



**ECOSOC
YOUTH FORUM**

CONCEPT NOTE

African Union Mission to the United Nations in partnership with Africa CDC and African Union Youth Envoy Office

Side Event :“Accelerating the COVID-19 recovery efforts, with and for the youth”

Date: 27 April 2023

Time: 11:30am to 1pm

Venue: Permanent Mission of the African Union to the United Nations

Background

The 2023 UN ECOSOC Youth Forum will gather in a hybrid format to address the theme of ECOSOC and the 2023 UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF), focusing primarily on COVID-19 and accelerating the implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will connect with key UN processes and events in 2023 especially HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC in July 2023, and the SDG Summit, in September 2023 at the level of Heads of State and Government.

On the sidelines of the UN Youth Forum, the African Union Mission to the United Nations in New York will convene a meeting with the Africa Ministers of Youth in collaboration with Africa CDC through the Bangda Initiative under the Saving Livelihoods Program and the Office of the African Union Chairperson’s Youth Envoy. The meeting will allow for discussion on good practices, lessons learnt, challenges, and opportunities for the monitoring and realization of Agenda 2063 in line with accelerating the Covid-19 recovery efforts.

With a steadily increasing African youth population projected to double by 2050,¹ the need for innovative and sustainable sources of livelihood is needed more than ever. While the challenges of unemployment and poverty still exist across the continent, the budding youth population presents a great window of opportunity through which Africa can tap into the youth demographic dividend. The youth have often been associated with attributes such as innovation, grit, creativity, passion, and commitment – all of which are needed to drive Africa’s economy to the next level in attaining Agenda 2063, aspiration 6.



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However, to fully tap into the youth demographic dividend, there is a need to address the enormous challenges that young people face both on the continent and abroad and further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The African Union is committed to youth economic development and has developed several policies and programs at the continental level to ensure that Africa benefits from its demographic dividend. These policies include the African Youth Charter, the Youth Decade Plan of Action, and the Malabo Decision on Youth Empowerment, all of which are implemented through the various programs of Agenda 2063. It is in this context that the Permanent Observation Mission of the African Union to the United Nations and the Office of the Youth Envoy will organize the side-event on 27th of April 2023, from 11:30 to 1:00 pm at the Nelson Mandela Conference room.

Objectives of the side event:

The side event aims to:

1. Provide an equal opportunity for youth representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss how young people are participating and leading on COVID-19 recovery within the framework of Agenda 2063, what kind of support they need, and how they can meaningfully contribute to follow-up and review mechanisms established.
2. Identify the challenges limiting youth engagement towards accelerating efforts of Covid-19 Recovery
3. Offer a platform for the Youth to inform and discuss with different stakeholders on best practices and examples of national policies, programmes, and priorities on youth development, rights, and engagement in the context of the 2063, accelerating recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the AU Youth Charter
4. Contributions towards an African Union Publication on the role of Youth in accelerating the Covid-19 Recovery Efforts to be co-published by Africa CDC, Ambassador of the African Union to the United Nations and the African Union Youth Envoy and launched on the side-lines of the UNGA in September, following a series of youth sessions planned for the rest of the year. (Guided by the publication proposal)

Outcomes of the side event:

1. Annual joint publication to inform Policy Makers and guide on the involvement and perspective of youth in Africa on Covid-19 Post Recovery

Participants:

1. African youth in the diaspora



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2. African National Youth Council Representatives attending the Ecosoc Forum
3. African Student Societies at U.S Based Universities



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Draft Programme

“Accelerating the COVID-19 recovery efforts, with and for the youth”

Date: 27 April 2023

Time: 11:30am to 1pm

Venue: Permanent Mission of the African Union to the United Nations

Co-Moderators: -Ms. Wamweni Sharlette Samundengu - Youth Engagement Project Lead, Office of the Youth Envoy, AUC

-Mr. Cherinet Hariffo, SDGs Advocate

11:35 AM - 11:40 AM	<p>OPENING SESSION: (3-5min/speaker)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the UN
11:40 AM - 12:00 AM	<p>“OUR VOICES” (Young African interventions): (5-10min/speaker) Moderated by Ms. Wamweni Samudengu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Chido Mpemba, AU Youth Envoy Ms. Yasmina Benslimane, Founder of Politics4Her Mr. Nial Deng, Youth Community activist and Humanitarian consultant Ms. Grace Merlene Miamoukanda, Founder of Mwassiwoman (DRC)
12:45 AM - 11:30AM	<p>PRESENTATION BY AFRICA CDC on the Bingwa Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chrys Promesse Kaniki - Senior Technical Officer for Strategic Programmes, AU Bingwa Initiative Coordinator, Africa CDC
12:15 PM – 12:50	<p>INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION</p>
12:50 PM – 13:00 PM	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Chido Mpemba, AU Youth Envoy