YouLead Summit 2023

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING

NAIROBI

COMMUNIQUE

20TH - 23RD NOVEMBER 2023

#YouLead23

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East African Community
One People, One Destiny

Danida Fellowship Centre
- sustaining development through research and learning

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ONE YOUNG AFRICA

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Platform

COMMUNIQUE OF THE
7TH AFRICA YOUTH LEADERSHIP (YOULEAD) SUMMIT

20th-23rd November 2023
Bomas of Kenya, Nairobi

1. THE 2023 YOULEAD AFRICA SUMMIT WAS CONVENED BY MS TRAINING CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR'S SUMMIT MARKED THE 7TH EDITION OF THE YOULEAD SUMMIT AND FOR THE FIRST TIME HOSTED IN NAIROBI, KENYA, AND CO-CONVENED BY H.E DR. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE, THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND PATRON OF YOULEAD AFRICA, AND HON. DR. PETER MATHUKI, THE EAC SECRETARY GENERAL. THE THEME FOR THE 2023 YOULEAD SUMMIT EDITION WAS YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING:REVITALIZING YOUTH VOICE AND AGENCY TOWARDS THE AFRICA WE WANT

2. THE GIST OF THE 2023 YOULEAD SUMMIT WAS TO EQUIP THE YOUNG GENERATION WITH ROBUST AND DIVERSE SKILL SETS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT ALIGN AND SPEAK TO SHIFTING GEOPOLITICS, THE EVOLUTION OF COMMERCE, THE ONGOING DIGITAL REVOLUTION, AND INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT CAPACITIES LIKE POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION, CLIMATE JUSTICE, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, AND PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY. CONVERSATIONS SPARKLED THE COMPREHENSION TO HASTEN THE CRAFTING AND DELIVERY OF AFRICA-LED SOLUTIONS TOWARDS THE AFRICA WE WANT.

3. DAY 1 OF THE YOULEAD SUMMIT, 20TH NOVEMBER 2023 WAS DEDICATED FOR THE UNDER 40 POLITICAL LEADERS FORUM. THE SAME INCLUDED THE YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS DEBATE "IF YOU SAT WHERE THEY (THE LEADERS) SAT" - INSPIRED BY THE JOINT YOULEAD/APRM YOUTH TOOLKIT, ROUNDTABLE FOR NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS; THE SDGS WORKSHOP; THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS; GRADUATION OF THE FIRST COHORT OF THE EAC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP AND THE FIRESIDE CHAT WITH H.E DR. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE. THE DISCUSSIONS DELVED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, INTO THE CALL FOR AFRICAN AGENCY, FORTIFICATION OF INVESTMENT IN AFRICAN IDEAS, AND PEER LEARNING TO CHECK DEFICIENCIES IN LEADERSHIP, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY, THIS CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY PEER REVIEW MECHANISM.
   PROF. EDDY MALOKA, CEO, AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM SECRETARIAT, H.E. DIDIER CHASSOT, AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND TO TANZANIA AND EAC, DR. IRENE ISAKA, THE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SECTORS AT THE EAC IN LIEU OF HON. DR. PETER MATHUKI, THE EAC SECRETARY GENERAL, HE. DR. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE AND HON. ABABU NAMWAMBA, THE CABINET SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS CREATIVE ECONOMY AND SPORTS OF THE KENYA REPRESENTING H.E. WILLIAM RUTO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA REITERATED THE TESTAMENT TO THE FACT THAT MENTORSHIP AND INVESTMENT IN THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IS SOMETHING THAT WE MUST DO OUR BEST TO ACHIEVE AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE GREAT ANTICIPATION OF THE AFRICA WE WANT.

4. DAY 2 OF THE SUMMIT FOCUSED ON YOUTH IN BUSINESS AND ENTREPRISES. THE CONVERSATIONS SOUGHT TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF YOUTH IN BUSINESS AND ADVOCATE FOR ENABLING POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL, AND INFRASTRUCTURAL FRAMEWORKS FOR PURSUING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND DECENT WORK FOR YOUTH IN THE REGION. DISCUSSIONS WERE CENTERED ON THE AFRICA CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, AND CUT ACROSS UPDATES ON THE PROTOCOL ON WOMEN AND YOUTH; FUTURE OF WORK AND THE ROLE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY; THE ROLE OF YOUTH AND INNOVATION IN ACCELERATING AFCFTA IMPLEMENTATION; AND ULTIMATELY, THE YOUTH ENTERPRISE AWARDS THROUGH WHICH DELEGATES FROM THE EAC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS COHORT PITCHED THEIR BUSINESS IDEAS BEFORE A PANEL OF JUDGES TO TEST THEIR RESILIENCE, NOVELTY, AND SIMULTANEOUS DELIBERATION FOR POTENTIAL SCALE UP TO COMPLEMENT DECENT LIVELIHOODS AND TACKLE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT.

5. DAY 3 SETTLED FOR THE UNDER 40 PEACE AND SECURITY FORUM; SESSION ON ALTERNATIVE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AND ADDRESSING TARGETED CLIMATE FINANCE TOWARDS YOUTH DRIVEN LOCAL SOLUTIONS; AND THE GENDER EQUALITY FORUM - NAIROBI DEBATES. EXTRACTED KEY INSIGHTS RANGED FROM PEACE AND SECURITY KNOWLEDGE EXPOSITION TO YOUTH IN THE STRUGGLES TO CURB YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CONFLICTS AND MAKE THEM KEY ACTORS FOR PEACE ADVOCACY IN THE AUSPICES OF RESOLUTION 2250; CAPITALIZING ON ALTERNATIVE CLIMATE SOLUTION AND TARGETING CLIMATE FINANCING FOR YOUTH DRIVEN LOCAL SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSITIONS FOR KEY CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTIONS.; AND REFLECTIONS ON HOW BEST TO BRIDGE THE GAP ON GENDER EQUALITY, AND RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION ON GENDER PRIORITIES IN THE REGION AND AT CONTINENTAL SCALE.

6. DAY 4 WAS THE FINALE OF THE 2023 YOULEAD SUMMIT. THE POST SUMMIT AGENDA HAD A GRASP OF DELEGATES', PARTNERS' AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS COMPILATION OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR PROACTIVE MECHANISM TO ENSURE THAT SUMMIT PROPOSITIONS GOES BEYOND THE SUMMIT REPORTS. BREAKOUT GROUPS WERE ON COUNTRY BASIS; TANZANIA, UGANDA, KENYA, BURUNDI AND RWANDA; SOUTH SUDAN, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND DELEGATES FROM OTHER AFRICAN STATES IN ATTENDANCE WERE IN ONE GROUP. PRIORITY AREAS TO INFORM YOULEADs 2024 PROGRAMMATIC YEAR OF WORK INCLUDED AMONG OTHERS, ADJUSTMENT OF KEY PILLARS TO INCLUDE EDUCATION AND CLIMATE JUSTICE; CAMPAIGNING, INCREASE OF RESOURCES AND SKILLING FOR YOUTH INCLUSION IN POLITICS; ADVOCACY FOR MORE INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES (PRACTICALLY ORIENTED) IN THE AFCFTA; SCALE UP AND SKILL ENHANCEMENT FOR YOUTH IN BUSINESS; PAN AFRICAN PARTNERSHIPS TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF YOUTH SERVING CSOS/NGOS; AND RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION OF GENDER EQUALITY AT LOCAL AND GRASSROOTS LEVELS IN THE EAC.

7. PRECEDENT TO THE 2021 RESOLUTION TO MAKE THE SUMMIT VENUE ROTATIONAL, VOTING RESULTS FOR THE 2024 YOULEAD SUMMIT HOST COUNTRY REVEALED THAT THE 2024 YOULEAD SUMMIT WILL BE HOSTED IN KIGALI, RWANDA.

8. THE YOULEAD AFRICA SECRETARIAT EXTENDS ITS SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE CO-CONVENORS, PARTNERS, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND DELEGATES FOR MAKING THE 2023 EDITION OF THE YOULEAD SUMMIT A SUCCESS; 2024 IS IN OUR HANDS.