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Front Matter, YALJOD 2.1

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yaljod

YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENT

A PUBLICATION OF

Young African
Leaders Forum

02

EDITION



www.yalf-africa.org/yaljod



The Institutional Reform of the African Union

Under the leadership of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda

BACKGROUND

“We have everything needed to succeed. To fail Africa again would be unforgiveable.”
Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda



Decision on the Institutional Reform of the African Union Assembly/AU/Dec.606 (XXVII) (2017)



Realigned and re-energised African Union



PREVIOUS

- 2007 Adedeji Report
- 2016 Mekelle Report

4 Action areas:

1 FOCUS on key priorities



- Reduce priority areas to: political affairs, peace and security, economic integration, and Africa's global representation and voice
- Clear division of labour between AU, RECs, RMs, member states, etc.

2 REALIGN AU institutions

- Currently
- 8 Commission Directorates
 - 21 Departments and officers
 - 11 AU organs
 - 31 Specialised technical agencies (STAs)
 - 20 High-level committees
 - ↑ Increase AU relevance to citizens

Recommendations

- Re-evaluate structure
- Lean senior leadership
- Audit of bureaucratic inefficiencies
- Quotas for youth, women and private sector
- Establish African Volunteer Corps
- Implement African passport
- Review AU organs: NEPAD, APRM, Pan-African Parliament (PAP), etc.

3 MANAGE the AU efficiently



Recommendations

- Reform working methods of Summit
- Strengthen and enforce sanctions mechanism
- Competitive recruitment
- Role of deputy Chairperson > Chief Operating Officer

4 FINANCE the AU sustainably and by AU member states



AU budget more than 50% funded by donors

AU programmes 97% donor funding



A high-level panel of Heads of State and Government should be put in place to supervise the implementation process

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- **Mariam Mahamat Nour**
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HOW TO USE GOKADA LITE



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Vision Statement

To become a world-class organisation and the solution to Africa's underdevelopment.

Mission Statement

To move Africa to the First World by creating workable solutions to its developmental problems and strategically executing them.

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FOREWORD

In one of the recent Youth Consultations in Dakar Senegal, I had expressly stated that “Africa has so many success stories in the fight against corruption that we should be proud of. It is the responsibility of all of us to sell these stories to the rest of the world.” I commend the Young African Leaders Forum (YALF) because this is part of what they are trying to achieve with this historic journal, Young African Leaders Journal of Development (YALJOD). Our success stories as a continent should be told - and with pride - by our people before the rest of the world. Today, apart from the fight against corruption, many young leaders have joined to change the face of the continent by leading impact-filled projects across different sectors.

The involvement of today's youths in governance and leadership in Africa is a 21st century imperative - especially because we seek to achieve a target by 2063, which would eventually be realized in their dispensation. There is no doubt that this journal has aroused the social consciousness of our African youths. It has also given them a platform to try to contribute to the development of our continent through their critical thinking, problem-solving and creative suggestions. From YALJOD, we can all relate with the different needs, perspectives and expectations of African youths. What more can be done? It is time for all African leaders and stakeholders to take a more closer look at the biennial youth-led publication with the specs of sustainable development because noble ideas should be implemented.

All twenty-seven (27) papers in this year's edition of YALJOD were scrupulously written by these young people in their capacities. Whilst one young author tried to explain how we can reposition Africa through science and technology, another talked about the sustainable prosperity of Africa and her human potentials. Many outstanding suggestions from both the first and second editions of YALJOD can prove vital to the realization of the Agenda 2063 vision plan. And this is how we can create the Africa we all want.

The young Nigerian, Femi Royal, expatiated how we can leverage technology to provide food security in Nigeria. I strongly believe that this can be replicated in some other African countries. Another author, Tinashe Lenin from Zimbabwe, emphasized the need for a strengthened pan-African economic and social solidarity. Elmohanad Elsayad from Egypt also highlighted the nexus between education and market needs. From whatever angle we may look at it, there is no gainsaying that YALJOD 2018 is enriched with the tangible, workable visions of young people for Africa.

The journal is pertinent for two reasons. Firstly, it will sensitize young people - and keep them socially conscious whilst preparing them for their future roles in our development trajectory. Through YALF clubs in universities, this is even better achieved. Secondly, it is a great tangible materials for African stakeholders and policy makers to get hold on whenever they want to understand the needs, thoughts and concerns of our young people.

I must admit that YALF is a unique organisation that offers a great platform for Africa's youth participation in African issues. I hope that they would continue to work harder to ensure that their objective for initiating this pan-African project is successfully implemented - and that the journal remains vital to us all.

The official launch of this second edition of YALJOD will be done at the African Union headquarters - Ethiopia, in partnership with the African Governance Architecture in October.

Amb. Dr. Salah Siddig Hammad,

Ag Head, African Governance Architecture, African Union Commission

FOREWORD

The Young African Leaders Journal of Development (YALJOD) is a biennial journal and an official publication of the Young African Leaders Forum (YALF). The Journal is the first youth-led publication in Africa highlights the vision and concerns of Africa's youth in addressing issues of development, with particular emphasis on the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 vision plan. Issues which predominantly affect the youth, women and children, such as inadequate health and education facilities and employment opportunities are given critical analysis.

In this second edition of YALJOD, the submissions by its young leaders and scholars draw our attention to issues which continue to constrain the continent's development. The six articles reviewed are very diverse, yet all share thought-provoking analysis and provide suggestions on how these challenges can be addressed.

“Challenges and the Pertinence of History,” the author notes that science of writing history is like a diary of events. It offers four key elements for the writing of history: functional in meeting the needs of the society; aids the progress of mankind; transmits culture and identity, and; its integration into other disciplines. The writing focuses on the importance of historiography in the study of African history and its inherent challenges, concluding that history is inescapable for both individuals and society as a whole.

“Youth Education, Unemployment and Entrepreneurship in Nigeria,” argues that that the current educational system is not geared towards self-sufficiency but towards securing employment. It calls for a refocusing of the educational system in order to produce more 'job creators' by including additional training programs, internships, and work/study programs.

“Foreign Direct Investment Regulations” argues that African states are at a disadvantage since they are not members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which has relevant performance requirements, policies, and safeguards. The author is critical of the mandatory incentive-based criterion that most developing countries currently use and which is the preferred mechanism for foreign investors. It suggests improvements to the current system by adding a joint venture requirement and in limiting the percentage ownership of the foreign investor.

“Challenges of Sustainable Urban Governance in Africa: Urban Informality in Zimbabwe,” explores the use of urban space, which the author argues has become a contested constituency between the urban informal sector and the state apparatus. Using a case study of Zimbabwe, the author describes the ongoing impact of Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPs) which accelerated the increase of the informal sector due to inadequate housing and employment opportunities. The result has been a rise in the number of urban poor and is reflected by the increase in street vendors and squatters, the rise of 'touting', the perception of this population as vagrants, social deviants and outcasts, and violent confrontations between the state apparatus and this population. The author recommends that instead of punitive actions the state should institute a mass public education program that includes registration, licensing and tax collection.

“Formal Education, Informal Education and Religion as a growth Mechanism in Africa,” proposes that religious education provides moral, ethics and standards that are formative for human existence and relations and that relationships with religious leaders can fundamentally improve security, increase the standard of living and better people's lives. The author states that these factors are important and should be integrated into both formal and informal education systems.

In “Non-Governmental Organizations in Africa (Solutions for Building Sustainable Development and Creating jobs for African Youth),” the author proposes that a new development paradigm is needed to curb food shortages, increased poverty and hunger that have been created and aggravated by internal conflict and military coups.

These The recommended solutions are for an increase in public investment in agriculture and rural development, in addition to the development of micro-enterprises to create new employment opportunities.

The views expressed in the papers represent some of the challenges observed by African youth. It provides an opportunity for the youth themselves, leaders and other stakeholders to engage with each other in order to find working solutions to these problems.

Patricia Rodney, PhD, MPH

Chair, The Walter Rodney Foundation

Adjunct Professor, Morehouse School of Medicine

Atlanta, GA, USA

FOREWORD

Our forefathers in Africa had a rich oral tradition that was passed down from generation to generation, shaping the lives of the people of our Continent. All our traditions, inventions, and social norms were transferred orally over the wide open plains and across the mountains and rivers that cut through our vast Continent.

In our recent history, the literary giants of Africa in the tradition of Cheikh Anta Diop, Wole Soyinka, W.E.B. du Bois, Ali Mazrui, Mahmoud Mamdani, and Steve Biko gave us a legacy that built on our rich oral tradition. Today, as you publish the second edition of the Young African Leaders Journal of Development, you open up a new chapter in our unfolding history. The importance of your initiative is two-fold. Firstly, it brings forth a new generation of writers whose lived experiences will be reflected in their writings and through their thoughts and analysis we will shape a new African ethos; one that reflects not just an African reality but an African reality in a globalized world. You are the most networked generation of all time and your global interactions will shape your thoughts and writings and this in turn will shape Africa.

Secondly, in examining the articles for this edition, and in reflecting on your objectives for the journal, Africa and Africans can be assured that a new generation of leaders are being molded with a social consciousness. Your journal will influence a new generation of young people to become more aware of their surroundings and to take action to address the challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

The growth of intellectual discourse and discussion among the youth of Africa is needed for there to be real and meaningful social change in all our societies. The Young African Leaders Journal of Development must be commended for initiating these discussions which are needed for a change in the mindset of young people. By providing a platform for their challenges, experiences and thoughts they are being forced to critically engage with society rather than remain passive members on the sidelines. When young people are armed with the skills to reason and the knowledge of the challenges and experiences of their communities then we have the beginnings of a generation with the ability to have a real impact on transforming our Continent.

ACCORD's new initiative, Global Peace, seeks to close the gap between peace and development. In this context Global Peace will be looking to work with partners like YALF to deliver concrete outcomes to Africa's developmental challenges. In this partnership we hope that YALJOD will play a crucial role in ensuring that the best ideas for development find their way from the journal to the ground!

Vasu Gounden,

*Founder and Executive Director, The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Dispute (ACCORD)
Durban, South Africa*

INTRODUCTION

Africa's greatest assets are not its numerous mineral resources – but its young people. The youths are the very core of the hope that we all have. Whether Agenda 2063, a better tomorrow or Africa's sustainable development, everything boils down to the generation who will dominate the discussion, pioneer the movement and live the dream future that we all envisage. Irrespective of some of the negative reports that are given about Africa; there is one thing we can never take away from our continent – it is the fact that Africa is home to some of the most dynamic and industrious people on the planet.

A strategic focus should be on the constant empowerment of this clique of young people. Many organisations – including the African Union – are working committedly to empower young people to participate actively in their societies such that they can improve their own lives, represent and solve their needs whilst also instilling in them the power and skills to advocate for the needs of others. Our organisation, Young African Leaders Forum (YALF), also teaches young people to be proactive, responsible and independent. Through our development trainings and projects, many young people have developed critical thinking and problem-solving skills – making them some indispensable assets for our great continent.

This journal, Young African Leaders Journal of development (YALJOD), was established to host scholarly analysis and competing viewpoints about the development of Africa. Aside garnering the ideas of young people pertaining the development of our continent, YALJOD was initiated to orient and re-orient the average African youth especially. The journal has the ability to educate Africa's greatest assets on the ideals of pan-Africanism, the root problems of Africa's underdevelopment, the solution to these malaises and the essence of selfless leadership. Where the AU, YALF and many other development organisations are unable to directly impact, we are trusting in YALJOD to benefit and impact the entire African people.

What is even unique is that we are storing every edition of this formidable journal in the cloud. The eBooks of YALJOD are available and accessible for all Africans including those in the diaspora. It undoubtedly spreads the message and values farther – such that generations yet unborn would directly enjoy the legacies of this first youth-led African development journal. The vision is for YALJOD to become one of the most popular, most informative, most strategic and solution-filled journals all over the globe.

Africa can become a major player in global affairs. But to achieve this, our young people need to continually make full contributions for the advancement of our continent. Strategies for Africa's development will only be very effective if they are premised on the youth as vital actors in fostering economic growth and achieving a developed yet politically, socially and environmentally sustainable continent. They are the ones who will carry on the legacies and live the future that we all see now.

With more than 70% of Africa's population under the age of 30, the important role the youths can play in global development cannot be overemphasized. It is important that current leaders and young people alike partner to strengthen democracy, uphold human rights, eradicate corruption, expand economic opportunities, promote peace, enhance the quality of education, advance the use of technology, create a new class of entrepreneurs – and boost social development. Our continent needs this collaboration to be projected to the First World calibre.

In this edition of YALJOD, youth leaders carefully highlighted some creative ways through which we can achieve a prosperous African economy. In her systemically-written paper, the Moroccan, Sara Haddou Amar, explores the impact of human potential on reaching and achieving a high level of prosperity. Sensewell Chingwaramusee highlights that harnessing and utilising the youth adequately will ensure dominance through political, economic, environmental, social and technological development in Africa. Regina Mungwe and her

co-authors portray the unique potentials and actual contributions the youths of Africa have demonstrated in building peace in different African communities. The scrupulous Sudanese, Shawgei Salah Ahmed Ismaeil, outlines a roadmap for a better future for the next generations in Africa. Whereas, Ogbu Eke Eke PhD recommends that in order to improve the quality of education in Africa, teachers should be trained and versed on how best to develop and use KWL strategy so as to achieve their objectives of enhancing academic achievement in Reading comprehension.

In his paper, Femi Royal informs agricultural development practitioner about how technology can end hunger and achieve food security in Nigeria. The Egyptian, Elmohanad Elsayad, looks at some examples of employability education provision in the developed world and highlights the western trend to consolidate employability education through public policy and International Conventions. Whilst Merga Fikadu Angerasa advises African states to focus on regional cooperation than competition – and this cooperation should go to the extent of having common model investment treaty, Kamara Abdulsalam explained the impact of entrepreneurship education on self-employment initiatives amongst students – with particular emphasis to students in Fourah Bay College.

Many exciting articles – Tendaishe Tlou's paper, for instance, seeks to examine the impact of police brutality and explore the pros and cons of such attitudes and behaviours so as to recommend how Zimbabwe can mitigate police brutality and foster tolerance, co-existence, peace, development and human security. Peaceful Mathebula's paper then recommends that it is crucial for the policy-makers of developing mineral-rich states to begin channelling their policies (like trade, industrial, mineral policies) to divert their economies from being excessively dependent on minerals and other products with declining global prices and demand. Mercy Prince-Ifoh's article hints on the socioeconomic need to continually uphold the rights of the girl child and the average woman in Africa and emphasizes the important values, roles and inputs the girl child can add to one's country, continent and the world at large. Lenin Tinashe Chisaira wrote extensively on the Continental Free Trade Area and calls for vigilance against neoliberalism and argues for strengthened Pan-African economic and social solidarity.

YALJOD 2018 is enriched with ideas and suggestions which can help foster our communal progress. What is more important to us is the implementation and execution of the notable ideas penned down by young people in this reputable journal. As an organisation, YALF cannot achieve the execution of these visions alone; this is why we are presenting YALJOD before all Africans at the very strategic African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We hereby invite development agencies, government bodies, Policy Makers, Non-governmental Organisations and Civil Societies alike to find YALJOD a helpful resource material with clear ideas on development projects. The development ideas noted in both the first and second edition of this journal – when implemented – will undoubtedly contribute to the realisation of the Agenda 2063 vision plan and create that African continent we all want.

My dispensation holds the key to the envisaged future. And from now, we are beginning to trace Africa's development malaises to their root causes and proffering workable solutions to them. The implementation of these solutions should be a 21st century imperative for all Africans – and lovers of Africa. And at the centre of this great continent are youths who are ready to make a difference – let us harness their potentials.

Prince Ifoh,

Founder, Young African Leaders Forum (YALF)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

What precious thing can be said or done to organisations and companies alike who throw immense support to the development works that we do? Even if we say a thousand “Thank You”, would it suffice or equal the good input that they have deposited into the wellbeing and progress of the entire African people. Well, like I did two years ago on behalf of the President and the entire Executive Council of the Young African Leaders Forum, I will like to acknowledge and appreciate great individuals and organisations that have worked with us throughout 2018.

In collating papers and preparing this second edition of our reputable journal, four exceptional youth researchers played pivotal roles in editing and compiling articles to form this awesome work that you see. They worked with our editorial consultants – prestigious individuals from different academic and professional backgrounds – to package this journal. On this ground, I would like to appreciate all our youth editors and the editorial consultants who created time out of their busy schedules to help us realise this vision. Special thanks to Professor Patricia Rodney, Dr. Vasu Gounden of ACCORD, Dr. Chidi Achebe, Dr. Justina Mutale, Dr. Ferdinand Sango, Maureen Nkandu and Alice Mutesi.

Nothing would be more necessary than a formidable platform to launch this journal at the strategic African Union headquarters. This was gracefully provided by the African Governance Architecture headed by the scrupulous reformer, Amb. Dr. Salah Hammad. His actions and positive reactions to youth agenda have always motivated us to continue to work harder to achieve the Africa we all want. We want to specially thank Dr. Salah Hammad and the entire African Governance Architecture of the African Union (AU) for supporting us in hosting the official launch of YALJOD (Edition II). Indeed, because we are Africans, we are a part of the African Union. We hope that this partnership enjoys a long-term presence, and continue to serve benefits to the entire African people.

Under the direction of the Executive Council, I will also like to appreciate John Oparaji and Philglad Nigeria Limited for partnering with us in printing this second edition and making hard copies available. We also appreciate the management of Kennesaw States University and The Walter Rodney Foundation in the United States – for concurrently helping us spread the electronic versions of our journal to the African Diaspora – and the entire globe at large. We appreciate our local partners within the African environment as well.

Yes, we had an awesome year – as an organisation – in 2018. Through our Pan-African summits, we were able to empower young people to participate actively in their societies. We held this summit in three different regions – the East African edition held in Nairobi, Kenya, the South African edition held in Lubombo, Swaziland (now eSwatini) and the West African edition held in Lagos, Nigeria. We really appreciate Fahamu in Nairobi, Sword and Spirit in Siteki, GOKADA in Lagos, Posky Plus in Ghana, Trumpet Media and Hausa Television – amongst many others.

As an organisation, we are forever indebted to the partners that we have and the organisations that exude particular interest in working with us to foster Africa for the First World status. We are also very much open to receive more supports and partnerships as our vision is to play integral role in the eventual realisation of the African Union Agenda 2063 vision plan amongst others.

Thank you everyone for your contributions and support. I know that there are many more people that time wouldn't permit me to appreciate, we are eternally grateful to you too as much as you know. Let us continually do our best to project our continent forward – a First World status is possible.

Pafungeyi Gore,
*Vice President II, Young African Leaders Forum (YALF),
PE, South Africa.*

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