

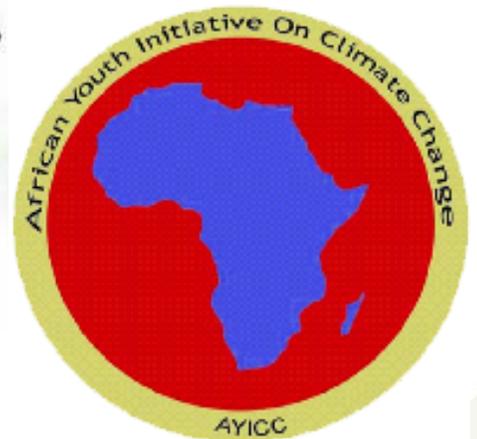
# AfriYOCC

AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

African Youth Responses to Climate Change and Food Security: Action from the Frontline

26-27 OCT, 2015  
VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

 @AYICC



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **First African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC)** was convened from 26-27 October 2015 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, on the theme **“African Youth Response to Climate Change and Food Security, Action from the Frontline.”**

Over a 100 youth selected across Africa converged at Elephant Hills Resort, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe to share ideas on various strategies and responses to climate change in the first edition of the African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC). Strategically positioned as a pre-event to the biggest climate change conference in Africa this year; the 5th Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference (CCDA 5), AFRIYOC provided a platform for youth consultation in the run up to COP21; giving African youths an opportunity to interact, share best practices and produce a common position paper as a group with the hopes of using it to influence negotiations through to COP21 by speaking with one voice.

Kofi Annan aptly stated that *“the effects of climate change are being felt all over the world, but not equally”*. Africa has been greatly disadvantaged and its population highly vulnerable to Climate Change. Notwithstanding, Africa has a critical demographic constituency to partner with. Two-thirds of our continent’s population falls below 24 years old, demographically making Africa the world’s youngest continent, and this figure is expected to double by 2045. Youths are an important clientele whose participation in Climate solutions both at formulation and implementation level will have strong results in ensuring long-term sustainability. Indeed, African youths have proved their potential in both promoting and implementing Climate Change adaptation projects in their communities as can be seen in the best practices section of this report.

Thematic areas of the conference included agribusiness, climate change and development in Africa; sustainable agriculture and food security; green economy and technology transfer; climate justice and human rights; disaster risk reduction.

Sincere gratitude goes to our benefactors: Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), New Partnership for African development (NEPAD) and Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA); African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) Continental Organizing Committee and Zimbabwe National Organizing Committee for their tireless efforts spent ensuring the conference came to fruition; and finally the participants for their enriching contributions.

The second edition of AfriYOCC will be held in 2016 to coincide with the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AYICC. Kenya; the birthplace of AYICC was aptly chosen to host the second edition.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AfriYOCC	African Youth Conference on Climate Change
AYICC	African Youth Initiative on Climate Change
ACPC	Africa Climate Policy Centre
AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CAHOSCC	Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change
COP	Conference Of Parties
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
PACJA	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ZUNA	Zimbabwe United Nations Association

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The planning and execution of the first edition of African Youth Conference on Climate Change would not have been successful without the invaluable support physically, materially, morally, among others. Special mention goes to Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)'s Clim-Dev, New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Trocaire, Zimbabwe United Nations Association (ZUNA), and African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) continental organizing committee. We cannot forget the Kenyan team who came via road through Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and finally Zimbabwe in a bid to cut their carbon footprint through the support of Forum Norway.

Lastly, the organizing committee would like to thank the participants for their immense contributions and determination to share with and learn from one another.

We can only hope that the subsequent editions will be bigger and better.

*AYICC Executive Board*

## FOREWARD



Above 50% of the African population are the youth, this therefore clearly shows whom adverse climatic changes impacts are affecting. Additionally, it justifies the imperative need for youth capacity development to respond to climate change and inclusion as key stakeholders in policy formulations, implementations and climate negotiations. Just by the numbers, the potentials and vigor of youth contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies is irrefutable. The formation of African Youth Initiative of Climate Change (AYICC) [www.ayicc.inet](http://www.ayicc.inet) was among the best foot forward to act in response to the mentioned issues. AYICC aims to spear-head new innovations, look into new systems of success to share with policy and decision-makers, and generally aim to improve on the current climate system which is causing long-term and irreversible degradation to our livelihoods - as the leading youth organization on climate change in Africa. In cognizance of the role and resourcefulness of the African youth in climate change mitigation and adaptation and overall sustainable development trajectory, the African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC), being the first of its kind in the history of the continent was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in between 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015 as a Pre-Youth Event of the Climate Change and Development Conference (CCDA-V) from 28 to 30 October 2015, organized by the UNECA African Climate Policy Centre through the Clim-Dev Africa Programme.

The conference provided an appropriate avenue for African youth to come together and discuss issues relating to various topics including the innovative climate adaptation and mitigation projects, food security and climate smart agriculture, disaster risk reduction, renewable energy solutions, inclusive green economy, biodiversity, gender and climate change and active youth participation in UNFCCC negotiations. It is important to note that AfriYOCC was a culmination of a series of activities across the continent and a build up to COP 21 in Paris. On behalf of the organizers and benefactors, I convey my sincere gratitude and green recognition to everyone who ensured AfriYOCC 2015 was a success.

**Ibrahim Ceesay**  
**Executive Coordinator**  
**Africa Youth Initiative on Climate Change**  
**Convener- African Youth Conference Climate Change (AfriYOCC) 2015**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) is an umbrella youth network of African based youth organizations, university groups, rural youth groups, and climate activist working on climate change and sustainable development issues. With chapters in 45 African countries, and over 20,000 members across the continent and Diaspora, AYICC aims at developing capacity and strong partnerships among African youth to understand the urgent need to take action against the impacts of climate change for both present and future generations.

The initiative was conceived in Nairobi (Kenya) in 2006, during the second Conference of Youth (COY2) preceding the 12th Conference of Parties at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC - COP12). The main reason for its founding was to ensure the inclusion, and active participation of youth voices from the south, and specifically Africa, in the international climate change negotiations.

In order to take stock of AYICC, compare notes and exchange ideas on climate change adaptation and mitigation among the country chapters, the continental leadership in collaboration with partners decided to organize the first edition of African youth conference on climate change (AfriYOCC). AfriYOCC was held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

### 1.1 AfriYOCC Objectives

- a) To develop an African youth position paper ahead of CoP21 in Paris
- b) Launch of CAHOSCC Youth Programme on Climate Change (CYPCC) through the ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform (CLAYP).
- c) Launch of the AYICC best practice data' base for youth response to climate change in Africa.
- d) Launch of the "Youth Farm Pilot Project" in 10 African Countries
- e) To develop the requisite skills needed by African youth to actively participate in climate change negotiations thereby influencing political decisions and policies at the national, regional and international levels.
- f) Adopt an African youth engagement strategy for the second decade of CAADP implementation with the validation of the AU Heads of State Malabo Declaration Roadmap and Implementation.
- g) To provide a platform for AYICC leaders and members to review AYICC Strategy, leadership and operations.

## 1.2 AfriYOCC Thematic Areas

- a) **Youth in Agribusiness**
- b) **Climate Change and Development in Africa**
- c) **Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security**
- d) **Green Economy and Technology Transfer**
- e) **Climate Justice and Human Rights**
- f) **Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction**

## 1.3 Conference Strategy

The conference programme was based on climate adaptation and mitigation through agriculture, technology and education. It was highly interactive with unique workshop-style design that enabled participants to develop their potential through practical experience. Participants were divided into thematic groups and tasked to come up an African Youth position paper and concrete activities to be included in the African Youth Strategy on Climate Change. The delegates were engaged in pre-conference activities that included a review of country positions to COP 21, formulation of country youth positions that contributed to the African Youth Position to COP 21, mapping of youth climate change and/or mitigation projects within the conference key focus areas for selection as best practice and included in the African youth climate change adaptation and mitigation best practices data base and handbook.

The conference was convened by the AYICC continental secretariat in collaboration with the AYICC Zimbabwe chapter and the member country chapters.

AYICC leadership will work with the participants and partners after the conference to develop follow up mechanisms and activities.

## 2.0 DAY 1 (26<sup>th</sup> October 2015)

The conference began at 10:00 a.m on the 26th October 2015 with welcoming remarks from Mr. L. Mashungu, a representative from the Zimbabwean Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. The head of the Zimbabwe National Organizing Committee and president of Zimbabwe United Nations Association, Mr. Fischer Chiyanike then gave the opening remarks. There was then a round of introductions by the participants with each participant mentioning a critical climate change issue in his/her country.

After the introductions, Belinda Namboka, AYICC Kenya Communications Coordinator gave the background of AfriYOCC, touching on its conception to its materialization. She mentioned that the main objective of AfriYOCC was to create a platform for African youths and AYICC members to come together to discuss current and emerging issues on climate change in Africa, to network amongst the membership through sharing experiences, knowledge and actions, to hold face-to-face strategic meetings on country and local level activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation and most of all to come up with an African youth position paper.

Over the years, African youth had proved their potential in both promoting and implementing climate change adaptation projects in their communities. This has however been amidst various challenges that include low capacity and education, high rates of poverty and lack of financial resources. Therefore African Union solidified their commitments to Africa's youth participation in addressing climate change in 2014, during the 23<sup>rd</sup> AU Summit of Heads of States in Malabo. The summit requested the African Union Commission to set up a "Youth Programme" of the Committee of African Heads of States and Government of Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

The next session involved African youths presenting various activities that they had going in their different countries. This was later followed by the plenary session where all the youth discussed, contributed and shared ideas on the presented activities in Africa.

The plenary session and group discussions helped participants understand the urgency to act on climate change and their roles as youth in doing so. It was reiterated that there are adequate skills and information to act; more of commitment and collaboration were required.

The day was wrapped by a music performance from a Kenyan Climate Change artiste Stephanie Pownall, followed by a dance after the closing of day one of the conference. The participants then retired to their respective hotels.

### 3.0 DAY 2 (27<sup>th</sup> October, 2015)

The second day of the conference started at 10:00 hours with welcome remarks from the chair of the day - Barr. Nkiruka Nnaemego, AYICC Regional Coordinator for West Africa and a member of the continental organizing committee. She then gave a recap of the previous day's activities and passed apologies for those who could not make it to the conference in time for one reason or another.

Continental AYICC's communications coordinator - Mr. Hamzat Lawal was then invited to give the organization's background. He highlighted that AYICC was founded in 2006 and that its membership currently stood at over 40 000 members all working towards enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Mr. Lawal also enumerated the achievements of the movement, citing the AfriYOCC as one of the success stories in addition to educational awareness campaigns in Rwanda, Central African Republic and urban poultry projects in Namibia.

He urged the youth to keep on using the social media networks to spread the news of climate change and summarized by encouraging youth's participation in policy formulation.

### 3.1 African Youth Position

After Mr. Lawal's presentation, participants were organized into groups to come up with African Position paper on COP 21 to be held in Paris. The topic "African Youth Engagement strategy on climate change and best ways to mitigate and adapt climate change in Africa" was discussed.

This session was led by Dr. Landry Ndriko, founder of Rwandan Youth Climate Coalition. He urged participants to use the SWOT analysis to brain storm on issues which should be addressed in the position paper.

Through their various groups, youths stated the need to promote the bottom-up approach starting from community level, encompassing indigenous knowledge system and intertwining it with modern knowledge for sustainable climate change solutions.

It was also revealed that a regional consensus is a need to help cover a lot of scope in addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

### 3.2 Panel Discussion

Group work was followed by a panel discussion. The panel was moderated by AYICC Technical Advisor, Ms. Grace Muthoni Mwaura.

The panelists were; Ms. Margaret Koli, Youth advisor at UN habitat, Mr. Ntiokam Divine, founder of Climate Change Smart Agriculture Youth Network, Mr. Archieford Chemhere from Action24 and Mr. Abel Musumali from Clim-Dev African Youth Platform (CLAYP).

The panelist gave background accounts of the various projects and initiatives they are involved in or are undertaking in their respective countries, as well as the visions and expected outcomes of their projects.

Consensus from the panel discussion was that youth and climate change stakeholders including governments need to enhance level of preparedness in relation to climate change induced disasters. Youths were also encouraged to be patient enough also to accept starting small in terms of initiatives to combat effects of climate change.

## 4.0 GREEN SPACE AND BEST PRACTICES IN AFRICA

Notable best practices and initiatives across Africa in the area of climate change mitigation and adaption were also highlighted from the various countries present as listed below;

### 4.1 Cameroon

Stakeholders are involved in tree planting projects and environmental awareness campaigns in schools.

### 4.2 Ghana

Mr. Kassim Gawusu highlighted the upcoming various initiatives addressing youth unemployment and climate change challenges. He also added that the project is going to offer technical and agribusiness management skills.

### 4.3 Nigeria

Mr. Hamzat Lawal, AYICC communication Lead mentioned that AYICC country chapters have grown from 8-45, with a membership base of over 40 000 people, among them students and adults. AYICC is a vast network of active young professionals in:

- Mitigation
- Adaption and;
- Advocacy

#### 4.4 Ivory Coast

They recently celebrated nature's ability in adapting to Climate Change youth in which 40 000 students took part. They also buy seedlings for planting.

#### 4.5 Kenya

Ms. Beryl noted how she has been successful as the environment face of Kenya by engaging primary school students and using teachers as patrons for sustainable education to the upcoming generation using the motto "catch them young".

Richard mentioned they have programs on;

- Clean Energy
- Leadership and membership Projects
- Youth capacity on Agriculture (employment through Agribusiness)

#### 4.6 Ethiopia

Abi has been using the Go-Green campaign, a youth network in promoting environmental projects of recycling paper and also creating employment and income generating for sustainability.

#### 4.7 Central Africa

They have;

Youth for youth environment education programs which focus on Climate Change, biodiversity, eco-citizenship and reforestation. They also use schools, youth centres and Radios as media to share information.

#### 4.8 Zimbabwe

Mr. Archieford Chemhere of Action24 highlighted that his organization has been working on empowering the grassroots by promoting youths in agribusiness to practice organic farming.

#### 4.9 Mauritius

Ms. Theka Disha highlighted the importance of youth volunteerism and awareness in climate change induced disasters and the importance of partnership in achieving one goal as one of their testimony.

#### 4.10 Uganda

Ms. Evelyn testified of the importance and the achievements of the network's training of communities on conservation practices. There was a general agreement that youths need to enhance the scope of their programs to reach out the grassroots.

#### 4.11 Malawi

They encourage reforestation and sustainable policies.

### 5.0 GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY BASED ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

This session was moderated by Ms. Nkiruka Nnaemego and Ms. Yeabsira Bogale, National Coordinator, AYICC Ethiopia, presented on gender and adaptation to climate change. She noted that while climate change exacerbates existing gender inequalities and women's exposure to climate threats across African societies, women can act as agents of change and therefore play a key role in shaping and delivering effective climate responses.

She stressed the importance of mainstreaming gender into, mitigation and adaptation, planning and implementation, policy making and climate financing. She also highlighted the need for bottom-up approach, local and innovative solutions to support gender equality and empowerment, contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation. During her presentation, she asked participants to pursue opportunities related to gender and climate change, taking on board women's knowledge and experience of adaptation, not only at the execution stage but also in decision making and planning; and building on women's indigenous knowledge of resilient practices. She further stressed: the importance of information, communication and education: the use of communication modes that are accessible for women, including at the grassroots level, through focus group discussions and face to face meetings, radio programming and mobile phones; capacity building including on the use of technologies; education and ways to raise awareness and foster women's involvement; and the use of disaggregated data and indicators.

The discussions also noted the need to put gender and climate change in perspective through, among other approaches: treating gender as a cross-cutting issue; building on inter-linkages among youth, women and climate change; and engaging men, for the achievement of gender equality and women's rights.

## 6.0 PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS

### 6.1 YOUTH IN AGRIBUSINESS

This session on Tuesday Afternoon was facilitated by Nkiruka. She presented on Youth in Agriculture using an AYICC project she runs as a case study. She noted that youths have turned a blind eye on agriculture and focused instead on white collar jobs. She explained that agriculture now pays more than any other jobs if incorporated with right technology. She explained that the biggest gap opened by agriculture in Africa is agriculture and it is high time the youths rose to the occasion to fill this gap. She stressed that the use of conventional methods of agriculture is very important for high output hence translating into high income. She highlighted that organic agriculture and intercropping are tools for increasing resilience in the face of Climate Change.



During the discussion, participants addressed opportunities: agricultural opportunities in Climate Change; agricultural startups and management; sources of funds for agricultural projects; and agricultural innovations towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. They further stressed the importance of information, communication and education on matters agriculture especially on new technologies that minimize inputs while maximizing on outputs. The modes of disseminating the same information, they agreed should be accessible to all youths, that is, face to face meetings, focus group discussions, radio programming, mobile forms, agriculture based programs on TV among others. They also noted that capacity building especially on the use of new technologies was very key.

## 6.2 RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CAMPAIGN SKILLS

This session was facilitated by Mr. Sena Alouka of Young Volunteers for Environment. While giving his opening remarks, he highlighted the achievements of his Renewable Energy project which manufactures solar lanterns and improved jikos. He mentioned that indoor pollution is a big contributor to respiratory illnesses which are responsible for many deaths especially in Africa. He challenged the youths to tap into these opportunities as avenues for self employment. He emphasized that renewable energy requires considerable investment, highlighting several examples across Africa of using solar photovoltaic and wind power technologies that are among the most competitive in the world.

In the subsequent discussions, participants; raised concerns over the cost of renewable energy uptake in Africa which would require substantial political commitment; highlighted the need to channel financial mechanisms for renewable energies to project developers *vis à vis* existing and improved national regulatory frameworks; and underlined the employment prospects from low-carbon development pathways.

## 6.3 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

This session was moderated Grace Mwaura. In her opening remarks, she highlighted that research findings indicate that climate change will significantly affect agricultural land allocation patterns in the near future. She noted that it is time policy makers supported farmers in Africa to improve food production capacity through optimal land use. One of the participants noted that rainfall and temperature projections are highly variable in space and time, and that government subsidies for key crops such as maize will increase substantially in the future. This he said is due to the spatial effects of climate change on agricultural production.

The ensuing discussion covered: greenhouse gases from agricultural processes, for example methane from rice production and fertilizer application for maize production; policy for overall cost structure; emission mitigation; agricultural yields and potential of crop mixes to diversify the decision pathways for farm investments in the future given the threats of climate change, the risk of improper calibration of the models employed, and the need to incorporate increasing population pressure in agricultural yield models under climate uncertainty.

## 6.4 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Opening the Session on Tuesday afternoon Dr. Landry Mayigane reflected on the adoption of many global frameworks in 2015 including the SDGs, as well as the anticipated adoption of the Paris

Agreement. ‘It is important to think about how to ensure these agreements speak to each other in the African Context, using resilience and risk drivers as key elements in this process,’ he noted. He underscored the importance of putting risk at the center of development to encourage resilience and adaptation, and noted challenges in doing so, including institutions and weak accountability mechanisms, targets and baselines, lack of standards, and compartmentalization of disaster risk management. He also called for improving the ability to predict extreme weather events, in part to better protect rural populations, through early warning systems and adaptation strategies.

Issues highlighted in the ensuing discussion covered the need to: develop policy recommendations for governments based on evidence; provide support for developing countries in Disaster Risk Reduction; understand risk drivers; and build capacity to build resilience.

## **6.5 CLIMATE JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

This session was chaired by PACJA’s Joan Kebenei. While giving her opening remarks, she stated that Africa bears the brunt of Climate Change and that; disasters like Drought and Floods have caused human suffering in Africa. She mentioned that it is our moral responsibility to care for the earth and to push for a strong ethical message for Climate Justice. She also noted that the UN negotiations that would be held in Paris, France in December 2015 had the potential to provide a lasting and sustainable solution to protecting people and the planet from the adverse effects of Climate Change and preserving the environment for future generations. One of the participants added that, winning the fight against climate change starts with protecting the people whose lives and livelihoods are most at risk.

The ensuing discussion covered: delivery of fair, ambitious and strong climate actions; delivery and scaling up of climate finance; gender-responsive approach in addressing climate change; intergenerational equity; environmental equity; respect for human rights; rights to development and rights of indigenous people.

## **7.0 RECOGNITION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS A CRITICAL FACTOR OF DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

There was consensus among African youth that one of the main drivers of vulnerability of African economies is the devastating effects of climate change on agriculture and development.

As African Heads of State and Government (HOSG) prepare for COP21, there is need to ensure that an African youth position is central in the negotiation process and that critical elements of youth in

agribusiness, development, sustainable agriculture and food security, green economy and technology transfer and climate justice and human rights are salient in the youth position.

## 8.0 OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY

The second day of the conference was graced by the presence of the Government of Zimbabwe's Deputy Minister of Youth, Empowerment Mr. Cde Tongofa and the Gambian Minister of Youth and Sport, Mr. Alieu Jammeh as a sign of support to the Youth. The Ministers were handed the African Youth Position Paper, to be presented on our behalf to the main CCDA V- Conference just a day ahead of the AfriYOCC.

Mr. Jammeh gave the Official Closing Statement as he highlighted his gratitude to have attended and seen what the African Youth are engaging in. Mr. Jammeh said the onus was on the young people of Africa to take a leaf of the future they want, highlighting that food security in most African countries is being affected by climate change. He said Africa is spending about US\$35 billion yearly on food imports because of climate change. He lamented that young people are now seeing agriculture as unattractive because of climate change adding that the issues must be looked at seriously. He said if current efforts are compromised in 20 years down the line we will be living in the consequences of climate change.

The Deputy Minister of Youth, Empowerment and Indigenization Zimbabwe Hon. Cde Tongofa gave the Official Closing Statement, expressing how much of an honor it was for their Zimbabwean Youth to have hosted such an inaugural event.

Mr. Tongofa added to say that the government is aware that youths have been doing some projects across the country with or without knowledge and that funding has been a major drawback, especially when it comes to doing climate-change related projects adding that they are doing the best to offer support through other means. He emphasized that we all play a role, by taking this knowledge back to our homes, villages, communities and countries because climate change needs everyone to put in their effort. He also called on companies to join hands in climate change initiatives as since they are equally responsible for the emissions.

Amongst the key guests who graced the closing ceremony and last day of the conference was Dr. Fatima Denton, Director Special Initiatives Division of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), which has been one of the major benefactors of the conference. Dr. Denton was invited to give her remarks. She assured the participants that her organization will continue

supporting youth initiatives on climate change adding that whatever the outcome of the COP21 conference will be, the youth are the ones who will feel it the most.

Soon after Dr. Denton's remarks, Miss Nothando Muyambo from the Zimbabwe United Nations Association (ZUNA) presented the African Youth Position paper to the three guests.

Final closing remarks were from AYICC Executive Director Mr. Ibrahim Ceesay. Mr. Ceesay who is also the chairman Gambian Youth Council said that as the world moves towards COP21, AYICC had also developed a COP 21 Strategy adding that AYICC's interests are now beyond COP21. He further revealed that about 50 youths from across Africa will be going for the COP21 conference in Paris, France citing young people as a driving force for change. He announced amid applause of the participants that the second edition of AfriYOCC will be held in Nairobi, marking AYICC's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary where AYICC was founded.

Barr. Nkiruka Nnaemego and Mr. Ceesay Ibrahim jointly presented books and products from one of the AFRIYOCC Pilot Project - the Youth Farm (YFarm) Project of Fresh & Young Brains Development Initiative and Alexijan Consults aimed to establish and promote at least 10,000 youth-led farms and agribusinesses across Africa by 2020.

The conference ended with the launch of AYICC Zimbabwe and the announcement of the interim leadership tasked with setting up the organization's structures.

## **8.0 CHALLENGES FACED**

Like any conference organized for the first time, AfriYOCC was not without its challenges. We are however glad to report that we managed to surmount them and conclude the conference without much glitches.

## **9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

*These are areas that the participants suggested should be given more attention for future editions of AfriYOCC to be successful.*

- a) Planning should begin earlier and be well coordinated between continental and local team to avoid duplicating and overlapping of roles and functions
- b) Application process should be open to self-sponsored participants. Those who can get sponsors should be encouraged to apply as it will lessen the burden of selection of participants.
- c) Fundraising should be wide so as to target corporations, international organizations, regional economic blocs and charitable trusts. This will ensure a huger number of participants are selected.
- d) Evaluation forms for the conference should be developed so as to receive feedback from the participants on areas they would want improved on subsequent editions of the conference.

## 10.0 CONCLUSIONS

AfriYOCC was fairly successful but there is always room for improvement. Planning for the second edition of AfriYOCC to be held in Nairobi will begin earlier and resource mobilization will be intensified so as to reach out to many sponsors and secure funding for many more participants. All in all the organizing committee is grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of the conference.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1



#### AFRICAN YOUTH POSITION ON THE ROAD TO PARIS (COP21) OCTOBER 2015

*We, a group of African youth climate activists, change agents and scholars from across Africa,*

1. *Having* participated at the “Road to Paris” Conference held in Ethiopia, and the “African Youth Conference on Climate Change” held in Zimbabwe, we welcome the opportunity for engagement and appreciate the space to have our voices heard;
2. *Recognizing*, that youth are one of the most vulnerable groups to disasters, climate change, fragility and conflict; and aware of the large cohort of youth impacted by unemployment, underemployment, poverty, sporadic crises, recurrent displacement, poor infrastructure and inadequate basic social services and public utilities;
3. *Convinced*, that the demographic bonus Africa enjoys is as an inalienable asset to Africa’s sustainable development aspirations under the aegis of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063;
4. *Concerned* about the under-representation of youth in policy design and implementation frameworks, yet, also *convinced* that youth are powerful agents for change due to our creativity and innovation;
5. *Noting the need to innovate Africa’s engagement in climate policy at all levels, from local to international*;
6. *Welcoming* the engagement of the youth within regional and global frameworks on climate change, including the focus of the IPCC on increasing participation of scientists from developing countries and appreciating how youth engagement will contribute to this;
7. *Strongly encouraged* by the decision of the Committee of African Heads of States on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) on the elaboration of youth engagement within the climate change negotiations;

8. *Appreciating* the implementation of the CAHOSCC decision by the African Climate Policy Center; in particular, through the creation of a ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform to facilitate synergy, information sharing, linkages and knowledge management.

Agree on the following:-

#### ON ADAPTATION, MITIGATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING,

##### 9. *Call upon* the

- Enhancement of capacity building through environmental education and learning from early childhood;
- Investment on the training of a cadre of young climate scientists to mainstream youth priorities, with a particular focus on the disaggregation of findings and research on climate change in Africa by age, gender, location within the IPCC and other climate processes;
- Further focus on the training of environmental youth groups to scale up their capacity to influence national and regional processes, resulting in bottom-up inputs to climate governance;
- Establishment and operationalization of the “African Agricultural Innovation Hub”, to engender a critical mass of agro-entrepreneurs able to leverage opportunities in agricultural value chains, for example, through product development, use of green technologies, and agro-mechanization and agro-processing;
- Emphasis on efficient social protection mechanisms to build resilience of marginalized and disenfranchised rural youth against adverse climate change; cushion the risk and vulnerabilities of engaging in agriculture for small holder farmers;
- Full implementation of the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage to fully account for the dire consequences of climate change.
- Incentivize agricultural sector and integrate youth into agribusiness
- Allocate dedicated funds for youth-led projects on climate smart agriculture

## ON CLIMATE FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER,

10. *Urges* the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to facilitate access to finance for African countries benefiting and addressing certain priority areas such as gender-based projects around mitigation and adaptation;
11. *Further urges* the GCF to support young entrepreneurs in the implementation of climate action by adding a youth component to its priorities areas, and enhancing the capacity of the youth to access funds through the GCF for example, through the accreditation of local financial institutions that currently serve as intermediaries between local youth groups and the GCF.;
12. *Calls for* the acceleration of the delivery of the USD 100 billion a year commitment to the GCF, with a focus on financing projects relating to youth;
13. *Calls for* supporting and scaling domestic innovations in climate-friendly technologies, to complement international support, towards African countries' transition to low carbon, climate resilient economies;
14. *Calls for*

Promoting efficient technology transfer through knowledge sharing on good practices, disaster risk reduction, meteorological information and access to cost-effective solutions;

New research on the potentials of incorporating technology transfer within existing mechanism of carbon trading;

Engendering young lawyers to serve as experts on climate finance planning to increase Africa's access to the GCF.

Scaling up support for young African innovators to provide and take up opportunities and resources to contribute to solutions to address climate change;

**ON MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION, INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (INDCs) AND YOUTH  
ENGAGEMENT IN  
CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS**

*15. Calls for*

- Technical and financial support to facilitate and enhance the participation of youth within climate change negotiation processes including the UNFCCC (including the focus on INDC's), IPCC, UNCCD, UNCBD, and other MEA's related to climate change policies;
- Creating an African Youth Group of Negotiators (AYGN), that is part of official national delegations. The AYGN should be supported by existing African frameworks such as the African Group of Negotiators, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change and the ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform, to foster intergenerational solidarity and sustainability of Africa's negotiators;

*14. Urges the operationalization of the notion of Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities (CBDR&RC) in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), as articulated in the UNFCCC. CBDR&RC should be based on historical emissions. As such, mitigation actions that are beyond national capacities should be financed through UNFCCC's financial mechanisms and other innovative sources but guided by the UNFCCC Principles;*

*15. Agrees that emissions should be measured in a manner that reflects the principles of equity and fairness, according to consumption rather than production. As such, there should be a distinction between survival and luxury emissions;*

*16. Advocates for the support of innovative and creative initiatives for and by the youth who are walking the talk on action against climate change. Examples include: We Have Faith-ACT now for Climate Justice Cycling Awareness Campaign on the theme "Road to Paris", The Arts and Media for Climate Campaign, The African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC), and other innovative youth-led initiatives,*

***We The Youth Are The Leaders of Today And Tomorrow. We Will Grow and Sustain an Ambitious and Equitable Climate Change Agreement in Paris and Beyond.***

**We acknowledge Africa Climate Policy Center (ACPC) for the financial and technical support and creation of the convening platform for youth in climate action in Africa, Oxfam for the technical and mobilization of action, HoAREC, UNECA and PACJA for convening the first meeting in the build up to consolidate youth engagement in the Road to Paris Conference**

Appendix 2 Photos



Mr. Ibrahim Ceesay, AYICC Executive Director



Mr. Alieu Jammeh, Minister of Youth, the Gambia



AYICC Zimbabwe being unveiled



Participants in a group discussion



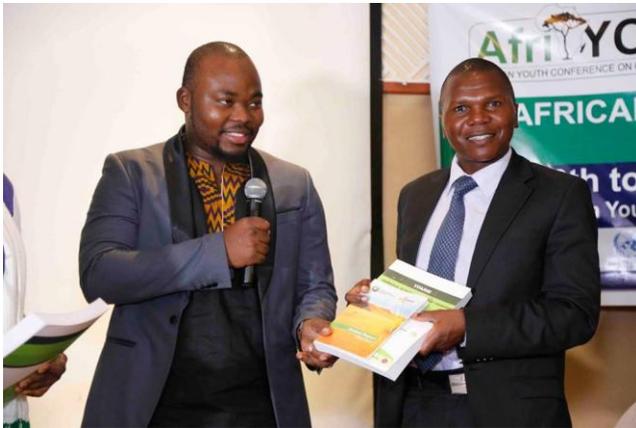
AYICC position on COP 21 handed over to Dr. Fatima Denton. Minister of Environment, Zimbabwe



Participants following the discussions



Group photo after the closing ceremony.



Presentation of YFarm Compendium and materials to Minister of Environment, Zimbabwe, Mr. Tongofa      Minister of youth, the Gambia Mr. Jammeh

