



19-21 July 2017, Kigali - Rwanda  
Report

## Fact

Africa has the youngest population in the world of **226 million people** aged between 15 & 24.

It is anticipated that the number will increase by **42% by 2030 & 50% by 2055.**

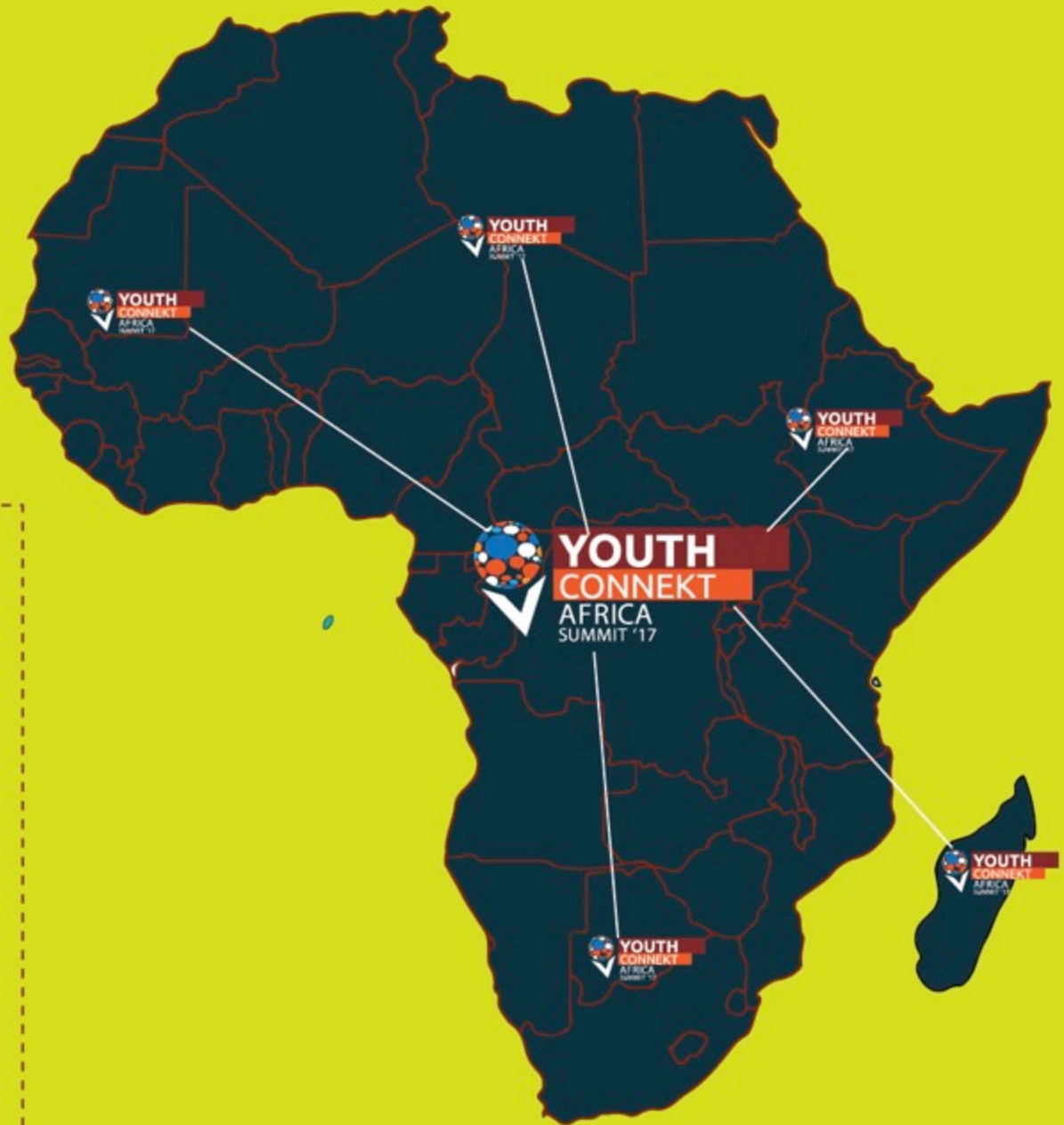
Lack of employment opportunities, low levels of education and skills combined with limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, have resulted in a generation of young people with almost no association to the formal job market.



YouthConnekt Africa is designed to realize Africa's demographic dividend by combining elements of **skills development, entrepreneurship, access to jobs and finance, awareness raising** on issues related to youth development, and promotion of **youth citizenship and leadership**.

## 5 key Goals of Youth Connekt

- Create 10 million Jobs
- Empower 25 million with skills
- Nurture 1 million young leaders
- Connect 100 million young Africans
- Close gender gap.







## **Policy**

Bridging the gap between the different nations by bringing together government leaders & policy influencers implementing youth policies to share knowledge & ideas that can assist others in achieving their own goals for their youth.

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## **Programs**

Identifying existing programs aligned to Youth Connekt goals and facilitate a platform to work together to achieve our common goals. These programs will further assist in measuring, monitoring & maintaining successful initiatives aligned to Youth Connekt objectives.

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## **Partnerships**

Seeking partnerships with private sector, government institutions & NGOs that will be responsible for helping deliver programs, bringing other partners on board, innovating & providing solutions for implementation challenges.

## Launch of YouthConnekt Hub & YouthConnekt Empowerment Fund

- The summit marked the launch of the **YouthConnekt Africa Hub** and the **YouthConnekt Africa Empowerment Fund**.
  - The **YouthConnekt Africa Hub** will offer regional support to national YouthConnekt Programmes
  - The **YouthConnekt Africa Empowerment Fund** is an initiative to empower young people in Africa to impact their communities. Supported by private sector, donors, national governments, foundations and civil society organizations, the Fund will offer regional support to Youth empowerment initiatives.

## Objectives of the Summit & Related activities (1/3)

No.	Objective	Summit Activity
1	Bring together policy influencers, program leaders, private sector & non-governmental institutions together to formulate the YouthConnekt Africa roll-out strategy through strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plenaries arranged were:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do we get to 50,000,000 Jobs?</li><li>• Demographic Dividend – How do we win?</li><li>• Meet the Leaders</li><li>• Youth and Politics</li><li>• Youth in Diaspora, the 6<sup>th</sup> Region</li></ul></li><li>• Other sessions also geared to the same objectives included: Youth Driving SDGs, Connekted Girls, Access to Finance (Where is the money?)</li></ul>
2	Identify & engage partner programs across Africa to participate in the YouthConnekt Program and contribute to its goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The summit contained zones &amp; sessions that are directly aligned to the YouthConnekt Goals i.e. <b>Job Connekt, Youth Konverse, Youth Driving SDGs, Connekted Girls, Enterprise Hub &amp; Hacking the Future Hackfest</b></li><li>• Each zone was managed by partner organizations who will then form part of the YouthConnekt Africa Partner Program moving forward</li></ul>

## Objectives of the Summit & Related activities (1/3)

No.	Objective	Summit Activity
3	Form a think tank tasked with identifying successful youth policies that can be shared across the continent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partners will be engaged post summit to formulate the workings of the YouthConnekt goals and assigned specific pillars according to their strengths i.e. policy, programs &amp; partners</li></ul>
4	Raise funds & opportunities to support YouthConnekt hub Initiatives across Africa that contribute to the programs' goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private sector &amp; Non Governmental organizations were invited to the 'Opportunity raising Gala' where opportunities will be raised in various forms such as<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Financial pledges</li><li>○ Employment initiative pledges</li><li>○ Education pledges (scholarships etc)</li><li>○ Gender program goal pledges</li></ul></li></ul> and so forth.
5	Involve youth in formulating workable ideas to be incorporated into the YouthConnekt Africa Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Youth Driving SDGs session (managed by UNPD) kick-started achieving this objective where they invited participants who will formulate strategies of which YouthConnekt Africa can apply to contribute to the following SDGs</li></ul>



## Objectives of the Summit & Related activities (3/3)

No.	Objective	Summit Activity
6	Engage youth through some YouthConnekt activities to kickstart the Africa roll-out the programs existence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Job Connekt</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A job fair was part of the main exhibition hall.</li><li>○ It consisted of companies looking to hire youth or connect youth to opportunities that will eventually lead to employment or career development.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Connekted Girls</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Girl Effect Rwanda, in collaboration with partners, hosted the Connekted Girls Session. The session aimed to challenge mindsets, drive discussions and create a set of recommendations around the implementation of the recently launched Smart Africa Women and Girls' Declaration.</li><li>○ Connekted Girls featured inspirational speakers from Rwanda and across Africa, who shared their stories of how they have been empowered by digital skills and how they participate in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).</li><li>○ Connekted Girls was an interactive, visual space aimed at young people – to engage them through powerful stories and technology. Participants were invited to join the word cloud discussion through their smartphones or tablets that were available at the event so their voices and opinions could be captured to form the recommendations from the session.</li></ul></li></ul>

## The Program



# Overview

## Sessions

The summit consisted of:-

- 5 Plenary sessions
- 8 Parallel sessions

## Session Leads & Partners

A breakfast meeting was held on 31<sup>st</sup> May inviting partners to participate in the planning of the summit. This include sponsorships, managing sessions and promoting the summit. The breakfast meeting yielded the following:-

- Session partners
  - UNDP – Youth Driving SDG's session
  - Girl Effect – Connekted Girls Session
  - Akazi Kanoze Access – Job Connekt Exhibition coordination
  - ICT Chamber/kLab – Hackathon session
  - UNFPA/Imbuto Foundation - Harnessing Youth's Potential through Health
  - UNCTAD – Enterprise Hub Session
  - Global Shapers – YouthConverse Session
- Sponsorship
  - SNV – sponsorship of youth from Tanzania

## Conference Streams

How do we get to 50 million jobs by 2020?

Youth Driving SDGs

Connekted Girls – Implementing Smart Women & Girls Declaration

Youth Konverse

Demographic Dividend: How Can We Win?

Youth and Politics

Youth in Diaspora, the 6th Region

Youth Konverse with Patrice Motsepe

Youth Konverse with Jack Ma

Meet the Leaders – Expanding Opportunities for Youth





**19** July  
2017

**09:00 – 20:00**    **Registration & Accreditation**

*Rwanda parliament*

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**17:30 – 19:30**    **Meet the African Changemakers**

*Innovation Village*

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**18:00 – 22:00**    **I am kigali concert**

*Car free zone*

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20 July  
2017

09:30 – 11:00	Plenary - How do we get to 10 million jobs by 2020?
11:00 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 13:00	Youth Driving SDGs Seminar & Workshops
	Connekted Girls: Implementing Smart Women & Girls Declaration
	Access to finance: Where is the money?
	"Hack the Future" Hackfest <i>(all day event)</i>
	Job Connekt <i>(all day event)</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Harnessing Youth's Potential through Health
	Enterprise Hub
	Youth Konverse
15:30 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 17:30	Plenary: Demographic Dividend: How can we win?
17:45 – 19:00	YouthConnekt Ministerial Roundtable <i>(by invitation)</i>
19:00 – 21:30	Opportunity Raising Gala Dinner <i>(by invitation)</i>



21 July  
2017

- 09:00 – 10:00 B2B Breakfast Roundtable *(by invitation)*
- 09:00 – 10:00 Plenary: Youth & Politics
- 10:00 – 10:30 Break
- 10:00 – 11:30 Plenary: Youth in Diaspora, the 6th Region
- 11:45 – 12:30 Plenary: Youth Konverse with Patrice Mostepe
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 14:30 Plenary: Youth Konverse with Jack Ma
- 14:30 – 15:00 Break
- 15:00 – 16:30 Plenary: Meet the Leaders - Expanding Opportunities for Youth
- 16:30 – 17:00 Press Conference *(Media only)*
- 17:00 – 18:00 Cocktail *(Invitation only)*

Invitations & Registration





## Invitation process for delegates & speakers

- Personalized letters from the Minister of MYICT were sent out to African Ministers of Youth & Ministers of Trade / Commerce, Heads of Multilateral organizations & business influencers.
- Personalized letters from the Office of the President were also sent out to Heads of State, Key business influencers & Heads of Multilateral organizations.
- A separate invitation team also sent invites to a researched database consisting of youth organizations, youth champions, private sectors influencers & influential youth.
- Over 4,000 invitations were sent out.
- Registration was executed through the summit website.

A communication campaign also run for 6 weeks before the campaign that consisted of:-

- Press releases shared with international media houses
- Online paid campaigns using Twitter, Facebook & Google
- Social media influencers who support online campaigns
- Short videos produced to highlight key speakers and the summit in general distributed through paid online platforms
- Email campaigns to researched database of approximately 4,000 individuals.

## Final numbers

### Gender



66%

34%



Registered  
**7,079**



Accredited  
**3,121**



— **2,104** International  
Registered  
— **90** Countries

## Speakers who attended (1/6)

### **Plenary Session: How do we get to 50 millions jobs?**

- Hon.Jean Philibert Nsengimana, Minister of Youth and ICT, Rwanda
- Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Administrator & Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP
- Akinwumi Adesina, President, Afrcan Development Bank, Côte d'Ivoire
- Tony Elumelu, Founder, The Tony Elumelu Foundation, Nigeria
- Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa
- Diane Karusisi, Chief Executive Officer, Bank of Kigali

**Moderator:** Yemi Babington Ashaye, Head of Global Shapers Community, World Economic Forum

### **Parallel Session: Youth Driving SDGs**

- Lamin M.Manneh, Director , Regional Service Centre for Africa, UNDP
- Sidiki Saw, Winner, Accelerate 2030 Mali
- Ruth Njeri Waiganjo, Ms.Geek Africa 2017
- Godwin Benson, Winner Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation 2017, Nigeria
- Sandrine Sangwe, Akilah Institute, Voice of people living with disabilities, Rwanda
- Ibrahim Ceesay, Chair of African Youth Alliance on SDCs, Gambia
- Dr. Belay Begashaw, Director General of SDG Centre for Africa
- Saah Charles N'Tow, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Liberia
- Prudence Nonkululeko Ngwenya, Head African Union youth Division, Ethiopia
- Goeffrey Douglas Prewitt, Chief Development Programming, United Nations Volunteers

**Moderator:** Njoya Tikum, Program Advisor, Regional Service Centre for Africa, UNDP

## Speakers who attended (2/6)

### **Parallel Session: Access to Finance: Where is the money?**

- Samba Bathily, CFO, Akon lighting Africa & CEO, Solektra International
- Alice Kilonzu Zulu, Managing Director, Ecobank Rwanda
- Daniel Monehin, Division President, MasterCard, Sub-Saharan Africa
- Kamran Eahian, Chairman and Co-founder Global Catalyst Partners, USA
- Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Vice Governor, National Bank of Rwanda
- George Ombado, Executive Director ACCOSCA
- Ephraim Rwamwenge, Kigali Global Shaper & Founder, RWA capital Group, Rwanda

**Moderator:** Drew Propson, Project Lead, Financial Inclusion

### **Parallel Session: Connekted Girls – Implementing Smart Women & Girls Declaration**

- Hon.Esperance Nyirasafari, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Rwanda
- Arancha Gonzalez, Chief Executive, International Trade Centre
- Suzuka Sato, Senior Advisor, JICA HQ
- Esther Mbabazi, Pilot, Rwandair, Rwanda
- Joanna Bichsel, CEO, Kasha, Rwanda
- Rachel Sibande, Chair of Zathu Board, Zambia
- Salamatu Ishaq Adam, Girl Effect TEGA, KANO, Nigeria

**Moderator:** Georgie Ndirangu, Presenter, CNBC



## Speakers who attended (3/6)

### **Parallel Session: Harnessing Youth's Potential through Health**

- Hon. Diane Gashumba, Minister of Health, Rwanda
- Nadege U. Munyaburanga, KigaliHope, Rwanda
- Sandrine Umutoni, Director General, Imbuto Foundation, Rwanda
- Shaminm Namugerwa, Leader, AfriYAN, Uganda
- Sylvain Hirwa, Winner of Iaccelerator, Rwanda
- Prudence Nonkululeko Ngwenya, Head of Youth Division, AU
- Mr. Mark Schreiner, UNFPA Representative, Rwanda

**Moderator:** Dominique Alonga, Executive Director of Imagine We Rwanda and Winner of Iaccelerator, Rwanda

### **Parallel Session: Enterprise Hub**

- Arielle Kitio, Chairman of Cayste, Cameroon
- Modou N.S.Nije, FarmFresh, Gambia
- Sandra Letio, Pelere Group, Uganda
- Victor Mnyawami, Entrepreneurship Challenge, Empretec, Tanzania
- Yvette Ishimwe, CEO, IRIBA Clean Water, Rwanda
- Hon. Margeret Mwanakatwe, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Zambia
- Tonye Patrick Cole, CEO Sahara Group
- Clarisse Iribagiza, CEO DMM Hehe
- Kevin Etter, Loan Expert, UPS Foundation

**Moderator:** Regis Rugemanshuro, CEO, BK Techhouse Rwanda

## Speakers who attended (4/6)

### Youth Konverse

- Creating cultural spaces for African youth to have a voice
  - Diane Mpyisi, Co-founder Spoken Word Rwanda
- The power of young citizen to impact their community
  - Hawa Deme, Global Shaper, Mali
- The global competitiveness landscape for African fashion producers
  - Matthew Rugamba, Founder, House of Tayo Rwanda
- Growing a business in an unstable market
  - Omnia Etayari, Co-Founder & CEO, Mazadah, Libya
- Overcoming the fear of failure
  - Kamran Elahian, chairman and co-founder Global Catalyst Partners, USA
- What the African youth need to do excel in today's global sport scene
  - Lilian Thuram, Founder, Lilian Thuram Foundation, France

### Plenary : Demographic dividend: How can we win?

- Dr. Martial De Paul Ikounga, Commissioner, Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union commission
- Hon.Hermella Destinée Doukaga, Ministre de la jeunesse et de l'Education Civique, Congo Brazzaville
- Donald Kaberuka, High Representative for Financing the Union & Peace Fund, African Union Commission
- Eric Kacou, Co- Founder, ES Partners, Côte d'Ivoire
- Francine Furah Muyumba, President, Pan African Youth Union

**Moderator:** Zain Verjee, Presenter and Founder, Akoma, Kenya

## Speakers who attended (5/6)

### **Plenary : Youth and Politics**

- Hon.Oswald Homeky, Ministre del la Jeunesse des Sports et des Loisirs, Benin
- Anastase Shyaka, Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Governance Board, Rwanda
- Ali Mufuruki, Founder, Infotech & Chairman, Africa Leadership Initiative, Tanzania
- Dr Hamadoun I. Touré, Executive Director, Smart Africa
- Hawa Deme, Founder, DIEYA Movement, Mali
- Armand Yav, Conseiller Socioculturel, Cabinet du Président, RDC
- Ruth Aine Tindyebwa, Global Shaper, Uganda

**Moderator:** Fiona Mbabazi, TV Anchor, Rwanda

### **Plenary : Youth in Diaspora, the 6<sup>th</sup> Region**

- Aliaume Damala Badara Akon Thiam (Akon), Impact Investor & Akon Lighting Africa
- Sudu Tiémoko Touré, Ministre de la Promotion de la jeunesse, d'Emploi des jeunes et du Service civique, Côte d'Ivoire
- Marie Chantal Uwitonze, President, Africa Diaspora Network-Europe, Belgium
- Alain Dolium, COO, Connectik, United Kingdom
- Mike Mwenedata, Founder, Rwanda Bean, USA
- Guillaume Habarugira, Founder, YouthWorks, Austria

**Moderator:** Regis Isheja, Host-TransMeet, Rwanda

## Speakers who attended (6/6)

### **Plenary : Youth Konverse with Patice Motsepe**

- Patrice Tlhopane Motsepe, Founder & Executive Chairman, African Rainbow Minerals

**Moderator:** Eugene Anangwe, TV Presenter, Rwanda

### **Plenary : Youth Konverse with Jack Ma**

- Jack Ma, UNCTAD Special Advisor on Youth Entrepreneurship & Small Business, Founder & CEO of the Alibaba Group

**Moderator:** Julie Gichuru, News Anchor & TV Host, Kenya

### **Plenary : Meet the Leaders- Expanding Opportunities**

- Hon. Jean Philibert Nsengimana, Minister of Youth and ICT, Rwanda
- Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Administrator & Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP
- H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda
- Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General, UNCTAD
- Jack Ma, UNCTAD Special Advisor on Youth Entrepreneurship & Small Business, Founder & CEO of the Alibaba Group

**Moderator:** Julie Gichuru, News Anchor & TV Host, Kenya



## Key Highlights



# Session Highlights

## How do we get to 50 million jobs?

Africa faces numerous challenges in ensuring inclusive growth, particularly among the youth demographic, which continues to grow each day as the majority. Today, 200 million of the 1.2 billion Africans are youth aged between 15 and 24 years. It is essential that we urgently tackle youth unemployment in order to fully realize Africa's potential.

The participants discussed the top challenges hindering youth employment and what opportunities i.e. policy, programs and partnerships can address these challenges.

- Access to finance/ capital
- Women empowerment and inclusion
- Wealth creating sectors that are untapped by the youth - Agriculture, manufacturing
- Access to basic infrastructure (electricity and internet)

## Main highlights:

- AfDB committed to host and support the next edition of YouthConnekt Africa summit
- IBDL foundation committed to avail 1000 scholarships for 21 countries.

# Session Highlights

## Youth driving SDGs

Over several decades, the boom in exports of natural resources has penalized industrialization in Africa.

The continent experienced stagnation, even a decline, in the industrial and manufacturing sectors since the 1970s. Elsewhere, industrialization has played a key role in lifting millions of people out of poverty by providing them with decent and secure jobs.

This session centered around what Africa can do to rectify its development trajectory and to make economic development more inclusive.

### **Main highlights:**

- Youth initiatives that have contributed to Africa's SDG mandate were discussed (Accelerate 2030, Ms.Geek Africa, Africa Prize for Engineering, African Youth Alliance on SDGs, Young people with disabilities initiatives, etc.)
- Policies aimed to educate, empower & support youth initiatives that positively impacts Africa's SDG mandate with the intention of weaving them into the YouthConnekt Africa program.



# Session Highlights

## Demographic Dividend: How Can We Win?

Session Lead: ONE Campaign

Africa's population is projected to double by 2050 (2 billion) yet we are optimistic about maximizing the anticipated labor force. The session centered around the following questions:-

- How shall this population growth impact Africa's demographic transition?
- What challenges are retarding the continent from realizing the demographic dividend?
- What investments must we make to in our youth to reap the benefits of this resource opportunity?

Commitment:

- Support the next YouthConnekt Africa summit and use the platform to award the winner of ONE award, a USD 100,000 award given to an outstanding organization based in Africa which is working towards the end of extreme poverty.

## Youth in Diaspora- the 6th Region

Africa's diaspora are of strategic value to our sustained development and have been declared by the African Union as the 6th continental region. This session saw the launch of:

Agro-Startups Africa Initiative - an initiative of Afrochampions, championed by AKON

Rwanda Bean- an initiative by Mike Mwenedata, Rwandan youth diaspora living in the US

Connectik- a platform to connect diaspora by Alain Dolium in the UK

YouthWorks Africa- a platform to connect youth to the opportunities by Guillaume Habarugira, youth diaspora living in Austria.

# Session Highlights

## Access to finance: Where is the money?

Session Lead: WEF



## Youth and Politics

- Youth mainstreaming
- Civic engagement and better citizens
- Increased participation in politics for youth
- Benefits of increased participation



# Session Highlights

## Connekted girls : Implementing The Smart Women & Girls Declaration

Girl Effect Rwanda, in collaboration with partners, hosted the Connekted Girls Session at the YouthConnekt Africa Summit. The session aimed to challenge mindsets, drive discussions and create a set of recommendations around the implementation of the recently launched Smart Africa Women and Girls' Declaration.

Connekted Girls featured inspirational speakers from Rwanda and across Africa, who shared their stories of how they have been empowered by digital skills and how they participate in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Key recommendation:

- The mindset of both men and women need to change if we are to create truly gender equitable societies. Investment in social behavior change communication can support a shift in the mindset of families, communities and policymakers.
- Investments need to be made to ensure that digital solutions can work in low-tech and low-connectivity environments. We need to incentivize technology companies that can help overcome barriers and challenges that hold hard-to-reach and rural communities, especially women, back.
- We need to make the outcomes real. When actions are combined with entrepreneurialism we start to see actual returns. It is important to combine the worlds of technology development with entrepreneurialism.



## Key quotes from Access to Finance Session

from Potential to Success.

19 - 21 July 2017 | Kigali - Rwanda

**Ephraim Rwamwenge, Kigali Global Shapers Founder, Founder of Rwa Business Group**

“If you’re an entrepreneur, truthfully the money is within your reach, you just have to find ways to access it”

**George Ombado, Executive Director of African Confederation of Cooperative Savings & Credit Association)**

“Perhaps the money is just about the resources, but the youth also need mentorship. You lack the person to give you an opportunity to know that you are good enough to act as a manager despite being 24 years old. You are good enough to be a Managing Director despite your age.”

**Monique Nsanzabaganwa , Vice Governor, National Bank of Rwanda**

“Access to finance is different than access to a Bank loan”

## Session Highlights

# Connect Africa Summit 2017

From Potential to Success.

19 - 21 July 2017 | Kigali - Rwanda



### Harnessing Youth's Potential through Health

This session focused on young people's access to sexual and reproductive health information and services as a prerequisite and one of the drivers of harnessing the Demographic Dividend in Africa. The session also highlighted regional challenges to realizing young people's reproductive rights, by using real - life testimonies or appeals from activists (from Rwanda or abroad) and why a multi-sectoral approach is critical to making progress.

Discussions centered around:-

- Impact of lack of Sexuality Education and access to SRH services on adolescent pregnancies, HIV infection
- Effect of harmful practices on adolescent girls( child marriage, FGM from country that still practice) linking to missed opportunities in education, economic and social
- How low income or no income impact to Adolescent sexual & reproductive health and rights

# Session Highlights



## Enterprise Hub

The session aimed to mobilize young entrepreneurs coming from the UNCTAD's Empretec, the International Trade Centre, the Commonwealth and the Francophonie networks. They prepared to exercise the famous elevator pitch in front of the young audience followed by exchanges with corporate leaders, impact investors and philanthropists on how new products and policies can be introduced to create new business opportunities in Africa with impact on development.

## Outcomes

- Mr. Tonye Coyle, CEO Sahara Group pledged 75,000 USD for a “Next Step Fund” to help young entrepreneurs to scale up after starting the business.
- Hon .Margaret Mwanakatwe, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Zambia engaged to host a YouthConnekt Forum in Zambia and to pursue collaboration with the Youth Connekt Africa Hub
- UNCTAD and Commonwealth will continue collaboration on youth entrepreneurship policies and will produce a policy brief on social entrepreneurship by the end of 2017
- UNCTAD and OIF will continue collaboration and co-organize and host a study tour for a delegation from Cameroun to visit incubators in France and Rwanda by the end of 2017
- UNCTAD and the Rwanda Development Board have reviewed the possibility to co-organize a regional workshop on entrepreneurship policies.
- UNCTAD and UNDP have agreed to collaborate for the establishment of an Empretec centre in Rwanda and engage partnerships for the Youth Connekt Africa Hub



# Session Highlights

## Meet the Leaders- Expanding opportunities for Youth

YouthConnekt Africa is about nurturing and empowering Africa's youth through job creation (*Employment and Entrepreneurship*), skills development and political engagement to effectively reduce the growing unemployment rate among this demographic.

The discussion centered around how governments can ensure an enabling environment for youth empowerment so they can effectively contribute Africa's development.

Key areas of discussion included employment/ entrepreneurship challenges and opportunities for youth and how exactly the youth can participate, beyond rhetoric?



# Session Highlights

## Meet the Leaders- Expanding opportunities for Youth

Commitments from UNDP - UNDP will provide technical and financial support to the establishment of the Regional Hub here in Kigali and the design of the YouthConnekt Africa Innovation and Empowerment Fund; and UNDP will partner with the Government of Rwanda and the AfDB to co-host the next YouthConnekt Africa Summit.

### Commitments from Jack Ma:-

- 100- 200 African young entrepreneurs will work at Alibaba headquarters in fields including; e-commerce, Artificial intelligence and Internet each year.
- Alibaba will work with Universities in Africa and governments to train specific courses including; Internet, Artificial intelligence, and e-commerce.
- In partnership with Paradise foundation, Alibaba will launch an Africa wide conservation fund.
- Alibabe will set up a 10 Million dollar fund for African entrepreneurs.



## Excerpts from closing speeches – Hon Jean P Nsengimana

### Excerpt 1

“We have learned a lot over the last 2 days. We know know where the 50 million jobs that Africa needs to create by 2020 will come from - agribusiness, industry, internet - but my favorite is the formula of Success that has 4 ingredients: Leadership, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Innovation - with Youth Inside.”

### Excerpt 2

“In a ministerial session that took place yesterday, Ministers, Representatives of the Partner organizations and youth decided to establish Africa's YouthConnekt Hub and Youth Empowerment Fund here in Kigali and requested Your Excellency's guidance and support on this. We decided to base it on the formula of Success translated into 4 P: Policies, Projects, Partnership, Profits”

### Excerpt 3

“Zambia and Benin committed to launch YouthConnekt initiative very soon and join a growing network that comprise already Liberia, Sierra Leone, Congo Brazzaville, DRC, Uganda and Swaziland. The Premier of the Free State Province, Mr. Magashule who led a big team from South Africa committed to champion this initiative in South Africa and Lesotho. UNDP decided to put resources in the Fund as well as in a study to determine the legal and corporate structure of the hub and Fund.”



## For More Information #

Highlights of sessions can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck5cyrUU4mfgi5LdMQI7iKw>

Images of the summit can be found at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/157069486@N07/sets/72157686829785665/page2>

Final list of stakeholders & partners





*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD



AKAZI  
KANOZE  
A C C E S S



dot.  
DIGITAL  
OPPORTUNITY  
TRUST



StarTimes

WORLD  
ECONOMIC  
FORUM

ECODbANK  
The Pan African Bank



EDC Learning  
transforms  
lives.



THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS  
CENTER FOR  
AFRICA





**YOUTH**  
**CONNEKT**  
**AFRICA**  
**SUMMIT '17**