

YouLead Summit 2021

THE FUTURE OF AFRICA

Creating Jobs, Feeding and Housing
the World's Youngest Continent



REPORT

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ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfCFTA - YIAP	African Continental Free Trade Area Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project
AU	African Union
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
EAC	East African Community
EAC YAP	East African Community Youth Ambassadors Platform
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
EABC	East Africa Business Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
KYPA	Kenya Young Parliamentary Association
MS TCDC	MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation
OSF	Open Society Foundation
RTGNOU	Revitalized Government of National Unity
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TMEA	TradeMark East Africa
UN	United Nations



WORD FROM YOULEAD'S PATRON

Excellencies, distinguished young people, ladies and gentlemen,

YouLead Summit is convened annually by the Secretary-General of the East African Community, in collaboration with MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation, and other partners. Since 2020, it has been an honor serving as patron of this noble youth leadership development initiative of the East African Community that now spans the continent of Africa. To all the government leaders, members of the legislatures, policymakers, technocrats and young leaders from the private and public sector, who attended the summit - I salute you.

Allow me to give a special mention to the following leaders who honoured the youth of East Africa and made time to participate in the YouLead Summit and represented their nations and the respective Heads of State at the Summit; Hon. Adan Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for EAC and Regional Development who represented H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya at the official opening; H.E. Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda, Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi, Minister for Youth and Culture in the Republic of Rwanda; H.E. Prosper Bazombanza, Vice-president of the Republic of Burundi; and Rt. Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania.

This year, in line with the summit's theme - The Future of Africa - I chose to challenge the delegates and all African leaders to mobilize local resources to boost education on the continent by reducing donor dependency and tapping into sustainable domestic funding, but also ensuring that investment into education policies and services results into relevant skilled for creating solutions and having positive impact. Moreover, it is important to ensure that Africa's youth population is skilled and trained adequately, to take full advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Only then will the continent holistically achieve Agenda 2063.

In conclusion, I urge every African leader to urgently start engaging the youth in decision-making processes, in order to better face the realities of the 21st century, which are being shaped by circumstances beyond the control of many of our people. That is the very least we can do in a continent where 65% of the population is under the age of 35 years.

I thank you.

HE Jakaya M Kikwete
Former President of the Republic of Tanzania
and YouLead's Patron



WORD FROM SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

2021 brought much honour and pleasure to me as it marked my first EAC YouLead Summit to convene. The EAC Youth Policy 2016 mandates us to build networks, partnerships, youth forums, regional platforms and dialogues with young people, and that is why we are committed to do so jointly with MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation through our shared youth engagement initiatives - YouLead and EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform to ensure we give space and a platform for young people to voice their issues. YouLead Summit has become such an impactful platform - a great connector for EAC youth and a catalyst for EAC integration. Thanks to the partners that have made it possible annually since 2017.

In a special way, I would like to appreciate H.E Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania for always honoring us with his presence. In his retirement, he has carved out time to be available to and empower the youth and contribute to the Youth Governance Architecture of the EAC - a gesture we cannot take for granted.

As a community, we cherish meaningful youth participation and appreciate the EAC Partner States who continue to support and make time to be part of the YouLead Summit annually.

42% of the world's population is youth under 25. In Africa, that demographic is over 60% and in East Africa, it will be an estimated 75% by 2030. Therefore, now is the time to invest in the youth. Now is the time to promote dialogue across cultures and generations. Now is the time to establish a structured approach to

youth engagement with policy makers so that whatever decisions are being made for our countries, youth are part of those discussions. We must identify and understand the existing gaps in order to create capacity for the future. Africa needs over 12-15 million jobs annually to absorb the youth entering the labour market. To achieve this, we cannot ignore the relevance of technology, a field in which the youth are most adept and need support to transform their talents into solutions that create impact. We cannot achieve the Sustainable development goals like no poverty, zero hunger, gender equality, decent work and economic growth unless we make smart investments in and strategic partnerships with the youth.

It is the duty of every government and other stakeholders to empower the youth through deliberate and enabling policy frameworks to promote innovation. It is important to address issues which directly affect youth-led businesses; political instability, climate change, inadequate financing for youth-led solutions.

Therefore we as the EAC stand with and for the youth and will do whatever it takes to involve them in our processes. In conclusion, I pledge from where I sit to continue working with all the stakeholders to promote the ideals of empowering young people as leaders, not of tomorrow, but of today. Thank you and God bless you.

Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki
Secretary General of the East African
Community



WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

“The good thing about working with young people is that you remain young forever”

As we collectively strive to recuperate and rebuild from the heart-breaking fatalities and far-reaching economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to equally appeal as fast as possible to the ingenuities of young people.

Hear me well here, the commitment of young people in the African continent to rise and shine cannot be underrated. Therefore, sustainability of workable solutions from Africa, in terms of meaningful engagements, mentorship, governance and prospering leaving no one behind, should be at stake for the advancement of the continent.

Africa is the richest continent in resources (including human resource), we are fortunate to be able to draw on the resourcefulness and creativity of the more than 1.2 billion young people, this demographic advantage therefore compels key actors' accountability for practicability of young people's engagement in political and economic governance. Governments must invest in their capacity in issues that affect young people, stakeholders should keep mobilizing supporters to mobilize young people as an important sphere of African development. Each one of us in our spheres of

exertion, should operationalize programs and projects for the excellence of mother Africa, this include leveraging on Information Technology to capitalize on the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) among others. This year's theme calls for sustainable and lasting solutions that are innovative and practical to the realities that we face in Africa. As said earlier, the solutions shall not come from anywhere else but from Africa itself. We must say that the YouLead program has proven that the meaningful engagement, adequate resourcing, capacity building, effective leadership and governance, and mentorship of young people can be appositely addressed.

At this juncture, it is befitting that we delight in this epic movement within the African continent. We extend our precious token of appreciation to the unprecedented brilliance of our Patron, H.E Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, EAC Secretary General, the convening partners; the East Africa Business Council, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation. The Heads of states and dignitaries, and sponsoring partners; the Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania and the East African Community; Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Tanzania; Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United

Republic of Tanzania; Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania; Twaweza East Africa; GIZ-EAC; and Africans Rising. Their technical and financial support have backed us since we embarked on the journey to make the voices of young people on the continent count.

We are also grateful to the governments of the East African Community. Their contributions as key stakeholders for community development stand out as the most valuable for Africa's prosperity. The presence and active participation of H.E Dr. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania who also doubles as patron of YouLead, Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki; the EAC Secretary General; Rt. Hon. Kassim Majaliwa; the Prime Minister for the United Republic of Tanzania in lieu of the President of Tanzania; Hon. Aden Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary of the EAC and Regional Development representing the President of the Republic of Kenya; Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi representing H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda; H.E Prosper Bazombanza, the Vice President of the Republic of Burundi, representing the President; and H.E Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda; stirred the interests of young people towards

the foundational elements of education, health and well-being, employment and opportunity, and economic, political and civic participation. In addition, our sincere gratitude extends to young people, their commitment to service is the reason we are all here. The same applies correspondingly to the YouLead consortium of State and non-state actors, as well as our Continental Collaborating partners. The list is inexhaustible, Merci a' tous.

Finally, I urge all member states and the leadership of Africa to look into the challenges of COVID-19 tests in some of the countries, which have become a hindrance, especially on young people, since many of them could not afford the testing fees as demanded by the different states. It is my humble submission as I conclude, to call upon a greater partnership with our development partners, private sector and governments, CSO's and the young people's constituency to make Africa's development a reality. God bless you.

Ms. Makena Mwobobia,

Executive Director – MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation



WORD FROM THE YOULEAD SUMMIT 2021 DIRECTOR

It was my utmost pleasure to serve as YouLead Summit 2021 Director. I had the rare honour of welcoming many of you - young leaders, policy makers, private sector and development partners to the 2021 YouLead Summit. The summit was a success because of the selflessness of the YouLead Africa secretariat team, the EAC Youth Ambassadors - these two teams fantastically deliver as one, and the parental support of the MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation and East African Community (EAC) Secretariat leadership, especially the Secretary General whose support to our work is so far exemplary. We are still battling a pandemic with its restrictions and challenges yet this year, Youlead Africa grew bolder and stronger as a One Young Africa - YouLead Summit 2021 went Africa - bringing together young leaders and policy makers from 22 African nations.

With delegates from across the continent, we expanded the conversation to ensure that young people's leadership, innovation, creativity and aspirations are duly captured and shared. Everything discussed during the summit was compiled to form the Post Summit Agenda, young people shared the interventions and priority areas they wanted us to work with them on in the year 2022 as a way of realising the Africa that young people want.

I would like to thank our chief co-conveners for the Summit, HE Jakaya M Kikwete, former President of the Republic of Tanzania who is also YouLead's fantastic Patron and Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, the Secretary General of the EAC, whose incommensurable belief in young people's voices and leadership made the summit possible. Also notably, Hon. John Mongella, the Arusha Regional Commissioner for opening the doors of Arusha and facilitating the convening of young people from the entire continent, last but by no means least, I thank the YouLead EAC Consortium members, YouLead's Continental Collaborating Entities in Southern, Northern, Central and Western Africa who made our One Young Africa dream a reality, and a big shout out goes to our funding partners and convening partners.

Sodfa Daadji

YouLead's Technical and Strategic Advisor
Continental Engagements and YouLead
Summit 2021 Director



WORD FROM YOULEAD PROGRAM DIRECTOR

"Young people do not only form the biggest population of Africa and the world, they are an asset. But again the population that is unskilled, and unemployed can be a demographic curse, so this is the challenge, but the opportunity is in us trying to convert this demographic dividend into opportunities because the richness of nations is not in stones but in its people" Mr. Ivan Atuyambe - YouLead Africa Director, Head of Leadership and Governance Academy MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation.

Every young person is passionate about what's going on in their country, and they want to do something about it, yet they lack imperative skills to do so. Accordingly, we, YouLead Africa, have learnt that we have great potential for the future of this region. We want to keep these young people together, to encourage the governments in the region to support initiatives by these young people and create an approach that includes all sectors, governments, business and NGOs.

Covid19 has restricted opportunities for young people, they have lost jobs and businesses. This therefore, pushes us beyond the boundary to renovate what we have lost using covid-friendly mechanisms such as online platforms as well as increase cooperation between and among young people across the borders.

We want to break the borders. The AfCFTA is here. We brought young Africans together under YouLead Africa's program-African Continental Free Trade Area Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project, to deliberate and strategize on how best they can be engaged to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investment, and thus pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the continental customs union and the African customs union.

We have also inaugurated the Arusha debates to spearhead meaningful conversations in the region, propagate Pan Africanism and home (Africa) grown knowledge, generate insights and to make social and economic development a reality.

In essence, investments should be made more to put forward ideas for the future of regional integration and the community in general.

Ivan Atuyambe

*Head of Leadership and Governance Academy
YouLead Program Director
Training Centre for Development Cooperation*

EACYAP and YouLead Secretariat are grateful to the following funding and convening partners whose support made the YouLead Summit 2021 possible.



East African Community
One People, One Destiny



MS TCDC
act:onaiddenmark



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania



OXFAM



Thanks to the Continental Collaborating Entities that made it possible for YouLead Summit 2021 to GO AFRICA for the first time!



**Nile Youth
Development Actions**
Towards a Shared Vision



Final thanks go to the YouLead Consortium of youth-led and youth-serving organisations in the EAC region who make the annual YouLead Summit their own business and continue to be a great pillar for YouLead’s programmatic work through the post-summit agenda of action.

BURUNDI



KENYA



RWANDA



SOUTH SUDAN



UGANDA



TANZANIA



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report will provide an overview of YouLead Summit 2021, with a day-to-day summary of key highlights and outcomes. A glimpse of the summit deliberations highlights. Day One (Monday 8th November 2021) grounded on "Youth in Politics". The same featured the presidential address (official opening) by Hon. Aden Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of EAC, representing H. E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya. The key thematic discussions of the day were hosted in the form of the Under 40 Political Leaders Forum 'Reinventing Leadership for African Millennials'. Participants included Members of Parliament and Chairpersons of National Youth Councils from EAC

Partner States. With Complementarity to the first session, the "The Policy Makers and Development Partners Roundtable" was co-hosted with the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and EAC and the East Africa Community, aimed at 'Re-imagining the role of development partners and policy makers in creating an enabling environment for youth participation in political governance and public affairs'. To expound, the roundtable was based on the findings of the EAC Youth Governance Architecture Study Report which examined the environment for youth participation in governance and development processes within the EAC region.



H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, YouLead Patron, speaking during the Presidential Address segment, on Day One of #YouLead21

The delight for Day one was a call by the EAC Secretary General to rechristen the YouLead summit from “YouLead summit” to “YouLead Forum”. Despite generating excitement and debate, it was not adequately conclusive due to time constraints. Further, the launch of the EAC Youth Agenda, EAC Youth Governance Architecture Study Report, and unveiling of the EAC Youth Leadership Fellowship.

Day two of the summit, 9th November 2021 was on ‘Youth in Business, Trade and Enterprise’. The session was hosted in the form of the Under 40 business leaders forum, which examined the policy environment for doing business as applicable to youth-led businesses and highlighted the opportunity for youth within the AfCFTA - a conversation themed: “How can African young innovators make the AfCFTA magic happen”. Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi, Minister of Youth & Culture, represented H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda as the keynote speaker. She assured delegates of the Rwandan government’s commitment to

supporting youth initiatives in an effort to contribute to the EAC region’s and Africa’s development.

Major highpoints of the day were among others, the inaugural Arusha Debates session, and the landmark announcement of the formation of the Independent Continental Youth Advisory Council on AfCFTA, and launch of the skills match digital innovation by GIZ-EAC in collaboration with Interuniversity Council for East Africa and EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform.

Day three, 10th November 2021, featured the Arusha Peace Forum and Gender Equality Forum. The former was convened by YouLead’s East Africa Youth Peace Network of partners and highlighted the role of youth in preventing conflicts and maintaining peace and security. The forum was officially opened by H.E Prosper Bazombanza, the Vice President for the Republic of Burundi, who represented the President, H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye.



Rt. Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, arriving at MS TCDC accompanied by Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, EAC Secretary-General, during Day Three of #YouLead21

The Gender Equality Forum discussed the role of young women in taking forward the Action Coalition's Commitments, championed by different stakeholders with the ambition of achieving equality for women and girls by 2026. H.E Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda graced the occasion with a keynote address. In her remarks, she emphasized that "to build a post genocide Rwanda, the nurturing nature of women, the sensitivity that nourishes their unconditional love for their children needed to be capitalized upon to engage an entire nation in the testing task of communal healing". The day was climaxed by remarks from the Rt. Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, who represented the President, H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Day four, 11th November 2021 was dedicated to developing the Post-Summit Agenda. "The Arusha plan of action 2021". Delegates, policy makers, partners and other stakeholders spent the day developing country focused and regional outlook of work priorities for 2022, based on discussions and recommendations of days 1, 2 and 3. Major outcomes included a co-creation session of the proposed "EAC youth leadership fellowship" being

spearheaded by the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete foundation, EAC Secretariat and MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation with the aim of nurturing emerging leaders in public service and business, trade and enterprise. Correspondingly, Plan International and YouLead secretariat co-created the East and Southern Africa Young Women's Fellowship.

Day five, 12th November 2021, the Close of the summit was dedicated to the inaugural East Africa Tubonge session that focused on fostering dialogue between parliamentary youth representatives and the delegates to discuss the outcomes of the summit and agree on national and regional policy level commitments from legislators. The opening remarks for this session were delivered by Hon. Josephine Lemoyan, Member of Parliament - East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) from Tanzania representing Hon. Martin Ngoga, the Speaker of EALA. While Parliamentarians from the Republic of Uganda and Republic of South Sudan were physically present, Parliamentarians from the Republic of Rwanda participated virtually. The valuable representation from the Republic of Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Burundi was missed.

INTRODUCTION

YouLead is not only an African youth leadership program: we are a community. As a youth advocate myself, in the years I realized that there's nothing stronger than belonging to a community and feeling connected with youth. I am sure that this journey will be inspirational for all of us, as we learn, grow, listen and express our thoughts and concerns". Ms. Sodfa Daaji, YouLead Summit Director 2021.



Sodfa Daaji, YouLead Summit Director 2021

"YouLead summit 2021 is going Africa", this phrase was the rallying call to bring together an Africa-wide audience to the largest annual convening of youth in East Africa. #YouLead21 was Africa's largest hybrid youth convening physical

audiences in different African capitals together via a virtual convening platform under the theme "The Future of Africa: Creating Jobs, Feeding, and Housing the World's Youngest Continent"

Since 2017, YouLead Summit has been jointly convened annually by the East African Community (EAC) and MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MSTCDC), in Arusha through their youth engagement initiatives – the EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform and YouLead – Youth Leadership Program respectively. The annual climax event is now Africa’s largest and most diverse forum of young leaders, mentors, government policy makers, development partners, private sector, academia, media and civil society from all over Africa to craft responses to the continent’s rapidly growing youth population, their challenges and opportunities.

sessions and co-creations were convened. In a distinctive style, the Under 40 Political Leaders Forum, the Policy Makers and Development Partners Roundtable, the Presidential Address, the Fireside Chat with H.E Dr Jakaya Kikwete, the Under 40 Business Leaders Forum, the Arusha Debates, the Arusha Peace Forum, the Gender Equality Forum, the East Africa Tubonge and the Post Summit Agenda instilled the essence of the summit, this time leveraging on several initiatives like the AfCFTA Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project (AfCFTA-YIAP) and co-creating and implementing new ones, the likes of the East African Youth Fellowship.

During the five days of YouLead summit 2021, keynote speeches, panel discussions, breakout



Lisa Satolli, from the Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania, following proceedings at #YouLead21

Indeed, the journey was not easy. Evidence-based knowledge informed the programmatic YouLead 2021 summit. Since 2020 the YouLead secretariat together with other stakeholders have conducted studies and held conversations which, to a great extent, facilitated the impactful insights towards the five days deliberations for home (Africa) grown solutions to African problems.

Our research work includes:

- The Youth Governance Architecture Series in the East African Community, on “Examining the Enabling Environment for Youth Participation and exploring opportunities for re-inventing and entrenching Youth Leadership” (2020) and “Examining the Enabling Environment for Youth Inclusion in Economic Governance: Revitalizing Multistakeholder Partnerships for Accelerating Economic Opportunities and Decent Work for Youth in the East African Community” (2021);
- Youth can Kick COVID-19 out of East Africa, Africa Study on COVID-19 Disruptions to Youth Life (May 2020);
- Continental Scoping Study on the Enabling Environment for Youth Participation in Political Governance and Mapping of Existing Youth Leadership Development Initiatives in Africa (2020);
- Africa Continental Free Trade Area - AfCFTA Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project (AfCFTA-YIAP)

Consultations done by YouLead Africa encompassed, The Pan African Leadership for the Africa we Want that informed the training manual for the same. YouLead has also run consultations culminating into the EAC Youth Agenda, and dialogues with Government representatives and the National Youth Councils. Last, but not least, the YouLead Unplugged series, as a vibrant platform that brings African youth together to have relevant conversations with YouLead Alumni and partners to the program. The data used to craft the issues of discussions for the summit paved the way to Africa’s position on global comparability via research-based dialogues for workable solutions. This report serves, not only as a glimpse of the YouLead 2021 summit, but also a literal reference to Africa-based knowledge from the proposed solutions, action points and quotes that points right away to the Africa We Want.

1. FIVE (5) YEARS OF THE YOULEAD SUMMIT: A MILESTONE WORTH CELEBRATING



Photo taken during #YouLead20, when H.E. Jakaya Kikwete accepted the position of YouLead Africa Patron.

History is necessary so we are able to appreciate the transformations and measure the long-drawn-out steps to assess the progress so far. The Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (2000) mandates under Article 120(c) adoption of a common approach for the involvement of the youth in the integration process through education, training and mainstreaming youth issues into EAC policies, programmes and projects as one of the strategic interventions. Accordingly, EAC Youth Policy (2016) priority 14 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.

Until 2017, there had not been a convening of such a kind. Through this provision, MS Training

Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC), under the Leadership and Governance Academy, sought partnership with the East African Community Secretariat and these two convening partners initiated the Youth leadership (YouLead) summit, in line with the East African Community Youth Ambassadors Platform (EACYAP) and other strategic partners.

The paradigm shift from a summit to a fully-fledged program was, among others, a great transformation since the setting up of the summit. Since its founding, YouLead had sought to be more than a one-off annual event; targeting to emerge into a sustainable and homegrown leadership development program for East African youth with replication potential across other African regional blocks working with RECS or regional entities such as COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS and others all over Africa.

To better attain its objectives as a convening platform, in 2017 YouLead Summit was convened with 250 Delegates under the theme “Unlocking Leadership Potential”. To expound, the deliberations were around Political (Government) Leadership, Civic and Social Leadership; the Role of Youth in Environmental Protection, Climate Justice and Social Economic Rights; Business

and Corporate Leadership; Young Women in Political Governance; Technology and Innovation being the Silver Lining for Youth Leadership and Leadership and Corporate

The First Youth Leadership Summit was themed **“Unlocking potential for youth; can’t wait, it is either today or never”**.



Delegates at #YouLead18

The following year, MS-TCDC and EAC held the second East Africa Youth Leadership Summit themed “Youth Political & Economic Inclusion: Scenarios for Sustainable Regional Integration.” The conversation addressed, among other issues, Youth participation and representation in political governance and leadership, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Tax Justice and Taxation for Development, Corruption, Youth in Innovation, Technology and the Future of work, Youth Employment, Economic Opportunities

and Decent Work for Youth, Entrepreneurship, Youth in Agriculture, Youth and Health Rights, Youth demographics and Migration and Youth in Education as sub- themes.

In 2019, the Summit was conducted from 11th to 14th November under the theme “Youth at the crossroads; Migration, participation and access to opportunities.” The conversations encompassed re-inventing leadership for African millennials, the globalization pace in business and the East Africa Vijaana Assembly. In 2020, two major developments marked



A cross-section of delegates at #YouLead19

the success of East Africa's largest virtual experience. Firstly, YouLead transitioned to a fully fledged East Africa Youth Leadership Program. Secondly, the COVID-19 pandemic brought its challenges and opportunities, as the convening expanded its geographical barriers and included a wide-audience from across the region and beyond under the theme **"Development Is People: Youth at the Centre of the Peace and Development Agenda"**.

To ensure broader inclusivity, there were regional command centres at the EAC Partner States capitals, Bujumbura, Kigali, Juba, Nairobi, and Kampala, as sessions were held at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha as the central command centre, with a limited physical audience formed by delegates, speakers and mentors.

In addition, key sessions were telecasted live on various radio, TV, and social media platforms of leading media partners in the EAC region and beyond.

Key summit highlights included the Youth Enterprise Awards, to support Covid-19 resilient

and responsive youth-led business innovations, Launch of the EAC Youth Governance Architecture Report, the East African Youth Parliamentary Session – aka Vijana Assembly at the East African Legislative Assembly Chambers, the Youth Peace Assembly and Unveiling of the 2021 Post Summit Agenda.

"This is an opportunity to do something to engage the youth, we might be late but now is the time. We need to be as practical as possible as we continue with the summit, the proposed solutions can be taken up as resolutions for implementation in partner states"

Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki – Secretary General of the East African Community.

2. YOULEAD21 SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

This year, the YouLead Summit 2021 hosted an Africa-wide audience via a virtual and physical platform. Across the 5 days of the summit, 51 speakers and 10, 000 virtual participants, took part in thought-provoking discussions around 'the Future of Africa, Creating jobs, Feeding and Housing the World's Youngest Continent, in terms of political and economic development for young people.' Youth, government representatives, parliamentarians, development partners from international entities, CSOs and NGOs shared their insights.

2.1 DAY 1 - YOUTH IN POLITICS; REINVENTING LEADERSHIP FOR AFRICAN MILLENNIALS - 8TH NOVEMBER 2021

2.1.1 OPENING REMARKS

Moderator: Solomon Sserwanja
[Ugandan Investigative Journalist and
Executive Director, African Institute for
Investigative Journalism]

The welcoming remarks were conveyed by Ms. Sodfa Daaji, YouLead Summit Director 2021, who extended gratitude to the partners, supporters and stakeholders without whose efforts the summit could not be successful. She further applauded the hybrid nature of the summit and the Africa-wide experience that has been achieved with intent to gather young leaders and policy makers, in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

The Summit Director asserted that the summit brings a lot of expectations from young people, henceforth discussions to craft best solutions are imperative and they drive the intention of the summit. The YouLead Africa program was dedicated to curating the raised action points and incorporating them in the post summit agenda to inform YouLead 2022 priorities and implementation by policy makers, government and other relevant stakeholders.

The opening remarks from the Summit Director were followed by remarks from





“Youlead is a space to learn, excel and share practical leadership experiences.” Mr. David Onen, Principal Political Affairs Officer, EAC.

Mr David Onen, the Principal Political Affairs Officer at the EAC Secretariat who expressed his delight for the YouLead summit 2021 and urged the participants to continue holding young people’s interests and meaningful engagement in political and economic governance. Moreover, he urged young people to capitalize on available resources as the partners and other stakeholders are ready to support professional development, capacity and capability for young people to fit in the modern world standards.

The opening remarks session was concluded by the intervention of Lisa Satolli, representing the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and EAC, who appreciated the vibrant delegation of young people. She alluded to the fact that Africa has significant engagements and avenues for young people to capitalize on leadership. She further expounded that the EU had a strategy for youth cooperation (2017-2019) which called for solid political, economic and civil engagement which focused on according necessary

resources and a purposeful approach for youth-led initiatives in Europe. Similar efforts should be extended in Africa to empower more youth.



Lisa Satolli, representing the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and EAC

Ultimately, she reiterated the call for usefulness of digital entrepreneurship, amplification of youth voices through inspiring stories of positive change and recognition of the diversity in the region (homogeneous of young people in Africa), cultures, background which to a larger extent helps the EU to support transition of boys and girls to a better living. The EU offers financial support for agriculture in Tanzania (through Funguo Project) among other analogous initiatives.

2.1.2 THE UNDER 40 POLITICAL LEADERS FORUM

Time: 9.15 – 10.45

Moderator: Stella Agara, YouLead Africa's Strategic and Technical Advisor Partnerships, Global and Continental Engagements.

This session was the gist of day one 'Youth in Politics.' Intriguing discussions revolved around the theme "If you sat where they (the leaders) sit." The Roundtable for National Youth Council Representatives and Young Parliamentarians was inspired by the YouLead Youth Governance Architecture Study, and the proposed Elected Young Leaders Performance and Cooperation Peer Review Mechanism.

The session began with an informative presentation from Ms. Risha Chande, Director of Advocacy and Engagement at Twaweza East Africa. Her presentation was grounded on a 2019 study on formal political structures of participation, basically youth engagement in political governance.



Stella Agara, YouLead Africa's Strategic and Technical Advisor Partnerships, Global and Continental Engagements.



Ms. Risha Chande, Director of Advocacy and Engagement at Twaweza East Africa

Among other things, the study revealed that the level of disengagement of youth in politics was to the effect that Kenya had only 27% in 2018, Tanzania 60% in 2018 and Uganda 38% of Youth interested in political engagement in 2019. The study highlighted key recommendations for meaningful inclusion of young people in politics namely: advancing more participatory action research, community prioritization and action planning. Other recommendations included more training in listening, problem-analysis, integrating formal and informal space processes, positive reinforcement modelling (it is possible to have positive interaction and share success stories), capacity development, conscientization, inclusion, creating space for diverse voices and peer exchange, networks, data and evidence.

A tailored panel discussion followed suit with Parliamentarians and National Youth council

representatives deliberating on “If you sat where they (the leaders) sit” theme. Moderation was under Ms. Stella Agara (Strategic and Technical Advisor – Fundraising and Partnerships YouLead Africa).

The Panel included; Samson Ndiokubwayo, Vice Chairperson National Youth Council, Burundi; Gola Boyoi Gola, Chairperson, South Sudan National Youth Union; Yunus Juma Ally, Chairperson, National Youth Council, Zanzibar; Roy Sasaka Telewa, Chief Executive Officer, National Youth Council Kenya; Jacob Eyeru, Chairman, National Youth Council Uganda; Robert Mwesigwa, Executive Secretary, National Youth Council Rwanda; Okot Boniface, Member of Parliament, Northern Uganda; Rugumayo Edson, Youth Member of Parliament, Western Uganda; Nyamutooro Phiona, Youth Member of Parliament, Uganda; Mohammed Lamin Saidykhan - Co-Coordinator, Africans Rising; Afrikana Njuru -Advocacy & Policy Consultant,



Panelists of the “If you sat where they (the leaders) sit” discussion

African Union & East Africa -ONE Campaign; Honorable Members of the Parliament from South Sudan; Hon. Gai mayen; Hon. Mabior Garang and Hon. Nayang, and Mr. Ivan Atuyambe, YouLead Africa Program Director.

have a foundation under political parties. Hon. Nayang, noted that *“all men who stand high, stand because they are able to stand on the shoulder of giants before them.”*

Challenges, in terms of target issues raised during the discussion were, firstly, the demographic reality cannot allow young people to be bystanders, Africa must do something to achieve its people’s purposes. Transformation of mindsets is still a challenge for the young generation, the need to invest in research and economy, especially in agriculture and low development of young people’s support structures in political and economic governance.

Action points emanating from the discussions extended to equipping young leaders with necessary tools for advancement (Hon. Gai Mayen), recognition of young people at the decision making table, and for meaningful engagement in politics, young people must



Roy Sasaka, CEO of Kenya’s National Youth Council, emphasizes a point during the panel discussion

Furthermore, young people must fight ideological disorientation/mindset (Hon. Okot), young people must be rebellious and not pinned down by threats. Key actors such as governments, CSOs, NGOs etc. should furnish youth with the power to show up (Hon. Mabior). Most importantly, young Africa should look at the future of itself. Opportunities, the likes of the AfCFTA must be leveraged on to improvise the space to build a better continent.

2.1.3 POLICY MAKERS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS ROUNDTABLE

The Policy Makers and Development Partners Roundtable was co-convened by the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and EAC, and the East African Community, and was composed of two roundtables, one with the policy makers and the other with development partners, with the aim of scrutinizing youth participation in politics and the role of partners, stakeholders and other actors in enabling young people’s meaningful participation.

The conversation was geared by The Youth Governance Architecture in the East African Community (EAC): Re-imagining the role of policy makers and development partners in creating an enabling environment for Young People’s Participation in Good Governance, Leadership and Development Processes.

Development Partners Roundtable: (Time: 11.15 - 13.15)

Moderator: Dr. James Otieno Jowi, Principal Education Officer, East African Community.



Dr. James Otieno Jowi, Hon. Josephine Lemayani and H.E. Regine Hess, were among panelists in the Policymakers and Development Partners Roundtable

Key interventions raised during the discussions included an extract from the East African Legislative Assembly by Hon. Josephine Lemayani who averred that youth are at the core of the advancement of regional integration processes and should not be sidelined in representation especially by the ruling class. The East African Legislative Assembly reckons that facilitation of youth participation is paramount for the future of the EAC, and hence implements efforts towards real investment, training and employment. To expound, EALA adopted a report from the Council of Ministers in 2016 and accepted to amend Article 50 of the EAC Treaty in order to create slots for youth involvement in politics. Hence, Article 120 of

the EAC Treaty takes precedence over national laws in that context. In terms of economic governance, EALA sensitizes on actions and means of exploitation of available resources and opportunities on locally made goods/products, and women in cross-border trade in the region.

H.E. Regine Hess (German Ambassador to Tanzania and EAC) commenced by laying emphasis on the fact that the primary duty to deliver services (health, education, etc.) for

youth development is inherent upon states. In addition, 2021 marked a milestone of 60 years of cooperation between Tanzania and Germany, and the German government has been supporting throughout the years by advancing ICT, academic exchange programs, infrastructures, trade and economy and many others. Young people were challenged to capitalize on the generated opportunities since most of them, for instance available scholarships, are not fully utilized.



Amine Amor, Program Specialist - YouthConnekt

Mr. Amine Amor from YouthConnekt, added further that YouthConnekt responds to the challenges facing youth in Rwanda, has branches in other countries in the EAC and that plans were underway to create branches all over Africa to enhance knowledge facilitation, skills, experience, ideas and innovation that will enable homegrown (African) solution to African problems.

Parvin Ngala, Regional Director - Interim, Horn East and Central Africa, OXFAM International, explained that investment in the youth counts very much, and that external empowerment is prerequisite to develop knowledge creation and skills sharing. Further, the creation of enabling environments for youth participation in decision making and bridging the information gap to enhance youth Connection to the available platforms like the COP26 was an important step.

Frank Rutabingwa, Senior Natural Resources Expert, UN Economic Commission for Africa was of the view that partners and stakeholders should harness opportunities such as supporting youth-led initiatives, scaling up resources and extending means and strategies to reach out to more people in the innovative sector. Youth should be trained in new skills and retool the existing skills for instance income generation and entrepreneurship.

Lisa Satolli, representing the EU Delegation to Tanzania and EAC, went into detail stating that the EU makes sure participation and engagement is taken care of because conversations are very important. "To be precise the EU Youth goals 2017/2018 involved young people all over Europe in creating equal opportunities in education, jobs, etc. The same is set for Africa and there's still a long way to go. Youth must be involved in what are their key priorities. Politicians must heed to this when developing policies and programs".

Lastly, Ms. Joyce Deloge, Technical Specialist-Prevention of Violent Extremism, UNDP Tanzania added that mainstreaming youth issues is not sufficient in itself, and that there should be specified targets and youth must be proactive in their endeavors.

To sum up, specified target issues from the discussions were identified; governments do not offer enough technical and skills development, lack of ownership and proper implementation of the proposed activities for young people, lack of access to data and information, lack of full awareness to opportunities, difficulty in accessing start-up seed funding, youth need to improve their skills and , competency and provide solutions.

Proposed Recommendations included; strengthening partnership between youth, development partners and financial

institutions; aligning programs to government strategic frameworks (needs and priorities for development); improving the environment and more concentration on youth and gender, and digital access. Budgeting processes should also begin at the local level, understand issues of priority for youth initiatives at the grassroots level and design initiatives to bring stakeholders to the table to support youth inclusion in economic growth.

Policy Makers Roundtable [Time 12:30 - 1:15]

Moderator: Sara Ezra Teri, Programs Director, MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation.



Sara Ezra Teri, MS TCDC programs Director (left), Ange Umutoni, EAC Youth Ambassadors coordinator, and Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona – Executive Director - Inter-University Council for EAC, participating in the Policymakers roundtable

This session took precedence from the early roundtable and included Ms. Ange Umutoni - EACYAP Regional Coordinator, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona – Executive Director Inter-university Council for EAC. Emolot Allan David-National Coordinator, African Youth Charter Hustlers Uganda (African Union Youth Envoy)

Hon. Odoi Benard Mutasa – Eastern Uganda Youth MP, Hon. Atem – South Sudan, Rotimi Olawale Executive Director of Youth Hub Africa and Roy Sasaka Telewa Chief Executive Officer, National Youth Council of Kenya.

From the discussion, identified gaps included low level of investment in Africa-based knowledge, low resourcing for youth functioning (financial and human resources), the need for policy reversals (there should be reversal and amendment in policy, law, treaties, delay in implementation and cause of action) and low level of commitment in youth themselves.

The panelists issued recommendations therefrom. Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona was of the view that young people should be equipped with skills for self-employment to match the job market. Accordingly, the Inter-university council for EAC is implementing the common higher education area directive from the Head of states summit to create minimum standards and guidelines for accreditation of education in the region.

Mr. Rotimi Olawale and Roy Sasaka held the same view that Africa is at the forefront in innovation, yet policies were not fast enough to fit in the innovation requirements. To clear the void, the enacted policies must identify key priority areas, strategies to follow up on implementation and have a coordinated approach.

Mr. Emolot Allan David stated that the reason why youth development programmes and policies failed to achieve the expected outcomes is because “African governments plan for youth but not with Youth”. He continued and said that if Africa is to turn its youthful population into a demographic dividend, youth participation on a regular basis in policy formulation, political debates, decision making and development processes at local, national, regional and continental levels should be institutionalized by all African member states and various stakeholders. As part of the COVID-19 recovery program, he urged African governments to roll out on the job apprenticeship programs, comprehensive sexuality education and finally effectively implement other forms of education besides the formal as mandated by Article 13(2) of the African Youth Charter.

Ultimately Ms. Ange Umutoni reiterated other speakers’ approach that most of the policies and programs put in place are not youth friendly. To mitigate this, the policy makers should not plan for youth but plan with youth. To make this easier, intensification should be made on global involvement of young people via agreement of specific targets for example youth involvement in agriculture is 16% compulsory, affirmative action in politics – reservation as of now is 30% it should be extended to 50%.



H.E. Jakaya Kikwete and Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki share a light moment with Sharon Ringo, EAC Tourism Ambassador who delivered a powerful poem during the Presidential Address segment.

2.1.4 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

(Convened by His Excellency President Kikwete, the Patron of YouLead, and Hon. Dr Peter Mathuki, Secretary General of the East African Community Moderator: Ivan Atuyambe,

Time: 14.30 – 17:00

This was the last session for the first day of the summit. The convening and co-convening partners of the summit sparked the reflections for the summit. What does it mean for young people in the EAC and Africa extensively? Distinguished speakers included H.E Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, YouLead's Patron and former President of the United Republic of Tanzania; Hon. Peter Mathuki, the Secretary General East African Community; Hon. John V. Mongella, Arusha Regional Commissioner; Ms. Makena Mwobobia the Executive Director MSTCDC; Ms. Regine Hess, Ambassador of Germany to Tanzania and EAC; and H.E. Didier Chassot – Ambassador of Switzerland to Tanzania and EAC.

Ms. Makena Mwobobia started the discussion by describing what it is like working with young people, the beauty being that one remains young forever. She contended that Africa remains the richest continent in resources (including human resource) hence, governments must invest in their capacity in issues that affect their people leaving no one behind. In this sense, key actors must be held accountable for the practicability of young people's engagement in political and economic governance. Further, the excellence in Africa should be operationalized to make programs and projects work such as expanding ICT to capitalize on the AfCFTA.

Hon. John V. Mongella posited from the foundation of his discourse that the Arusha region is the perfect introduction to the beauty of Tanzania. Historically, Arusha has been a pillar of peace, unity and political stability having hosted peace negotiations, the Arusha declaration and the UN-MICT, among international organizations. He welcomed an Africa-wide audience to explore the tourism attractions in the region and enjoy the Arusha experience.

H.E. Amb. Regine Hess took the baton and started by a call for actors to work to improve youth participation in politics. In the same line, youth should be given opportunity to showcase their skills and economic potential and an enabling environment for prosperity practically via Institutionalization of the fresh voices of young people.

H.E. Amb. Didier Chassot, Ambassador of Switzerland to Tanzania and EAC articulated that Africa has economic potential and extensive networks of representation across the continent which should be facilitated to energize the unified continental voice. His interventions for Africa's prosperity included; capitalizing on digitalization; accountability mechanism for key actors; empowering democratic processes and youth-led organizations; Reduction of socio-economic barriers through providing access to vocational / practical training and market, and civic engagement through creating an enabling environment for adequate and genuine opportunities.



H.E. Amb. Didier Chassot, Ambassador of Switzerland to Tanzania and EAC delivering remarks during the Presidential Address segment

Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki noted that the time to invest in the youth is now, "We may be late, but it is the right time to come out". He expounded on the EAC's commitment to maintain the partnership with MS TCDC and other stakeholders to capitalize on young people's potential. He called for a transformed approach for youth engagement with policy makers which should be largely result-oriented. Gaps must be identified to build capacity.



Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki EAC Secretary General

H.E. Jakaya Kikwete kept in that line as he commended the triumph of Youlead so far, delighted to see that what started as an EAC-focused initiative had become a Pan African enterprise. He further applauded the EAC for placing young people at the center of the regional integration agenda. He called for sustainability of strength by young people and key stakeholders. He further said that with all the uncertainties of COVID19 we had survived. "We must make sure that the impact of the pandemic does not reverse the success that we have achieved. Through physical strength and agility, young people must seize the initiative to become the strongest in the world. Narrow nationalism will not help", he added.



H.E. Dr. Jakaya M. Kikwete joins delegates in singing the YouLead Song

He further called for the current elders in the governance system to nurture young professionals, give them opportunities, enable them to perform and acquire new skills. He said *"Examples of great men create men of the same calibre. The future belongs to us if we cease it."*

Hon. Adan Mohamed, the Cabinet Secretary for East African Community and Regional Development, Kenya – represented H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya. He pointed directly to the realization of the intentions of the summit, the solutions crafted during deliberations should be used to solve national and regional challenges and that there must be commitment to ensure intra-East African and continental connectivity and program in productive sectors. He finally noted that the future of Africa is being shaped by our commitments today, and that youth should be at the frontline to promote entrepreneurship and become advocates of change in economy and trade.



Hon. Adan Mohamed, the Cabinet Secretary for East African Community and Regional Development - who joined virtually from Nairobi, Kenya.



Delegates break into song and dance, after the official opening of #YouLead21

Following the presidential address, the Patron launched the EAC Youth Agenda which is still in progress as well as the East African Community Youth Ambassadors Platform's Official Website. He also launched the 'Youth Governance Architecture in the East African Community Report; "Examining the Enabling Environment for Youth Participation and Exploring Opportunities for Re-inventing and Entrenching Youth Leadership' and unveiled the EAC YouLead Fellowship, where actors including young people were invited to co-create the same for the leadership for the Africa We Want.

2.1.5 FIRESIDE CHAT WITH H.E FORMER PRESIDENT KIKWETE

Moderators: Fiona Kemigisha and Mwila Bwanga, Time: 20.00 – 22.30

"Since independence, the aim has been to have a self-sufficient economy in Tanzania, the same applies to East Africa and Africa as a region. We must build our economies and be able to fund our own initiatives to ease home grown solutions"

H.E Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete



H.E Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete during the Fireside chat moderated by Fiona Kemigisha (Uganda) and Mwila Bwanga (Zambia)

This was a more relaxed session, after a long and packed day of formal deliberations, at MS TCDC grounds, the fireside chat intricate experience sharing, with practical induction from H.E Dr Jakaya Kikwete. This vibrant plenary attracted questions from the moderators and the audience, imperative queries encompassed the journey to the presidency, leadership encounters and livelihood.

At the eve of his narration, he elucidated on why he accepted to be the YouLead patron. This was because he was trusted with leadership at a very young age, hence he appreciates young people and mentoring them is the least that he can do for the youth. He went further and promised the delegates that he will invite H.E Barack Obama next year to speak to the delegates.

H.E Jakaya Kikwete expressed his thoughts for the future of YouLead as a youth group that is built on. He foresees it as a youth group with moderate conversations on matters affecting them and accurate solutions. He urged young people on the power of showing up, youths should find ways to get the government to

recognize their initiatives such as innovations and seek support for technological advancements.

Finally, on the quest to end gender based violence in politics, especially for women, he advised that they should seek legal redress and push for policies to that effect. Moreover, there has been lengthy discussions on GBV and harmful practices against women, the same is likely to inform an elaborate law. Despite advocating for a strong legal framework, some women may not be courageous enough to report the abuses, more strategies should be put in place to aid deduction and investigation of the abuses in both private and public offices.



A section of the delegates following proceedings at the Fireside chat, which was also streamed online

3. DAY 2 YOUTH IN BUSINESS, TRADE AND ENTERPRISE

Tuesday 09 November 2021

Theme: Actors, not Spectators: How can African Young Innovators make the AfCFTA Magic Happen? Convened by His Excellency President Kikwete, the Patron of YouLead and Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, EAC Secretary General.

Moderator: Mr. Ivan Atuyambe, YouLead Africa Director

Time: 9.00-10.00

3.1 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Day two was dedicated to economic governance for young people. The initial session was graced by a Virtual keynote address by Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi, the Cabinet Minister for Youth Rwanda in lieu of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, who explicated on the role of Youth in driving the African Economic Integration Agenda under the AfCFTA.

The plenary began with Mr. Ivan Atuyambe, YouLead Africa Director, who furnished a brief review of the AfCFTA boot camp, which was informed by the Continental Youth Inclusion in the AfCFTA Study and funded by GIZ-AU. He commended YouLead's cooperation with the East African Business Council (EABC), especially in the corporate breakfast meetings which proved to be very instrumental in promoting participation and inclusion of youth in business and entrepreneurship in the region.



Edith Njage, one of the delegates from the Continental Young Leaders and Policymakers Summer Bootcamp on the AfCFTA, sharing her experience. Looking on is Ivan Atuyambe, YouLead Africa Director.

The Youth in Business sphere of YouLead aims to capitalize on young people’s innovative ideas and business startups. The Youth Enterprise Awards began in 2019 and was fully championed by TradeMark East Africa. Correspondingly, the AfCFTA Bootcamp equipped young people from over 15 countries in Africa on intra-African trade and how young people can leverage on the opportunities it brings. Consequently, participants of the bootcamp resolved to create an Independent Continental Youth Advisory Council on AfCFTA, its role being to foster youth inclusion in the AfCFTA framework. Further the Advisory council is expected to foster nationalization, implementation and accountability of all initiatives and programs under the AfCFTA to include youth.

Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi, Minister of Youth and Culture in Rwanda representing H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, reiterated that youth are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal’s, they bring impeccable talent and creativity. Governments should therefore create conducive legal and policy frameworks for youth to tap into business, taking into account that young people’s participation in business and trade is still limited but can be harnessed, especially in positioning SMEs in the fields of agriculture, fashion and digital technologies.

With regards to the AfCFTA, more meaningful engagements must be made by governments and the private sector to ease free movement of people and goods across borders. We must also develop policies to position youth to drive the AfCFTA and mentor them. She bolded that the AfCFTA is one of the greatest innovations in our times and fosters Intra-Africa trade as a way for wealth creation. It is about scaling and up-scaling, production beyond the limitation of our domestic markets, the agreement is only fully realized when youth are included. The focus of the Secretariat must be on women and young people, who are major components of the labor market in Africa.

H.E. Regine Hess (German Ambassador to Tanzania and EAC) and the Cluster Coordinator for GIZ-EAC Ms. Godje Bialluch, echoed similar views that there is a need to revolutionize the job market and school curriculum to cope up with the contemporary global trends, according to the progress of technology and demand. They further highlighted that youth face an absence of quality skilling, it is important to teach them the necessary skills and training in specific industries. Academia and industry must work in concert to achieve this aim of equipping youth with skills, reference was made to the skills match platform expounded herein below during its launch.



Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi, Minister of Youth and Culture in Rwanda representing H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda



H.E. Regine Hess, German Ambassador to Tanzania and EAC delivering remarks during Day Two - the Under 40 Business Leaders Forum

Mr. John Bosco CEO EABC, illustrated the potential of the AfCFTA to uplift Africans from poverty, and build the confidence and capacity of the youths to embrace homegrown opportunities and fast track them in the East African region. He equally made a commitment to work with the EAC to fast track the AfCFTA.

The session was coupled by launch of the Online Matchmaking Skills Program by GIZ – EAC, remarks were provided by the implementing partners of the EAC project Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry (dSkills@EA), including Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary, IUCEA and Ms. Godje Bialluch, EAC Cluster Coordinator, GIZ unveiled the platform.

3.2 UNDER 40 BUSINESS LEADERS FORUM

Moderators: Moses Kanyesigye and Fiona Kemigisha

Core deliberations for the second day of the summit kicked off under this session. The plenary was grounded on The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA): Youth Business Leaders sharing experiences of cross-border trade efforts (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.



Mr. John Bosco Kalisa, CEO East African Business Council, emphasizes a point during the session



Tony Otoa, Chief Executive, Stanbic Business Incubator in Uganda, participating in the Under 40 Business Leaders Forum

This dialogue was inspired by YouLead's Youth Governance Architecture Study (02) on the Enabling Environment for Youth Inclusion in Economic Governance for Accelerating Economic Opportunities and Decent Work for Youth in the East African Community, and the Continental AfCFTA Youth Inclusion Study findings.

Key discussants for the Forum were Tony Otoa, Chief Executive Stanbic Business Incubator in Uganda. Ms. Leah-Lee-Nduati; Co-Founder Kenya Trade Expo (KTE) Ghana-Kenya, Diego Twahirwa, Managing Director Gashora Farm Plc; Olusegun Olutayo, Lead Expert, Trade enablement National Action Committee of AfCFTA, Nigeria; Tamara Moutotekema Boussamba, Chief Executive Officer Agridis, and Joseph Manirakiza, Program Manager, FUNGUO Innovation Program. Other contributors included Kawamara Ron, Chief Executive Officer, Jumia Uganda, Flavia Busingye, Acting

Director Customs EAC Secretariat, John Bosco Kalisa, Executive Director, East African Business Council and Mr. Amine Ammor, Resource Mobilization Manager, Youth Konnect Africa.

The discussants agreed that the best instrument Africa has for its development is the AfCFTA. Africa needs to take on the AfCFTA, and all countries must ratify it in order to benefit from intra-Africa trade.

Mr. Olusegun Olutayo alluded to the fact that E-Commerce is gaining traction in Africa. The pandemic has increased the demand for business online platforms. Governments need to enact policies that make it possible for their youths to access the internet and be able to use online platforms and social media to market their products and creatively utilize digital spaces, noting the Ghanaian president expediting the formalization of online shopping platforms. We must start looking at drafting and adopting Protocols on e-commerce.

However, Mr. Tony Otoa was of a dissenting view that Africa, as of yet, cannot capitalize on e-commerce due to the absence of functional internet infrastructure, governments act of state control by shutting down the internet which hinders fast business facilitation and freedom of expression, blocking of online platforms which makes transactions unsafe through VPNs and the unaffordable internet rates in most African countries.

On the quest for how can young people leverage on the AfCFTA and manage the larger market demand, Mr. Diego Tahirwa provided recommendations such as attending local exhibitions, business persons should look into getting contracts before producing and look out for opportunities where there is high demand and low supply; for example, he referenced chilli as a profitable business, with global demand at 5 billion tons while current supply is at 3 billion tons.

Conclusively, Ms. Leah Lee Nduati was of the view that Banks do not have favorable policies for SMEs, so young people have limited access to financial resources to own factors of production, there is also lack of enabling framework in youth-led initiatives African countries. Nonetheless, young people have a role to play as game changers, she urged young people and policy makers to take action and desist from concentrating on conversations about how to improve, without any practical solutions. Further, she made advocacy calls for youth ambassadors and youth leaders to be aggressive in claiming their space at economic and leadership tables, to be proactive and not wait for help to reach them. Advocacy must be made for social media as a way of enabling e-commerce in Africa, as well as reduction of internet costs. Conversations should be made for governments and aviation authorities to subsidize travel for youth within Africa so as to foster intra Africa trade.



Leah Lee Nduati, Co-Founder Kenya Trade Expo (KTE) Ghana-Kenya speaking at the forum

3.3 THE ARUSHA DEBATES

Moderators: Solomon Sserwanja & Joy Doreen Biira

Time: 2.00-5.00



The inaugural Arusha Debates was moderated by renowned media personalities Joy Doreen Bira and Solomon Sserwanja

"The Arusha debates carry significant elucidations, the discussions are imperative because theory without practice is empty and practice without theory is blind."

H.E Dr Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and YouLead Patron

Mr. Ivan Atuyambe, the curator for the Arusha Debates started by introducing the content. The Arusha Debates aims to put a global spotlight on Arusha City for its rich history and the nostalgia attached to it to galvanize

global thought leaders to gather and generate insights into how to make social and economic development a reality for ever greater numbers of Africans. The Debates seek to highlight pressing African issues that require regional, continental and global policy attention and financial investment.

The Inaugural Arusha Debates began with presentation of Continental AfCFTA Youth Inclusion Study Report "Making the AfCFTA Promises a Reality for African Youth: A Continental Study on Capacity Gaps, Policy Constraints and Prospects of youth inclusion in AfCFTA.

The opening remarks for the Arusha Debates were delivered by Hon. John V. Mongella - Arusha Regional Commissioner, United Republic of Tanzania, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Administrator, and Director, United Nations Development Programme's Regional Bureau for Africa, Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, EAC Secretary General and H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and YouLead Patron.



Hon. Peter Mathuki, EAC Secretary - General, making opening remarks prior to commencement of the Arusha Debates

The discussants insisted that, like the Davos in Europe, the Arusha debates aim to put Arusha city in the global spotlight. Given Arusha's historical richness in peace and home to many international organizations, intellectual deliberations will add value to the significance of this great city, referred to as the Geneva of Africa. H.E Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete emphasized that the Arusha Debates seek to discuss all the regional and international actions. The Debate will not be an

academic discourse, but has to offer practical solutions and propositions, he alluded further that serious discussions need to be held on the realities of our societies. He challenged the Arusha Debates to achieve, among other things, representation of the widely discriminated groups in societies, especially on grassroots levels, well-organized debates that touch the history of Arusha and the whole East African Community.



H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete officially opened the inaugural Arusha Debates

Thereafter, the plenary kicked off with the high level debate panel discussion on "How can Africa's Young Innovators Make AfCFTA Magic Happen? Exploring Pan-African innovations that are working, their leaders, and the opportunities to break new ground, and open doors for youth to participate in regional and continental economies under the AfCFTA." Key discussants included Dr. Halima Noor - Senior Advisor, AfCFTA Secretariat, representing H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA Secretariat, Dr. Joy Kategekwa, Strategic

Adviser to the Assistant Administrator and Regional Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mr. Mustapha Njie (Youthman), President and CEO, Taf Africa Global (The Gambia), Mr. Zephania Niyonkuru, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Development Board, Mr. John Bosco Kalisa, Chief Executive Officer, East African Business Council, Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga, Co-Curator, Arusha Debates and Dr. Alex Awiti, Vice Provost of the Aga Khan University.



Dr. Vera Songwe, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, tuned in virtually and delivered a powerful keynote address to kickstart the Arusha Debates

The Keynote Speaker, Dr. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa opened the discussion by reiterating that we are here to understand what to do differently. She expounded that as many African leaders have admitted openly that our countries are too dependent, there is a need to do things differently to improve. African Free Trade Agreement can be discussed when there is a collaboration that is manifested in various ways such as focus on buying each other's goods, free or cheaper internet connection charges. Intra-African trade and exchange of services

is the best way to develop our continent. She quoted that statistically, only 44% of tourists in Africa are Africans, the rest are from the external world, transformation is therefore necessary.

After the keynote speech, Mr. Zephania Niyonkuru, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Development Board presented a high impact address featuring Case Studies of Rwanda Development Board (RDB), a government institution whose mandate is to accelerate Rwanda's economic development by enabling private sector growth - and includes showcasing of Rwanda Development Board's work on Policy and Institutional interventions for the "Ease of Doing Business." He addressed clearly the question of what made Rwanda a success in facilitating business and trade. He reacted to the effect that the government ensures youths get resources required, access services to the private sector to do business, facilitate the private sector to do business in Rwanda, one can be anywhere in the world and still register a business in Rwanda and making sure that the private sector, government, and partners have a win-win trading situation.

To be specific, the rest of the discussants alluded that Intra-Africa trade is only at 16 – 18%, 29 African state parties are ready to trade with each other as 87.3% of the tariff is already agreed on and trading documents are ready. With regards to youth inclusion, Dr. Halima Noor stated that the AfCFTA Secretariat had started organizing exchange programs for students to learn from other African countries, but Covid-19 put a halt to that.

During closing remarks, Ms. Makena Mwobobia renewed the call for youth to change their mindset and think like actors for Africa's economic transformation. Youths should know that they are better and try to improve themselves every day.

4. DAY 3 - YOUTH IN PEACE AND SECURITY - ARUSHA PEACE FORUM AND GENDER EQUALITY FORUM

The Third Day of the Forum featured two main sessions, the Arusha Peace Forum and the Gender Equality Forum.

4.1 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Moderator: Kazeneza Huguette
Regional Coordinator, YouLead Africa

The day began with a Presidential Address with opening remarks from Dr. Rhuks Temitope Ako, Senior Analyst, Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, African Union Commission. He briefed the delegates by highlighting that there are already existing legal and policy frameworks for prevention of conflict and maintenance of peace at national, regional and continental level. Nonetheless, to a greater extent, the young people are left out in the course of implementation. So far as young people are at the center of political and economic development, their immersion is significant.

He raised action points for resolution of the queries which included operationalization of policies to suit meaningful engagement of youth in conflict prevention, harmonization of conflicting policies and available laws to strike an equilibrium for practical implementation and initiation of more platform(s) for recognition of youth as key actors in matters pertaining to peace.



H.E Prosper Bazombanza, Vice President of the Republic of Burundi, who represented H.E Evarist Ndaishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi (Photo credits: UN Photo)

The Presidential Address was graced by the Vice President of the Republic of Burundi H.E Prosper Bazombanza who appeared in lieu of H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye. His address was grounded on the role of Youth in preventing conflicts and maintaining peace and security within the EAC region. He stated that demographic statistics, in-country, regionally and at the global level prove that youth form a majority of the world's population. This calls for a commendable

point that there must be means of engagement between young people and the older generation, for proper succession, in terms of leadership governance. The Republic of Burundi has had various divisions, conflicts and sub-divisions that curtailed the state's peace for quite some time. However, over years, the government has been able to change the perspectives for the better. His Excellency The Vice President called for the practicality of the vision that the peace and security structures has for young people, putting youth at the forefront of the peace and security agenda via Creation of job opportunities for them not to be pulled to conflict facilitation, Strengthening good governance and clean political environment, Increased focus on integrated crime management, and improving the EAC Youth peace Network (YouLead's initiative) to promote youth involvement in good governance, politics and conflict prevention.

4.2 UNDER 40 PEACE AND SECURITY FORUM

The Arusha Peace Forum was structured by two panels, with the first one analysing the extent to which young people are involved in conflict prevention, and the second one exploring the relevance of early warning and early response.



Maha Jouini, a delegate from Tunisia, shares her perspectives during the Arusha Peace Forum

4.2.1 PANEL #1 YOUNG PEOPLE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

The plenary sat for a discussion around Prevention and transformation of conflicts in Africa, with members of the East African Youth Peace Network setting the scene for the Peace and Security Forum.

Dr. Joseph Ryarasa Nkurunziza, Executive Director of Never Again Rwanda unwrapped the presentation by advancing that Country, regional and continental initiatives on peace and education should heed to helping young people contextualize the danger of violence and conflicts. Youth are trapped in conflicts/violent settings due to lack of jobs; promises made to them such as a stable economy are not or rarely realized. They should be therefore re-considered through critical training and sustainable programs with legit information and skills to help them grow economically and politically.

Other vibrant panelists included Graeme Simpson, Director of Interpeace USA and Senior Adviser to the Director-General of Interpeace, Malual Bol Kiir, Co-Founder of the African Youth Action Network, Gwendolyn Myers, Founder and Executive Director of Messengers of Peace, and Mohamed Edabbar, African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace. Action points raised from the plenary ranged along value-adding education to young people in peace and security matters. Young people must be equipped on AU Agenda 2063, UN Resolution 2250, and other relevant documents related to youth development and peace and security.

Mr. Malual Boor Kiir was of the opinion that more engagement of young people in conversations around peace and security is a necessity as a tool to assist youth victims of conflicts to get services such as formal education, business and vocational skills. Mr. Mohammed Edabbar insisted on actors to facilitate innovation and recreation ideas for young people's engagement in peace and security to promote better solutions for youth in conflict areas.



Graeme Simpson, Director of Interpeace USA and Senior Adviser to the Director-General of Interpeace, joined virtually to deliver remarks during discussions on Day Three - the Arusha Peace Forum. **(Photo credit: Shiho Fukada, Source Interpeace.org)**

Conclusively, key questions to inform appropriate policies for youth engagement in conflict prevention were asked, such as “what kind of support youth need in conflict prevention?” And “how can youth capitalize on the available opportunities, based on in-country perspectives?” Mr. Graeme Simpson, in response to the questions, quantified that efforts are necessary to unify continental youth determinations to address good governance and political stability, analysis of the role of regional integration in peace resolutions and practicability of the AU Silencing the guns theme in elevation of peace in Africa.

The first session close up was done in style by a Fireside Chat with Ambassador Fred Ngoga Gateretse, Head of the conflict prevention and early warning division, African Union. He expounded that Youth are changing the narratives and things in a different way. They rely much on social media, which may be the source of information and misinformation. In this regard, hate speech grows online and becomes harder to address.



Ambassador Fred Ngoga Gateretse, Head of the conflict prevention and early warning division, African Union **(Source - radiyoyacuvoa.com)**

He prioritized the creation of a conducive environment where young people come together to discuss the solutions. Military intervention is not enough, and efforts from every stakeholder in peace and security are a prerequisite.

Regional integration processes should add up efforts to secure peace agreements in countries that urgently need to settle the peace and security, avail resources that accompany the voluntary work of youth in peace. This extends to involving youth from initiatives to the implementation of peace and security programs, media and press freedom in the peace and security.

4.2.2 PANEL #2

Early warning and early response (EWER), the importance of youth participation in early warnings and early responses.

The plenary picked from the former session and continued the deliberations, this time, specifically on Early warning and early response (EWER), the importance of youth participation in early warnings and early responses.

Abled panelists included Zed Mkalla, Early warning expert and practitioner, Patrice Mulama, Senior Early Warning Expert at the East African

Community, Amb. Marora Sylvestre, Head of National Security Council in Burundi, and Anne Osamba, Chair of the East African Youth Peace Network.

The conversation sparked the essence for youth to understand the concept of early warning that builds on the benefits and incorporates the political and social economic aspects to tackle the aggressions before they escalate into conflicts. It's a process, early warning informs the most important mechanism that focuses on conflict prevention. There are a number of early warning mechanisms: it's a systematic collection of information and analysis of data to avoid the potential conflict to happen in a due imminence.

The panel further discussed online hate, how it is a source of conflict and how young people can shake the status quo and fight it adequately. On this aspect, Mr. Bill Marwa was of the view that young people must be able to assess the extent of the level of analysis of decent content and context before responding to issues on social media. Further there is a need to actualize the level of analytical capacity for coded languages



Anne Osamba (right), Chair of the East African Youth Peace Network, delivering remarks during the Arusha Peace Forum

and general social media engagements. Zed Makalla termed it to be an issue of self-responsibility and professionalism. Social media is youth oriented and global, allowing information to be spread fast and widely. Sharing of deceitful information should be therefore stiffly punished to eradicate online hate and violent extremism.

4.3 GENDER EQUALITY FORUM

Moderator: Diana Ninsiima, Country Director (Tanzania) Digital Opportunity Trust Time: 14.00-17.00

The opening remarks were delivered virtually by Elsie Masava, Youth Advocacy Advisor, She Leads Programme, Plan International. She expressed that Gender equality forms an imperative part of current discussions in the society. Focus should be extended to young people's involvement in political and economic advancement with nexus to equality in terms of male and female engagements. The Action coalition in the intergenerational equality attests to this requirement. She further laid emphasis on the gender equality accountability framework to deliver within its premises and Capitalization on the EAC's undying commitment to engage young people in the integration agenda, given their full potential.

Other discussants included, Nancy Baraza, Young woman Advocate and Laura Ba, Netherlands MFA Youth Ambassador - confirmed. Their articulation to the Gender Equality concern was to the extent that, In an African context, it has never been easy for a woman to rise to the decision making spaces, the narrative must be changed to build formal settlements for women to thrive. Young people should understand the context of gender equality and walk through available spaces to attain a balanced world.

The contributions from young women were followed by the keynote remarks session, which was opened by Ms Makena Mwobobia, MS TCDC Executive Director, who quoted from the words of the Great Leader, Mr. Kofi Annab relevant to this session; "Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance." Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, the EAC SG stressed further on the EACs commitment. He re-assured delegates that the conversations shall not end in vain, and would be mainstreamed and be used to inform crucial policy decisions.

KEYNOTE REMARKS: H.E JEANNETTE KAGAME (First Lady of Rwanda)

Her Excellency cultured the participants with a striking Swahili quote "The gift that womanhood offers to the community is the antithesis of enmity and death, and that is love and life. For a continent that has been scarred by centuries of oppression but bears the resilience of a drive to overcome, these are the energies that must be tapped into."



H.E. Jeanette Kagame, First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda, delivering the keynote address virtually, during the Gender Equality Forum

She further elucidated key interventions from her presentation that it is impossible to build a world without women being given space. Equality status, opportunities in the law, no matter how long they are being held, they must be justifiable at times. Indicators of how Africa is advancing in terms of gender equality and sensitivity are promising; to wit, since post 1994 Rwanda genocide, to be specific, the country and continent has been able to fight modern world history, inequality and the issue of being classified as second class citizens/people.

She insisted that women should be assisted to bear resilience and drive to overcome: gender equality should not be one-sided but for both genders. Achieving gender equality has a future for our community, mentioning in fact the role of the Imbuto Foundation and how it has capitalized on STEMs and ICT for young ladies.

Remarks from H.E Kassim Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic Tanzania followed suit. He began by expressing the commitment that H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan has for the thriving of young people in Tanzania and the region, and as well, the efforts put in place to facilitate the formulation of the Tanzania National Youth Council.

Further, he noted that young people should be ready to learn from their predecessors, to maintain commitment, work hard and capitalize on professionalism for development of the country and Africa in general. There is a huge relationship between gender equality and women in economic advancement in the African context, such growth indicators and trend lines are certain to indicate improvements in the quality of life and the African economy.

The high-level remarks were followed by the Intergenerational dialogues on the different thematics of the Action Coalitions blueprint thematics, with the aim of "Bringing Young

People Closer to the Action Coalitions Commitments towards the Achievement of Goal 5 (Agenda 2030) and Aspiration 6 (Agenda 2063)". The discussion addressed issues such as climate justice, gender-based violence, bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and technology and innovation for gender equality.



Rt. Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic Tanzania (left), listening to proceedings at the Gender Forum. He is flanked by Hon. John Mongella, Arusha Regional Commissioner

Discussants included Sara Mukasa, Deputy Director, Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa; Safina Virani, Director, Frauen Initiative Uganda; Sally Lariba, Programmes Manager, Women Aspire Network; Olivia Precious Livingstone, Community Mobilizer, Environmental Justice Foundation; Marwa Azelmat, Women's Rights Policy Advocacy Lead, Association for Progressive Communications; Maggie Mwape, South Africa Youth Forum Chair and Executive Director, Centre for Environmental Justice; and Christine Kwangari, Regional Gender Justice Advisor, Oxfam.

Key interventions during the deliberations included, among others;

- Support and creation of opportunities for young women;
- Governments should take responsibility by enabling freedom of choice, information access, giving young women decision making powers and allowing the youth to take up responsibilities;
- Address colonialism and neoliberalism by rejecting neo-liberal policies;
- Gathering support among women themselves;
- Deconstructing para dynamics, sexual Reproductive rights should be a priority;
- Implementation of policies that will advance gender equality like annual gender forums, and equal distribution of resources .

Closing Remarks were made by Dr. Mona Girgis, Plan International Director in Tanzania. She strongly called for accountability frameworks

to be implemented, to this extent Governments need to establish policies that address women’s needs in their different peculiarities. The remarks by Dr Mona Girgis marked the unveiling of the Lead(H)er Fellowship for Young Women in Eastern and Southern Africa, co-created with Plan International.

4.4 CULTURAL NIGHT

Delegates appeared nifty in their traditional attires, danced and exhibited cultural spurs. It was all fun! Team Rwanda won the fashion show by showcasing products made from Rwanda such as wine, sweets and biscuits, in fact, the dances and clothes won them the title. Vibrant closing remarks were completed by Ms Makena Mwobobia, Executive Director at MS-TCDC, and Ms. Sara Ezra Teri, Program Directors at MS-TCDC.



Snapshots from the Cultural Night, which showcased traditions and cultures from eight African Countries

5. DAY 4 DEVELOPMENT OF THE POST-SUMMIT AGENDA, 11 NOVEMBER 2021

5.1 Launch of the Youth Hub Arusha Moderator Catherine Mossi, Coordinator for Youth Hub Arusha Time 9.00-10.00

The day started with the launch of the Youth-Hub Arusha. Ms. Sarra Ezra Terri, the Programs Director at MS TCDC extrapolated that In the bid to reach more young people at community level, in addition to the YouLead Program, MS TCDC initiated the Youth Hub Arusha. The same is a youth-led and youth driven platform, aimed at facilitating social, experience-based youth centered solutions to youth challenges through building the capacity of young people, creating a platform for networking and becoming a repository for information and opportunities.



A section of delegates and partners from across Arusha, who participated in the launch of Youth Hub Arusha

Mr. Japhet Kurwa Majura, Youth Officer at the Office of the Regional Commissioner for Arusha asserted that the government is committed to provide support for youth, with focus on Economic Opportunities and Decent Work for Youth, Youth Participation in Leadership and Governance, Gender Equality and Feminist Leadership, Youth-led Action against Climate Change, Promotion of Healthy Living and Wellbeing as well as Sports, Arts and Culture. Hub partners including Voice of Youth Tanzania (VOYOTA), Vision for Youth, ICESA, UBUNTU and Comfy Care and young people are expected to shape and drive the agenda and undertake activities pertaining to community level solutions to youth challenges.

5.2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

At this juncture, distinct plenaries took place in different venues at MS TCDC. Stakeholders who ran the conversations were GIZ-EAC whose session (Young People and E-Commerce) analyzed the biggest capacity gaps that exist in e-commerce that prevent youths from increasing their uptake in remaining competitive and what can be done to remedy the situation. The EAC Youth Fellowship, the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation and YouLead Africa breakout session was grounded on identification of the gap, cause and effect for the lack of leadership for the Africa we want, The Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation carried out a co-creation session to inform the Fellowship.



Participants at the co-creation session for the East African Youth Fellowship, in collaboration with the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation and YouLead Africa

Young people suggested programs for the fellowship to be able to address the gap, such as practical training programs like ICT, mentorships and finally reduction of the costs for ease of formal and practical education.

5.3 POST-SUMMIT AGENDA

Facilitated by Ms Stella Agara, Strategic and Technical Advisor Partnerships, Global and Continental Engagements.

Delegates parted ways for reflecting on the outcomes of the Summit and developing country specific interventions and priorities.

In a nutshell, the post summit agenda informs the year-long undertakings of the participants (in-country basis), and YouLead's programs for the coming year.

Key interventions raised by the participants are structured appropriately to extract action points, implementation strategies and a work plan.

The 2021 post summit agenda is mainly focused on Youth in politics and Youth in business. Key interventions raised during the post summit agenda are here below expounded;

Reinventing Leadership for African Millennials		
Key Outcome	Key Intervention	Key Actions
1. Leadership Training and Development Program established at African level through interventions impacting on Values and Political Culture, Mindset Transformation and Accountability.	1.1. Define values and political culture that would enable youth leadership	<p>1.1.1: Consolidation of the East Africa Youth Manifesto, launched during YouLead Summit 2021</p> <p>1.1.2 Establish the EAC Youth Fellowship to enhance skills and competence of youth to address their challenges at both EAC and Africa levels.</p>
	1.2. Mentor East African Youth Leaders on how to offer leadership to accountability processes.	<p>1.2.1. Create awareness on existing policies to different clusters of youth to create incentives and enhance the capacity of young people to be able to meaningfully engage in policy processes.</p> <p>1.2.2. Enhance the consciousness of youth on the importance of their participation in policy making processes.</p> <p>1.2.3. Create platforms for more young people to participate in policy making processes</p> <p>1.2.4. Operationalize A Performance Peer Review Mechanism for elected Youth Leaders to assess progress on their commitments, deepen their cooperation and partnerships</p> <p>1.2.5. Establishment of a framework of the East African young parliamentarians Forum</p>

Reinventing Leadership for African Millennials		
Key Outcome	Key Intervention	Key Actions
	1.3. Amplify young women's voices in East Africa's Governance Conversations	<p>1.3.1. Advocate for the development of policies and laws that are gender sensitive and inclusive of young people with disability.</p> <p>1.3.2. Create platforms for more young women to participate in policy making processes.</p> <p>1.3.3. Grassroot level sensitization on gender sensitive policies and inclusivity of people with different abilities in policy making and implementation</p>
	1.4. EAC Youth Participation in Election Observation Missions	<p>1.4.1. Conduct trainings on election observation targeting the YouLead Network.</p> <p>1.4.2. Facilitate youth election observation in the two upcoming elections in EAC.</p> <p>1.4.3. Convene a learning, debrief and reporting session.</p>
	1.5. Scaling Up "Tubonge"	<p>1.5.1. Develop profile and a database of all parliamentarians under the age of 35 in the region.</p> <p>1.5.2. Organize East Africa Tubonge talks involving a mix of these parliamentarians.</p> <p>1.5.3. Establishment of a framework of the East African young parliamentarians Forum, as a result of 2021 Tubonge held during YouLead Summit 2021</p>

Reinventing Leadership for African Millennials		
Key Outcome	Key Intervention	Key Actions
2. Youth Participation and Inclusion in Policy Making enhanced through expansion of spaces for inclusion, development of young people's capacity to participate in policy making processes and addressing the gender gaps	2.1 Advocate for affirmative action for youth inclusion in policy making processes	<p>2.1.1. Collaborate with EAC Partner States and make concerted efforts to ensure at least 30% of youth representation in major decision-making structures such as parliament and local councils, mindful of gender equality.</p> <p>2.1.2. EAC Partner States should ensure at least 10% representation of youth within the leadership structures of political parties mindful of gender equality.</p> <p>2.1.3. YouLead network should lobby and advocate for the reduction of age limit for elective positions so as to open spaces for the youth to occupy leadership positions in governance.</p>
	2.2. Restructuring our youth policies and councils to be more responsive to youth	<p>2.2.1. Convene an East Africa Youth Councils Association.</p> <p>2.2.2. Facilitate a process for the NYCs to do a peer review of the individual National Youth Council legislation and structures and make recommendations to National Governments on what best practices to adopt from the review.</p> <p>2.2.3. Establish a networking and solidarity mechanism for NYCs and the EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform (EACYAP) to work together to advance the interests of youth in the EAC.</p>

Reinventing Leadership for African Millennials		
Key Outcome	Key Intervention	Key Actions
		<p>2.2.4. Engage in joint advocacy for the Decolonization of our education systems, health and politics, by the member states</p> <p>2.2.5 Advocate for the inclusion of digitalisation, its impact and challenges within youth policies</p>
Youth at the Centre of Peace Building and Conflict Prevention		
<p>3. A dedicated East Africa network of youth-led or youth serving organizations working in peace building and conflict resolution is established.</p>	<p>3.1. Institutionalise and support the coordination of the East Africa Youth Peace Network for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building.</p>	<p>3.1.1. Ready to dare campaigns: profiling of young peace champions across the region to enhance information sharing of peacebuilding efforts facilitated by youth.</p> <p>3.1.2. Facilitate the work and advocacy of the East Africa Youth Network for Peace</p>
<p>4. Youth are included in reconciliation, mediation and arbitration policies in peacebuilding and conflict resolution at early stages</p>	<p>4.1. Capacity building for Young PeaceBuilders on Reconciliation, Mediation and Arbitration.</p>	<p>4.1.1. Conduct trainings on Reconciliation, Mediation and Arbitration</p> <p>4.1.2. Advocate for the inclusion of youth in mediation and arbitration assignments.</p>
<p>5. Youth awareness of existing frameworks and entry points for involvement in conflict prevention</p>	<p>5.1. Peer to peer roundtable conversation for experience sharing on the implementation of peace and conflict resolution mechanisms</p>	<p>5.1.1. Organize learning forums/ webinars for youth to learn on the existing frameworks for conflict prevention and entry points for their involvement.</p> <p>5.1.2. Organize learning forums/ webinars for youth to learn on online hate and brainstorm on the impact of the same in member states and in the region.</p>

Reinventing Leadership for African Millennials		
Key Outcome	Key Intervention	Key Actions
	5.2. Peacebuilding advocacy training for youth in the region	5.2.1. Conduct training of the East Africa Youth Peace Network on advocacy.
	5.3. Capacity Building for Youth on Implementation of UNSCR 2250	5.3.1. Conduct Training of the East Africa Youth Peace Network on UNSCR 2250.
Accelerating Gender Equality and Young Women's Participation		
6. Young women are included and positioned to support the implementation of the Action Coalition blueprint	6.1. Capacity building and advocacy for young women's participation in the Action Coalitions blueprint implementation	<p>6.1.1. Conduct a Study to assess the implementation of the Action Coalitions blueprint within the African countries leading the process, and the extent to which young women are aware and involved in the process</p> <p>6.1.2. Convene a series of webinars and intergenerational discussions with elders and young women to position young women in the implementation of the Action Coalitions Commitments.</p> <p>6.1.3. Support in the development of an accountability system to ensure successful implementation and achievement of the goals set forth by the Action Coalitions blueprint</p>
7. Young women are capacitated and empowered through gender-sensitive approaches to take up leadership positions, and increase their participation in business and peace and security	7.1. Gender mainstreaming across YouLead pillars of work	7.1.1. Support the initiatives within YouLead pillars of work to ensure gender sensitivity and ensure greater impact on young women's empowerment.

Reinventing Leadership for African Millennials		
Key Outcome	Key Intervention	Key Actions
		7.1.2. Support young women through the Lead(H)er fellowship in the tracks of politics, business and peace and security. The fellowship will target young women in Eastern and Southern Africa
Accelerating Economic Opportunities and Decent Work for Youth		
8. Opportunities created for Youth participation in defining how best the legal and policy instruments enabling cross border trade and regional enterprise can be fully implemented for the benefit of the youth businesses in the continent.	8.1. Supporting Youth-led small, medium enterprises, through capacity building and skill enhancement for youth.	8.1.1. Bi-Quarterly online exhibitions for young CEOs, entrepreneurs, innovators and different stakeholders, to showcase their business ideas
	8.2. Expanding and nurturing the work on AfCFTA Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project	8.2.1. Develop and disseminate policy briefs inspired by the work and studies conducted by YouLead, as part of the AfCFTA Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project. 8.2.2. Capacitate and support the Independent Continental Youth Advisory Council on AfCFTA
	8.3. Advocate for Tax relief for youth-led businesses	8.3.1. Develop a policy brief on the tax burden on youth led businesses 8.3.2. Design a campaign targeting governments on tax relief for youth led businesses 8.3.3. Document the impact of tax relief offered on youth led businesses

Reinventing Leadership for African Millennials

Key Outcome	Key Intervention	Key Actions
<p>9. Opportunities created for an African narrative on the most pressing African issues that require regions, continental and global policy attention and financial investment.</p>	<p>9.1. Development of an E-commerce platform aimed at bridging the gap between rural and urban youth, to allow for more rural youth to access various opportunities.</p>	<p>9.1.1. Collaborate with young innovators in designing an E-Commerce platform that provides access to rural youth to market opportunities in the East Africa Community.</p> <p>9.1.2. Launch of the Youth Employability Skills (YES) Passport for both formal and informal sector</p>
	<p>9.2. Development of Training programs especially in digital and e-commerce.</p>	<p>9.2.1. Coach entrepreneurs through a process of rethinking their business model, products and creating new supply chains.</p> <p>9.2.2. Develop mechanisms to eliminate middlemen and connect youth to end users</p> <p>9.2.3. Mentor young people in business on values, discipline, growth and productivity.</p> <p>9.2.4. "Company Meet Campus" Consistent development of skilled labour, linking innovation to industrial production as well as investment</p>

In line with the discussed post summit agenda activities/the Arusha plan of action, in-country specific deliberations were held, with the participants for the AfCFTA Bootcamp holding a discrete discussion on how they will take ahead the action points arising therefrom and be at the frontline of AfCFTA implementation. In a session Co-facilitated by Moses Kanyeigye, Sara Ezra Teri, and Ivan Atuyambe together with AfCFTA Secretariat Representatives; Mr. Paul Okech, Special Assistant to the AfCFTA Secretary General and Dr Talkmore Chidede, Technical Advisor on Trade, and Investment, the following were resolved;

- An annual Boot Camp on the AfCFTA would go a long way in sustaining the gains of the maiden session. In this respect, a proposition has been made for the creation of a summer school during which more young people are brought into the fold of the free trade agreement.
- Increased funding for desk at the AfCFTA Secretariat and related processes since this inaugural effort has proved to be a roaring success, with potential for even more outcomes.
- Creation of the Youth Desk to handle matters pertaining to youth insofar as trade facilitation is concerned.
- A mandate given and backed by the Secretary General to the youth around advancing the sensitization and awareness creation of matters related to free trade amongst the community of African states.
- Establishment of an AfCFTA monthly journal through which free trade related discourse continues and ropes in young people from other countries and spaces that are not necessarily connected to established networks such as the SADC Youth Forum.
- Regularisation of debate sessions for young people so that engagement in trade/commerce related discourse is sustained beyond the Bootcamp and Summit.
- Deliberate effort should be made to involve and engage target populations that are directly involved in business—with examples like labour unions, trade associations, professional bodies, agribusiness actors.
- Government ministries, departments, authorities, and the development community need to be made aware of the existence of the AfCFTA so that they are abreast with the interests of the business community.
- Provision of technical support to young people in the domains of proposal writing/development so that they are able to solicit funding for ideas and initiatives they may have.
- It would be a great initiative to support young people to freely move goods and services across borders through actual policy/legal interventions such as protections for young traders, young business owners, fabricators, manufacturers, and processors.
- Advocate legal reform processes for domestic/national legislation to ensure harmony with the AfCFTA.
- The loss of memory, because of the transient nature of young people, a Youth Inclusion Index would help with tracking the extent to which they are involved by state and non-state actors in trade facilitation processes.
- Establishment of a directory for small and medium enterprises that links different traders and actors in intra-African commerce.
- The case for simplifying the AfCFTA into popular versions was made. This will resolve the challenge of information asymmetry especially as it relates to the legalistic format in which trade agreements are written.

Key actors on the alignment are young people in business, AfCFTA Independent Advisory Council, YouLead Secretariat, AfCFTA Secretariat and governments.

6. DAY 5 – EAST AFRICA TUBONGE

12 November 2021

The session began with a knowledge address on the state of affairs of youth political representation aimed at analyzing the current East African situation with regards to youth leadership and the challenges faced by aspirants and youth leaders in projecting and implementing the youth agenda.

Opening Remarks by Mr. Ivan Atuyambe, YouLead Africa Director and Head of the Leadership and Governance Academy (MS TCDC) introduced the Tubonge session as a very important session for YouLead summit because it gives the delegates an opportunity to challenge how democracy delivers for young people in Africa. He insisted that the essence of the session is to foster dialogue between parliamentary youth representatives and the delegates to discuss the outcomes of the summit and agree on national and regional policy level commitments from legislators.

Hon. Josephine Lemoyan, AG Speaker of EALA gave opening remarks in lieu of Rt. Hon. Martin Ngoga, Speaker of East African Legislative Assembly on the Role of Young People in Legislative Processes in the EAC and ways to increase their meaningful participation in EAC policy processes. She said that The EAC is undertaking various initiatives to engage young people in pertinent discussions, taking into account the processes to constitute the framework to transform to the integration towards political federation.



Hon. Josephine Lemoyan, AG Speaker of East African Legislative Assembly delivering remarks at the start of East Africa Tubonge

Most importantly, the Assembly is pushing to expedite the youth council bill. Youths will be fully engaged and the feedback delivered to that effect. In a similar move, EALA is pushing for the establishment of the Youth Council of Tanzania.



Members of Parliament from the Republic of South Sudan, following proceedings during the East Africa Tubonge session.

The plenary session kicked off with Mr. Jacob Eyeru, Chairperson NYC – Uganda, delivering his remarks, he clearly opined that one of the ways young people participate in democracy is to elect their representatives. Tubonge session's expectation on his part, was to see how the MPs make their representation qualitative, more than it is quantitative. It is the responsibility of youth leaders to cover all aspects affecting the youths. They should use the collaborative forces sited at the policy-making tables to make innovators work easier and extend resources accessibility. He stressed on the need to have an accountability mechanism for youth leaders starting with the National Youth Councils.

Odiema Edson – (Delegate from Uganda), challenged youth leaders to acknowledge they are representing thousands of youths in the community in decision making. He posed the responsibility on them to make youths aware of matters affecting them and the findings from the summit discussions. On SDGs, Mr. Odiema was of the view that young people should be at

the forefront of championing its achievement as it is vital for development.



Hon. Nyayang' Lok Riek, Member of Parliament from South Sudan, shares her leadership experiences with delegates during the East Africa Tubonge

Hon. Okot Boniface, Youth Member of the Parliament Northern Region Uganda, held the view that it is useless for the youths to hold youth positions and they are not advocating for anything for the youth. A lot has been shared in the time of the summit, the agenda will be utilized to pick their issues and place them before the floor of Parliament for action. There is a need to look at the policies for the young people and confirm if they are working and ask ourselves if the budgetary allocation is reflective of the youth agenda.

The discussion noted that youth are being groomed to take up representation in parliament to advocate for their issues. Generally, imperative

suggestions were that countries should bridge the capacity building gap for young people to enable them contest in large numbers. Key outcomes of the East Africa Tubonge Session included the commitment by parliamentarians to supporting and actively participating in the implementation of the outcomes of the summit both at country and regional levels. Further, accession was extended to form an "EAC Parliamentary Forum on youth affairs" with immediate effect. The YouLead Secretariat was requested to think through and support parliamentarians in developing such an initiative and mobilizing partnerships required for its success.

7. SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Before and during the week, we were delighted to see engagements from the youth who had the opportunity to attend the YouLead21 summit. Through social media, youth and actors from all across Africa picked up on our hashtag #YouLead21 and began conversations.

The platforms for social media engagement were Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook, the turnout, in terms of percentage, number and insights was as follows;

Twitter, Posts reach 1.6m (63%), Post engagement 153.2K (73%), new page likes was at 4,616(36%).

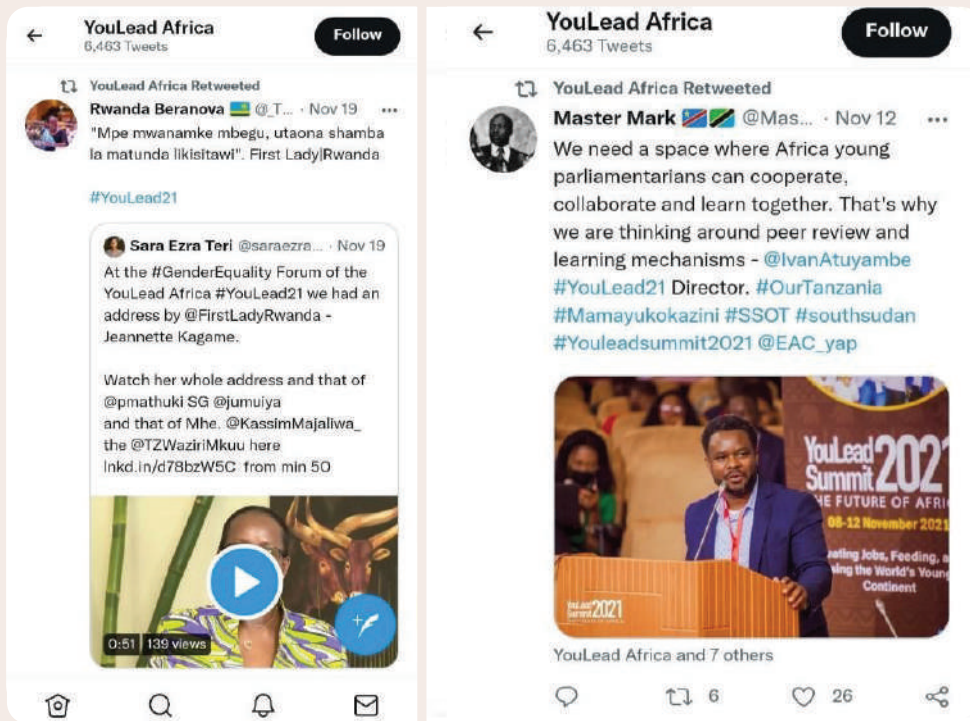


Image: A glimpse of amongst the multiple thoughts pooled through Twitter during #YouLead21

Facebook page insights were at 1.6m page reach, 16k views, responses were at 8,143, new page likes were 4,616, and new followers were at 4,924.

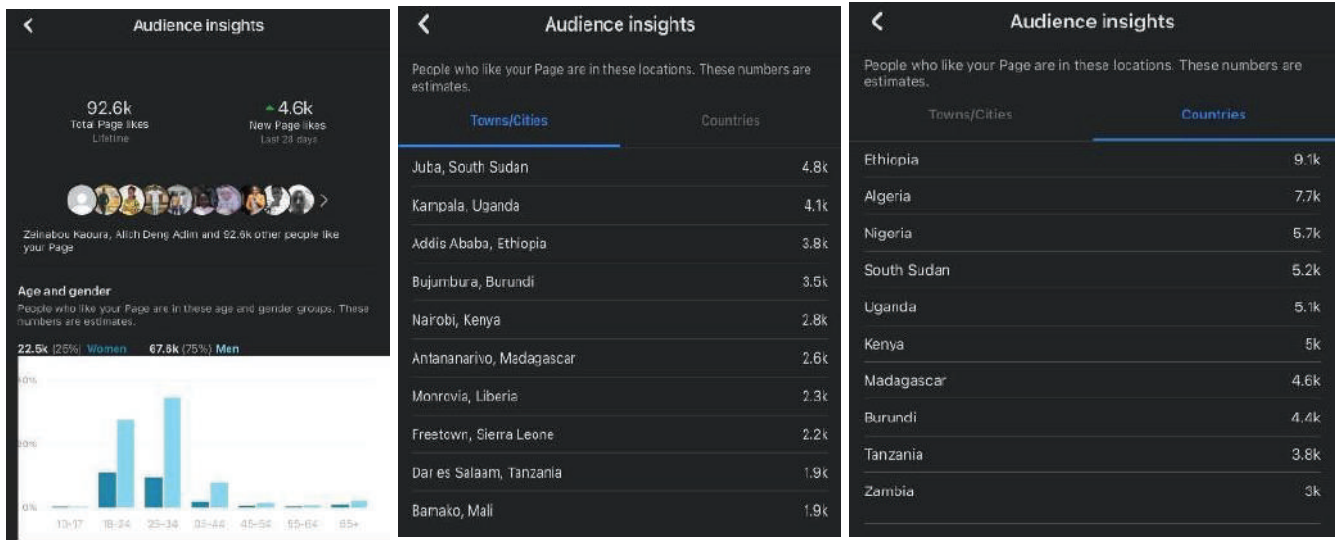


Image: Facebook, the Africa-wide online engagement, #YouLead21 going Africa.

LinkedIn, the content highlights were; 15,334 impressions, engagement rate was at 8.06%

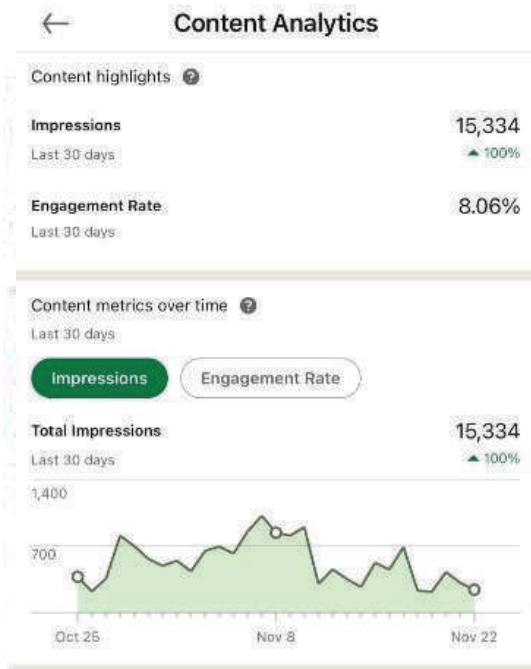


Image: Content Analytics for LinkedIn Platform.

Instagram, the insights overview was at 8156 accounts reached, 992 engaged accounts

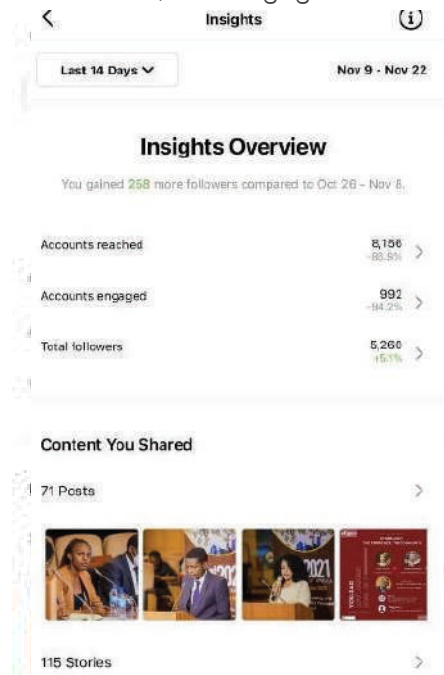


Image: Instagram engagement insight.

8. THE WAY FORWARD

The YouLead Secretariat extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Africa-wide population of young people who vigorously participated virtually and physically during the summit. In its entirety, the YouLead Summit 2021 was made possible by the support of key partners who rendered technical and financial assistance.

Conversant of the proposition for transitioning to a forum; the call by the patron and EAC Secretary General to rename the YouLead summit from “YouLead summit” to “YouLead forum” was revisited. Upon follow up discussion mainly by delegates and other partners, majority have suggested that this matter be subjected to further consultations pending implementation, as there seemed to be a lack of leveled clarity and understanding of how the YouLead currently operates as a program, and that since the nexus between the program and the summit are already established, there may not be necessity for changing or renaming.

Going Africa; the continental level experience. The YouLead Secretariat acknowledged the challenge that delegates from other parts of the continent, other than East Africa felt overlooked, especially those that attended the AfCFTA Bootcamp. The transition to an Africa-wide enterprise and concrete inclusion of everyone is paramount and the challenge will be worked on accordingly. The same applies to the virtual delegates, who, in essence, needed more engagement to be kept active throughout the summit.

9. ANNEX

1. VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE ANALYTICS [YOULEAD SUMMIT21]

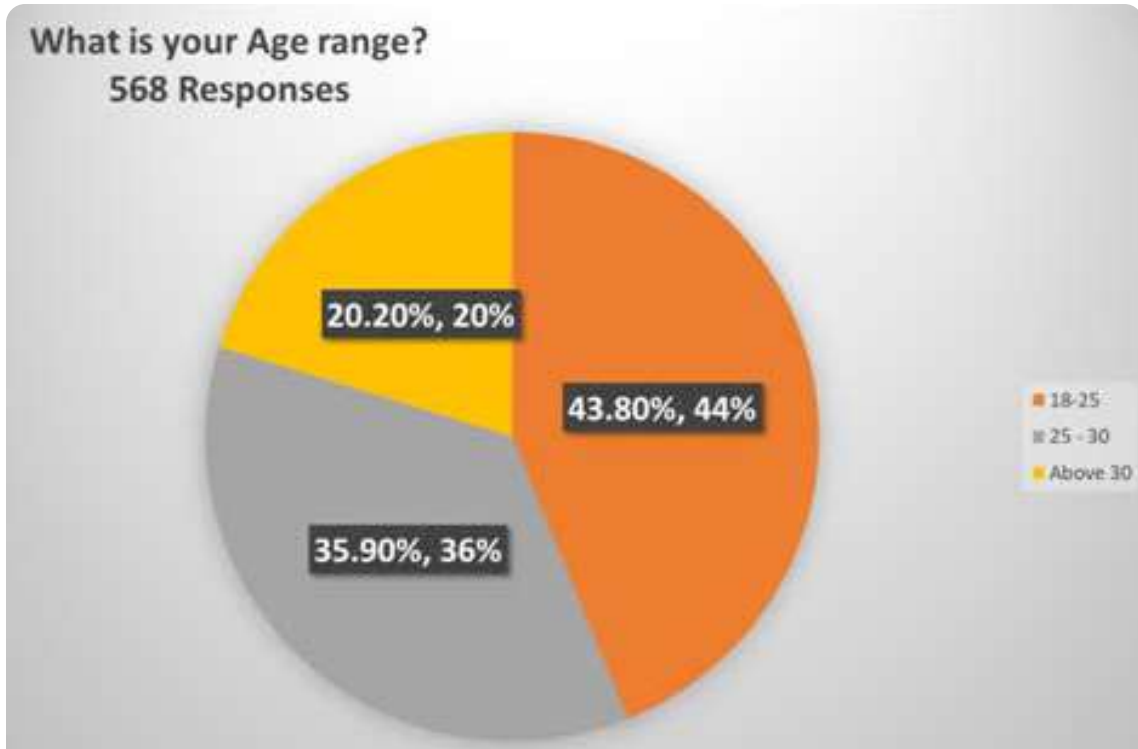
	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
ZOOM	2000	1500	800	GIZ Workshop-200 Action Lab Workshop- 210	400
FACEBOOK	3611	1800	1305		2003
YOUTUBE	288	200	200		100
TOTAL	5899	3500	2305	410	2503

10. YOULEAD21 SUMMIT SURVEY & IMPRESSIONS

Summary

We had 568 delegates respond to the summit evaluation survey and it was a blend of physical and virtual. All the survey questions were answered and below are the delegate's responses presented statistically.

Question: 1



Question: 2

What is your country of Origin?

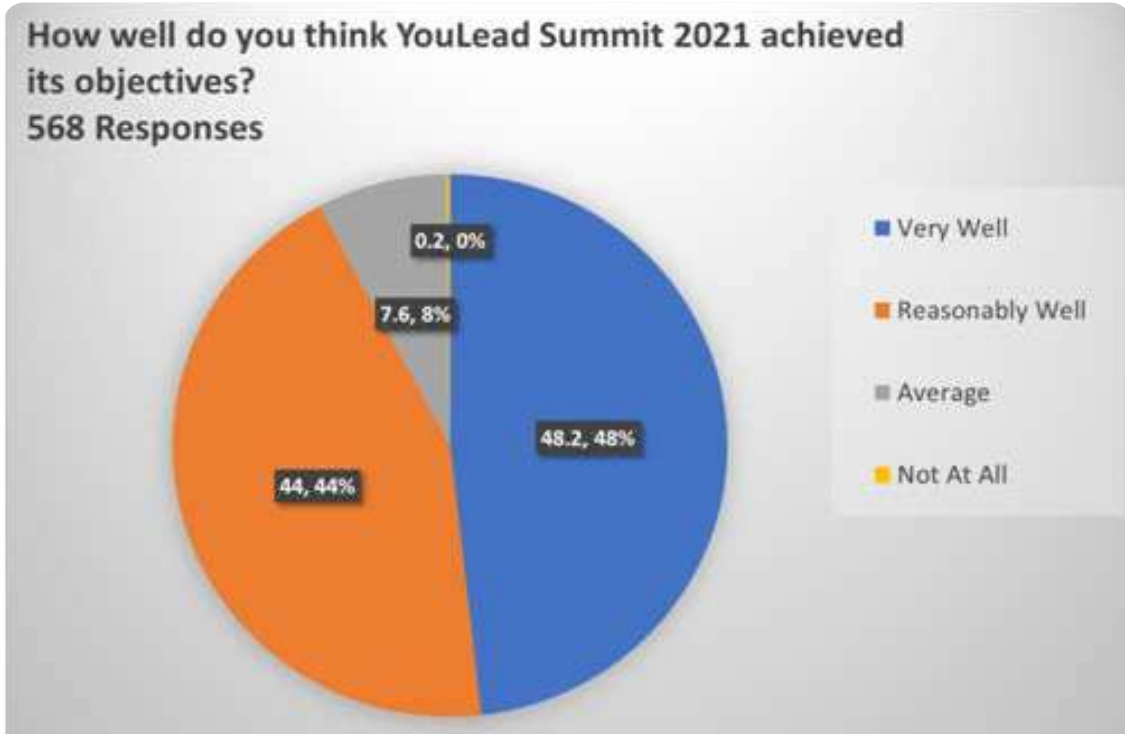
The summit survey was responded to by delegates from 38 African Countries, 2 Asian Countries and 1 European Country;

Africa

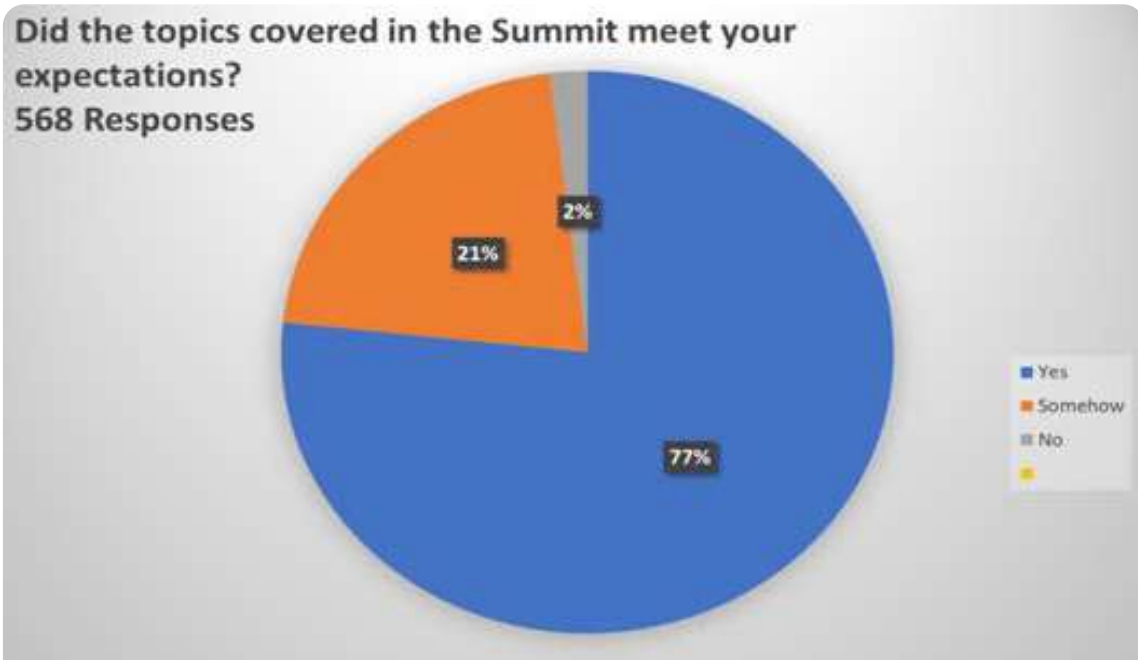
Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Gambia, TOGO, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Asia: Bangladesh, India. **Europe:** Netherlands

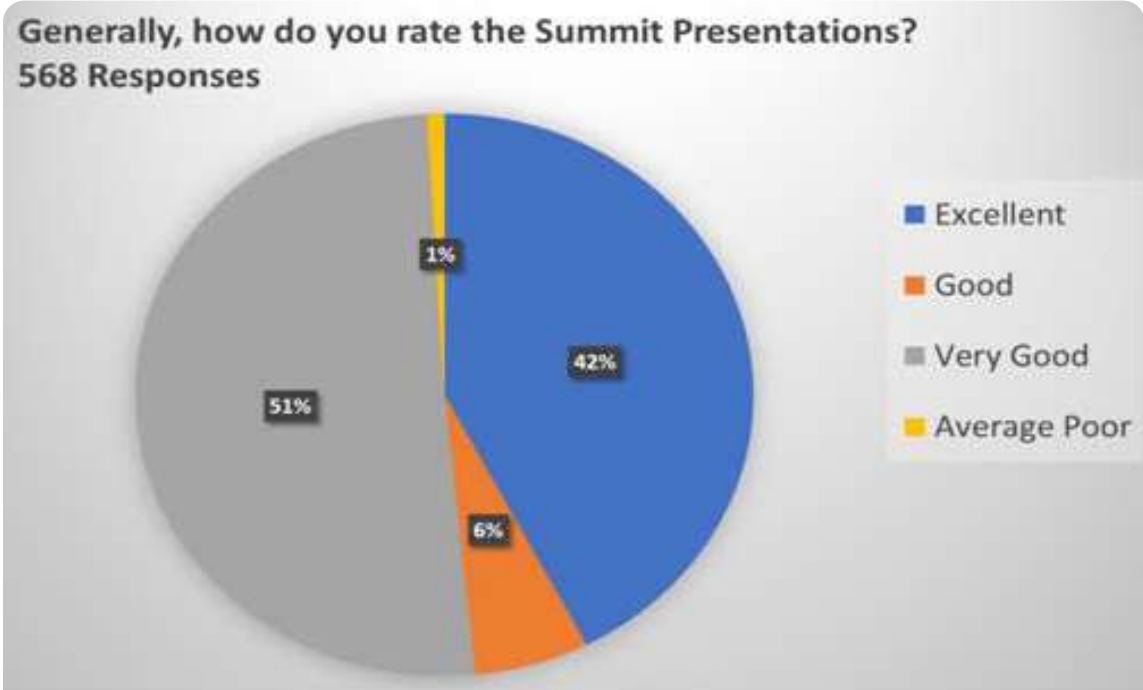
Question: 3



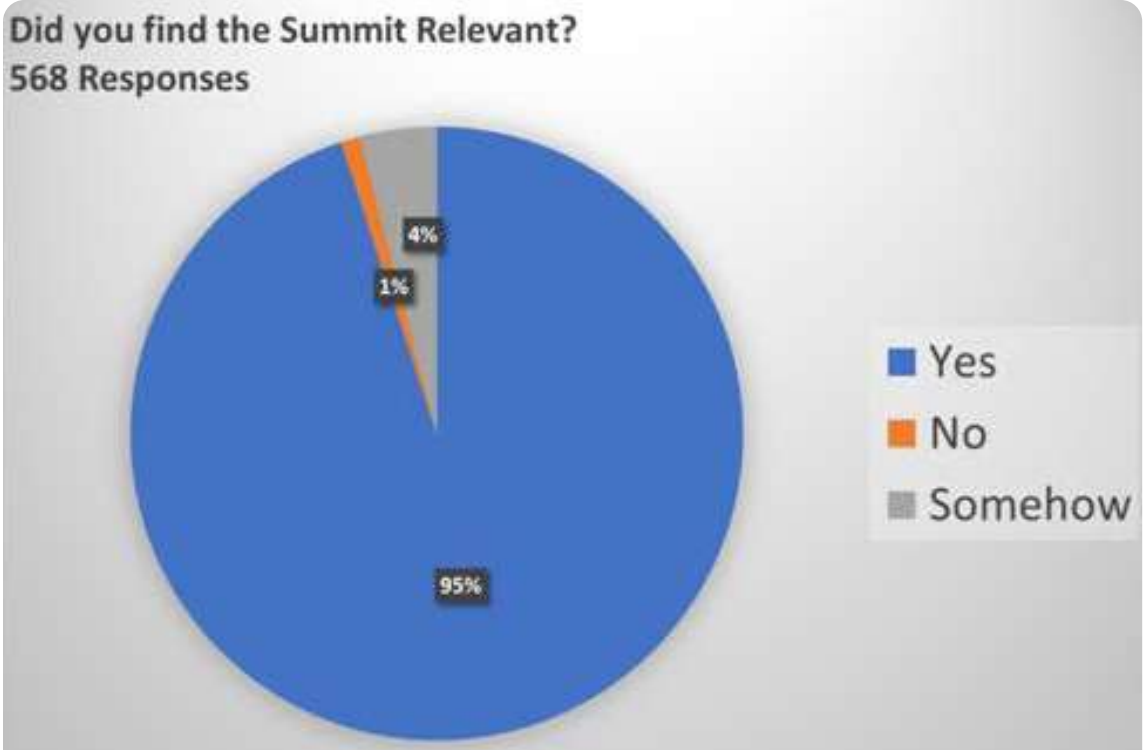
Question: 4



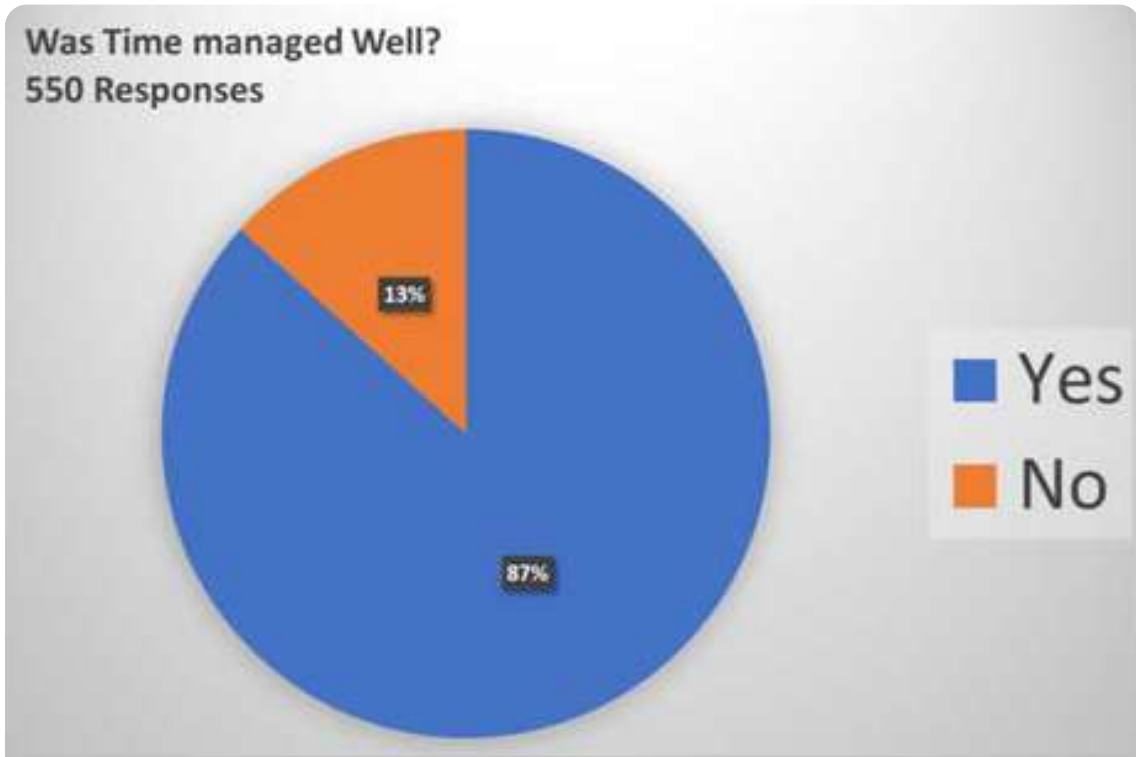
Question: 5



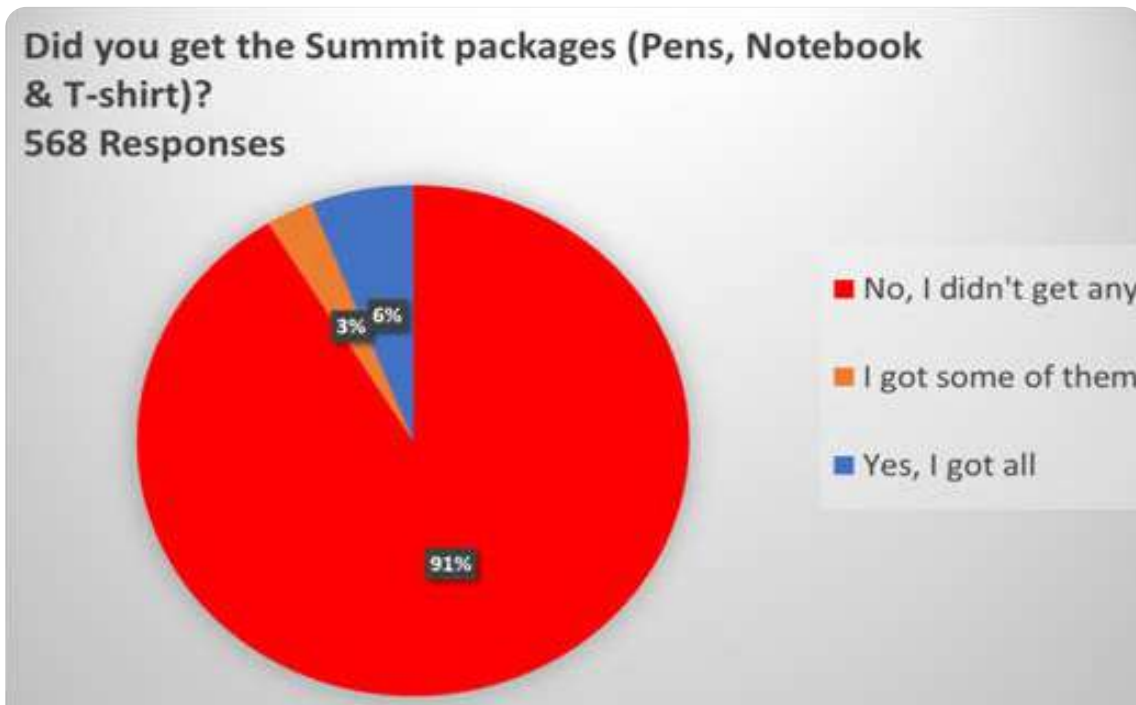
Question: 6



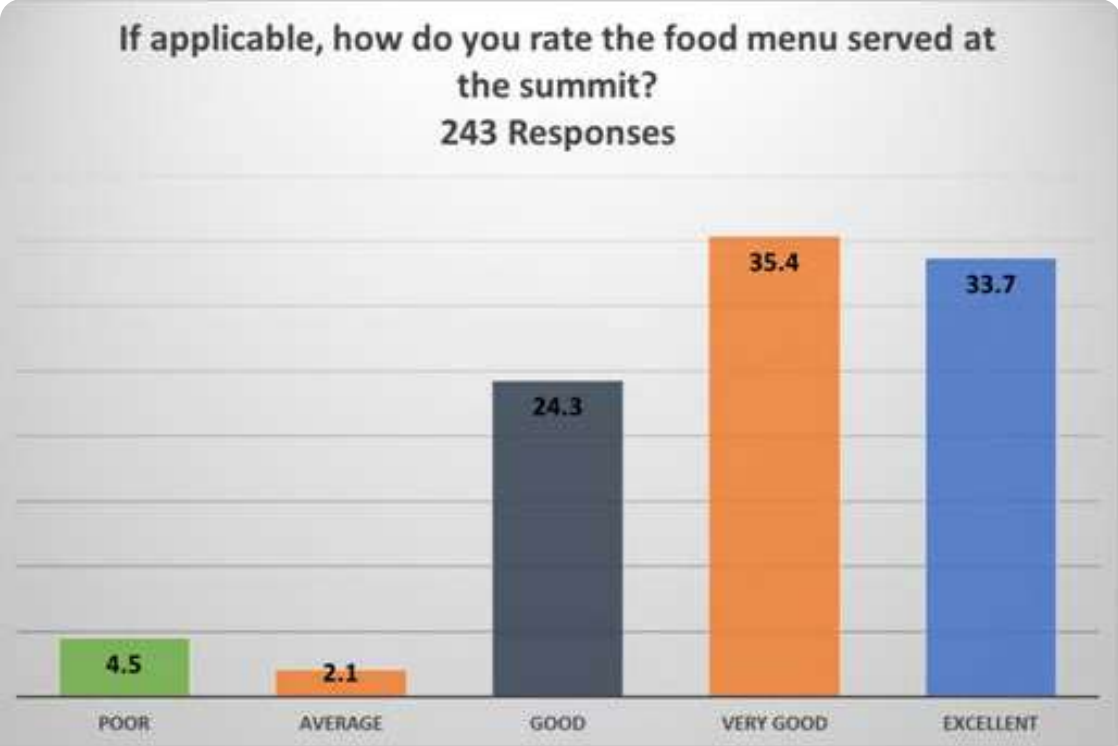
Question: 7



Question: 8



Question: 9



CONCLUSION

We received positive feedback from nearly all the survey questions apart from question eight where 91% of the delegates said that they had not received summit packages. What also came out clearly was that we had more Male respondents compared to Female respondents as reflected in question three. But in general, delegates found the summit relevant and a few suggestions to better the summit raised in the survey will be considered.



EDITORIAL TEAM

Rapporteurs

Mercy Awino

Annita Komugisha

Jean Claude Mugisha

Haynayat Jeneby

Ruth Ogolla

Tony Mihigo

Lead Rapporteur

Juma E. Erassy

Report illustration

Emmanuel Walusimbi

Editorial supervision

Sodfa Daaji & Ivan Atuyambe

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