



Youth Alliance for Leadership  
and Development in Africa

# CONNECT

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 LEADING CHANGE THROUGH YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
- 3 MEMBERS OF THE QUARTER
- 4 YALDA PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE
- 6 YALDA LAUNCH AFCFTA YOUTH INCLUSIVENESS CAMPAIGN
- 7 5 AFRICAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS YOU SHOULD KNOW
- 10 POETRY THAT CONNECTS THE CONTINENT & BEYOND: THE WORK OF WARSAN SHIRE
- 11 A REFLECTIVE PIECE ABOUT IDENTIFYING MOTIVATING FACTORS
- 12 OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AFRICAN AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR
- 13 QUESTION & ANSWER SECTION
- 16 WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS
- 18 YALDA PROJECTS
- 20 INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY STATEMENTS
- 21 EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES



# LEADING CHANGE THROUGH YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

By Sheila Achieng'

Publicity and Communications Chair

The ratification of the African Continental Free Trade Area ushers Africa into its second liberation; that of an economically stable continent. The framework seeks to dissolve the barriers to product and human mobility thereby catalyzing the drive towards regional economic integration.

Among the benefits that will accrue from the framework's implementation are increased economic growth, market development and diversification, reduced trade barriers and the geographical transfer of professional skills and talent. While the framework is not a silver bullet for the challenges facing Africa, it is a viable solution to most. Intra-African trade between African economies will create a single market with a combined GDP of \$3 trillion and a total consumer base of 1.2 billion people most of them aged below the age of 35 years.

To achieve the successful transition from policy to action, the youth need to be at the epicenter of implementation. The YALDA AfCFTA campaign seeks to position the youth as key drivers of change within the continent's landscape. The youth need to be engaged as key stakeholders that will steer Africa's vision into the unchartered waters of development.

This edition of the YALDA newsletter documents initiatives that have fueled the clarion call for youth inclusiveness and participation in Africa's economic policy implementation. In addition, we highlight successful branch initiatives that motivates individuals to do more and gift our organization its raison d'être.



**SHEILA ACHIENG'**  
YALDA Publicity Chair

**We hope that in our stories you will find the resilience and determination to change Africa, one young person at a time!**

# MEMBERS OF THE QUARTER



**SABIR BOUMEHDI**

**Sabir Boumehdi** is a Moroccan based Social Entrepreneur. He is the Founder and CEO of the Moroccan original Brand Hoodie #your\_hoodie\_as\_you\_want\_it, a venture that produces hoodies for NGOs and non-profit organizations. Its main mission is to design hoodies based on the needs and customer's fulfillment. He is also the Team Leader of the ALINOV Community Board Morocco. He has been a member of the Social Media team with the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa ( YALDA) since last February and Alumni of the YALDA i-Bootcamp and ALINOV International Bootcamp among other Entrepreneurial and leadership programs. He is the Talents Manager and Project Coordinator with the International Youth Council Morocco Chapter ( IYC Morocco). His mission in life is to empower and help as many young people especially women to achieve their goals and realise their dreams.

**Benjamin Byiringiro**, Rwandese, is involved in various careers including banking, peace building and conscious music for change. He has been a member of the YALDA publicity and communications department serving as leader of the writing team. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Geography majoring in urban planning. His passion of addressing community issues pushed him to engage in different activities including volunteering making his professional background a transitional experience. He draws his inspiration from society and taking time from his daily activities to reflect on how he can make a difference in society makes him creative in everything he does. He aspires to increase his capacity in various fields of life in order to inspire his fellow youth and design new solutions to continental issues.



**BENJAMIN BYIRINGIRO**



**TEREZ HOBSON**

**Terez Hobson** is currently the YALDA US Administrative Intern Assistant. She graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana with a Bachelor's in Anthropology and International Development. As a YALDA US intern, she works to coordinate webinars, edit YALDA newsletters, and coordinate interesting content for our community. Terez is passionate about social justice, studying diasporas, education, and youth leadership development. Working with YALDA, she has seen the importance of strong international networks that promote African youth leadership development. She is excited to continue to support vast international networks that bring resources, ideas, and connections to youth with leadership potential.

# YALDA PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE

By Marshall Lindsey

Marshall Lindsey is an engineer and financial professional with industry experience in energy, consulting, and finance. Marshall is a Vice President at Sovereign Infrastructure Group (“SIG”), a global financing company that works with project sponsors and Multilateral Development Banks, as well as national and local governments, in originating and structuring infrastructure deals across Africa, Latin America, and in other growth markets, using both debt and equity investments. Marshall joined SIG in 2017 and is responsible for credit analysis, due diligence and execution of Managing Partner corporate strategy. Before joining Sovereign Infrastructure Group, he worked in merchant banking at Unplugged Capital.

Prior to joining Unplugged Capital, Marshall led a management consulting practice, East 84th Consulting, which provided business process analysis, operations strategy, and technical business development services to education, chemical, finance, and waste management industries. His projects included assisting Stericycle, a national medical waste company, develop a chemical-based process to enable hospitals to meet new requirements for controlled substance disposal, with the goal of establishing a new service line. He also improved the business plan and conducted the risk assessment for Sorgeta Dominicana, a startup company based in the Dominican Republic, focused on constructing waste-to-energy facilities throughout the Caribbean.

Prior to his consulting work, Marshall was the VP of Strategy and Research for Bn2 Capital Holdings, a multimillion dollar biodiesel startup that also developed proprietary chemical reactor technology and engaged in consulting and asset management activities. There, he contributed to several projects, ranging from aiding in acquiring the company’s construction permit for its blending and storage facility in Florida, to managing the development of laboratory techniques that yielded the company’s first ever ASTM specified B100 sample.

Earlier in his career, he worked briefly with ARUP, an engineering and structural design firm, as a sustainability consultant where he helped develop construction and operation strategies to enable cities and communities to be more environmentally sustainable. He also amassed several years with BP, working primarily in their downstream chemicals and fuels business, focusing on wastewater management and environmental regulatory compliance. Most notably, Marshall was the chief project engineer for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade project at BP’s refinery in the Netherlands. The project involved comprehensively analyzing wastewater treatment technologies and innovation options from multiple vendors, with costs ranging from \$5M–\$15M, to guide management decisions for repairing or replacing the existing treatment facility.



**MARSHALL LINDSEY**

Marshall earned his BS in Chemical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University, an MBA and an MS in Chemical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, and a PhD in Chemical and Biological Engineering from Northwestern University. His research included analysis of chemical techniques for treating water, energy and emissions life-cycle assessment of residential buildings, and other energy and emissions issues associated with building sustainable cities. He also has two publications in Transportation Research (Parts A and D), a leading research journal in the field.

Marshall spends a significant share of his team mentoring young adults from underrepresented populations about academic excellence and career readiness. He has given seminars about applying similar risk assessment techniques that he uses in his finance work to how current students and young professionals can strategically plot out their career pathways. He is passionate about helping society's economically less fortunate, especially those in the world's growth markets, determine how to compete in a dynamic economy that is impacted by income inequality and climate change.

As such, he is excited and extremely supportive of the work that YALDA does, both on the continent of Africa and with its USA chapters. The organization promotes the same advancement concepts that align with Marshall's civic engagement work: broadening the exposure and capabilities of young Africans as they endeavor to make life improvements for themselves and for fellow Africans across the diaspora.



# YALDA LAUNCH AFCFTA YOUTH INCLUSIVENESS CAMPAIGN

By Tanda Gavin

**“ Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some time. We are the ones we've been waiting for.**

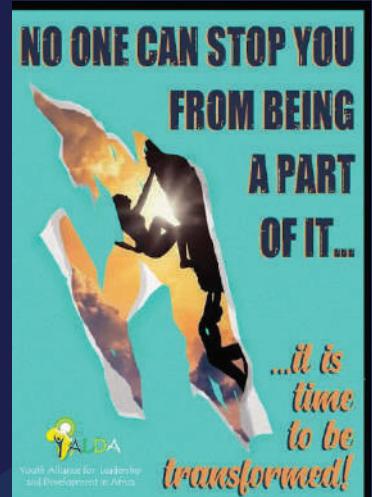
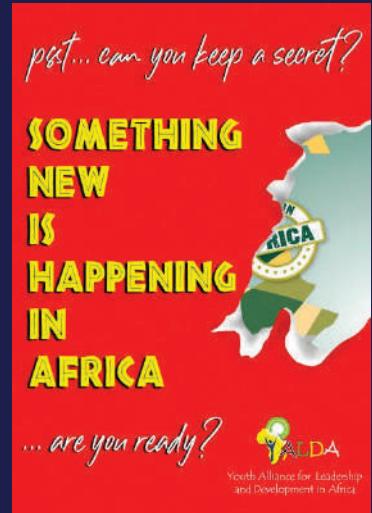
– Barack Obama

In the first quarter of this year, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) was unveiled in Kigali, Rwanda. Since then, even those who cast doubts on this milestone project are now seeking to secure their place lest they get left behind. The potential and opportunities of the AfCFTA are numerous. The AfCFTA framework seeks to merge 55 countries into a single market of 1.2 billion people with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$3 trillion. It is estimated that by 2030, Africa will have a combined consumer and business spending of \$6.7 trillion, offering some of the world's biggest opportunities ever seen. Africa's youth are set to be the biggest benefactors of this economic framework. By percentages, about 60% of Africa's youth is under 25 years. That is, more than 226 million persons. The AfCFTA presents them with an opportunity to scale up their business and social enterprise into new markets while contributing to economic growth through transfer of much needed professional skills. Without youth inclusion in its implementation, the agreement will either lag behind for a long time, or never get to operate at full steam.

What then is in this agreement for the youth? Our greatest resource is our human capital. The full implementation of the AfCFTA would eliminate all tariffs, likely to generate welfare gains for Africa estimated at around 16.1 billion, even after deducting tariff revenue losses. Inter-African trade is expected to grow by 33% and see Africa's trade deficit cut in half. Furthermore, it will see the trade zone generate a consumer and business spending of \$6.7 trillion by 2030. The problems of professional mobility and skills portability will be eliminated, problem most African countries have struggled to deal with since independence. The opportunities are endless considering that the majority of African migrants prefer to stay on the continent and 70% of sub-Saharan migrants move within Africa. This clearly shows that Africans love Africa and believe they can succeed at home. With borders falling and bridges being built between countries, all sectors are bound to experience a boom most especially tourism, ICT, education and greater demand for social amenities.

The Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) seeks to ensure that the AfCFTA is a big win for all, especially the youth. To this end, we at YALDA are passionate about creating more opportunities for youth participation in national events, supporting seminars, conferences and similar events to promote adolescent and youth participation. We reward the best initiatives and decisions involving youth participation at local and national levels, set up research and consultation groups consisting mainly of youth. Our success therefore as individuals, a continent and a continental free trade zone, depends largely on how much the youths are engaged.

With the launch of the YALDA AfCFTA youth inclusiveness campaign, we seek to create more awareness of the benefits and opportunities made available to the youth through the provisions of this framework. This is the first step in ensuring the no youth are left behind, but play a proactive role in the implementation of the framework. The Africa we want can only be built by us!



# 5 AFRICAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS YOU SHOULD KNOW

By Patricia Mueni Njagi

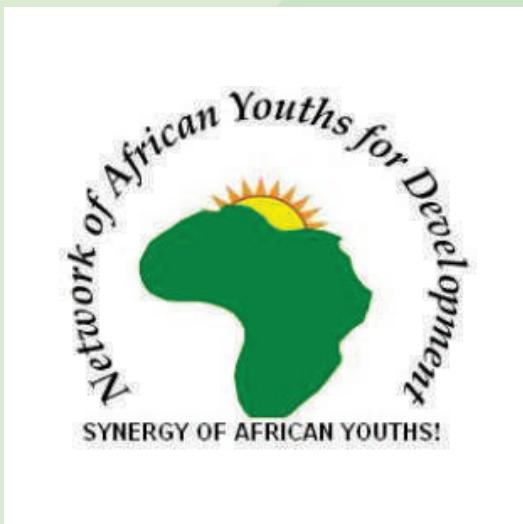
## ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN YOUTH (OAYouth)

OAYouth is a continental, member-based, non-profit organization founded in 2009 in South Africa upon conforming to the provisions of African Youth Charter which was adopted by the African Union. OAYouth is registered in 11 countries and is operating with 35 chapters in Africa. It serves as an empowerment vehicle and a revolutionary movement for African youth by providing a regional platform where young people assert their power in numbers, energy and imagination for the social, economic and political transformation of Africa. OAYouth endeavors to harness resources and ideas to empower tomorrow's leaders today through youth-led programmes, by providing a forum for dialogue and creating an ongoing network of future leaders.



OAYouth operates under four pillars of:

- a. **Inspiring action;** motivate and inspire young people to participate in nation-building.
- b. **Unifying voices;** unifying the fragmented youth voices and programmes in communities, countries and the entire continent.
- c. **Empowerment programs;** initiating projects that holistically empower youth.
- d. **Energizing activism;** energizing youth to be vocal in challenging retrogressive norms in a bid to power up progressive change.



## NETWORK OF AFRICAN YOUTHS FOR DEVELOPMENT (NAYD)

Inspired by the need to create a space that unites African youth working in different parts of the world for a better tomorrow, NAYD was formed in 2007 and registered in 2008 in Cameroon, offering a virtual platform for youth to share their development ambitions and their best practices as a contribution to development. Today, it is a network of over 80,000 youth who are passionate about communities; where people have access to opportunities, resources and freedom as well as youth in action; youth progressively working towards realizing this dream especially for the marginalized.

NAYD is a member of UNDESA, SDSN Youth, UNMGCY and exists to attain four objectives of: **Facilitating collaboration** among African youth in community development; **Advocating for youth engagement** and participation in development programming; **Equipping youth with leadership skills**, enhancing their capacity and providing them with necessary tools; **Creating a platform** for African youth to tell and share their collective stories. As a youth-serving organization, NAYD is well versed at organizing youth, using digital tools for advocacy, researching with rural communities, spotlighting African youth and creating collaborations around shared dreams for a better Africa.

## THE AFRICA ALLIANCE OF YMCA (AAYMCA)

AAYMCA is a Pan-African organization that brings together youth from 20 African countries with very active movements in: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Gambia, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It was founded in 1977 with a shared vision of empowering young people for the African renaissance. AAYMCA's ultimate goal resonates with the African Union Agenda 2063 with focus on the future that youth need and want as defined and shaped by the youth themselves under the four pillars of: **Economic renaissance**, where AAYMCA promotes inclusive development for young people, equipping them to: become key players in Africa's private sector, take charge, exploit opportunities, create wealth and handle it responsibly, mainly, through vocational centers established under different YMCAs; **Civic Action**, which involves transforming youth from subjects to citizens by raising awareness of root-problems that hinder them from reaching their full potential and equipping them for effective engagement with duty bearers and encouraging their participation as responsible citizens; **Transformative masculinity**, which is geared towards tackling gender-based violence by promoting peer initiatives, intergenerational dialogue and liaising with the media; **Youth justice** by reaching out to those "at risk", those in correctional institutions and those in the reintegration phase to equip them with life skills for personal development, victim-offender dialogues and reintegration.



## AFRICA 2 POINT 0 (Africa 2.0)

Africa 2.0 was founded in 2010 as a Pan-African Civil Society Organization made up of a community of emerging and established African leaders who share a collective vision for Africa and a commitment to finding and implementing sustainable solutions that will drive forward the transformation of the continent. It is based on the belief that with a unifying vision and a focused "coalition of the willing", Africans can accelerate the development of their continent. The work of Africa 2.0 is centered on four areas of leadership: Uplifting Africans; Inclusive growth; Enabling environment and Upgrading Africa's infrastructure. The organization runs various programs under its 10 strategic pillars that drive progress with a strategic focus on youth empowerment through entrepreneurship. Africa 2.0 has 34 chapters in 26 African nations and 18 taskforces, a manifesto endorsed by 43 African ministers of education and has reached over 8,000 entrepreneurs

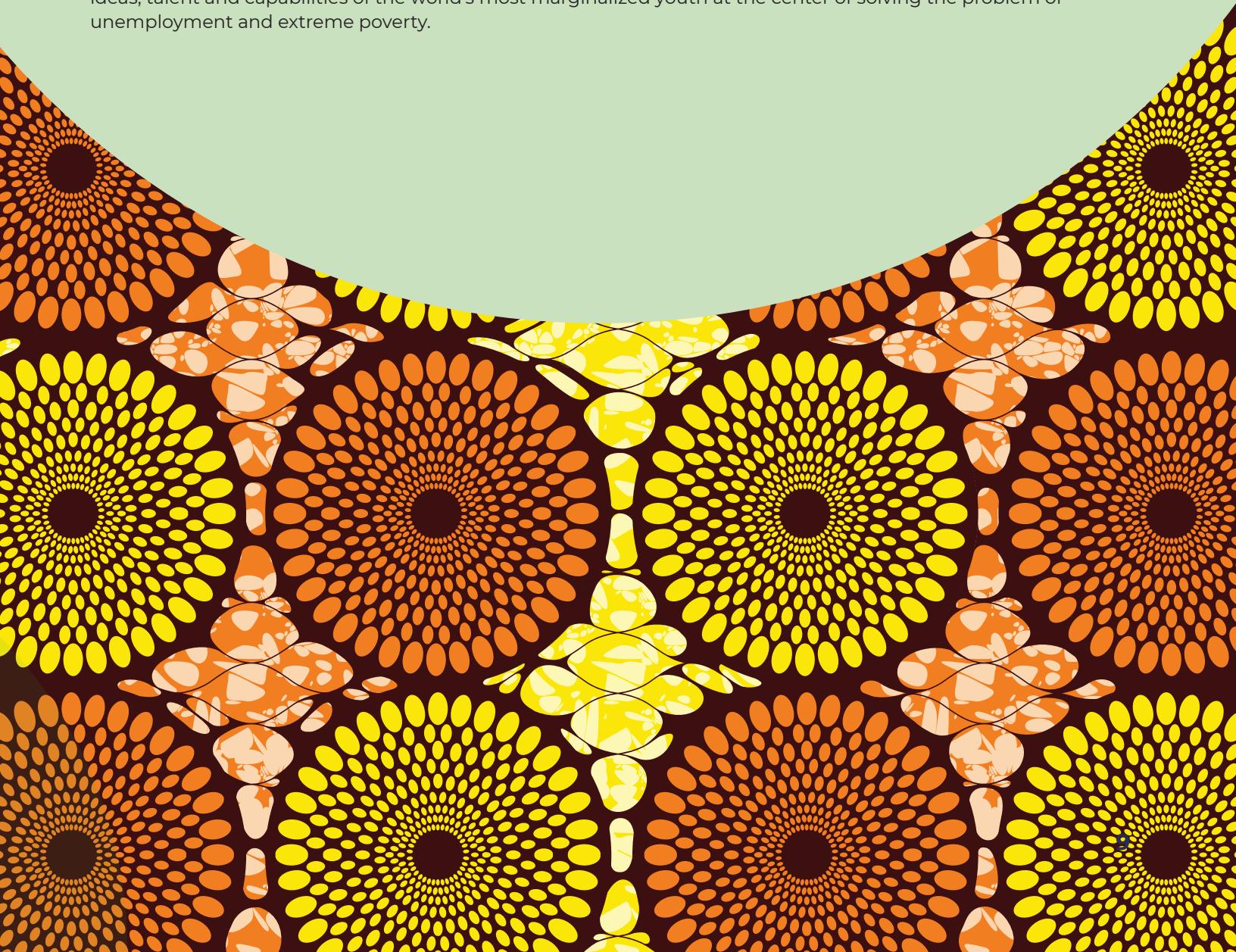
and partnered with the Ghana chapter of Young Africans Leadership Initiative. Africa 2.0 also has a partnership with the **Entreprenuerim Foundation** which is a Pan-African organization dedicated to support women and young entrepreneurs by providing business support and access to finance.



and empowers them to solve their own poverty issues. At the core of Sawa World's innovation, is putting the ideas, talent and capabilities of the world's most marginalized youth at the center of solving the problem of unemployment and extreme poverty.

## SAWA WORLD

Sawa world is an award-winning nonprofit organization established in Uganda in 2007 and working in four other countries: Tanzania, Rwanda, Zambia and Haiti. Sawa World is an organization which is working towards tackling poverty with local solutions. It uses an innovative approach to transform the lives of unemployed and marginalized youth by equipping them with skills to run micro-businesses with locally-created and simple solutions and aims at impacting 1 billion youth by 2030. Using its model approach, youth get trained by local media partners to become employed community reporters. The youth document local community leaders that have found own solutions to lift their community out of poverty without charity or foreign aid. On a monthly basis, using new media tools, the youth share the best practices of the leaders with surrounding communities and this provides people living in extreme poverty with knowledge



# **POETRY THAT CONNECTS THE CONTINENT & BEYOND: THE WORK OF WARSAN SHIRE**

**By Terez Hobson**

Young prolific African authors, poets, and essayists deserve more recognition. To fully tell the African story, we need to amplify the voices of artists from different backgrounds. Warsan Shire is one of those artists. She is a poet who writes for the diaspora, refugees, and migrants. She masterfully captures multiculturalism, global issues, and displacement as art—as poetry.

If you've heard Beyoncé's album Lemonade in full then you've been exposed to her words. Although she has partnered in iconic work, Shire is not unlike us. Warsan Shire was born in Kenya, to Somali parents. At a young age, her family immigrated to the UK. Raised in London, she felt that her background left a disorientating stamp on her connections to culture, place and identity. Straddling diversifying concepts of self, culture, home and belonging, Shire has used her experiences and the experience of those close to her to shape her poetry. She received recognition as "Young Poet Laureate" for London, in 2014. Shire is an example of the knowledge that African youth connected to the continent and the diaspora have to offer.



Her poetry plays an important role in connecting us all. Mixing cultures and identities isn't new but the way in which her work taps into globalization, migration, and identity resonates with many; especially as we lead more interconnected lives. Furthermore, her perspective as an immigrant straddling multiple cultural backgrounds is something more people can relate to. We are in a phase of celebrating and listening to more diverse experiences and will always need more experiences represented.

I believe we should read more. We should read about people with similar experiences to us, young African writers need to be uplifted so that future youth have eras and a past to connect to. Shire's works, "Teaching My Mother How to Give Birth" and "Her Blue Body" are windows into her experiences. Her words draw out our own empathy and we feel represented. It is so important that we have authors, poets and essayists that move us forward, and that represent the multiple complexities and strength of the continent.

**Do you have many contemporary authors or poets that you feel represent your experiences? Are there enough people that you can relate to? Let us give our time, resources, and attention to supporting young Africans like Warsan Shire who wish to share their experience, creativity, and thoughts to the world.**

# A REFLECTIVE PIECE ABOUT IDENTIFYING MOTIVATING FACTORS

By **Bethelhem Kassa**

We often find ourselves looking for that particular thing that motivates us to get up every day, get dressed, walk out that door and start the day. The thing that motivates all of us may be similar or vastly different from one another and some may even wonder what motivation really is in the first place! Well, motivation is the reason for people's actions, willingness and goals. It is derived from the word "motive" which is defined as a need that requires satisfaction. In general, it is finding what we love to do, who we would like to become and working towards that.

Everyone has their own motive for doing the things they do. We all have that particular motive that guide us through life and our own way and time of finding it. Motivations can be discovered at childhood, through life experiences, through education or by mere trial and error as we navigate the complexities of tasks and assignments.



What are the general factors that lead each of us to identify our motivation? These vastly include: Achievement, recognition of achievement, work, responsibility, happiness, growth, advancement and so much more.

Usually when asked what motivates us the most, more often than not, our answers are surprisingly vague. So how do we know what motivates us the most and what are our motivational factors? It is important to recognize that we're not all the same. Other people's motivations may be very different to yours. Your top motivation may be the success of your team, while the person at the desk next to you thrives on independence; you may love variety and constant change, but your partner longs for stability and structure; you may be motivated by internal recognition – based on your personal assessment of whether you've done a good job – while your friend desperately wants external recognition.

Here are the few steps one should take while finding their motivation:

1. Think about the times when you've been highly motivated and the times when you've felt most demoralized. These both will point you to the same set of motivations.
2. Conduct a personal experiment. As you go through your week, notice what's motivating and demotivating you. If you come home and say you've had a good day, why was it good? Just as important, what made your day bad? You may think it's just because 'stuff happened' or 'stuff didn't happen', but there's usually a link to motivations.
3. Create a list of motivations and then rank them in order of priority. This is a subjective process.
4. Talk about motivations - It's not enough to notice motivations: what's important is to discuss them and get a clearer head space.

In general there won't always be a perfect fit between your motivations and the situation you find yourself in, but if you understand how you operate at your best, and discuss this with the people around you, you have a better chance of creating the circumstances that match your motivations.

# OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AFRICAN AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR.

By Abdul Raheem



In many countries around the world, development has slowed down. Businesses and investors often look for new opportunities when growth is stagnant. A decade ago, Brazil, Russia, India, and China (also known as the BRIC countries) were thought to be the next El Dorado. However, over the years, many investors were disappointed by either the slow growth of their economy or the significant hurdles to entry.

On the other hand, the African continent is booming. Often acclaimed as having a growth rate among the highest in the world, the second-largest continent on the planet can offer a vast number of investment opportunities. The drastic increase in the number of middle-class families and acres of unused fertile land has attracted investors from around the world. Giants like Heineken and Coca Cola have already set their mark on the continent and profited from the natural resources.

In Africa, Agribusiness is worth about \$313 billion and provides employment for over 70% of the poorest people. Increasing agricultural productivity in the continent is the key towards achieving sustainable development. Agriculture has the potential to resolve Africa's food security challenges while providing opportunities for economic empowerment by providing a source of livelihood for the unemployed.

Further, Africa's agricultural exports have the potential to compete competitively in the global market place thereby giving African farmers better returns.

The World Bank forecasts Africa's agribusiness to be worth \$1 trillion by 2030. 60% of the world's uncultivated land is in Africa and the agro-processing sector is set to overtake mining and metals in the near future. Technology has revolutionized the agricultural industry not only Europe but in Africa too which has enabled few market players to produce on a massive scale at reduced cost.



Investors in Africa often consider Uganda's agricultural potential to be the best on the continent. With two rainy seasons per year and the temperature almost always constant, Uganda benefits from multiple crop harvests per year. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Uganda's fertile agricultural land can feed 200 million people. Coffee, tea, sugar, livestock, edible oils, cotton, tobacco, plantains, corn, beans, cassava, sweet potatoes, millet, sorghum and groundnuts are among the wide country's top exports.

Governments, private sector players, farmers and all other players involved in the Agribusiness value chain must therefore work hard to realize this dream of making Africa and Africans great and not dependent on foreign grants. The youth of Africa must also look beyond illusions offered by 'greener pastures' in other continents and look at agriculture as a continental business and not just merely farming to feed their nuclear families.

# QUESTION & ANSWER SECTION

By Sheila Achieng'

According to statistics, more than one billion youth will have joined Africa's working population by the year 2030. They will play a key role not only in leadership and governance, but will also participate in making an influencing policy and catalyze implementation. Youth involvement in implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area therefore plays a key role in positioning youth as key drivers of its actualization in the African economic landscape.

What then, are the issues that need to be addressed to increase the understanding of this policy framework?

We turn our focus to various industries and the benefits that accrues from implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area.



## 1. I would like to venture into agribusiness? How will my business venture benefit from implementation of the AfCFTA?

The AfCFTA is an initiative to create a singular, borderless African economy of about 1.2 billion consumers and a combined GDP of \$3 trillion. Agribusiness stands to be the greatest beneficiary of this initiative as the framework seeks to catalyze intra-African trade that will provide access to new markets on the African continent. The concerted drive to eliminate punitive trade policies will also reduce the cost of access to these markets while allowing farmers to sell their produce at better prices.

## 2. How will the AfCFTA benefit youth with professional skills?

The AfCFTA is aimed at creating a borderless continent that will facilitate the movement of goods and people. The movement of people will achieve the geographical skills transfer threshold needed to catalyze. Skilled professionals can offer their expertise in different regions of the continent where they are needed effectively putting an end to unemployment and the brain drain experienced in most African economies.

## 3. How will the AfCFTA benefit youth plying their trade within the creative economy?

Africa's creative economy has the capacity to provide employment to millions of unemployed youth on the continent. Cultural assets can be leveraged as key contributor to national GDPs as more Africans embrace the consumption of locally produced content. Nigeria's Nollywood, for example, is the third largest film industry in the world by value, raking in an estimated 500 to \$800 million annually. Nigeria's creative content is now being exported across different African countries like Mali, Ghana and Kenya. The creative economy has the potential to drive economic growth on the continent by creating value chains between artists, producers, entrepreneurs and distribution networks. The AfCFTA provides a policy framework that will strengthen intellectual property rights frameworks and formalize the production of creative goods and encourage consumption within African economies.

#### **4. How will the AfCFTA contribute towards bridging the skills gaps needed to develop African economies?**

Apart from facilitating professional exchange through enabling geographical skills mobility, the framework will create opportunities for the youth through the formalization of the informal sector. This will encourage the acquisition of skills and capacity building to enhance service delivery within these industries.

#### **5. How will the creation of a borderless Africa benefit African youth?**

The AfCFTA will enable the free movement of products and people. Human mobility is an important element in economic development. Apart from just facilitating skills transfer, the free movement of people across the continent is crucial in encouraging the geopolitical cooperation needed to maintain peace and stability on the continent. The framework therefore, will foster the creation of an social environment in which barriers posed by national and geographical diminish in significance and youth are connected by the collective vision to develop themselves and contribute towards Africa's development.

# WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS

By Terez Hobson



## July Webinar Grants and Scholarships

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlaGBJgR\\_ss&t=118s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlaGBJgR_ss&t=118s)

Delivered by Youth Education & Engagement Strategist Brenda McWilson-Okorogba, the webinar sought to build youth capacity to apply for Grants & Scholarships. The session brought out the value of identifying the area of study the applicant intends to focus on as well as personal qualifications. The webinar also exposed the youth to information sources for funding opportunities and the general requirements needed to secure education funding. In addition, Brenda dwelt on the best practices used in securing scholarships and the importance of volunteerism as a critical element in competitive career positioning for scholarship consideration.



Speaker

### BRENDA MCWILSON-OKOROGBA

Youth Education and Engagement Strategist, Strategic Program Planner and Grant Writer for a non-profit



Modrator

### CHUKS OKORIEKWE

YALDA Nigeria President



**YALDA**  
Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

**MONTHLY WEBINAR**

# TRANSFORMING EDUCATION



Join us as we celebrate International Youth Day and find out how we can make education relevant, equitable and inclusive, as well as promote lifelong learning opportunities for all youth

**Date: Saturday 17th August**  
**Time:**  
 4pm South African time, 5pm Kenya time, 3pm Nigeria time, 3pm Morocco time and 10 am US EST time

## August Webinar Transforming Education

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GLySn05sv4>

The discussion was centered on youth's contribution to the development of inclusive educational policies and the government's role in increasing learning outcomes with regards to diversity of students and learning abilities. The speakers highlighted the challenges facing the education sector in Africa and the policy gaps that continue to deprive the continent's children access to quality and affordable education. The discussants also highlighted the solutions towards attaining better education in Africa. Some of the solutions presented include the tweaking of curricula to fit the changing, dynamic context, policy changes and public private partnerships to address the deficits in current education structures.

The global idea taken home from the webinar urges us as development actors from various spheres of society to transform education, making it relevant and equitable for all.



**HANSEL TANTEH**

Lecturer/Consultant at Pan African Institute for Development



**RUTENDO RACHAEL CHILENGI**

African Youth Union Comission  
AYUC-SADC



**MALIKA LAASRI**

North Africac & Mauritius Lead  
Partnership Development for the  
African Leadership Group



Moderator

**INES TCHAKOUNTE**

Assistant Executive Director  
and Secretary General -YALDA  
Cameroon



**Monthly Webinar**  
**NETWORKING 101**  
**How to Nurture  
Your Connections for Success**

Tune in as we provide innovative tips and strategies to build strong connections and networks

**DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH**

TIME: 4pm South African time, 5pm Kenya time,  
3pm Nigeria time, 3pm Morocco time and 10am US EST time

## September Webinar

### Networking 101

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugEkQYrkiMc>

This webinar was aimed at providing innovative tips and strategy to build strong connections and networks. Guest speakers, Kushal and Mac spoke about the importance of networking in harnessing opportunities for personal growth and development. The speakers emphasized in the need to set networking goals to provide a strategy for measuring progress made in networking endeavours. Both speakers spoke to the importance of being yourself stressing that genuine interactions will stand out more than any superficial efforts. Participants were urged to understand the different purposes of networking and concentrate on connecting with people who have similar goals. In addition, were also asked to understand themselves and the authentic value that can be added in relationships. Finally, the youth were urged to leverage volunteerism as a viable pathway towards building richer networks and accessing greater opportunities.



**KUSHAL RAMYAD**

Chief of HR, UN Resident Coordinator System at the United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCOC)



**MAC SARBAH**

Entrepreneur, Founder of EdAcme.org



Trainer and Moderator

**NATALIE SONIA**

Chairperson, African Youth Commission  
YALDA East Africa Regional Associate

# YALDA PROJECTS

Umoja Peace Initiative – YALDA  
Makerere, Uganda

By Joshua Mawerere

Umoja Peace Conference was a two day youth Conference held from 18th – 20th September 2019 at the Grand Global Hotel, Makerere – Kampala. This conference was only the first implementation stage of the Umoja Peace Actors project which will be scaled up in difference regions. Umoja Peace conference brought together over 150 young leaders from universities, community based organizations, government, religious organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society to discuss and learn innovative value based approaches to develop the right attitude, conduct and actions towards fostering peace in the region. The conference was designed to focus on youth involvement in crafting practical actions towards achievement of SDG #16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

According to statistics, 78% of Uganda's population is aged below 30 years. The youth also make up a huge proportion of the population's unemployed. Further, 80% of the youth reside in rural areas and depend on their immediate families for their livelihood. These young people are easily and continuously being negatively influenced by social, political and economic factors that fuel crime, violent conflicts, terrorism, immorality, corruption and radicalization. To guarantee the country's stability at community level – Youth in Uganda and the region must be equipped with knowledge and practical skills to; first appreciate peace, avert conflicts, resolve conflicts, enhance advocacy for peace, equality, inclusion, safe spaces for children, girls and women and learn practical actions and activism on peace building. The conference achieved building a new wave of young grounded peace actors and peace activists to promote and implement projects towards peace in their communities and areas of service. Over 150 delegates from Umoja Peace Conference acquired knowledge and practical skills to handle conflicts and to sustain peace. There they were passed as Community Peace Actors.



Chief Guest & Speaker  
**Hon. Rtd. Col. Charles Okello Engola,**  
State Minister of Defense for General Duties,  
Uganda spoke on 'The History of Violent  
Conflicts in the Region.'



**Mr. Ali Hassan Kambele,**  
CEO Okapi Group Sar - Democratic Republic  
of Congo makes a compelling presentation  
on 'Positioning oneself as an ambassador of  
Peace.'



Guest Speaker  
**Ms. Sonia Nasher,**  
Associate CIPD, engages the youth on  
'Work Place Conflicts: Impact on Career and  
Productivity.'

The topics and speakers were selected on purpose and based on their experience and knowledge on Peace, Justice and Conflict management. Some of the speakers were born in war zone areas in the region, serve in roles where they have to resolve conflicts or have started or run a business in conflict areas. They have a special attachment to peace and sustainability of peace in the region. The aim of these speakers was to give practical issue based actions towards enhancing peace and how young people avert social, economic or political conflicts but rather participate as peace actors amidst any conflicts.

**The youth in Africa have an important role to play in establishing a culture that embraces peace and deploys tact in conflict resolution. Here are some key pointers as to how you can position yourself as a peace ambassador in your community!**

1. **The first level of conflict** is when you are in **disagreement with yourself**, if you are to position yourself as an ambassador of peace you ought to **resolve this internal conflict on a daily basis**.
2. **Become more familiar with your community:** Introduce yourself and what you do to every one you meet. Show genuine interest in other people introduced to you.
3. **Plan a peaceful event** if you want to raise awareness about problems facing your community and encourage peace in your community.
4. **Embrace Volunteerism:** Volunteering is a great way to help your community and a good way to popularize and promote peace.
5. **Learn about national and regional history:** Read and understand the growth and development of your community and life.
6. **Investigate the causes of violence in your community.** This helps to identify the driving forces behind violence. In addition, engage other leaders to craft actions and responses that fit the causes.



**Ms. Claire Hawkins,**  
UN Women Representative explains women why UN Women decided to fund young women to attend the Conference



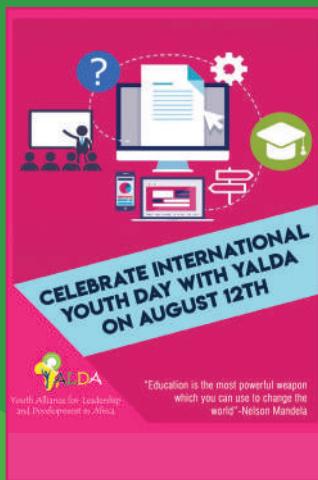
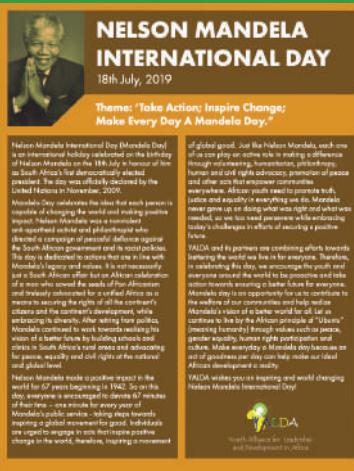
**Hon. Jackline Amongin**  
Member of Parliament, Head of Delegation  
- Pan African Parliament talks about Pan Africanism as a driver for African Peace.



Delegates were awarded with certificates of participation and appreciated for driving discourse on peace.

# **INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY STATEMENTS**

As part of the international community, YALDA not only recognizes and commemorates important holidays, but also encourage the youth to participate in these events thereby advancing the youth agenda. Here are our thoughts on important holidays commemorated in the third quarter!



# July **Nelson Mandela Day**

'Nelson Mandela International Day' is an international holiday celebrated on the birthday of Nelson Mandela on 18th July in his honour as South Africa's first democratically elected president. Mandela International Day also celebrates the idea that each person is capable of changing the world and making positive impact. This day was officially declared by the United Nations in November, 2009.

## August **International Youth Day**

The 'United Nations International Youth Day' was established by the United Nations to celebrate youth and encourage their participation towards development. The youth in Africa account for 19% of the total global youth population, a number that is expected to rise to 42% by 2030. For this reason, young people have much to offer societies-from innovation and creativity to new thinking.

September  
**International Day of Peace**

The 'International Day of Peace' sometimes known as World Peace Day is a United Nations sanctioned holiday observed annually in 21st September. The day was first celebrated in 1981 and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups and people. Each year, the International Day of Peace is observed around the world as a reminder of human effort for absolute world peace.

# EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

By YALDA Research

## Training Programs

- › [Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program 2020 at the University of California, Berkeley](#)  
Deadline January 27, 2020
- › [Advancing Long-term Leadership Initiative \(ALLI\) Indo-Pacific Summit 2019](#)  
Deadline October 14, 2019

## Conferences & Workshops

- › [Iceland Writers Retreat 2020 for Writers Worldwide \(Full Funding Available to Reykjavik, Iceland\)](#)  
Deadline October 31, 2019

## Funding

Scholarships:

- › [TU Delft - Sub-Saharan Africa Excellence Scholarship 2020 for MSc Program in Delft, the Netherlands](#)  
Deadline December 15, 2019
- › [University of Oxford - Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Program 2020 \(fully-funded\)](#)  
Deadline January 10, 2020

Grants & Fellowships

- › [Finnish Government Scholarship Pool 2020-2021 - Grants for Doctoral Studies and Research Visit in Finland](#)  
Deadline February 15, 2020

## Training Programs

Employment

- › [Plaqad Campus Ambassador Program 2019 for Nigerian Undergraduate students](#)  
Deadline November 1, 2019

Internships

- › [Rolex Awards for Enterprise for Leaders 2019](#)  
Deadline April 4, 2020
- › [Quebec Doctoral research Internship Program 2020 for foreign students--Canada](#)  
Deadline March 1, 2020
- › [Chevron Nigeria 2020 January- June Internship Placement for Young Nigerians](#)  
Deadline ongoing