant strides have been made, we must evaluate how these commitments translate into real-world changes for the youth," stated Mrs. Dorcas Mwakoi.

### 2. Youth Engagement and Representation

- Issue: The importance of youth representation in decision-making processes was highlighted, emphasizing the need for inclusive platforms.
- Quote: "Our voices must be heard in the corridors of power; youth are not just beneficiaries but critical stakeholders," asserted Ms. Kapwani Kavenuke.



### 3. Collaboration among Stakeholders

- a.Issue: Effective collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector is crucial for achieving the goals outlined in the Pact for the Future.
- b.Quote: "Partnerships are key; no single entity can drive change alone," emphasized Ms. Selina Nkoile.

### 4. Capacity Building and Empowerment

- a.Issue: The need for ongoing capacity building programs for youth to equip them with necessary skills and knowledge was a recurring theme.
- b.Quote: "Investing in youth empowerment is investing in our collective future," noted Ms. Martha Waraga.

### 5. Sustainability of Initiatives

- a.Issue: Concerns about the sustainability of initiatives launched under the Action Coalitions were discussed, with calls for long-term strategies.
- b.Quote: "We must ensure that our initiatives are not one-off events, but rather sustainable programs that create lasting change," remarked Ms. Jovita Panthaleo.

### 6. Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks

- a.Issue: Establishing robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of actions taken was deemed essential.
- b.Quote: "Without proper evaluation, we cannot learn from our successes and failures; it's a vital part of our journey," stated Ms. Sandra Ruhizi.

### 7. Addressing Barriers to Participation

- a.Issue: The discussion touched on barriers young people face in accessing opportunities and resources, particularly in marginalized communities.
- b.Quote: "We must dismantle the barriers that hinder youth participation, especially for those from underserved backgrounds," highlighted Ms. Sally Ropafadzo.

### 8. Gender Equity in Initiatives

- a.Issue: The need for gender equity in all initiatives and commitments was emphasized, focusing on the unique challenges faced by young women.
- b.Quote: "Empowering young women is not just a goal; it's essential for community development," concluded Ms. Marion Stetchy Odhiambo.

## SSESSION FIVE: Lead(H)er Fellowship - Graduation of Cohort III

*Co-convened by EAC Secretariat, Office of the African Union Youth Envoy, MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation and Plan International MEESA*

Time: 16.00 - 17:00



L-R: Ms Jane Sembuche, Country Director, Plan International Tanzania; Sandra Ruhizi, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; Linda Phiri, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; Jovitha Pantaleo, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; Unosye Atufigwege, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; Marion Stetchy, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; Jacqueline Mtamya, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; and Sally Ropafadzo, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; and Dr Ana Haule, Executive Director, MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation at the Lead(H)er Fellowship Graduation on Day 3 of YouLead Summit.



# DAY 4

## 7th November

### POST-SUMMIT AGENDA NETWORKING/SIDE EVENTS

*Convened by His Excellency, Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Patron of YouLead and Hon. Veronica M. Nduva, EAC Secretary General*

#### SESSION ONE: Welcoming Remarks by Organizers

Time: 09.00 - 09.30

The Session was opened by introduction to the post summit agenda and what is expected out of the deliberate conversations conducted throughout the days of the summit. Delegates were divided into five (5) country groups (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Team Burundi, South Sudan, DRC and Somalia; and Team North, West and Southern Africa). They had ample time to frame key action points, areas of intervention (thematic areas), suggested solutions, time frame and partners to work with to ensure implementation of the suggested transitions.

The post summit agenda equally informs the Africa Youth Leadership Programs areas of focus for the coming programmatic year. Here under is what transpired during the post summit agenda conversations;

#### SESSION TWO: Development of the Post Summit-Agenda

Co-Hosted with the East African Youth Peace Network Steering Committee

**Time:** 09.30 - 10.45 and 11.15 - 13.00

**Moderator:** Mr Juma Emmanuel Erassy, Coordinator, Youth Hub Arusha



L-R: Ms Jane Sembuche, Country Director, Plan International Tanzania; Sandra Ruhizi, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; Linda Phiri, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; Jovitha Pantaleo, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; Unosye Atufigwege, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; Marion Stechy, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; Jacqueline Mtamya, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; and Sally Ropafadzo, Lead(H)er Fellow Cohort III; and Dr Ana Haule, Executive Director, MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation at the Lead(H)er Fellowship Graduation on Day 3 of YouLead Summit.

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The concluding day of the YouLead Summit was characterized by the formulation of the post-summit agenda. This agenda is essential for integrating the contributions of delegates into future operational and decision-making frameworks within the EAC and You Lead contexts. Presentations were delivered in both national and pan-African blocs, encompassing four key thematic areas: Gender Equality, Climate Justice, Business, and Politics. A recurring theme throughout the discussions highlighted the urgency of transitioning from policy development to effective policy implementation.

### **Climate Action**

A range of recommendations emerged focused on climate financing advocacy aimed at supporting grassroots organizations. The need for disaster risk reduction and capacity building for climate adaptation and mitigation was emphasized, particularly in light of the continent's vulnerability to climate-related disasters. The integration of green skills into educational curricula was also recommended to enhance adaptive capacities. Furthermore, it was proposed that barriers to accessing the Loss and Damage Fund be eliminated to ensure equitable climate financing. The incorporation of indigenous knowledge and protections for intellectual property was discussed as vital for fostering localized climate solutions and driving technological innovation. The disproportionate effects of climate change on women and girls were underscored, highlighting the necessity for gender mainstreaming within climate action and justice initiatives.

### **Gender Equality**

Delegates advocated for a stronger commitment to gender mainstreaming within educational curricula. The capacity building of women and girls emerged as a critical focus, particularly in the realms of business, politics, and climate action. There was also a call for renewed efforts to localize gender-related UN and AU resolutions, instruments, and strategies.

### **Youth in Politics**

In the realm of youth political engagement, the importance of capacity building through mentorship and partnerships was recognized as crucial for enhancing youth participation in political activities. These collective recommendations emphasize the need for actionable strategies that will lead to tangible outcomes in the respective areas, reinforcing the summit's dedication to fostering meaningful progress and change.



*Country Focus Group discussions taking place during the Post Summit Agenda Session on Day 4 of YouLead Summit.*

# DAY 4

8th November

## EAC YOUTH POLICY CONSULTATION

*Convened by East African Community Secretariat and GIZ-EAC*

### **SESSION ONE: Opening Remarks**

Time: 09.00 – 10.30

#### **Speakers:**

Ms Generose Minani, Principal Gender & Community Development Officer, East African Community Secretariat

Mr David Onen, Principal Political Affairs Officer, East African Community Secretariat

Mr Richard Chubaka, Regional Coordinator, East African Community Youth Ambassadors Platform

Mr Jackson Tusiime, Regional Coordinator, East Africa Youth Network

Mr Marius Weist, Component Leader, Organization Development, EAC-GIZ

The East African Community (EAC) Youth Consultation Forum on the Review of the EAC Youth Policy was part of YouLead Summit held at EALA Chambers, EAC Secretariat, Arusha, Tanzania on 8th November 2024. The Consultation Forum was convened by the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the East African Youth Network (EAYN), the East African Community Youth Ambassadors Platform (EACYAP), YouLead Summit Secretariat and the Regional Committee on the Review of the East African Community Youth Policy with support from the EAC-GIZ Programme and co-funding from the EU Tanzania.

Mr. Onen emphasized the importance of integrating youth voices in the EAC Youth Policy review process and this explains the rationale for his association with this policy review process. Mr. Onen further noted with concern whether many youths were aware of the existing EAC Youth policy, and he urged the EAC Secretariat Gender Department and EACGIZ Programme to disseminate the existing youth policy to various youth groups in the region. He appreciated the current youth policy as a robust one that has enabled the EAC youth to make meaningful contributions to the EAC integration process.

Mrs. Minani emphasized that the current EAC Youth Policy developed a decade ago no longer fully addresses today's dynamic challenges of the youth in the region. She encouraged participants to seize this opportunity to refine the policy, ensuring it is both actionable and impactful. Stressing the importance of accountability, Mrs. Minani reminded the youth participants that it was their responsibility to contribute to an effective policy review and development. She urged them to actively engage during presentations and discussions. She expressed gratitude to the participants for their commitment and wished them a productive forum filled with insightful contributions.

At closure; Chubaka emphasized that youth, motivated to contribute to regional security and development, need structured frameworks to support initiatives like the Goma Declaration on Peace and Security. He called for improved representation in governance and personally committed to championing policy revision across regional and international levels to ensure it reflects youth needs and potential.





Group Photo of YouLead Summit Delegates at the East African Community participating in the EAC Youth Policy Consultation on Day 5 of YouLead Summit.

## **SESSION TWO: Keynote Presentation - Fostering Youth Participation in Regional Policy Development and Regional Economic Integration**

Time: 11.00 - 11.30

**Keynote speaker:** Mr. Emolot Allan David, Chairperson, Independent Continental Youth Advisory Council on AfCFTA

In his keynote address, Mr. Emolot Allan David underscored the critical importance of updating the EAC Youth Policy to address the evolving needs of East African youth in a rapidly changing socio-economic environment.

He noted that since the initial policy was established, global dynamics like digital transformation, climate change, and shifting trade landscapes have created new challenges and opportunities. A reviewed policy would ensure that youth perspectives are actively integrated, enhancing the policy's relevance and responsiveness to modern realities.

David highlighted that youth engagement in policy and economic integration, particularly through the AfCFTA, empowers young East Africans to drive both regional and continental trade and economic growth. He referenced the success of youth-led initiatives, such as the AfCFTA Youth Engage Series and Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, which have provided valuable insights into youth's role in shaping inclusive trade policies.



Mr. Emolot Allan David, Chairperson, Independent Continental Youth Advisory Council on AfCFTA delivering Keynote remarks on Fostering Youth Participation in Regional Policy Development and Regional Economic Integration at the EAC Youth Policy Consultation on Day 5 of YouLead Summit.





*(L) Mr Kak Ruot Wakoh, Coordinator for Peace Building, Nile Youth Development Actions  
(R) Mr David Nyaribi, Leadership and Governance Specialist, ActionAid Uganda contributing to the EAC Youth Policy Consultation on Day 5 of YouLead Summit 2024.*



## Vote of Thanks

We wish to express our utmost gratitude to Africa's youth, Partner States Representatives, our partners and contributors for making YouLead Summit a success.

We thank H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and YouLead Africa Patron for the leadership and support provided in ensuring that the 8th YouLead Summit was a reality. We also express our gratitude to H.E. Ms. Veronica M. Nduva, Secretary-General of the East African Community Secretariat for her guidance. A vote of thanks goes to EAC Partner States for the warm participation to YouLead Summit through their esteemed delegations.

Thank you to the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and EAC, Danida Fellowship Centre and Oxfam in Africa for the financial and technical support provided to YouLead Summit 2024. We also appreciate our valued partners, namely ActionAid Uganda, ActionAid Tanzania, Plan International, the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation, Emerging Leaders Foundation and the Julius Nyerere Leadership Centre.

Most importantly: we thank all Africa's youth. May your dreams for Africa's peace, liberation and prosperity never fade away!





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