

## **AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (AFRIYOCC) 2017**

**Theme: “Integrating African Youth in the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions: Trends and Prospects”**



<b>Project Title</b>	<b>AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (AfriYOCC)</b>	
<b>Duration</b>	<b>3 days</b>	
<b>Period</b>	<b>October 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017</b>	
<b>Location</b>	<b>Abuja - Nigeria</b>	
<b>Contact Person (S)</b>	<b>Continental Convener</b>	<b>Country Convener</b>
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## **Background**

You don't have to look very hard or far to see the promise and power of African youth to deliver solutions, positive change and prosperity in achieving the Africa Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. And yet, still, on a continent where people under the age of 35 are in the overwhelming majority, youth remain excluded from political leadership and decision-making and marginalized in national economies. We have an older generation in positions of authority, seeking to address issues facing young people without involving or consulting them. These efforts are bound to fail. The inter-generational divide is a modus vivendi that needs to be resolved to avoid repeated uprisings of marginalized youths.

Five years ago, the African Union convened a summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea around the theme, Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development. One of the resolutions of that summit was a commitment by AU Heads of State to reduce youth unemployment by 2% a year. Not only have we failed to reduce unemployment by 2% annually but in fact, unemployment has been increasing every year since then.

In January this year, the AU again resurrected the youth agenda, convening the **28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union Heads of States and Governments** around the theme, **Harnessing Demographic Dividend through investments in the Youth**. This time around, promises to youth by the AU and development partners at this summit included the establishment of an African Youth Development Fund and an AU Youth Envoy's Office.

Stereotypical perceptions of youth, politically and traditionally, as ignorant, problematic and useless have led to young people being excluded from decision-making processes – even on issues that they could solely deal with. Youth are virtually left with no room to learn by doing. African governments are busy looking for miracles to solve the problems in Africa. Yet the biggest miracle is right in front of them: African youth.

African youth need educational, employment and leadership opportunities to unleash their potential and act as vanguards for achieving the "Africa We Want" by 2063 – as promoted in the Africa Agenda 2063 and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Africa's population is young and continues to get younger, this has presented an opportunity for young people to elevate the continent. The prospects offers African youth a space to create their ideal future. Some being involved in sustainable solutions and ecological projects. In tackling the solutions youth often face limitations such as access to finance, land, credit, training and new technologies needed to effectively improve livelihoods and deal with challenges posed by climate change.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> African Union Summits of Head of State and Governments Decision on the High Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA) **Assembly/AU/Dec.538(XXIII)**, Malabo 2014 recognized the need to elaborate on the implementation of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) Youth Programme on Climate Change (CYPCC) including Youth participation in climate change negotiations and continental wide youth competition and other activities related to youth

participation on climate change aspects to enhance youth engagement in climate change actions. Sequel to this, the African Union Commission and UNECA organized a CAHOSCC Gender and Youth on Climate Change Regional Meeting, Kenya in June 2016 to brainstorm on effective strategies for integrating youth and women in climate change negotiations, policies and actions at regional and national levels.

Key outcomes from the meeting was the Youth Statement which recommended the integration, capacity building and Financing Youth participation in climate change negotiation processes at national, regional and international levels. It also recommended the Creation of a CAHOSCC Youth Group of Negotiators (CYGN) to be integrated in national and regional government delegations to Climate Negotiations.

Consequently, the previous editions of the African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC) organized by AYICC in Zimbabwe (2015) and Kenya (2016) jumpstarted and strengthened the processes for youth mainstreaming at regional climate change processes.

Thus, the **3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC)** aims to provide a unique platform for African youth to create awareness about the critical role young people *should* play in shifting agendas in UNFCCC, regional and national negotiation processes.

AfriYOCC will enhance dialogue and understanding of the dynamics and impacts of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and possible entry points for youth engagement. It will also facilitate the articulation of the views and youth position to COP23 and beyond.

### **Objectives**

1. To create a platform for discussions, sharing of ideas and experiences among youth participants and selected stakeholders.; to discuss current and emerging issues on climate change
2. To develop and publish an African youth position paper ahead of COP23
3. Showcase best practice projects by youth on climate change.
4. Develop a youth roadmap for implementing NDCs and integrating youth into the national Government Delegation and Team of Negotiators for COP23 and beyond
5. Validate and launch AYICC's 3 years strategy on climate change

### **Expected Outcomes**

1. A clear understanding of the Youth engagement strategy in NDCs' implementation
2. A youth position paper for COP23
3. Youth Best practices showcased
4. New partners to liaise with on climate change issues across the continent
5. Youth selected to join national Government Delegation and Team of Negotiators for COP23

## **CONFERENCE THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS**

- a. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)
- b. Climate Change and Development in Africa
- c. Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
- d. Youth in Agribusiness
- e. Renewable Energy and Green Economy
- F. Climate Justice and Gender

## **Target Group and Participation**

### ***200 youth across Africa selected from:***

1. AYICC Leadership and members
2. Youth led climate and environmental organizations
3. Youth climate activists and campaigners
4. Grassroots youth and farmers
5. Stakeholders from Government and CSOs
6. Media and Artists
7. Agropreneurs

**Dates and Venue:** October 10 - 12, 2017. Abuja. Nigeria

The Conference will be jointly hosted by AYICC, Federal Ministry of Environment – Nigeria and other partners

## **Conference Highlights**

### **Day One: October 10, 2017**

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Co-Creation Workshop on iconizing 2016 Marrakech Proclamation on Climate Change
3. Simultaneous Breakout Sessions
  - a. Youth Roadmap on the NDCs
  - b. Youth Position paper on COP23
  - c. Eco-smart projects Clinic (pitching youth-led projects)
  - d. Climate Simulation
4. Panel Discussion on youth and Climate Change Negotiations

### **Day Two: October 11, 2017**

1. African Youth Agric Festival (Hosted by CAADP Youth Network)
2. Cinema4Climate (screening of one film on climate change)
3. Green Space and recycling corner
4. Open Mic (poetry, comedy, dance, music)
5. Closing Ceremony (presentation of youth position, road map, icons)
6. AYICC Congress

### **Day Three: October 12, 2017**

1. Visit to a Green project (Optional)
2. Departures

### **Potential Partners:**

1. World Bank Youth Forum
2. CAADP Youth Network
3. Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria
4. AUC/NEPAD
5. African Youth Alliance on SDG's
6. YouthHub Africa
7. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
8. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
9. Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
10. UNECA-African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)
11. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
12. African Agribusiness Incubation Alliance (AAIN)
13. AGRA
14. FARA
15. IFPRI
16. African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI)

