



YOULEAD 2026 PROGRAMME

Breaking Barriers, Building the Future: Youth
Advancing Sustainable Development through
Peace, Justice & Green Transition.

**25-29 May, 2026,
Arusha, Tanzania**

About YouLead Summit

YouLead Summit Africa is the program's annual climax event. Since its inception in 2017, and in partnership with East African Community (EAC) and MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC), alongside various state and non-state partners, has been convening the annual YouLead summit. The summit is also held under the patronage of H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and YouLead Africa's Patron.

Over the years, YouLead has convened over 8,000 stakeholders. This platform brings together young people from diverse backgrounds to engage with key development stakeholders and policy makers, address critical challenges affecting youth, and co-create innovative, cross-sectoral solutions for the East African region and the wider African continent. It now serves as Africa's largest youth leadership forum.

The 9th Edition of the Youlead Summit knocks better and bolder. Taking place from the 25th to 29th May 2026, under the theme "Breaking Barriers, Building the Future: Youth Advancing Sustainable Development through Peace, Justice & Green Transition."

The YouLead Summit 2026 is once again being hosted at its home base MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation in Arusha, Tanzania. This year's summit will bring together continental, regional, and national policymakers alongside Africa's most promising young leaders, private sector actors, and civil society stakeholders. Together, they will tackle pressing youth challenges and co-create Pan-African, youth-led solutions to build a more inclusive, just, and sustainable continent.

Day 0
Sunday, 24 May 2026

All Day Arrival of Participants at MS TCDC grounds and nearby hotels in Arusha, Tanzania

Youth in Politics

Youth in Politics cross sectorial and intergenerational dialogue on building the future through Advancing Sustainable Development through peace, justice & green transition. A series of dialogue between youth leaders, policy makers and development partners

Registration of delegates and partners

08:00 - 9:10

Storytelling for Impact

Let's tell this story well

Moderator: Fiona Kemigisha, CEO Khama Digital

Opening Circle "Mkusanyiko"

An introductory session dedicated to unpacking the current continental context. It will focus on exploring this year's theme with keynote addresses by technical experts in the fields of peace, justice, and climate, combined with youth-led insights and lived experiences.

09:10 - 09:25

- Mr. Jacob Eyeru, President International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Youth Forum
- Duminga Ndala, Parliamentary Researcher at Parliament, Namibia

Under 40 Political Leaders Forum

The session is a roundtable debate bringing together Young Political Leaders, National Youth Council Representatives, Ministries of Youth, Young Parliamentarians, and Youth Leaders around one provocative question: 'If you sat where they (the leaders) sit, what would you do differently?'

09:25 - 10:25

Remarks from:

- Hon. Kelvin Mphande, Youth Member of Parliament, Malawi.
- Brenda Kiconco, Asst. Private Secretary to the President of Uganda on Youth Affairs
- Hamza Abdiwahab, Director of Policy, Planning and Performance of the Ministry of Youth & Sport, Federal Government of Somalia
- Hon. Mercy Kanyesigye, National Female Youth MP
- Dr. Chipso Muchabaiwa, Regional Youth Engagement Manager, Plan International MEESA

Moderator: Lennon Monyae

Open mic (30mins): Allocated time for participants to engage with the panelists.

Welcome Remarks

- Dr Ana Haule, Executive Director, MS Training Centre For Development Cooperation - MS TCDC
- David Onen, Principal Political Affairs Officer East African Community Secretariat.
- Hon. Mwin A. Mwinyi, Meru District Commissioner.
- Hon. CPA Amos Gabriel Makalla, Arusha Regional Commissioner

10:25 - 11:40

Keynote Address: Hon. Dr. Joel Arthur Nanauka, Minister of Youth, Tanzania.

Moderators: Franklin Mireri, Strategy and Communications Lead, CMR & Olerato Molokomme - African Youth Assembly

11:40 - 12:10

Launch of the Global Youth in Elections Initiative

Co-hosted by ActionAid Denmark, MS Training Center For Development Cooperation, and Global Platforms Secretariat.

The Youth in Elections Initiative is a call to action to strengthen youth participation in political life and processes worldwide. It has been developed in collaboration with young people through the Global Platforms, a youth-driven initiative that brings together voices from across the globe. The Initiative seeks to influence policy, promote integrated and comparative approaches to youth involvement, and foster the exchange of best practices in leadership

- Global Platform, Zimbabwe
- Global Platform, Zambia
- Global Platform, Somaliland

Moderator: Lusekelo Naomi Chinyama, Youth Specialist, Global Platforms and Tilvas Ngosa, ActionAid Denmark.

The Development Partners Cafe

Examining the role of policy makers and development partners in empowering young people in Africa and their contribution to sustainable development, including Peace, Justice, and the Green Transition.

12:10 - 13:00

Remarks from:

- Ms. Lise Sørensen, Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Danish Embassy in Dar es Salaam
- Mr. Benjamin Sturtewagen, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Dar es Salaam

Moderator: Franklin Mireri, Strategy and Communications Lead, CMR

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch Break

Agenda 2030: Dreaming Beyond Deadlines

2030 is getting closer, and while the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out an ambitious vision for a better future, the question remains: are we moving fast enough? This interactive panel session explores the powerful role young people play in creating change when uniting forces. At the same time, we will make space for dreaming big — because building a sustainable future is not only about deadlines and targets, but also about breaking barriers for hope, innovation, and collaboration to flourish. The clock is ticking, and the future will not wait.

14:00 - 15:00

Remarks from:

- Ms Samiratu Dawood, Ghana
- Ms Cynthia Mutheu Muthoka, Kenya
- Ms Shamirah Ndibulyawa, Uganda
- Mr Erick Leonard Mallya, Tanzania
- Mr Richard Bwirhonde Chubaka, EAC

Open mic (30mins): Allocated time for participants to engage with the panelists.

Moderator: Rina Lauritzen Trautner, CEO, 2030beyond

The Presidential Address

Co-convened by His Excellency, Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and YouLead Patron

Remarks from:

- Dr Ana Haule, Executive Director, MS Training Center For Development Cooperation
- Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, Deputy Secretary-General in charge of Infrastructure, Productive, Social, and Political Sectors, EAC
- Hon. Mwinyi A. Mwinyi, Meru District Commissioner.
- Ms Isabelle Mignucci, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and EAC
- H.E. Sergiusz Wolski, Head Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Dar Es Salaam.
- Hon. CPA Amos Gabriel Makalla, Arusha Regional Commissioner

Keynote Address: H.E. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba, former Vice President of Zambia.

15:00 - 16:30

16:30 - 17:00 Health and Tea Break

Fireside Chat with H.E Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba

Venue: MS Training Centre For Development Cooperation

19:30 - 21:00

An intergenerational dialogue with H.E. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba, former Vice President of Zambia. This session will explore how young people can strategically engage with policy, drive sustainable development, and shape Africa's future. Participants will gain insights from Vice President Mumba's leadership experience while discussing opportunities for youth to co-create innovative, cross-sectoral solutions for the continent.

Moderator: Olerato Molokomme - African Youth Assembly and Franklin Mireri, Strategy and Communications Lead, CMR

Welcome Party

Venue: MS Training Centre For Development Cooperation

21:00 - 23:00

Participant self organized party hosted at MS TCDC with DJ-Set. An opportunity for delegates, invited guests and partners to relax, meet and network.

END OF DAY 1

Youth in Business, Trade and Enterprise

Convening young innovators, entrepreneurs and policymakers to drive green transitions, innovation, and youth entrepreneurship in Africa's business landscape, while exploring progress, challenges, gaps and opportunities in the implementation of the AfCFTA.

09:00 - 09:20

Storytelling for Impact

Don't just attend, document

Moderator: Fiona Kemigisha, CEO Khama Digital

09:20 - 10:00

Welcome Remarks

- Mr Vianey Rweyendela, Country Director, AGRA Tanzania

Keynote Address: Mr Adrian Njau, Trade and Policy Advisor, East Africa Business Council

10:00 - 11:30

Under 40 Business Leaders Forum

A dedicated session focused on collaboratively developing solutions to critical challenges within the regional and continental business landscape. Business leaders will explore strategies to support innovative green transitions, including climate-smart agriculture, and their linkages to the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA). The session will also examine ways to foster innovation, business development, and entrepreneurship among young business leaders.

Remarks from:

- Moses Kanyesigye, Chief Executive Office, The Afrikan Youth Business Council.
- Ms. Fridah Mutua, Trade Economist, AfCFTA research consultant and the program coordinator at Econews Africa.
- Ms Janice Benson, Executive Director, East African Women in Business Platform
- Henry Lagat, Lead, Generation Africa For Youth Advocacy and Empowerment, AGRA
- Emolot Allan David, Chairperson, Independent Continental Youth Advisory Council on AfCFTA
- Charles Adetola, Founder, Harvest Value Chain, Nigeria

Open mic (40mins): Allocated time for participants to engage with the panelist

Moderator: Maxwell Beganim, Africa Civic Engagement Leader & Ecosystem Developer (Climate Change, Technology and Education)

11:30 - 12:00

Health and Tea Break

Graduation Third Cohort of EAC Youth Fellowship and Launch of fourth Cohort.

Co-hosted by EAC Secretariat (EAC), MS Training Centre For Development Cooperation (MS TCDC) and Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC)

12:00 - 13:00

- Dr. Ana Haule, Executive Director, MS Training Center For Development Cooperation

Moderator: David Nyaribi, Program Coordinator, MS-TCDC/ DFC Partnership

Invite Only Parallel Event II:

The Fikra Huru Space, hosted by Youth Hub Arusha
 An open dialogue with young people at the center of the discussion to air out their views on the current political climate, and how they envision responsive democracy for the Tanzania we want. Having participated in the 2025 General Elections already, participants will have an avenue to provide critique, and their observations on the General election processes, their involvement, and what that means for them in the coming 5 years.

12:00 - 13:00

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

Youth Powering Africa's Agrifood Transformation

Africa's agrifood systems are a major driver of economic growth and employment, with vast potential for innovation and entrepreneurship. As the continent advances ambitious goals under the CAADAP, Kampala Declaration and AfCTA, youth have a critical role to play in shaping a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable food system. Bringing together young agripreneurs and key ecosystem players, the session will explore real opportunities in agribusiness, innovation and regional trade. The participants will gain practical perspectives on how to engage, lead and thrive within the sector.

14:00 - 17:00

Remarks from

- Generation Africa, AGRA - Henry

Panelists

- Ndibulyawa Shamirah - Social banking officer, Opportunity bank.
- Brian Seroney - Technical Advisor,
- Stella Massawe-Senior Specialist - Policy & State Capability – AGRA

Presenters

- Mathias Charles Yake - CEO, Ako Fresh

Moderator:

Muyinda Reagan - Youlead Africa
Maureen Muketha - AGRA

END OF DAY 2

Arusha Peace Forum, Climate Futures Forums, and Gender Equality Forum

9:00 - 9:20

Storytelling for Impact

Turning Complex Issues Into Human stories

Moderator: Fiona Kemigisha, CEO Khama Digital

Welcome remarks

Welcoming the delegates to Day 3 of the YouLead Africa Summit

09:20 - 09:45

- Lusekelo Chinyama - Youth Specialist, Global Platform
- Muyinda Reagan, Partnerships and Fundraising Coordinator, YouLead Africa.

Moderator: Olivia Tutu - Youth on Sustainable Development

09:45 - 10:15

Introduction and Presentation of the Arusha Peace Forum, Climate Forum and Gender Forums

Moderator: Franklin Mireri, Strategy and Communications Lead, CMR & Olerato Molokomme - African Youth Assembly

Arusha Peace Forum

Co-hosted with the East African Youth Peace Network

10:15 - 12:00

YouLead and its partners have been conducting consultations across East Africa on the linkages between peace, security, and climate change, in alignment with the East African Community Climate Change Framework and the Youth, Peace and Justice in Action: Advancing UNSCR 2250 and Reparations in Africa. The findings from these consultations set the scene for the day's forum, surfacing how climate-related insecurity is reshaping the lived realities of young people across the region, and what meaningful youth leadership in response looks like.

Remarks from:

- Steven Malaki, Executive Secretary, National Partnerships of Children and Youth in Peacebuilding, and East African Youth Peace Network Member, DRC
- Mohamed Edabbar, Policy Officer of Peace and Security, Major Group of Children and Youth Secretariat, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
- Ruth Ogebewekon, Legal Research and Project Consultant on Reparation in Africa, Pan African Lawyers union (PALU)
- Divine Ikirezi - EAC Youth Ambassador, Rwanda
- Wani Stephen - Executive Director, ARNET South Sudan

Moderator: Imani Luvanga - ActionAid Tanzania.

Climate Futures Forum

Co-hosted by YouLead Climate Action Network.

Building on the findings of our regional consultations on the peace-security-climate nexus, this session dives deeper into climate change, climate justice, and the green transition, with a particular emphasis on equitable access to finance. It will highlight the role of young people in developing solutions that strengthen food security through sustainable agri-food systems.

Panel Discussion I: Youth-led Solutions for food security and a green transition

Exploring how young innovators can drive sustainable agri-food systems and address climate challenges.

Remarks from:

- Brian Kithinji, Executive Director, Policy Action Initiative (Kenya)
- Maxwell Beganim, Africa Civic Engagement Leader & Ecosystem Developer (Climate Change, Technology and Education)
- Patience Kiiza, Agricultural scientist, Uganda
- Martha Waraga, Climate Finance and fundraising, Kenya)
- Joshua Laizer, Natural Resource Economist, Tanzania

Moderator: Marion Stetchy, Youth For SDGs Kenya

10:15 - 12:00

10:15 - 12:00

Panel Discussion II: Building resilient and inclusive food systems - Linking Climate Action, Peace and Security

- Mathias Charles Yabe, Akofresh, Ghana
- Richmond Dankwah Boayke, Ghana
- Erick Godfrey Ramsey - Chief Executive Director, Kijana Hai Foundation
- Agness Taji Liundi, Climate Change Advocate & Executive Pulse Network
- Hellen Munyasa, Founder, Helton Traders
- Sheila Apiny, Regional Advisor on Climate change for Action Aid Tz, Uganda and Kenya.

Moderator: Mr. Brian Seroney - Head of Climate change Department -3Es Kenya

Gender Equality Forum - Arusha Debates

Panel Discussion:

Dismantling Structural Inequalities in Africa - Interactive discussion exploring the root cause of gender inequalities and strategies for systematic change across sectors, including policy, business, and civil society

10:15 - 12:00

Remarks from:

- Ms. Fridah Mutuah, Trade Economist, AfCFTA research consultant and the program coordinator at Econews Africa.
- Turyasingura Osborn, Executive Secretary, National Secretariat for Special Interest Groups, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda.
- Monicah Kamandau, Social Movement planning Specialist MOVE, MS TCDC
- Dr. Gifty Sunkwa-Mills, PharmAccess Ghana

Moderator: Olivia Tutu - Youth on Sustainable Development

Reporting from the Forums.

12:00 - 12:30

Moderator: Franklin Mireri, Strategy and Communications Lead, CMR & Olerato Molokomme - African Youth Assembly Botswana.

12:30 - 13:00

Graduation of the Lead(h)er fellows 2025 Cohort.

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 - 17:00

Arusha Experience - Arusha Town.
YouLead Secretariat.

19:00 - 21:00

Cultural Night.
YouLead Secretariat.

END OF DAY 3

Post Summit Agenda & Side-Events

9:00 - 9:20

Storytelling for Impact

Turning Complex Issues Into Human stories

Moderator: Fiona Kemigisha, CEO Khama Digital

09:20 - 09:30

Welcome Remarks

- David Nyaribi, Program Coordinator, MS-TCDC/ DFC Partnership

09:30 - 10:40

Session I - Development of the Post Summit- Agenda

- Mr Reagan Muyinda, Fundraising and Partnership Coordinator
- Juma Erassy, YouthHub Arusha Coordinator.

10:40 - 11:00

Health and Tea Break

11:00 - 12:00

Session II - Development of the Post Summit- Agenda

- Mr Reagan Muyinda, Fundraising and Partnership Coordinator
- Juma Errassy, YouthHub Arusha Coordinator.

12:00 - 13:00

Leadership Clinic: Empower your Career Journey & Lead with Confidence.

Hosted by The Mawazo Institute and Danida Fellowship Centre

An interactive session for young professionals and students who are ready to take charge of their career paths. Participants will engage with key themes of leadership, mentorship, and networking through practical discussions and shared experiences from women in leadership and research roles. The session provides hands-on wisdom into stepping into research, management and leadership roles, while strengthening essential skills for long-term professional growth.

- Aisha Wanjiru Mugo, Mawazo Institute
- Silvia Mwendia, Mawazo Institute
- Dr. Lanoi Maloiy, University of Nairobi
- Oliver Nankya, Capca Caritas Kampala

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

Side Events and Workshops

Side Event I: Transform Your Dreams into Action for the Sustainable Future You Want.

Hosted by the Danida SDG Fellows. Following the conversations sparked during Monday's panel discussion, Agenda 2030: Dreaming Beyond Deadlines, this interactive workshop invites participants to move from ideas to action. Together, we will explore how young people can turn hope, creativity, and collaboration into concrete steps toward a more sustainable and inclusive future. Through engaging activities, group discussions, and co-creation exercises, participants will have the opportunity to connect across backgrounds, share perspectives, and develop practical ideas for driving change within their communities and beyond.

14:00 - 15:30

Side Event II: Leadership Clinic: Empower your Career Journey & Lead with Confidence.

Hosted by the Mawazo Institute & Danida Fellowship Centre. Our Leadership Clinic, led by the Mawazo Institute and Danida Fellowship Centre, is designed to help you take charge of your career and grow as a leader. Through actionable advice and guided reflection, you will gain tools to navigate leadership, mentorship and networking, and lead with confidence. We encourage YouLead delegates to be a part of this supportive learning experience that empowers you to unlock your full potential!

Side Event III: Youth Sounding Board Engagement with the EU in Shaping Actions and Policies, including EU-AU Cooperation.

Side Event IV:
Hosted by AGRA

Side Event V: Youth in Elections
Hosted by GP Secretariat

15:30 - 16:00

Presentation of Post Summit Agenda and YouLead Reframing.

A dedicated session for the participants to present priorities of action for the post-summit roadmap.

16:00 - 17:00

Closing and Closing Remarks

- Delegates representative
- Partner Representative
- Patricia Servant, Youlead Manager.
- Dr. Ana Haule, Executive Director, MS TCDC.

END OF DAY 4

Day 5

Friday, 29th May 2026

Arusha Experience

Post Summit

Self curated Open Spaces.

All Day

Self Curated Arusha Experience by Participants and Summit Review and Logistics by Secretariat.

END OF SUMMIT