Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up

Shaping our future together

8-11 July 2020 – online

An event curated by the AU-EU Youth Hub

Panel summaries & speakers
BUSINESS, JOB CREATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

How can business of tomorrow be catalysts for new fairer societies in Africa and Europe?

Introduction

● Before the covid-19 pandemic, business was shifting globally, with a greater focus on environmental social good and sustainability
● The pandemic is likely to cause severe economic disruption that will widen the socioeconomic gap globally
● While providing unique challenges to businesses, the pandemic also provides businesses with an opportunity to fast-track this shift to sustainability, increasing the importance of youth’s responsibility, and a renewed intentional focus on socio-economic inclusion in creating fairer societies
● For Africa it can be the chance to foster its manufacturing and production sector and create innovative local-focused solutions (M-Pesa, etc...). For Europe it is a unique opportunity to accelerate the green new deal.

Objectives

● To bring together European & African Youth, and meaningfully engage them through an enriching conversation on how business of tomorrow can be a catalyst for fairer society:
● The extent of the current challenges that businesses face in Africa and in Europe
● What immediate steps should be taken by business leaders?
● Is there a difference in approach that should be taken by startups as opposed to larger public corporations? And, how will they ensure accountability?
● How can agribusiness and renewable energy industries be fast-tracked as a result of this pandemic? Which incentives will be put into place to reduce the financing gap in those sectors?
● How can youth step up to have greater influence in this period?
● How can African and European businesses learn from each other and work together?

Speakers

Moderator: AU-EU Youth Hub Young Expert.
Our speakers come from a diverse background in both public and private business, who are actively contributing to a more equal and fairer society.

● Peter Vesterbacka - Angry Birds Founder
● Tony Elumelu - The Tony Elumelu Foundation
● Alima Bawah - CowTribe Founder
● Christine Lagarde - President of the European Central Bank
● Jaqueline Novogratz - Acumen Founder
**Introduction**

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted education systems globally. While we work on reimagining how our education systems could look like in the future, we should consider a unique set of challenges to overcome:

1) the current situation when school closures affect 70% of the world's school population, representing 1.5 billion learners globally.
2) the challenge of transition from face to face to distance education while ensuring inclusion, equity and quality, and
3) the call of the times to be bold enough to invest in the “next education” system, an education that helps meet social and economic challenges common to Africa and Europe.

**Objectives**

The panel will facilitate an intercontinental dialogue, with a focus on technology/digitalization and inclusion, transitioning from the impact of COVID-19 on education in Africa and Europe, in particular in rural areas and for vulnerable groups. It will aim to:

1) Facilitate the sharing of experiences of youth and other education stakeholders in bridging the digital divide during the pandemic, what the outcomes have been and how we can use these lessons to propel ourselves forward. This will help amplify and harness innovations and best practices developed on both continents during the pandemic;
2) Address how to transform the education system to respond to COVID-19 and the challenges of the 21st century, to be more resilient, to leave no one behind and reach the most marginalised;
3) Discuss how to sustain cross-sector coalitions so that our education systems overcome the different challenges;
4) Look at what the education sector should expect from technology, not just so its individual stakeholders are better prepared for an uncertain future, but also so that its networks become more agile, resilient and accessible to all.

**Speakers**

**Moderator:** AU-EU Youth Hub Young Expert.
- **Mariya Gabriel**, Commissioner Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
- **Liz Sproat**, Head of Education for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Google
- **Victoria Ibiwoye**, Advocacy, Youth representative, UNESCO Education2030 Steering Committee, Director, one African Child Foundation for Creative learning
- **Mustafa Farahat**, Co-founder & General Manager Nafham
- **Mr.Martin Dougiamas**, CEO, MOODLE(Online) Education and computer science
- **Nisha Ligon**, CEO, Ubongo, Edtech
Environment and Climate Change:
In the wake of Covid-19, what form of government intervention do we need to reach the Paris Agreement targets?

Introduction
With devastating effects impacting most sectors of the global economy, Covid-19 has quickly reversed long-established paradigms around government intervention to limit unemployment and social collapse. This unprecedented crisis comes in the middle of the climate emergency, a global threat likely to impact our societies at a far higher level than Covid-19. How can government and publication be framed to reduce our negative impact on the planet and reach the Paris Agreement targets? Both African and European states have vowed to act by signing the Agreement, and they are needed as a force to push the agenda globally.

Objectives
The session’s goal is to put forward honest and direct questions to the panelists for them to debate and exchange ideas, possibly with questions taken from social media in real time. The vibe of the panel should be "no frills" or "hard talk". Overall, we see this panel session as a frank discussion on burning topics regarding climate action and government intervention (Can states bail out high-emission companies with no strings attached? What role can the EU and the AU play?). Panelists should be encouraged to use a simple language and not dive into policy details to engage a youth audience.

Format
- A debate panel with a dynamic format (The Stream on Al Jazeera can be an inspiration source)
- To ensure that the panel also serves an educational purpose, we suggest including a short introduction about climate change key facts (< 10 mins), ideally at the beginning of the panel. The Climate Collage, an online tool to describe the key cause/consequence links on climate change can be an efficient tool in this regard. This would leave 40 mins to dive into the panel itself with the necessary key facts and figures in mind.

Speakers
Moderator: AU-EU Youth Hub Young Expert.
- Dr Jane Goodall (UK), Primatologist and anthropologist, World’s foremost expert on chimpanzees
- Felwine Sarr (Senegal), Writer and associate professor of economics at Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis, co-founder of LASPAD
- Agnes Kalibata (Rwanda), Agricultural scientist and policymaker, and president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- François Gemenne (Belgium), Researcher and former Executive Director of the Earth Policy Research Program
- Sanna Marin (Finland), current Prime Minister (as backup)
DIGITALIZATION:
How does technology better promote youth economic, social, and cultural rights in Africa and Europe?

Objectives

(1) Demonstrate how essential technology is to both the rights and economic development agendas and in fighting inter- and intraregional inequalities.
(2) Underline the contribution of the AU-EU Youth Hub and its nascent Digital Cluster to this end.
(3) Foster the role of youth in augmenting both digital inclusivity as well as infrastructures to reach those most left behind.

Given the diversity of panellists, the panel structure is designed to be for quick exchanges and practical recommendations and not for long-wielding discussions about philosophical differences e.g. on values or rights. It is to be assumed that the audience may not be tech-savvy, and therefore language used in the panel will be accessible, simple, and avoid sophisticated aspects of ICT.

Session organization

After a quick introduction guiding questions will be asked by the moderator, to which each panelist will respond in round robin after each question, followed by a debate among panelists and with the audience on the merits of the concrete steps suggested, and takeaways, with a last call for action by the panelists. Questions will address the speaker’s personal experience/journey with technology as a tool for inclusion, real life examples of technology mainstreaming, steps to achieve positive change through tech.

Speakers

Moderator: Young Expert from the AU-EU Youth Hub

- **David Sengeh**: Sierra Leonean policymaker, Chief Innovation Officer turned cabinet member
- **Lacina Kone**: High-level speaker as the Director General Smart Africa
- **Zara Rahman**: The engine room - data + social justice from Europe (nascent German citizen)
- **Jessica Colaço**: co-founder of iHub, Kenyan bridge-maker: tech and entrepreneurship
- we could have someone for (South) African Sign Language interpretation, as well.
- **Alternative speakers**: Amel Saidane, Haweya Mohamed, Nadia el-Immam
GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL INCLUSION:
Community-driven accountability initiatives:
How can youth influence decision-making and spending in Africa and Europe and hold leaders accountable?

Session description
While most of the world is currently busy battling the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, many young people are continuing to demonstrate their leadership in various ways in their local communities. The governance panel will showcase four inspirational young people from Europe and Africa, who have taken different approaches to creating change and influencing decision-making at various levels. This session aims to understand existing challenges for youth inclusion, participation and influence, as well as inspire and generate practical actions that young people anywhere can take to get involved in decision-making and social accountability.

Objectives
• To draw out specific, practical lessons from ongoing or past community-driven initiatives that demonstrate active youth participation and influence in decision making;
• Demonstrate a variety of approaches to youth activism and creating change.

Speakers
• Rebecca Kabuo, a Congolese human rights grassroots activist;
• Sanna Marin, prime minister of Finland, young politician;
• François Balate, policy and advocacy director at European Youth Forum, participant in EU structured consultation on youth issues;
• Trevor Noah, celebrity, influencer, comedian, South African;
• Moderator: Mildred Nzau, AU-EU Youth Hub member, Youth Organiser, who has led accountability processes with hundreds of youth. (backup another member of the cluster)

Backup options:
• Leah Namugerwa (14, climate activist, Uganda),
• Memory Banda (born September 24, 1996) Malawian children's rights activist,
• Representative from Young Feminist Europe,
• Benjamin Mwape, Restless Development, contributor to manuals about youth engagement in accountability and advocacy (or someone else from the Hub)
• Bobi Wine (Uganda),
• Nagua Alba, Cleophas Malala (Kenya),
• Luisa Neubauer (23, Germany, green party)
• Sobel Aziz Ngom (founder of Social Change Factory, Senegal),
• Railannah Ibrahim (Solina Center for International Development and Research),
Someone from Oslo Center's Youth Assemblies project,
• Boyan Slat (Dutch, born 1994, Ocean Cleanup project)
• Ikenna Azuike (Nigerian broadcaster, What's Up Africa),
• Lupita Nyongo (Kenyan-Mexican, actress from "12 Years A Slave"),
• Angèle (Belgian singer, advocates for feminism),
• Mélanie Laurent (French actress who made a hit movie on climate change)
PEACE AND SECURITY:
How can youth build peace and prevent violent extremism and exclusion in a post-COVID context?

Introduction

The COVID-19 outbreak is exposing the deeply rooted social inequalities in our societies, across Europe and Africa. Social and health inequalities have exposed many people to risks during the pandemic, leading to further marginalization and threatening peaceful coexistence and stability in a number of countries. In addition, post-conflict settings have been hit hard by the effects of COVID-19 due to the lack of strong institutions and public services. While national governments and multilateral organisations seek to address the immediate consequences of this global pandemic, this historical moment represents an opportunity to think together of innovative ways to address the socio-economic inequalities driving marginalisation, exclusion and instability during these exceptional times. The future after COVID-19 will be the ‘new normal’, in which the role of young people will be critical to building peace and preventing violence with mutual respect and decreasing mass inequalities. In light of this new context, the panel will bring together a number of EU and AU Officials together with young activists to address the topic.

Speakers

- **Imrana Buba**, Founder, Youth Coalition Against Terrorism. A peacebuilder and activist working to unite youth against violent extremism through peace education programs in schools and villages which has affected hundreds of young people, who was once kidnapped by Boko Haram.
- **H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and previous Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain from 2004 to 2010, who succeeded in fostering the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Moderator:

**Ines Seddiki**, Founder of Ghett’Up, a young French-Moroccan activist and Corporate Social Responsibility professional. Since 2016, Ghett’up has impacted more than 2,000 young people in the suburbs of Paris

Or **Yasmine Ouirhane**, AU-EU Youth Hub member

Backup Panelists:

**Michel Chikwanine**, Former Child Soldier and Author
**Christian Acheleke**, Global Coordinator, CYPAN
TO CONTACT/FOLLOW
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