



...creating the Africa we want



CALL TO ACTION AND OUTCOME STATEMENT

of the 5th African Youth
SDGs Summit held in Lusaka,
Zambia from 15-17 August 2023.



PREAMBLE

We, the participants of the African Youth SDGs Summit, convened in Mulungushi International Conference Centre, Lusaka, Zambia, from August 15 to 17, 2023, recognizing the urgent need to accelerate progress towards the attainment of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Acknowledging the interconnectedness of our aspirations with various national, continental and global policy frameworks, including the African Union's Agenda 2063, Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and West & Central Africa Commitments (WCA) towards Educated, Healthy and Thriving adolescents and young people, together within the frameworks of regional bodies including AMU, CEN-SAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC.

Reaffirming our commitment to active participation, collaboration, innovation, and action to catalyse transformative change across Africa and the world;

Recall and draw inspiration from:



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all, highlighting the importance of youth empowerment and participation in achieving the SDGs.



Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want: The African Union's strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent, aiming to achieve a prosperous, integrated, and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and capable institutions.



The Paris Agreement on Climate Change: Our commitment to addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development, recognizing the need for adaptation and resilience-building efforts in the face of environmental challenges.



The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Our dedication to reducing the impact of disasters and enhancing resilience at the local, national, and regional levels.

05

The African Youth Charter: A framework for fostering the participation, development, and empowerment of young people across the continent, ensuring their voices are heard in matters that affect their future.

06

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda: Our understanding of the importance of financing for sustainable development and the role of partnerships in supporting our collective efforts.

07

The Declaration of the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent: Our recognition of the need to address the challenges faced by people of African descent in promoting and protecting their rights and dignity.

08

The New Urban Agenda: Our commitment to creating inclusive, sustainable, and resilient cities that can serve as hubs for innovation, economic growth, and social progress.

09

African Continental Free Trade Agreement: Our resolve to implement the AfCFTA, the world's largest free trade area bringing together the 55 countries of the African Union (AU) and eight (8) Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

10

The Free Movement of Persons Protocol: Our commitment to Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment (AU Free Movement Protocol) adopted in 2018.

OUTCOMES OF THE 5TH AFRICAN YOUTH SDGS SUMMIT

We, the dynamic youth of Africa, gathered at the esteemed Kenneth Kaunda Conference Center for the 5th African Youth SDGs Summit, profoundly aware of the commitments voiced by our governments at various echelons in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Guided by our fervent commitment to the ideals of the African Union's Agenda 2063, along with the steadfast regional commitments within the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and West and Central Africa (WCA) frameworks, dedicated to nurturing empowered and thriving youth across the continent; Recognizing that Africa's march towards SDG attainment is intricately woven with domestic actions; Hereby enunciate and adopt the ensuing declarations as the distinguished outcomes of the 5th African Youth SDGs Summit:



AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

01

Strongly demand the formulation of a specific SDG addressing youth-related issues beyond 2030 to ensure sustained focus on our needs and aspirations.

02

Call for the prioritization and rationalization of the SDGs and its targets to fit the African context.

03

Call for the strengthening of regulatory frameworks in Africa to take advantage of corporate social responsibilities (CSR) of multinational cooperations to finance the implementation of SDGs.

04

Urge member states to ratify and implement the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment and The Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to enhance free movement of persons, labor, and services and provide for the right of establishment of youth innovations in the achievement of the SDGs.

05

Urge African Union Member States to promote Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus to create environments for the realization of youth innovations.

06

Urge African countries to mobilize resources internally to finance the implementation of the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063.

07

Charge African youth to initiate innovations targeting the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063

08

Call on governments to earnestly domesticate regional commitments such as the ESA and WCA commitments to deliver on quality Education and Comprehensive health services including sexual and reproductive health education; mental health or psychosocial support into school-based curriculum and out-of-school based curricular and interventions and allocate health facilities that provide youth-friendly comprehensive SRH services to adolescent and young people.

09

Call upon national governments and development partners to ensure youth are not only heard but understood; not only engaged but empowered; not supporting but leading the efforts, as equal partners, to achieve SDGs.

10

Further, call upon national governments in Africa to develop, implement and monitor self-reliant policies, legislation, projects, and programs to ensure sustainable financing, development, and youth innovation.

11

Urges African national governments to prioritize and invest in quality and skills-based education in attaining SDG 4.

12

Urge all concerned bodies to ensure the full, effective and meaningful participation of girls and adolescent girls, and other marginalized groups, in decision-making processes at all levels, including in the design, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programs that affect their lives.

13

Call on member states to establish robust accountability mechanisms that ensure that governments are held responsible for their commitments to promote the rights of girls and achieve the SDGs, including regular reporting and review processes at the national, regional and global level.

14

Urge the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to strengthen monitoring systems to ensure that at a minimum, gender and age-disaggregated data is available and used to inform action policies and programs that promote the rights of girls and achieve the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063 Goals.

15

Call on AU Member States to adopt a gender transformative and age responsive approach to all action policies and programmes that priorities the needs and rights of adolescent girls, particularly those most at risk of being left behind.

16

Further call for the restructuring of systems and frameworks to improve work conditions of the youth in harnessing the demographic dividend.

17

Call upon African countries to put young people at the center of policy making through stakeholder engagement, mainstreaming youth issues along SDGs and AU Agenda 2063.

18

Call upon the UN, AU, NGOs, CSOs, governments, and all other stakeholders to ensure no action is taken to implement the SDGs and Agenda 2063 Goals is detrimental to the rights of the Child.



AFRICAN UNION (AU) AND REGIONAL BODIES

01

Call for the inclusion of youth in international summits and panels to ensure inclusive discussions, commitments, and solutions to development challenges.

02

Call on the intergovernmental bodies to prioritize African realities and perspectives in climate change discussions as well as budgeting and expenditure to suit African climate challenges.

03

Call for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all sectors and stages of decision making and policy formulation.

04

Call for robust multi-stakeholder collaborations and partnerships among national governments, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in pursuit of SDGs 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

05

Urge African governments to prioritize Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), accessible reproductive health services, and robust measures to combat gender-based violence (GBV). These essential provisions ensure youth empowerment, gender equality, and equitable development, aligning with SDG objectives for a prosperous and sustainable Africa.

06

We ask that all committed stakeholders provide More training and funding opportunities that are gender specific and provide necessary training for Girls and Young Women (GYW) entrepreneurs as we believe it is necessary to encourage girls and young women to take part in creative ways to solve the different problems of their communities through socially positive and profitable entrepreneurship. It is also important to encourage young girls to take active charge of their financial future and work towards breaking cultural and social boundaries.

07

We demand adequate representation of girls and young women in all decision-making spaces of the government. We must ensure the proactive participation of girls and young women in policy-making to effectively utilize youth power in the work to eradicate poverty.

08

Achieving sustainable agricultural practices is crucial to achieving food security in Africa. With women playing the central role in food production and management in the families working towards providing resources in terms of knowledge, technology, and business network will help create a community-level self-sustainability.

09

As GYWs are the first affected by food insecurity in their family it is crucial to provide training in green skills helpful in combat the effects of climate change and global warming in agriculture.

10

We ask that all relevant stakeholders provide not only training but also ensure immediate access to research, policies, and relevant information GYW requires as they engage in agricultural work.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

01

Call for the strengthening of regulatory frameworks in Africa to take advantage of corporate social responsibilities (CSR) of multinational cooperations to finance the implementation of SDGs.

02

Call for building efficient and functional labor markets which support innovation in employment and job promotion for nationals and migrant workers in the region.

03

Call on development fund institutions within member states to allocate resources and funding to support youth-led innovations to facilitate the achievement of SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

04

Call on governments, international organizations, private sector, and civil society organizations to prioritize capacity building accelerated programs targeting the youth

05

Engage the youth in partnerships for initiatives which combine the adaptive, flexible, and rapid interventions of humanitarian assistance with development-oriented conflict sensitive programming at national, continental, and global spaces.

YOUTH AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



Charge African youth to aspire and take up political and leadership roles in decision-making processes pertaining to the SDGs.



Call for robust multi-stakeholder collaborations and partnerships among national youth councils in Africa, private sector entities, and civil society organizations, particularly in pursuit of SDGs 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



Call on other stakeholders to increase investment for programs that promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls, including education, health, and economic opportunities, and ensure that these programs are accessible to girls and adolescent girls, in all their diversity, regardless of their socio-economic status.

UNITED NATIONS



Call for the inclusion of youth in international summits and panels to ensure inclusive discussions, commitments, and solutions to development challenges.



Call on the UN to demand accountability of governments to the commitments in the SDGs and other frameworks calling for youth development in Africa.



Call on the UN and other intergovernmental bodies to prioritize African perspectives in climate change discussions as well as budgeting and expenditure to suit African climate challenges.



Empowerment Through Supportive UN Systems: Urge United Nations to create platforms for meaningful youth engagement, fostering collaboration and mentorship.



Integration of Youth-Centric Approaches: Call on United Nations to prioritize youth-led initiatives by allocating resources and support. Integrate youth-centric approaches across UN activities, recognizing youth as agents of transformative change.

With these guiding principles and frameworks, including those from the UN Systems, AU, ECOWAS, COMESA, ESA, WCA, and other regional and principles firmly in mind, we declare our unwavering dedication to translating discussions, ideas, and aspirations from the African Youth SDGs Summit into tangible actions that will drive positive change in our communities, nations, and across the continent. We commit to working collaboratively, harnessing the power of technology, innovation, and cross-sector partnerships to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, leaving no one behind.

We acknowledge the host country and government of Zambia for providing the platform for this crucial summit and extend our gratitude to all partners, stakeholders, and participants, especially UNFPA and the UN System in Zambia, whose collective efforts have contributed to the success of this endeavour. Let us emerge from this summit with renewed determination, forging a path towards a sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for Africa and the world.

Signed on 17th August 2023 in Lusaka, Zambia

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Organizing partners:



Supporting partners:



