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),
- Railhanah 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)