



CONCEPT NOTE

African Youth Economic Forum (AYEF)

Co-organized by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM),
Youth Bridge Trust (YBT) and Reset Global People

BROUGHT TO YOU IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



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African Youth Economic Forum (AYEF)

1. Introduction

The African Youth Economic Forum (AYEF) is co-hosted by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Youth Bridge Trust (YBT) and Reset Global People as part of African youth and Pan-African institutions proactive contributions towards the achievement of Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), information sharing and peer learning. Importantly, the hosting of the summit is part and parcel of commemorative events marking the 15 th anniversary of the coming into force of the Africa Youth Charter (AYC).

The online event is scheduled commence on the 18-19th March 2021.

5AM ET | 11AM WAT | 12PM SAST | 1PM EAT.

1.1 Key Outcomes of the AYEF Forum

A key outcome of the Forum is to mobilise African youth including its diaspora to understand the intricacies of Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCTA) and the African Youth Charter. It will also assist in finding national specific potential accelerating factors for the trade agreement's operationalisation particularly for youth. Additionally, AYEF aims to provide a platform for African young people to engage each other, share lived experiences, learn the best practices in various economic thematic areas and produce youth friendly knowledge products. Moreover, the platform will be a safe space for youth to interrogate policy making and policy decision, network, engage with policy makers, captains of different industries and government officials at different levels of society.

1.2 Aspirations of the African Youth Economic Forum

- Inspire and encourage active youth leadership and participation in social, economic and political spheres at all levels.
- Dialogue and interact with policy makers to amplify youth voices in policy and decision-making processes.
- Dialogue within the context of Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals
- Encourage youth-led action with regards to the promotion of democracy and good governance
- Dialogue within the context of the future of work and the fourth industrial revolution
- Empower young women to make their voices heard in policy and decision-making processes
- Discuss and galvanise young people's support for global, continental, regional and national developmental frameworks such as the Africa Youth Charter

2. Discussion Note

July 2006 marked a historic year for young people across African Union (AU) Member States, and the beginning of a new and revived dimension for youth issues and youth rights advocacy. The African Youth Charter was adopted by the Assembly of African Heads of State and Governments in Banjul, Gambia. The Charter later entered into force in August 2009. 15 years later, 39 out of the 55 AU Member States have ratified the African Youth Charter

The AYC took into consideration the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (1976) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976), and articulated for the African peoples through the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1986); international Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989) and through the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1999), the resolution of the Heads of State and government during the 1999 Algiers Summit for the development of the Pan-African Charter and United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000, New Partnership for Africa's Development Strategic Framework for Youth Programme of 2004.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic African youth have been a valuable resource to Africa's fight against the pandemic. Youth have contributed immensely through various innovative solutions such as on-line sensitisation, production of new technologies and many have fought the pandemic head-on as frontline workers.

The same Pan-African spirit of resilience showcased by young Africans should be harnessed to reset, rethink and reenergise African youth's response to Agenda 2063, SDGs and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

It has been pointed out that by year 2035, the number of young people reaching working age in Africa will exceed that of the rest of the world combined with the trend continuing for the rest of the century. The African Development Bank notes that more than 200 Africans are aged between 15 and 24 and the number is expected to double by 2045. African Development Bank (AfDB). By 2050, one in every four humans will be African, and, by the end of the century, nearly 40 percent of the world's population will be African. The future of the world is African.

Africa is a continent of the young, and this youthful energy, large numbers and enthusiasm means the youth have great potential to transform the African society into a sustained, integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena. Yet, children and youth are amongst the most vulnerable groups in many African societies because of their age and social status they are often excluded from policy and decision-making when important political and social changes are underway. Young women are affected differently by the society than their male counterparts and often in ways that bring stigma and rejection when they speak out about issues that affect their development.

Today, the condition of youth in Africa is a growing concern, with limited participation of young people in governance, irregular youth migration increasing at an alarming rate, our continent's peace and security as well as social, economic and political development is under a serious threat. The Government and development actors in African countries must collaborate and accelerate efforts to facilitate the creation or strengthening of platforms for youth participation in decision-making at local, national, regional, and continental levels of governance, and ensuring young people's active engagement and leadership in promoting social progress, reducing political tension and maximizing economic performance.

Over the long term, the potential of youth as primary agents of positive change on the African continent if put into good use, will drive the continent to rapid economic transformation, socio-cultural advancement and political development. The continent's unity and development depend on how well its youth resources are nurtured, deployed and utilized. Agenda 2063 and SDGs will not be fully realised if young people are not galvanised and supported in their efforts for the Africa we Want.

3. Partner Organisations Profiles

The AYEAF is core-hosted by the following organisations (Youth) Each of the organising institutions come with a unique set of complementary skills and attributes, and collectively, they represent a Pan-African and global footprint across policy design, African foreign policy and understanding of socio-economic dynamics in Africa's 6 regions.

3.1 African Peer Review Mechanism

As an African-owned and Africa -led institution, the APRM carries credible self-assessment, peer-learning, and experience-sharing in the pursuit of the highest standards of good governance. Young people's governance challenges therefore need to be a critical component of APRM country review assessments and peer reviews. If the youth are actively involved in the good governance for their countries, then Africa will have additional partners in achieving the aspirations and targets of Agenda 2063.

Since its inception, forty (40) African Union Member States have acceded to the APRM. Zimbabwe and the Seychelles are the latest to join the voluntary mechanism on the 08 February 2020. The accession of

Zimbabwe and Seychelles leaves only 15 African countries that have yet to accede to the APRM. Out of the 40-member states, twenty-three (23) have already completed the first overall peer-review process, three (3) have completed the second-generation reviews, one (1) has completed the Targeted Review on Youth Unemployment, two (2) are scheduled to be peer-reviewed during the AU Special Summit in South Africa, while the others are at different stages of the evaluation process.

One of the priorities of the APRM strategic goals is to encourage youth and gender mainstreaming in the APRM process. The rationale for youth mainstreaming in the APRM process is that the bulk of the governed African people in AU Member States are young people. The latter means that if you are not engaging the youth, youth are therefore not governing correctly.

The APRM has made a significant stride in responding to youth demands for inclusion in good governance and development. APRM reports currently find youth unemployment as a 'cross-cutting issue'. The latter means that APRM Country Review Reports have indicated the scourge of youth unemployment as a pressing governance challenge.

In July 2019 the inaugural APRM International Youth Symposium was held in Ndjamena, Chad. The then, APR Forum Chairperson President Idriss Deby Itno reiterated the need to have youth at the centre of governance matters associated with the APRM review process. He declared that each African country should have an APRM youth ambassadors. These ambassadors are expected to be members of the newly formed APRM Youth Network. APRM Continental Secretariat CEO, Professor Eddy Maloka also emphasized the need for youths to self-organize and be fearless in their quest for good governance on the continent. Young people are encouraged form APRM Youth Networks in their countries under the guidance of national APRM offices, National Governing Councils (NGCs) and their government focal points and find ways in which they contribute to the APRM process at national level.

As a follow up to the symposium the APRM Secretariat with the support of the APRM Youth Network signed a collaborative framework with the AUC Youth Division with the aim of supporting policy development in line with the African Youth Charter; African legal frameworks for Youth development, implementation of the APA-YE ; support for the African Union Youth Volunteers Corps (AU-YVC); building partnerships and resource mobilization and popularisation of the African Union.

3.2 Youth Bridge Trust

The Youth Bridge Trust (YBT) is an innovative organisation, based in Johannesburg. In partnership with the Ford Foundation, the Trust aims to create opportunities for young people to be successful in the workforce, develop livelihood skills and further their education, through partnerships and collaborations. The Trust has a regional focus and is has developed programmes and partnerships throughout Southern Africa. As a grant-making body rather than an implementing entity, the Trust funds grantees whose programmes and projects align to the vision and mission of the Trust.

The Trusts Vision is Building Africa's future. The mission is to empower youth in Africa to achieve their full potential in the future of work, shifting Africa to a prosperous future. At the heart of YBT their commitment to leveraging our relationships to strengthen partnerships and collaboration for development to ensure increased preparation for and participation in the future of work. YBT's three strategic objectives are the following:

- Funding to adequately resource organisations/ implementing agencies future of work programmes.
- Capacity building to organisations/implementing agencies through provision of resources, tools and implementation, monitoring and evaluation models for future of work programmes.
- Be thought leaders in youth development in Africa through a knowledge hub/platform. By sharing lessons learned for future of work programmes

3.3 Reset Global People

Today, there are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10-24—they are the largest generation of youth in history. Close to 90 per cent of them live in developing countries, where they make up a large proportion

of the population. Their numbers are expected to grow—between 2015 and 2030 alone, about 1.9 billion young people are projected to turn 15 years old.

Connected to each other like never before, young people want to and already contribute to the resilience of their communities, proposing innovative solutions, driving social progress and inspiring political change. They are also agents of change, mobilizing to advance the Sustainable Development Goals to improve the lives of people and the health of the planet.

Provided with the necessary skills and opportunities needed to reach their potential, young people can be a driving force for supporting development and contributing to peace and security. Young people need to be encouraged and empowered to participate in translating the 2030 Agenda into local, national and regional policy, this is at the core of RESET GLOBAL PEOPLE.

4. Forum Key Sessions

The discussions at the Forum will be centered on the following six topics:

1. Pan Africanism and African Integration, African Free Trade Agreement and Free Movement of People Protocol
2. Governance and Empowerment: Youth participation and leadership in Political, Civic and Economic developments at all levels with regards to the Africa free trade agreement.
3. Leveraging the African youth dividend for youth empowerment and woman empowerment as well as investment, innovation and entrepreneurship with a focus on the Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals
4. Future of work: Leveraging digital tools for youth on the continent post Covid-19.
5. Health and Wellbeing: Reproductive Health and Rights, and Gender-based violence.

Each thematic area will have a championing organisation, preferably organisations that are subject experts. The organisations will assist in sourcing reading material and speakers for the events.

4.1 Expected outcome

By the end of the Forum engagement series, it is anticipated that;

- Each thematic area will result in the production a knowledge product (Policy brief, essay, and opinion pieces.
- Forum Report & thought leadership articles.
- Youth will be requested to sign and pledge a commitment to the implementation of Agenda 2063 and SDGs
- Youth will be mobilized to take action in regard to the future of work and initiatives and requested to pledge their personal and institutional support to Agenda 2063 and SDG, African Continental Free Trade Agreement

4.2 Format

The session will take the format of expert presentations, workshops and interactive plenary panels and lectures. All sessions will be hosted online using Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Social media platforms will broadcast sessions for broader youth engagement. Register: [here](#)

4.3 Language

English

AGENDA

18 MARCH 2021

12:00-13:25 (SAST)

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

- 12:00-12:10 (SAST) 1. Statement and Welcoming Remarks Mr Seth Mulli, Executive Director at The Youth Bridge Trust
- 12:10-12:15 (SAST) 2. Masters of Ceremony/Overall Moderators & Mr Lennon Monyae, APRM Researcher & Civil Society Liaison Officer Mr Kwame A.A Opoku CEO, Reset Global
- 12:15-12:25 (SAST) 3. Statement and Welcoming Remarks Mr. Moussa Kondo, African Peer Review Mechanism Youth Network
- 12:25-12:35 (SAST) 4. Statement by Professor Ezraharone Founding Director, Center for Global Africa and Professor of Political Science and Global Societies at DSU.
- 12:35-12:45 (SAST) 5. Keynote Address: Gonaya Monei Sethora CEO of Businesswoman Africa Enterprise

12:45-13:25 (SAST)

DAY 1: GOVERNANCE AND EMPOWERMENT: YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN POLITICAL, CIVIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AT ALL LEVELS WITH REGARDS TO THE AFRICA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (APRM)

Keynote Lecture: Mr. Emmanuel.K. Bensah Jr, Deputy Exec Director-AfCFTA Policy Network-Ghana & Diaspora | ECOWAS & AU Policy Analyst | Africa Peace & Security

1. Mr. Nolo Mokoena, Non-Executive Director at DentX
2. Mr Cyrus Nkusi, APRM Youth Network & CEO Governance Africa & APRM Youth Network

13:25-14:05 (SAST)

DAY 1: PAN AFRICANISM AND AFRICAN INTEGRATION, AFRICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE PROTOCOL HOSTED BY BREAKING DOWN BOARDERS AFRICA

1. Moderator: Patrick K Stephenson Senior Programme Officer, International Budget Partnership, Imani Ghana
2. Mandisa Mbele Director Dept. of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Republic of South Africa
3. Nicolatte Buliani Mutuku Founder, Walking the African Journey
4. Bame Modungwa Project Officer, Supplier Development Programme, UNDP Botswana and Co-Founder Minds for Tomorrow Association Botswana
5. Professor Ezraharone Founding Director, Center for Global Africa and Professor of Political Science and Global Societies at DSU.

14:05-14:30 (SAST)

DAY 1: CLOSING REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS

Mr Lennon Monyae
Mr Kwame AA Opoku
Mr Seth Mulli

AGENDA

19 MARCH 2021

12:00-12:25 (SAST)

DAY 2: WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

12:00-12:10 (SAST)

1. Welcoming Remarks Masters of Ceremony/ Overall Moderators: Mr Kwame A.A Opoku CEO, Reset Global People & Mr Lennon Monyae, APRM Researcher & Civil Society Liaison Officer

12:10-12:25 (SAST)

2. Keynote Address: Mr Gerald Chirinda, Founder of Future Africa Forum.

12:25-13:05 (SAST)

DAY 2: HEALTH AND WELLBEING: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS, AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Moderator: Mr Levi Singh, Youth Strategy Officer at SRHR Africa Trust

1. Dr Shakira Choonara, Award-Winning Independent Public Health Practitioner & AMREF Africa AHAIC Commissioner for Universal Health Coverage
2. Ms. Mikaela Hilderbrand, Deputy Head of Sweden's regional SRHR team for Africa
3. Ms. Keitumetse Fatimata Moutloatse, Founder and Chairperson of Black Womxn Caucus, Feminist Social Worker
4. Ms. Diana Demba, APRM Gender Expert

13:05-13:40 (SAST)

DAY 2: LEVERAGING THE AFRICAN YOUTH DIVIDEND FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND WOMAN EMPOWERMENT AS WELL AS INVESTMENT, INNOVATION, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH A FOCUS ON THE AGENDA 2063 AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

Moderator: Festus Hangula - Moderator (Researcher APRM National Secretariat, Namibia)

1. Sara Hamouda, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Egypt
2. Nonkululeko Masoek, Researcher, African Peer Review Mechanism
3. Esther Soma, United Nations South Sudan, APRM Youth Network
4. Dr. Mehdi RAIS, CEO, Innovative Development Initiatives
5. Shalane Yuen, Executive Director, Trevor Noah Foundation, South Africa

14:05-14:30 (SAST)

DAY 2: FUTURE OF WORK: LEVERAGING DIGITAL TOOLS FOR YOUTH ON THE CONTINENT POST COVID-19

Moderator: Kwame A.A Opoku

1. Foster Awinitit Akugri – President, Hacklab Foundation
2. Fadila Ahmad Abdulrazaq -Founder & Lead Strategist - Africans Living Fully - Director of Strategy & Partnership - Fainajs Express Ltd

14:20-14:30 (SAST)

DAY 2: CLOSING REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS

Ms.Nthabiseng Modjadji, Founder of Breaking Down Borders Africa

Seth Mulli,
Lennon Monyae

Festus Hangula -Moderator (Researcher
APRM National Secretariat,Namibia)

SPEAKERS



SETH MULLI

Executive Director, Youth Bridge Trust & AYEF Lead

South Africa

Seth currently serves as the Executive Director of the Youth Bridge Trust, a grant-making body in partnership with the Ford Foundation, which aims to create collaborative opportunities for young people on the African continent to succeed, through entrepreneurship, livelihood skills, and further education in the future of work. Recently he completed the GIBS Social Entrepreneurship Programme sponsored by RMB. In Seth's view, if business doesn't pay it forward, it will be left behind.

Seth was also the host of The Mentorship Challenge with the late Marc Weiner the Chairman of Redefine properties. The show is currently being broadcast on ENCA and ETV and has a viewership of over 2 Million people. The show sees local leadership luminaries interviewed and gently pressured to pledge hours of their personal time towards mentoring budding entrepreneurs from all backgrounds.

From the very start, the intention was to revive and entrench a culture of mentorship in skills scarce, leaderless South Africa – to create a bank of beneficial hours that could be drawn on by future leaders and promising trailblazers, from all walks of life.

Seth's vision is firmly embedded and invested in communities, emboldening players in the NGO space to upskill and find access to platforms of power, opportunity, and funding. With 10 years of experience in the youth development space, he's area of expertise is incapacitating organizations to create meaningful change in the communities they serve.



LENNON MONYAE

Researcher & Civil Society Liaison Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism

South Africa

Mr Lennon Monyae is a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations (MA) graduate from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. Mr Monyae is currently a PHD Candidate at the University of Johannesburg.

Lennon is a Researcher at the African Union (AU) office of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by the Member States of the African Union as a governance self-monitoring mechanism.

Lennon's work at the APRM is focused Civil Society and promoting AU governance shared values. Key highlight in Mr Monyae's APRM work experience include the following:

- Member of the APRM Research Team for the Republic of Uganda 2nd Generation Country Review Report
- Member of the Republic of Namibia's Targeted Review on Youth Unemployment
- Member of the Republic of Sudan's GAP Analysis Report
- Led the team that organised APRM 1st International Youth Summit in Ndjamena, Republic of Chad in July 2019
- Participated in the Republic of South Sudan's 1st National Youth Conference
- Represented the APRM at international platforms such as the United Nations Economic and Social Council and African Governance Architecture

Mr Monyae is a Pan-Africanist with a passion for youth participation in good governance of the African continent and a promoter of the Protocol to the Treaty on the Establishment of the African Economic Community relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment.



KWAME A.A OPOKU

Global Business Keynote Speaker & CEO, Reset Global

Ghana

Kwame A.A Opopo is an Award-Winning Futurist, Global Business Keynote Speaker, 2x Tedx Speaker, Brand Architect, Serial Entrepreneur and a Social Media/Digital Marketer. He was awarded the 2017 Africa Youth of the Year at the African Youth Awards and named among the Top 100 Global Leaders of Tomorrow by the St. Gallen Symposium and 100 Most Influential Young Africans. On December 1st, 2018 He was announced Ecowas Youth Ambassador. He was recently named one of the Top 100 Speakers From Ghana, making him one of the youngest to ever make the list.

As an entrepreneur, he is CEO of the RESET GLOBAL PEOPLE , a leading communications, marketing, events and SDGS-aligned Agency with a bank of super creative and talented minds connecting, informing and creating inspiring work focused on youth engagement and policy, and helping young people succeed. The Agency runs 6 Flagship Initiatives, the THE GLOBAL SDGs YOUTH SUMMIT, WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP FESTIVAL, The AFRICAN WOMEN CEOs SUMMIT, TOP 100 WOMEN CEOs in Africa List, the RESET FESTIVAL and a host of Initiatives including Masterclasses, Courses, Digital University Tours and Global Goals Campaigns. He is also a self-published author.

He is one of the most recognised voices on the Continent in the Area of Exponential technologies and has since founded Future Governance Forum.



GERALD CHIRINDA

Founder of Future Africa Forum

Zimbabwe

Gerald Chirinda, is the Founder and CEO of Future Africa Forum, a company that focuses on building sustainable enterprises and unlocking real value on the African continent. Gerald is also the co-founder of Educate, which is an education access and improvement company. Educate partners with schools at home and abroad, in its core goal of providing financial access through the issuing of loans within the education ecosystem.

He is a male champion for women's economic empowerment, Boosting youth employment in Sub-Sharan Africa and trailblazer in engaging leaders and governments to advance Africas Prosperity, through an organisation he founded called Future Africa Forum.

In addition, he is a well-published thought leader and contributor through mixed-media channels and participation in events sponsored by the World Economic Forum, Wilton Park, The Commonwealth, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Women's Economic Imperative and Africa 2018 Forum among others.

He is a BMW Foundation Responsible Leader and is an alumni of the Global Shapers Community.



NOLO MOKOENA

CEO, NXT/GEN Africa

South Africa

Nolo Mokoena is a serial entrepreneur and youth specialist, with experience in start-ups and innovation strategy. Previously an Associate Manager at Proctor & Gamble, he has co-founded a number of successful start-ups. He recently completed a 3 year management stint with a junior mining company in the PGM commodities sector. Nolo is a board member of several other innovative companies, such as DentX, Greendesign Africa and the International Institute of Leadership Studies (IILS). Through his company NXT/GEN Africa, he is focused on advocating for the youth voice; creating youth led & customer centric enterprises that truly empower from the "bottom up".



GONAYA MONEI SETHORA

CEO, Businesswoman Africa Enterprise

Botswana/Ghana

Ms Gonaya Monei Sethora is a 25-year-old young female leader, activist and Entrepreneur. Gonaya Monei Sethora has just completed her Bachelor's Of Engineering in Telecommunications Engineering in 2019. She is the Former First Female SRC President of New Era University College of Arts, Science and Technology Botswana 2016 /2017. Ms Gonaya Monei Sethora is a bonified member of the Commonwealth Youth Alliance for Young Entrepreneurs Africa Executive Committee (CAYE-Africa) appointed by the Commonwealth Secretariat, she is the Former Regional Finance Director of Southern Africa Students and Youth Development Association. Gonaya vehemently advocated for students' rights, women's and children's rights and academic freedom, she is a firm believer in social justice, female empowerment through entrepreneurship and training (emphasis on mentorship and leadership).



MOUSSA KONDO

African Peer Review Mechanism Youth Network

Mali

Mr. Kondo Moussa is a journalist, with over 13 years experience in various community development activities, particularly in citizen engagement and participation programs for young people. Founder of the weekly printed newspaper, L'Express de Bamako, and Country Director of the Accountability Lab Mali, he helps with sustainable development through the education of young people in leadership, promotes good governance, honesty and integrity in public service, and runs internship programs on journalism. Some of the participants in his program have obtained key positions in various medias houses in Mali. After his Master's degree from The University of Bamako and his community service experiences Moussa has been selected among the 500 Most Valuable African Young Leaders in 2015 as Mandela Washington Fellow of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). He studied Business and Entrepreneurship in Dartmouth College, an Ivy League Institution based in Hanover, New Hampshire (USA). Moussa worked as Projects Manager in Liberia for the Accountability Lab Liberia, before opening the Accountability Lab office in Mali and he is expanding it now in the rest of Francophone Africa. 2018 Obama Fellow, Moussa has also been selected among the Draper Hills Fellows to study Democracy and Rule of Law at Stanford University.



KEITUMETSE FATIMATA MOUTLOATSE

**Founder and Chairperson of Black Womxn Caucus
Feminist Social Worker**

South Africa

Fatima is the founder of Black Womxn Caucus a non-partisan movement that was established on 18 May 2017. The movement was formed in response to the increasing prevalence of Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBV) against women (including the LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming and differently abled community - therefore we use womxn with an x) and children in South Africa. Consequently, GBVF remains at the core of our organizing as a movement for women who are survivors and potential victims of GBVF.



CYRUS NKUSI

APRM Youth Network & CEO Governance For Africa

Rwanda

Cyrus Nkusi is the CEO of Governance for Africa (GFA) a Pan African Civil Society Organization Registered and Headquartered in Kigali-Rwanda. GFA's major focus is to run projects and programs relating to how African Union (AU) member states implement and comply with AU instruments, promoting the role of citizen's participation, women and youth in advancing the AU agenda, citizenry participation in governance, policy making, democracy and promoting of practical pan Africanism among other initiatives. The overall is the realization of the vision that Africa will be a continent that has equal participation, opportunity and access for all segments of the continent's population to development outcomes and social and political discourse regardless of gender, political affiliation, religion, ethnic affiliation, locality, age or other factors.



NTHABI MODJADJI

Founder of Breaking Down Borders Africa

South Africa

Nthabiseng Modjadji is a co-founder of Breaking Down Borders Africa (BDBA) Initiative.

The BDBA Initiative is a pan African platform led by African youth for the benefit of African youth. The Initiative seeks to address gaps that hinder youth development work within social and entrepreneurship landscape including: Lack of access for African youth to trade across borders and Lack of social activism platforms for collaboration between young leaders and activists. The initiatives flagship programmes:

Breaking Down Borders Africa Tour - an exchange programme between young African leaders.

The Breaking Down Borders Africa Youth Summit – hosted annually with a view to bringing young leaders in different fields and professions together to share skills and experiences and collectively write the future of Africa on an inclusive platform.

As Co-founder and programme manager of the Breaking Down Borders Africa, Modjadji is responsible for a programme that has created linkages and ties with over 60 African states and the diaspora, and has a network of young leaders representing over 1600 youth. In 2019, Modjadji took part in World Youth Forum in Egypt, hosted under the patronage of Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of Egypt.

Modjadji is a Rhodes University alumnus, having obtained a bachelor's degree in Politics and International Studies and Sociology and has completed a Public Policy and Analysis for Africa's Development short learning programme through the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute (UNISA).



LEVI SINGH

Youth Strategy Officer at SRHR Africa Trust

South Africa

Levi Singh works with the SRHR Africa Trust as regional youth and policy adviser. As former secretary general of the African youth and adolescent network on population and development (AfriYAN), he now serves as a mentor to the current executive committee of the network. Levi works extensively on systems for the meaningful engagement, participation and leadership of young people in health policy making spaces using data to influence policy dialogue through civic diplomacy. Levi's professional work and advocacy experience include the Africa agenda 2063, SDG's, African health strategy, ICPD PoA and Universal health coverage with a focus on adolescent and youth health and well-being. Levi is also a global adviser to the global health 50/50 initiative which is housed at the university college of London and seeks to realize gender equality in the global health space.



FESTUS HANGULA

Researcher APRM National Secretariat

Namibia

Festus has conducted socio-economic research and policy analysis in Namibia and authored various Newspaper Articles . During his formation years Festus served as an Economic Researcher at the Namibia Trade Forum an agency of the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade , He contributed to the drafting of the Namibia Retail Sector Charter(NRSC) which ensure works on ensuring greater access into the retail market for local beneficiaries .Currently serving as a Researcher at the APRM National Secretariat (Namibia) responsible for the Corporate Governance Division .Festus holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Namibia, Bachelor's of Economics in International Trade from Wuhan University and Currently pursuing a Masters of Business at Steibeis University of Berlin.



DR. MEHDI RAIS

CEO, Innovative Development Initiatives

Morocco

Appointed among the globally influential Young Leaders under 40, Mehdi Rais holds a doctorate in public law and political science, specializing in international relations, international law and migration policies in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. His field of expertise also covers Decentralized Governance and Territorial Diplomacy. He is the initiator of several national projects: Citizen's Office, the Regional Migration Observatory ... He is, until today, considered to be the record holder for the youngest doctorate in political science in Morocco.



DR SHAKIRA CHOONARA

AMREF Africa AHAIC Commissioner for Universal Health Coverage

South Africa

Dr Shakira Choonara is an award-winning independent public health practitioner, bold activist, renowned public speaker and Operation Smile Ambassador for South Africa (SA). She is a dynamic and budding social entrepreneur, the recent founder of a development consultancy firm. In 2018-2020 she served on the inaugural African Union Youth Council and is presently the AMREF Africa AHAIC Commissioner for universal health coverage. This past year she has also served as the Guest Editor of the Feminist Journal, Agenda published by Taylor and Franci.

Dr Choonara is a recipient of a number of prestigious awards including being listed as the Mail and Guardian 50 Most Powerful Women, Destiny Magazine's Most Powerful Woman under 40, 100 influential Young Africans and the Woman of the Year in Health in SA. Dr Choonara attained her PhD (Public Health) at the age of 27 years, an Honours (Cum Laude) and Masters in Demography from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.



DIANA DEMBA

APRM Gender Expert

Chad

Diana Demba-Mutondo is a Chadian residing in South Africa, where she currently works for the African Peer Review Mechanism as a researcher and country coordinator. With a Marketing and Management background, Diana has built a career in marketing and communication in the private sector before joining the public sector. Her interests lie in gender, communication and technology. She is an advocate for Human trafficking and a member of “Community Voices for Peace Pluralism-Africa” and “A21”, an organisation committed to abolishing modern-day slavery.



SARA HAMOUDA

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

Egypt

Sara has a ten-year professional experience in the international cooperation and development field. Currently, she works for the African Union Secretariat for Peer Review Mechanism as an officer in charge of the Agenda 2063 Unit as well as SDGs and South-South Cooperation, based in Johannesburg South Africa.

She manages research projects as well as multi-lateral workshops and dialogue at the continental level to raise awareness, building capacities, and sharing experiences on the best practices for monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 ‘Africa We Want’ and Agenda 2063 for Sustainable development and VNRs. She also handles the APRM collaboration with UNECA, UNDESA, and other organs.



FADILA AHMAD ABDULRAZAQ

Founder & Lead Strategist, Africans Living Fully & Director of Strategy & Partnership, Fainajs Express Ltd

Mozambique

Fadila A Ahmad is a business strategist, Remote work advisor and Entrepreneur.

She runs Fainajs Express Ltd, an International business development and trade facilitation firm with leading capacities in Trade brokerage, Sourcing, Payment advisory, International Business Setup and Strategy Consulting serving Entrepreneurs in 16 cities and 4 countries.

She is also is the founder of Africans Living Fully, a media and community platform that seeks to empower young Africans to be limitless in their pursuit of a fulfilling career & life. ALF creates digital content and curated live & digital events centred around the remote work, careers, Mindshift & lifestyle design.

Fadila has 7 years of corporate and entrepreneurial experience. She has worked across 4 industries in over 8 countries and has travelled to over 30 across the globe. She is a strong advocate of equal opportunities for all, future of work, social, financial and economic empowerment.

As part of her core work is expanding access to digital opportunities, tools and resources for career, business and life growth. She trains, coach and consult on remote work transition and business growth strategies for individuals and organizations.



ESTHER SOMA

Program Specialist, Women Peace and Security at UN Women

South Sudan

Esther Soma is Program Specialist, Women Peace and Security at UN Women, South Sudan. In her role, she supports South Sudanese women in the implementation of the signed peace agreement. Through providing technical expertise to the women's networks, facilitating review workshops on key reforms and constantly engaging with the institutions of the agreement, Esther ensures that UN Women is providing the much-needed support to South Sudanese women and women's organizations in their search for peace. Esther is the researcher and author of the report "Our Search for peace: Women in South Sudan's National peace processes 2005-2018" published by Oxfam and UN Women in January 2020. This report celebrates South Sudanese women's contributions and achievements in the search for a peaceful country. Esther graduated from Yale University, U.S.A with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Affairs (2016) and attended the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg South Africa. Esther has a keen interest in peace-building, gender equality, youth-empowerment, conflict resolution, governance, leadership and human rights.



MANDISA MBELE

Director: Dept. of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

South Africa

Mandisa Mbele is a 31 year old Director in the Ministry of the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in South Africa.

Mandisa obtained her Masters in Global Political Economy from the City University in London United Kingdom. Since 2015 Mandisa has worked at the Competition Commission, the French Development Bank and The Presidency of South Africa in Communications and offices of the executive



FOSTER AWINTITI AKUGRI

President, Hacklab Foundation

Ghana

Foster Awintiti Akugri born (24 November 1994) is Ghanaian entrepreneur and the founder and president of Hacklab Foundation, a non-profit organisation that promotes and empowers young entrepreneurs using technology in Ghana to solve local issues and create jobs. He is a World Economic Forum Global Shaper. He was the youngest participant at the World Economic Forum's 48th Annual Meeting, Davos, Switzerland in 2018. Driven by his life's purpose to helping people find their path, Foster launched GrowthWithTiti in January 2021, an initiative with the mission to break down the complexities of finding your purpose, defining your mission, and navigating the grey to crush your goals. He hopes to leverage this platform to reach and impact one million people by 2025



PROFESSOR EZRA AHARONE

Founding Director, Center for Global Africa and Professor of Political Science and Global Societies at DSU.

USA

Ezrah Aharone is an author, public intellectual, and professor of Political Science and Global Societies at Delaware State University (DSU). He is the conceptualizer and executive director of the Center for Global Africa at DSU which is a futurist think tank, engaged in applied research and enterprising practices for reciprocal advancement of Africa and the Diaspora or the “Sixth Region” as designated by the African Union.

Professor Aharone is a graduate of Hampton University with 39 years of geopolitical experience in Africa, working as a strategist and resource person to governments, businesses, and institutions. In unique context as a Black author and theorist, his books apply the concept and consciousness of sovereignty as a universal lens to interpret the historiography and to promote self-development of Africa, Africa Americans, and other Diasporan Africans. His books include: *The Sovereign Psyche: Systems of Chattel Freedom vs. Self-Authentic Freedom*, (2016); *Sovereign Evolution: Manifest Destiny from Civil Rights to Sovereign Rights*, (2008); and *Pawned Sovereignty: Sharpened Black Perspectives on Americanization, Africa, War and Reparations*, 2003.

As a professor who specializes in sovereign studies to employ knowledge, Aharone structured a 2018 partnership between the Center for Global Africa and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which is an agency of the African Union, mandated to review the proficiency of African governments and provide slated recommendations to improve Africa’s socioeconomic productivity. Based on Africa’s emerging economies and opportunities, Aharone views his body of work and applied practices as functional links to further Africa-Diaspora engagements, while expanding the 21st-century role and relevance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).



NONKULULEKO MASOEK

APRM Governance Research Analyst

South Africa

Ms Nonkululeko Masoek is a governance researcher at the African Peer Review Mechanism in the division of Research, Development and Methodology. She holds a masters in International Politics and has broad experience in governance issues with a special focus on international relations and public policy and administration, environmental justice, gender and development.



NICOLATTE BULIANI MUTUKU

Founder, Walking the African Journey

Nicolatte is a passionate pan african media and youth development specialist with over 10 years experience in youth marketing and business development strategy. She advocates on the importance of African youth dialogue and inter African political and socio economic relations, because our biggest potential lies within trading within Africa.



EMMANUEL.K. BENSAH

Deputy Executive Director, Afcfta Policy Network, & ECOWAS & AU Policy Analyst

Ghana

Emmanuel is Deputy Executive Director of Afcfta Policy Network, and an ECOWAS and AU Policy Analyst with cumulative experience of the African Union, ECOWAS, UNECA, OECD Sahel West Africa Club.

He has been a member of the Agenda 2063 Media Network since 2017, and of the African Peer Review Mechanism Communicator's Network since May 2019.

As an African Peace & Security Researcher, Emmanuel was headhunted by GIZ in 2011 to serve as a management consultant (Web & PR Strategy Consultant) at the Africa Peace & Security Programme that is based at the Institute of Peace & Security Studies at Addis Ababa University.

In 2019, he published his first e-book entitled "How ECOWAS & AU Managed West African conflicts 2011-2017", which includes an analysis of The Gambian Crisis in 2017, which was selected to feature in Ghana's largest-circulating paper, Daily Graphic, in 2017.

Emmanuel has an M.A. in International Politics(2003), from the renowned Brussels-based Centre Européen de Recherche Internationales et Stratégiques, and has UN certification in Regional Trade(2011); Continental Free Trade Area(2012); and acquired a UNITAR/ECOWAS certificate on Multilateral Trade Negotiations in 2015.

Emmanuel possesses 15 years civil society activism (3.5years in Brussels and rest in Ghana). From 2014-2016, Emmanuel hosted and executive-produced 96 episodes of "Africa in Focus" on Radio XYZ93.1FM.

Since 2016, Emmanuel has moderated at international conferences, including AU's Regional Youth Consultation in Abuja in 2017; NEPAD's Africa Environment Partnership Programme(AEPP) in Nairobi; and in Dakar, where he moderated a session on "Institutional Architecture of the African Continental Free Trade Area" (#AfCFTA) at a Stakeholder's Forum for Private Sector and Civil Society in November 2018.

In November 2019, Emmanuel was asked to moderate the Second Edition of the Arusha Symposium, which focused on AfCFTA and the AU's Free Movement of People Protocol.

In January 2020, Emmanuel started hosting Agenda2063 TV Series on the Association of African Universities TV.

In October 2020, Emmanuel co-hosted "Trade Africa" on Asaase Radio 99.5FM in Accra.

Emmanuel is bilingual having lived his formative years in Brussels, Belgium



MIKAELA HILDERBRAND

Deputy Head, Sweden's regional SRHR-Team for Africa

Sweden

Mikaela Hildebrand is the Deputy Head of Sweden's regional SRHR-Team for Africa based at the Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka, where she coordinates strategy, drives policy dialogue and strategic partnerships with Sweden's regional SRHR team implementing a 350 million USD regional strategy (2015-2021) to advance SRHR in Sub-Saharan Africa in line with continental and regional commitments.

A political scientist, with a master's degree in human rights, she has spent the last fourteen years working on HIV/SRHR research, strategic communication, partnerships and policy engagement at UNAIDS in Lesotho and Geneva, the IPPF Member Association in Sweden, before taking up her current post in 2017. Mikaela was also engaged in the founding phase of Global Health 50/50, an initiative that works to advance action and accountability for gender equality in global health and has worked on domestic right to health advocacy in Sweden.



BAME MODUNGWA

Project Officer, Supplier Development Programme (SDP), UNDP Botswana

Botswana

Project Officer, Supplier Development Programme (SDP), UNDP Botswana
Co-founder - Minds for Tomorrow Association

Bame Modungwa is currently the SDP Project Officer at the United Nations Development Programme in Botswana. She is a Development Economist by trade specialising in project coordination and entrepreneurial development.

In her role as project officer, Bame provides support to the SDP project team in the areas of project operations, communication, partnerships and the roll out of the Youth Connekt programme to Botswana. Prior to joining the UNDP in 2021, Bame worked as the Enterprise Development Associate at the African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In this role, Bame was responsible for the implementation of the AU SME Strategy, advancing support to women and youth entrepreneurs in the digital economy. In addition, Bame has worked for various think tanks, academic centres and investment agencies across Botswana and South Africa as a researcher, project coordinator and consultant in projects related to political economy, social innovation, social entrepreneurship and impact investment into early stage enterprises.

Bame is passionate about youth development and engagement. She was the youth focal point at the AUC-DTI, developing programmes around Youth and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). She also worked with the Youth Division to advance youth entrepreneurship and engagement in Africa through the implementation of the Africa Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (APAYE) and contributed to the APRM Country Review on Youth Unemployment in Namibia amongst other engagements. Beyond her professional career, Bame is a founding member of an association called Minds for Tomorrow (MFT), a women and youth-led association which seeks to cultivate an active youth citizenry in Botswana.

Through her passion and career, she has developed years of experience in entrepreneurship development, trade and industrialisation and social innovation. She is skilled in various areas not limited to partnerships management, stakeholder engagement, communications and advocacy and project coordination. Bame is an alumnus of Brightest Young Minds (2015), an African Union Youth Volunteer for 2018/19 and the winner of the UNOSSC South-South Entrepreneurship Academy (SSEA) Business Plan Competition in 2020.



SHALANE YUEN

Executive Director, Trevor Noah Foundation

South Africa

Shalane Yuen is the Executive Director for the Trevor Noah Foundation and serves on its Board of Directors. Before helping the Foundation launch in 2018, she's lived, researched, and consulted worldwide, including in Rwanda, Thailand, and New York. She's driven by her passion for fostering innovative partnerships to ensure fair access to socioeconomic opportunities.

Incredibly far from her original home of Hawaii, Shalane came to South Africa as a USAID Advisor on a 1-year contract. That was 8 years ago! Joburg is now her second home, where she lives with her partner and daughter. Shalane holds a Masters of Public Administration in international non-profit management and public policy from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Sociology from the University of California.



PATRICK K STEPHENSON

Senior Programme Officer, International Budget Partnership

Ghana

Patrick Stephenson is an economic consultant with experience in economic, financial, public policy analysis, country risk analysis and due diligence assessments, with a keen interest in the development of Africa. He has consulted for institutions in the private sector, and INGO space (World Bank, UNDP, OSIWA, IHS Consulting (now IHS Markit), Media General (Ghana), Royal Dutch Embassy in Ghana, among others on a wide range of issues including; private sector development strategy for Ghana, management of petroleum revenues and governance in Ghana, cross border trade facilitation across West Africa, election campaign promises feasibility, emerging growth sectors of the Ghanaian and African economy), efficiency of revenue management in the Cocoa Industry, efficiency of district expenditure management, among others and currently is the Head of Research at Imani Centre for Policy and Education. He also consults for mPedigree Network – an mHealth Company specializing in supply chain management solutions in healthcare and operating in 14 different African Countries, on financial compliance and market entry strategies. Patrick worked as the Economic Research Analyst for First Atlantic Bank – supporting executive management, with key insights into developments around the Global, Regional and Ghanaian economy to inform business growth strategy, and providing market insights to various business units within the Bank. As a broadcast journalist with GHOneTV, he leveraged his experiences to demand accountability and drive advocacy for key policy reform in Ghana, and hosting the Business Edition Radio Programme – discussing key issues affecting key sectors of the Ghanaian and African economy and how these can be addressed, occasionally writing opinion pieces on key issues of national interest. Patrick has started working on a social enterprise project, nCLUDED - a civictech platform leveraging participatory budgeting techniques to improve citizen's engagement in governance. A fellow of the Danish International Development Agency on Aid Effectiveness in Africa (2015), he is a 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow and currently volunteers as the Curator of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Community Accra Hub.

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