



YOUTH CONNÉKT AFRICA

SUMMIT REPORT 2021



FOREWORD

YouthConnekt Africa is an African homegrown solution and operates as a Pan-African platform with the vision of connecting African youth to socio-economic transformation. The mission of the YouthConnekt Africa Hub is to reinforce youth empowerment initiatives across the continent owned by national governments and driven by national priorities.

The recently concluded YouthConnekt Africa Summit has built an important momentum – one for collaborative approaches to unlocking Africa’s Youth Dividend.



Mrs. Oulie Keita

**Executive Director
YouthConnekt Africa Hub**

This fourth edition of the YouthConnekt Africa Summit was very special because COVID19 tried to wear our patience and slow us down as a continent, but we continue to emerge as a resilient continent. With the theme on “Africa Beyond Aid: Positioning the Youth for the Post COVID19 Economy and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Opportunities”, the 2021 YouthConnekt Africa Summit offered the largest platform for all stakeholders involved in youth development to synergize around policies, programs and partnerships that position African youth to cater to the AfCFTA and advance regional integration.

We have come a long way, since its launch from a single country of Rwanda in 2012, we are now in 24 countries. These expansion efforts and scaling up of the YouthConnekt Africa model is made possible thanks to the ownership of African governments, UNDP RBA through the Regional Service Center for Africa, UNDP country offices and the YouthConnekt Africa Hub.

As we continue to grow the YouthConnekt Africa network, we are pleased to become more relevant to the ecosystem by developing and disseminating knowledge on best practices in the Youth Development. The focus of this report is to highlight some emerging best practices that all our partners can learn from and adapt in your own context.

Let us continue to work together to deliver better and faster socio-economic transformation for African Youth.

THE YOUTHCONNÉKT AFRICA GENESIS AND STORY



Inspired by the YouthConnékt Rwanda initiative that won the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa Innovation Award in 2015, a number of African countries and UNDP Country Offices demonstrated an increasing interest in establishing the YouthConnékt.

YouthConnékt was inspired by the visionary leadership of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, who sought to create a Government led platform for young people to contribute to policy dialogues, co designing and informing decisions on the investments and programs aimed at empowering them.

In 2012, for the first time, YouthConnékt platform convened young people, civil society, development partners, private sector to deliver a nationwide innovation and entrepreneurship challenge, and a Meet the President Dialogue, both efforts which since birthed many new initiatives co-created by young people and various stakeholders.

In 2016, following recognition by the UNDP, five other countries adopted the YouthConnékt model: The Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Congo, the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Republic of Uganda.

In 2017, the Government of Rwanda, in partnership with UNDP and UNCTAD, organized the first YouthConnékt Africa Summit which was hosted by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.

Alongside this inaugural summit, a Ministers of Youth Roundtable convened and deliberated on the following:

1. Scaling up of the YouthConnékt initiative to the regional level beyond the six initial countries (Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and Uganda);
2. The establishment of a YouthConnékt Africa Hub and offering regional support to national youth programs, and
3. The establishment of a YouthConnékt Empowerment Fund, which would seek to finance youth empowerment initiatives across the continent.

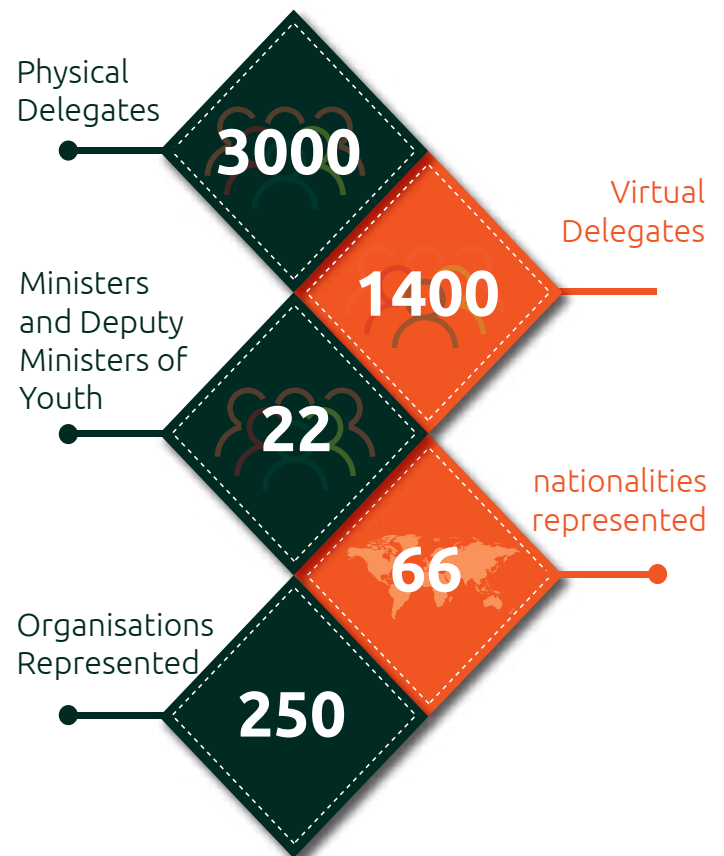
Championed by the Ministry of Youth Rwanda, which had been appointed chair of the YouthConnékt Africa Steering Committee, the motion to endorse the YouthConnékt Africa Initiative as model in implementation framework of the Africa Youth Charter was presented and adopted, at the Alger African Union Specialized Technical Committee which convened between October 21st – 25th, 2018. Following this, the African Union Executive Council, in February 2019, endorsed the YouthConnékt Africa as a model initiative to be scaled and supported the establishment of the YouthConnékt Africa Hub, an independent secretariat to support the scaling of the YouthConnékt Africa initiative.

THE 2021 YOUTHCONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

The YouthConnekt Africa Summit is an annual convening that connects youth from across the continent and beyond with policy influencers, political and industry leaders, as well as public, private and development sector institutions to engage, design, and accelerate youth empowerment efforts at the continent level.

The 2021 edition of the YouthConnekt Africa Summit is the first large continental convening focused solely on drawing stakeholders together to address the most pressing youth development demands within this post COVID19 pandemic period which has not only Africa through the loss of human life, but also set back the continent's thriving economies.

Hosted by H.E. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the 2021 YouthConnekt Africa Summit was themed: Africa Beyond Aid: Positioning the Youth for Post COVID Economy and AfCFTA Opportunities.



The Summit aimed to deliver on the following objectives:

1. Deliver a high-level intergenerational dialogue for Africa's youth mandate in steering Africa's next level of growth ~Africa Beyond Aid.
2. Explore youth inclusive quick-win interventions that can accelerate post COVID19 economic recovery.
3. Showcase tested cross-sector policy mechanisms that support emerging youth employment pathways.
4. Identify the structures, mechanisms and investments required to accelerate youth participation in regional trade supported by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework.
5. Encourage multi-stakeholder collaborations to accelerate youth socio-economic transformation.

The summit served as a platform to discuss and share good practices driven by the Youth to build our resilience to the many challenges caused by the pandemic.

THE 2021 YOUTHCONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT SESSIONS

AFRICA AS A SINGLE MARKET: EMERGING SECTORS FOR YOUTH

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
AFRICA AS A SINGLE MARKET: EMERGING SECTORS FOR YOUTH
 21ST OCTOBER, 2021 | 09:00 - 10:30 AM GMT | GRAND ARENA

LEAD:

MODERATOR: **SOLOMON ADDEI**
 Director General, African Union Commission

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **DANIEL MCRUBLEY**
 Director General, African Union Commission

SPEAKERS:

- DR. PINDA KURUMBA**
 Deputy Director General, African Union Commission
- ANUNNA EZAKONWA**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- MADAME HENRI FATOUMATA TALL**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- MRS. BREVWALA UGOCHUKWU**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- ANDREA OPOKU-DWABENAH**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- MRS. CECILE MOREU**
 Director General, African Union Commission

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CREATIVITY & INNOVATION IN TIMES OF COVID-19

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
CREATIVITY & INNOVATION IN TIMES OF COVID-19
 21ST OCTOBER, 2021 | 11:00 - 12:30 PM GMT | MAIN AUDITORIUM

LEAD:

MODERATOR: **ATO ULZEN-APPIAH**
 Director General, African Union Commission

SPEAKERS:

- VIOLETTE UWAMUFARA**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- JENNIFER DE-GRAFT HINSON**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- BENJAMIN KAREKO**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- PATRICK BACHANA**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- ESTHER GATHOI**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- DR. GORDON AEDONZA**
 Director General, African Union Commission

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INVESTING IN THE COLORS OF AFRICA TO REINVENT ITS CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
INVESTING IN THE COLORS OF AFRICA TO REINVENT ITS CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
 21ST OCTOBER, 2021 | 11:00 - 12:30 PM GMT | GRAND ARENA-A

LEAD:

MODERATOR: **DANIELLA ADU ASARE**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **KARL CARTER**
 CEO, BRICKS NATION, SOUTH AFRICA

SPEAKERS:

- INGRID KARANOWAYRE**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- LOUISA ATTA-ADYEMANG**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- LINDA MUKANGOGA**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- KOFI ASAMOH**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- GEORGE QUAYE**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- PEARL THUSI**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- FERFI LADI ADJEMEFI**
 Director General, African Union Commission
- ANICE MUYUBISA**
 Director General, African Union Commission

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CONNKTEDGIRLS: AFRICA GETS MORE IF SHE TRADES MORE

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
CONNKTEDGIRLS: AFRICA GETS MORE IF SHE TRADES MORE
 21TH OCTOBER, 2021 | 11:00 - 12:30 PM GMT | GRAND ARENA - B

LEAD: UNDP

MODERATOR

- EMMANUEL KWASI VAFFRYE**
DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AFFAIRS, V&A BUSINESS AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, NAC, CHOKI, METRO TV GHANA

SPEAKERS

- ANGELA LUSIGI**
UNDP DE
- KOSI YANKEY-AYEH**
CEO, GHANA ENTERPRISES AGENCY
- IVY WEREH**
CEO, CARE HONORED
- LARRY ATTIPOE**
NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC) ALLIANCE FOR ACTION (AAI) PROGRAMME
- EMILY MBURU-NDORIA**
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES, INVESTMENT, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND E-COMMERCE, AFRICA SECRETARIAT
- MAHMUD JOHNSON**
J. BALK

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DESIGNING THE FUTURES OF WORK IN AFRICA

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
DESIGNING THE FUTURES OF WORK IN AFRICA
 21ST OCTOBER, 2021 | 11:00 - 12:30 PM GMT | AICC - MAIN AUDITORIUM

LEAD: AMALITECH UNDP

MODERATOR

- NANA ASAFO-ADJEI AYEH**
VICE CHAIR, INTERNATIONAL YOUNG DEMOCRAT UNION (IYDU)

SPEAKERS

- MATTHEW DAKWA**
- MOPE EWAJOD**
PROJECT DIRECTOR, UNDP/AMALITECH
- AHMED DRIS**
HEAD OF OPERATIONS, UNDP/AMALITECH
- ABDULLAH HADSI**
YOUTH BUSINESS COUNCIL, GROUP CHAIRMAN
- HIDAYA MUBSAL**
MAYOR OF GADUDU, ETHIOPIA
- ASHLEIGH PFUNYE**
MANAGER, OPERATIONS, UNDP/AMALITECH

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SHIFTING TO MARKET CREATING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
SHIFTING TO MARKET CREATING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
 21ST OCTOBER, 2021 | 13:30 - 15:00 PM GMT | MAIN AUDITORIUM

LEAD: Digital Africa, AFRICAN UNION, YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA

MODERATOR

- ABENA DUGAN**
VICE CHAIR, INNOVATION & BUSINESS, COORDINATOR, THE YOUTH COUNCIL

KEYNOTE

- MR. WALID BADAWI**
UNEP/AFRICA

SPEAKERS

- ESTER SIMON**
PRESIDENT, PARTICIPANTS' YOUTH LEADERS FORUM, NIGERIA
- ISADORA BHOORDAN BRYDEN**
DEPT. OF AFRICA
- MARA ZHANET MICHELO**
PROMOTER, U.S.
- TETA NDEJURU**
AFRICAN ENTREPRENEUR COLLECTIVE
- AMMA CYAMPO**
FOUNDER, U.S.
- MCKEVIN AYABA**
STARTUP & PARTNER, SOUTH AFRICA

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INCREASING REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR YOUTH LABOR MOBILITY TO EXPAND JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21
YOUTHCONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
 INCREASING REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR YOUTH LABOR MOBILITY TO EXPAND JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
 21ST OCTOBER, 2021 | 13:30 - 15:00 PM GMT | AICC - GRAND ARENA

LEAD: ACET | IOM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MAVIS OWUSU-CYAMFI
 EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
 AT THE SPECIAL OFFICE FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

MODERATOR
MONA IDORISU
 HEAD, YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS ACFT

SPEAKERS

ROTHI OLAWALE
 CO-FOUNDER
 YOUTH4AFRICA

EDWIN BOFUORA
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 YEA AFRICA

OLIVE ASHIMWE
 REGIONAL REPUBLICAN ADVISOR
 AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL COLLECTIVE

HON. DAVIS ANSAH OPOMU
 MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
 NIMBANGI CONSTITUENCY, GHANA

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PRIORITIZING SRH: A CRITICAL ELEMENT FOR POSITIONING THE YOUTH FOR THE POST-COVID ECONOMY

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21
YOUTHCONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
 PRIORITIZING SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH): A CRITICAL ELEMENT FOR POSITIONING THE YOUTH FOR THE POST-COVID ECONOMY
 21TH OCTOBER, 2021 | 13:30 - 15:00 PM GMT | AICC - COMMITTEE ROOM 1

LEAD: INFFA

MODERATOR
SYDNEY HUSHE
 INNOVATION SPECIALIST, LAMPA EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

SPEAKERS

HON. EMMA INAMUTILA THEOFELUS
 DEPUTY MINISTER, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
 (KEYNOTE SPEAKER)

MRS ARGENTINA MATAVEL PICCIN
 LAMPA WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR
 (OPENING REMARKS)

RENATA TALLARICO
 YOUTH TEAM LEAD, LAMPA, EAST

NIVI OJUOLAPE
 REPRESENTATIVE, LAMPA, GHANA

ORIETTA AGASARO
 DIRECTOR, SERVICES - INFLUO FOUNDER/INNOVATION ACCELERATOR

LORENCE KABASELE
 PRESIDENT, AFRIANETELA, SAC

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DIASPORA CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AFRICA WE WANT

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21
YOUTHCONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
 DIASPORAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AFRICA WE WANT
 21ST OCTOBER, 2021 | 13:30 - 15:00 PM GMT | AICC - GRAND ARENA - B

LEAD: PAN AFRICAN HERITAGE WORLD MUSEUM

KEYNOTE
HON. KODO YANKAH
 AFRICAN & CHINESE BUSINESS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MODERATOR
AHMED BENING
 DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, PAN AFRICAN YOUTH COUNCIL (PAC)

SPEAKERS

ANTHONY NGORIBANO
 REPRESENTATIVE, GAMBIA, GAMBIA

ELIZABETH BENEY-AMISLAH
 FOUNDER, YOUTH4AFRICA

FADIMATOU NIWA OUSMANOU
 AFRICAN YOUTH COUNCIL, EAST AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE, RWANDA

CHARLES EZRIA FERRELL
 CEO, AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL COLLECTIVE, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND AFRICAN HERITAGE WORLD MUSEUM BOARD

ESTHER NOKUNE ASSISSE
 SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL COLLECTIVE

MR. SHYAKA MICHAEL NYARHARWA
 VICE PRESIDENT, YOUTH4AFRICA

ANSUMANA B. BOSSANG
 PRESIDENT, YOUTH4AFRICA

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DEVELOPING ECOSYSTEMS FOR YOUTH AGRIPRENEURSHIP

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
DEVELOPING ECOSYSTEMS FOR YOUTH AGRIPRENEURSHIP
22ND OCTOBER, 2021 | 10:00-11:00 GMT | AICC - GRAND ARENA

KEYNOTE
DR. AGNES KALIBATA
PRESIDENT, AFRICA GREEN REVOLUTION ALLIANCE (AGRA)

MODERATOR
YVAN GATOTO
SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION

SPEAKERS

- OUJE KEITA**
DIRECTOR GENERAL, AFRICAN UNION
- ERIC KACOU**
CEO, AFRICAN UNION
- HADISA JABRI**
A-LEVEL COORDINATOR
- ONECHUKWU DANIEL OGICHUKWU**
DIRECTOR GENERAL, AFRICAN UNION
- PROFESSOR JANGUANG KIM**
PROFESSOR
- CHRISTIAN BIAKOZE**
DIRECTOR
- MOUSSA DICAF**
DIRECTOR GENERAL, AFRICAN UNION

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YOUTH EMPLOYMENT – AFRICA’S INFORMAL ECONOMY AND EMERGING EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS.

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
AFRICA'S INFORMAL ECONOMY & EMERGING EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS
22ND OCTOBER, 2021 | 11:30-12:30 PM GMT | AICC - MAIN AUDITORIUM

MODERATOR
DR. EVANS DUAH
MANAGING DIRECTOR, AFRICAN UNION
DIRECTOR GENERAL, AFRICAN UNION

SPEAKERS

- MARY ODIWANG**
MANAGING DIRECTOR, AFRICAN UNION
DIRECTOR GENERAL, AFRICAN UNION
- HON. DANIEL OBIAL**
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, AFRICAN UNION
DIRECTOR GENERAL, AFRICAN UNION
- LETHABO SITHOLE**
CEO, AFRICAN UNION
- NECHIBURWA ISAKURONGA**
DIRECTOR GENERAL, AFRICAN UNION
- AYA CHEBIS**
PRESIDENT, AFRICAN UNION
DIRECTOR GENERAL, AFRICAN UNION
- JAKE OREN-SEKORO**
PRESIDENT, AFRICAN UNION
DIRECTOR GENERAL, AFRICAN UNION

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YOUTHKONVERSE: BUSINESS AS UNUSUAL: THE EMERGENCE OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS AN AVENUE FOR ECONOMICGROWTH

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
YOUTHKONVERSE: BUSINESS AS UNUSUAL - THE EMERGENCE OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS AN AVENUE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN AFRICA
22ND OCTOBER, 2021 | 11:30 - 12:30 PM GMT | AICC - GRAND ARENA - B

MODERATOR
YVAN GATOTO
SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION

SPEAKERS

- ANTHONY WOODBRAND**
DIRECTOR, SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION
- EMMANUEL LOBDO**
DIRECTOR, SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION
- ANCE MUYIBIRA**
DIRECTOR, SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION
- CHIME ASONYE**
DIRECTOR, SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION
- BOAKYE NYAMBOYE ISAAC**
DIRECTOR, SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION

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A NEW DAWN FOR AFRICA: YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
NEW DAWN FOR AFRICA: YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH
 22ND OCTOBER, 2021 | 11:30 - 12:30 GMT | AICC-GRAND ARENA

Leads:

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MS. ARGENTINA MATAVEL PICCIN
 UNFPA REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MODERATOR
DR. YAKUBU YUSUF
 MEDICAL DIRECTOR, KNUCH-MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE, GHANA

SPEAKERS

ELSIE ATTAFUAAH
 HEAD OF CLINICAL

GERALDINE UMUTESI
 CEO, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

LAURE NYAGA
 HEAD, MENTEE

LEVEANA GYIMAH
 MPA

MADAM GAMAL AMINE GERIS
 SENIOR SENIORITY VOLUNTEER, YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA

DR. OSMAN DUFFAILU
 ASSISTANT SENIOR CONSULTANT, HOSPITALITY

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MASTERCLASS: ADVOCACY & ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
PARALLEL SESSION: MASTERCLASS: ADVOCACY & ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP
 22ND OCTOBER, 2021 | 11:00 - 12:30 PM GMT | AICC-GRAND ARENA-A

LEAD: ALL AFRICA STUDENTS UNION / UNION PANAFRICAIN DES ETUDIANTS / اتحاد جميع الطلاب الافارقة / Enhancing students' rights since 1979

MODERATOR
ABDUL KARIM IBRAHIM
 ALL AFRICA STUDENTS UNION

SPEAKERS

PROF. COSKI ALABI
 PRESIDENT, AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION INCUBE

PROF. WILLIAM A. AMPONSAH
 FOUNDER, TRANSFORMATION CHANG LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (TCL)

MANDA KLEMENČIČ
 LECTURER IN SOCIOLOGY AND IN GENERAL EDUCATION AT THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

FATOUMATA CHERIF
 COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT AND SOCIAL INFLUENCER IN THE SAHEL INFLUENCER PROGRAM

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DESIGNING THE FUTURE: YOUTH-LED INNOVATIONS DRIVING SDGs

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
DESIGNING THE FUTURE: YOUTH-LED INNOVATIONS DRIVING SDGs
 22ND OCTOBER, 2021 | 15:00-16:30 GMT | AICC - GRAND ARENA

LEAD:

CHAIR
CARLOS DO CANTO MONTEIRO
 HEAD OF YOUTH AND DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

KEYNOTE
FRANCIS JAMES
 UNICEF HONORARY SENIOR ADVISOR, UGANDA

MODERATOR
EMMANUEL ARKWASI ESSEL
 SENIOR CONSULTANT, GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE UNIT

SPEAKERS

NADIA AHMED ABDALLAH
 DEPT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEN. IN CHARGE OF ICT INNOVATION AND YOUTH SERVICE UNIT

MS. HGAYA MURSAL
 MEMBER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ANNELLA NIYONDIRO
 SENIOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR, SOCIAL INNOVATION SERVICES

LETICIA BROWNIE
 SENIOR DIRECTOR, INFLUENCER LIAISON OFFICE

MS. TESLEM MERGIA
 YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR, YOUTH CAPABILITY AND INNOVATION HUB LEADERSHIP IN BANGALORE, PUBLICATIONS INDIA

CUGALETHU SISO
 SENIOR MANAGER IN ICT INNOVATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT GROUP, TRANSFORM

MAIMOUNA GARBIA SOULEY
 YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR, SUPPORT TEAM IN DRC

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A NEW DAWN FOR AFRICA: YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
NEW DAWN FOR AFRICA: YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH
 22ND OCTOBER, 2021 | 11:30 - 12:30 GMT | AICC-GRAND ARENA

LEADS: UNFPA | Imbuto Foundation | YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **MS. ARGENTINA MATAVEL PICCIN**, INFANZIAZIONALE, PISCIANE, DIRECTOR

MODERATOR: **DR. YAKUBU YUSUF**, MEDICAL EMERGENCY, HONORARY MEDICAL OFFICER, GHANA

SPEAKERS:

- ELSIE ATAFUAH**, CEO, NIP
- GERALDINE UMUTESI**, CEO, VISIONS OF AFRICA
- LAURE NYAGA**, CEO, AFRICA
- LEVEANA OYIMAH**, CEO, AFRICA
- MADAM CAMAL ANENE CEBIS**, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AFRICA
- DR. OSMAN DUFAILI**, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AFRICA

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ELEVATING YUOTH VOICES TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE IN BORDERLANDS COMMUNITIES

YOUTH CONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT '21, GHANA
ELEVATING YOUTH VOICES TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE IN BORDERLANDS COMMUNITIES
 22ND OCTOBER, 2021 | 10:00 - 11:00 GMT | AICC-COMMITTEE ROOM 1

LEAD: UNDP

MODERATOR: **JIDE MARTYNS OKEKE**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **HON DAISY NDESHIHALA MATHIAS**, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR, YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, NAMIBIA

SPEAKERS:

- MOSES MWANSA**, CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, VILLAGESAVERS TECHNOLOGY LTD
- GUGULETHU SISO**, CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, THAMBEZA
- TEOFELUS NTINDA**, REGIONAL PROGRAMME MANAGER, NAMIBIA DEVELOPMENT TRUST
- THOMAS KINYONG'AA**, YOUTH LEADER, TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA
- NYADERE JOCK**, YOUTH ACTIVIST, SUDAN

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SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE

THE YOUTHCONNEKT AFRICA 2021 SUMMIT DELIBERATED ON THE FOLLOWING

Youth Participation in Regional Trade

- That the adoption, promotion and operationalisation of an additional protocol on youth and women in the AfCFTA should be prioritised;
- That opportunities be created for young people to lead in economic integration policy making and deal breaking;
- That trade financing for young entrepreneurs to participate in the larger Africa market should be mobilised;
- That states should invest in women's capacity building for their leadership and championing as entrepreneurs and job creators;
- That we should invest in building logistics infrastructure and systems that enable young entrepreneurs to quickly jump onto the opportunity created by the African Continental Free Trade Area;
- That we should make Africa Beyond Aid a reality and not a mere statement through intra Africa collaboration across sectors;
- That we should encourage youth to create production corridors along value chains of Africa's commodities and services
- That the harmonization of accreditations for different professions across Africa and the promotion of industry relevant education should be prioritised

Youth Inclusion and Leadership:

- That a Youth Advisory Council should be creation at the YouthConnekt Africa level
- That there should be an increase in budget allocations to Ministries and Agencies responsible for Youth, as they are serving a large demographic that needs to be accompanied to become independent and productive members of society.

Youth Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Employment:

- That we should improve ecosystem approaches for a stronger and more equitable pipeline of innovations at national and continental level;
- That we should ensure equitable and transparent processes in connecting entrepreneurs to the requisite financing for growth;
- That we reinforce national skills database platforms that identify and connect existing expertise to employment opportunities in new and emerging sectors regionally;
- That we reinforce programs that impart market-oriented capacities to youth for increased competitiveness on the continental and global job market
- That governments create enabling environments for youth entrepreneurship through greater access to public infrastructure, education and internet;
- That Private Sector and Development Organisations recruit young people through internships, fellowships, volunteering and direct employment.
- That mechanisms and investments be put into place to empower youth in the creative industries
- That better and conducive financial instruments to fund youth in agripreneurship be created;
- That improved access to information on the different resource hubs for social entrepreneurs be made available

Youth Mental and Sexual and Reproductive Health:

- That we improve discourse and awareness of youth mental health and youth sexual reproductive health;
- That we design and implement better mechanisms that support youth recovery from mental health challenges and building their resilience

Knowledge Development on the Practice of Youth Development:

- That states should conduct M&E at national level for impact of YouthConnekt Initiatives to be captures and sharing of best practices;
- That a Knowledge Management mechanism of the YouthConnekt that leverages technology for communities of practice should be created;
- That YouthConnekt be institutionalised in Government for sustainability;
- That stronger mechanisms for Resource Mobilisation for Youth Development programs be created.

YOUTHCONNEKT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Traditionally, the YouthConnekt Africa Summit serves as a platform to reengage national chapters through the technical committee meeting and the steering committee meeting. As such on 19th October 2021, the YouthConnekt Africa hosted a Technical Committee meeting, facilitated by Entrepreneurial Solution Partners, that engaged YouthConnekt implementing countries with the following objectives:

- Discuss priorities, programs, plans for the year 2022
- Engagement with YC implementing countries
- Discuss the performance of the YouthConnekt Country Programs
- Documentation of lessons learned, and seeking of strategic guidance
- Propose agenda for the Steering Committee meeting

The following are key takeaways that emerged from the engagement:

Youth employment and entrepreneurship:

Members envision YouthConnekt serving as a platform that supports the creation of job opportunities for young people and an enabling environment for the youth. The underlying factors stressed here included the importance of skills development as a pertinent part of both employment and entrepreneurship. Additionally, targeted financial and technical assistance for specific sectors such as agriculture was mentioned.

Scaling information access:

Members highlighted that they envision YouthConnekt serving as one-stop-shop for information on opportunities across the continent. They also mentioned that digitalization would serve as a key conduit for information sharing across the continent.

Inclusion and storytelling:

Members pointed to the YouthConnekt mantra of 'leave no one behind' and highlighted that they envision a platform that fosters inclusion for all youth especially youth living with disabilities as well as uneducated youth. Secondly, they pointed out that they foresee YouthConnekt Africa playing a key role in changing Africa's narrative across the world.

Market access and networking:

Members envision the establishment of supportive trade policies that enabled entrepreneurs to trade regionally and across the continent. They also envisage YouthConnekt serving as a networking platform for youth across Africa

Leadership development:

Members see the YouthConnekt serving as a platform that supports the development of leaders who are able to serve in the public sector and civil society.

Resource mobilization:

As a general theme, members believe that an established mechanism for resource mobilization is pertinent to creating impact among the youth at scale.

YOUTHCONNEKT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

On October 20th 2022, the YouthConnekt Africa hosted the annual Steering Committee meeting, that was attended by Ministers, Senior Government officials, UNDP Representatives, and Executives of Regional Youth Development Partners in attendance to the Summit. The Steering Committee was chaired by Hon. Minister Rosemary Mbabazi, Minister of Youth and Culture, Government of Rwanda – also Chair of the YouthConnekt Africa, and Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa Director – also Co-Chair of the YouthConnekt Africa.

The meeting featured a presentation by the YouthConnekt Africa Executive Director on ongoing and upcoming initiatives of the YouthConnekt Africa Hub, and received submission of updates from Ministers of Youth present. The meeting also featured the awarding of the Export Accelerator entrepreneurs – nine of which were present at the Summit.

The meeting resolved that there shall be:

- Creation of a Youth Advisory Council at the YouthConnekt Africa
- Monitoring and Evaluation exercises at national chapter level for learning of the impact of YouthConnekt initiatives and emerging best practices
- Creation of a Knowledge Management Mechanism at the level of YouthConnekt Africa
- Institutionalization of YouthConnekt in Government for Sustainability
- Creation of Stronger mechanisms for resource mobilization.



In Photos:
**YOUTHCONNEKT STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING**



**YOUTHCONNEKT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING**



In PHOTOS: ENGAGEMENT AND ENERGY OF THE YOUTH DURING THE SUMMIT







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