



مجلس الشباب العربي والإفريقي
AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL (AAYC)
Conseil de la Jeunesse Arabo - Africaine

Congress MAGAZINE



Theme:



Amplifying youth
voices for Peace
Unity and Prosperity.

MAP OF UGANDA





Inside this Magazine

4	MESSAGE FROM PATRON OF AAYC
5	FOREWORD BY MINISTER FOR THE PRESIDENCY
6	MESSAGE FROM STATE MINISTER FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS
7	MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
8	MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL
9	MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL, AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL
10	BRIEF ON THE CONGRESS
11	PROGRAMME FOR AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL CONGRESS OCTOBER 2025
15	SESSION TOPICS AND SPEAKERS
18	RT. HON. DR. RUHAKANA RUGUNDA TO LEAD THE FUNDRAISING DRIVE
19	A TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP MODEL FOR THE YOUTH
20	THE TRIUMPH JOURNEY OF AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL.
33	YOUTH AND THE DYNAMICS OF PEACE: THE AFRO-ARAB YOUTH'S ROLE IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND STABILITY IN 2025
35	THE AFRICAN BRAIN DRAIN TO EUROPE: BETWEEN TALENT LOSS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION.
36	AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL AT THE CENTER OF ADDRESSING YOUTH ISSUES
37	EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR BRIDGING THE ARAB-AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT GAP
38	SPORTS: THE SILENT ARCHITECT OF PEACE AND PROGRESS
39	YOUTH AT THE CENTER OF GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT AND WEALTH CREATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
41	AGRIBUSINESS AS A CATALYST FOR YOUTH LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT
43	LEADERSHIP: A QUESTION FOR THE CONTINENT'S DEVELOPMENT
44	YOUTH TODAY IN THE RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD
45	ENTREPRENEURSHIP TAKING AFRICA BY STORM
46	THE POWER OF COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP
47	THE IMPERATIVE OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING
49	AAYC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
50	AFRO-ARAB MEMBER COUNTRIES
51	TOURIST INFORMATION ON UGANDA



MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI

**President Of the Republic of Uganda
Patron of AAYC**



*H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda
Patron, Afro Arab Youth Council*



I urge the youth to focus on four critical pillars: peace, unity, wealth creation, and Pan-Africanism.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Uganda, I am pleased to welcome all the young people and Bazzukulu to this important Congress of the Afro Arab Youth Council. This gathering is not merely an event, but a continuation of a long historical journey that our people of Africa and the Arab world have walked together.

Our shared past has been marked by both challenges and opportunities, but it has always taught us one thing: unity is strength.

The theme of this Congress, *"Amplifying Youth Voices for Peace, Unity and Prosperity,"* is both timely and necessary. The young people of Africa and the Arab world today constitute the majority of our populations.

It means that we have the energy, the creativity, and the numbers to transform our societies. But it is also a responsibility because without a correct ideological orientation, that energy can be wasted or even misdirected.

Therefore, I urge the youth to focus on four critical pillars: peace, unity, wealth creation, and Pan-Africanism. Peace and security are the foundation of everything. Without peace, there can be no development. Unity, both within our nations and among our regions, shields us from the dangers of division and external manipulation.

Wealth creation through modern agriculture, industry, services, and ICT is the key to prosperity. And Pan-Africanism, together with our Arab brothers and sisters, ensures that we speak with one strong voice in the world arena.

I commend the Afro Arab Youth Council for providing this platform. The Council plays a strategic role in mobilizing and organizing the youth to see beyond narrow interests, to embrace cooperation, and to take charge of their future.

As a Patron, I reaffirm my commitment to supporting this noble cause. Let this Congress be a moment of learning, networking, and concrete action. Use this opportunity to design practical solutions that will move our people from poverty to prosperity.

I thank you and wish you fruitful deliberations.



FOREWORD

MINISTER FOR THE PRESIDENCY



Hon. Babirye Milly Babalanda
Minister For The Presidency

It is with great honor and profound joy that I extend my warmest greetings to all delegates, partners, and friends gathered for this year's Afro-Arab Youth Congress. This congress stands as a powerful platform where young leaders from Africa and the Arab world come together to exchange ideas, celebrate diversity, and chart a collective path toward peace, development, and sustainable progress.

The youth are the cornerstone of our shared future, since they are essential for building resilient societies and fostering prosperity across regions. By convening this congress, we affirm our commitment to empowering young people with the tools, networks, and opportunities they need to lead with integrity and innovation.

Uganda is proud to host this gathering, not only as a sign of our hospitality but also as a demonstration of our belief in the transformative power of youth. As Minister for the Presidency, I encourage all participants to fully engage in the discussions, build lasting collaborations, and return to their communities as true ambassadors of unity and change.

May this congress inspire bold action, meaningful partnerships, and a renewed spirit of solidarity between Africa and the Arab world. Together, let us harness the potential of our youth to shape a peaceful, prosperous, and inclusive future for all.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and a memorable stay in Uganda.



**By convening this congress,
we affirm our commitment
to empowering young people
with the tools, networks, and
opportunities they need to lead
with integrity and innovation.**





MESSAGE FROM

THE STATE MINISTER FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN AFFAIRS



*Hon. Dr. Balaam Barugahara Ateenyi,
State Minister For Youth And Children
Affairs*



In this era marked by global uncertainty, rising inequalities, and threats to peace and cohesion, the youth must be included in decision-making and policy implementation strategies for inclusion in service delivery.

The Afro-Arab Youth Council Congress is an institution that continues to bridge nations, cultures, and aspirations of the youth to achieve prosperity. As the Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs in the Republic of Uganda, I come not only as a representative of government but as a passionate believer in the power and potential of the young people.

With great honour, I would like to appreciate His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda for the continued support to this organisation and all other initiatives that are directed towards youth development. The organisation having secured 50 acres of land in Nakawuka Entebbe road, AAYC embarks on the journey to fundraise for the construction of the headquarters. This ground-breaking development will not only provide a physical home for the Council but will also become a hub of innovation, dialogue, and continental cooperation among youth leaders across Africa and the Arab world.

In this era marked by global uncertainty, rising inequalities, and threats to peace and cohesion, the youth must be included in decision making and policy implementation strategies for inclusion in service delivery.

I therefore commend the Afro-Arab Youth Council for taking a bold step in providing platforms where young people can meaningfully engage, share ideas, and forge collective solutions to the challenges of our time. Uganda, as the host nation of this great Council was founded, reaffirms its unwavering support to this cause.

To all partners, institutions, and individuals across nations, the time to capitalise young people is now. We must move beyond symbolic gestures and create systems that enable youth to lead in peace-building, entrepreneurship, climate action, education, and governance.

To our students and youth in schools, universities, vocational institutions, and communities, this is your moment to innovate, to create jobs rather than seek for jobs and engage with policy making structures and decision-making arenas for purposes of inclusion.

I implore you all to work together to raise a generation that values peace over conflict, unity over division, and development over stagnation. In you, the youth of Africa and the Arab world, lies the promise of a more just, prosperous, and peaceful tomorrow.

May this Congress be the vigour that lights up many more voices.



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

I extend my warmest greetings to all the delegates, partners and different participants of the Afro Arab Youth Council Congress 2025. This gathering comes at a crucial time when the voices of the youth must be at the forefront of shaping sustainable solutions for peace, unity and prosperity across Africa and the Arab world.

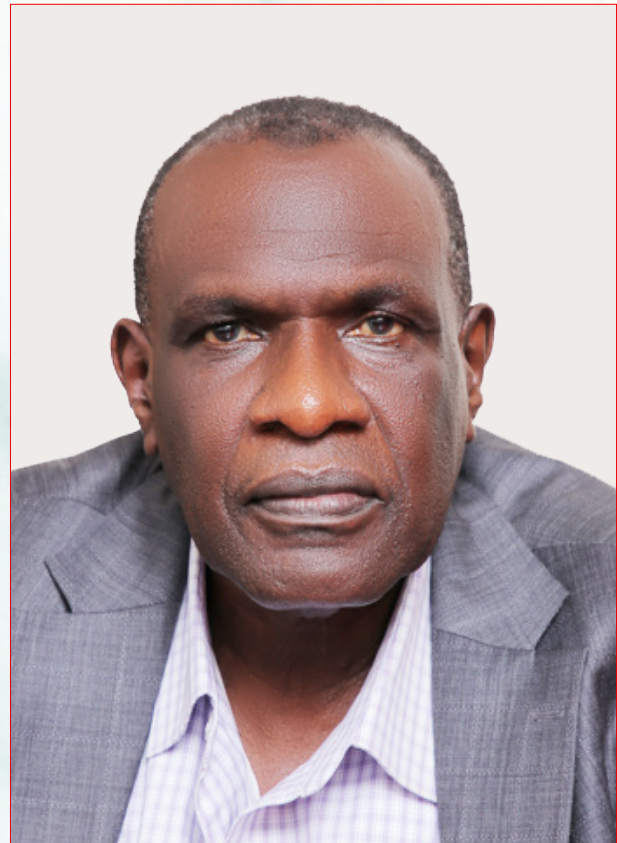
The Afro Arab youth council has over the years, provided an exceptional platform for young people to connect, learn and lead. Its work continues to remind us that the youth are not only leaders of tomorrow but also essential contributors to the progress of today. This congress therefore represents an important milestone in advancing dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation among nations.

This commitment reflects our reception of the immense potential that lies in young people and our firm belief that by investing in them, we are investing in a more peaceful and prosperous future. We are convinced that the AAYC is a crucial bridge in strengthening Afro-Arab solidarity and in driving collective action towards shared development goals.

On behalf of our office, I commend the leadership of the Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC) for their tireless efforts in ensuring that the dreams and aspirations of our youth find practical expression. I encourage all participants of this congress to take full advantage of this rare opportunity to exchange knowledge, forge meaningful partnerships and craft innovative solutions that will leave a lasting legacy.

May this congress not only strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Africa and the Arab world, but also inspire us all to remain steadfast in our pursuit of peace, unity and prosperity.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and a highly successful congress.



Hajj Yunus Kakande
Permanent Secretary
Office Of The President Of Uganda



The Afro Arab youth council has over the years, provided an exceptional platform for young people to connect, learn and lead.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL

As we gather under the banner of the Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC), a platform that continues to inspire unity, innovation, and progress among the youth of Africa and the Arab world. Our journey has been one of resilience, collaboration, and purpose. We have remained steadfast in nurturing a generation that is not only aware of its heritage but also committed to shaping a future built on peace, development, and mutual respect.

The vision of the AAYC has always been to strengthen the bridge between our two regions, recognizing that our shared history, culture, and aspirations are the very foundation upon which sustainable growth can be built. Today's youth face challenges that demand creativity, courage, and solidarity.

As President of the Council, I see in every young man and woman a beacon of hope, a leader in the making whose ideas, talents, and dreams deserve to be harnessed for the prosperity of our nations. The role of the AAYC is to provide the platforms, networks, and opportunities that allow these ideas to flourish and translate into tangible solutions for our communities.

This moment of the Congress is not just a celebration of how far we have come, it is also a call to action. Let us remain united in purpose, firm in our values, and ambitious in our vision. Let us commit ourselves to building societies where every youth can thrive, where knowledge is exchanged across borders, and where the ideals of peace and cooperation triumph over division and conflict.

On behalf of the Afro Arab Youth Council, I reaffirm our dedication to empowering the youth, amplifying their voices, and ensuring their rightful place at the center of decision-making. The future belongs to them, and together, we shall continue to pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive, and prosperous Afro-Arab community..



*H.E. Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahweej
President, Afro Arab Youth Council*



The vision of the AAYC has always been to strengthen the bridge between our two regions, recognizing that our shared history, culture, and aspirations are the very foundation upon which sustainable growth can be built.



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL - AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL

I take the honour to welcome all the delegates to the Afro Arab Youth Council Congress 2025. This gathering is not just a routine assembly, it is a landmark occasion that reaffirms our shared vision of unity, solidarity, and empowerment among the youth of Africa and the Arab world.

Over the years, the Afro Arab Youth Council has served as a bridge, bringing together diverse cultures, experiences, and aspirations with one central aim, to strengthen linkages between young people, foster peace, and promote sustainable development.

The Congress provides a platform where ideas are exchanged, solutions are designed, and collective action is inspired, ensuring that the voices of young people remain at the heart of regional and global transformation.

This year's Congress comes at a critical moment in history, where challenges such as unemployment, climate change, migration, and conflicts continue to test our resilience. Yet, it also comes at a time when opportunities abound, driven by innovation, digital transformation, and the unstoppable energy of young leaders across our regions. Through dialogue, networking, and collaboration, this Congress will chart pathways for stronger partnerships and enduring solutions.

As Secretary General, I am deeply encouraged by the commitment and enthusiasm of all participants, partners, and stakeholders who continue to make the vision of AAYC a reality. I extend my gratitude to our host country, our member states, development partners, and the youth themselves for the tireless spirit they bring to this noble cause.

Let this Congress be remembered not only as a meeting of minds, but as a turning point that strengthened bonds and accelerated the drive for peace, unity, and shared prosperity between Africa and the Arab world. Together, we can transform today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities.



*Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba
Secretary General
Afro Arab Youth Council*



The Congress provides a platform where ideas are exchanged, solutions are designed, and collective action is inspired, ensuring that the voices of young people remain at the heart of regional and global transformation.



BRIEF ON THE CONGRESS

The Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC) is an international youth organization uniting young people from both the Arab and African worlds. Established on March 9, 2004, in Khartoum, Sudan, at a gathering of over 3,000 youth from across Africa and the Arab region, the AAYC brings together numerous national and regional youth organizations actively engaged in youth development, guided by our vision of **“Youth, Peace, Unity, and Development”**. As a lobbying entity with the African Union and the Arab League, AAYC leverages historical, cultural, economic, social, and religious commonalities between Arabs and Africans to promote unity, build networks and trade linkages, champion peace and coexistence, and advocate for the meaningful inclusion of youth in the social and economic development agendas of their countries.

Following the 2008 AAYC General Assembly, a resolution was passed to host the organization in Uganda. AAYC signed a host country agreement **with the Ugandan government, under the patronage of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**, who donated 50 acres of land for the AAYC International Headquarters and is leading the fundraising efforts alongside fellow Heads of State from AAYC member countries.

The congress marks the launch of our fundraising drive for the construction of the

International Headquarters in Uganda with approximately 1,200 delegates from Africa and the Arab world, comprising existing and prospective AAYC members.

Theme “ Amplifying Youth Voices for Peace, Unity, and Prosperity”

The theme captures the essence of youth as catalysts for change. Sustainable peace cannot be achieved without the active involvement of youth; unity requires bridging cultural and regional divides; and development succeeds only when it reflects young people’s aspirations. This congress aims to create a dynamic platform for young leaders, innovators, policymakers, civil society actors, and development partners from Africa and the Arab world to engage, dialogue, collaborate, and co-create solutions to their regions’ most pressing challenges.

The Afro-Arab region hosts one of the youngest populations globally. Yet, many young people remain on the periphery of decision-making, despite their energy, creativity, and potential as agents of peace and development. The Afro-Arab Youth Congress offers a timely, strategic opportunity to foster collaboration, dialogue, and joint action among young people from Africa and the Arab world.

In the face of global challenges -including conflict, economic disparities, migration, social inequality, and climate change it is essential to amplify youth voices, position them at the forefront of peacebuilding and regional integration, and empower them to drive inclusive and sustainable development. AAYC actively

implements youth-centred initiatives in peace, unity, and development, promoting collaboration through social, economic, and cultural programs that improve youth livelihoods.

The congress is led by the Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC) in collaboration with the Office of the H.E. President of Uganda, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

The 2025 Afro-Arab Youth Congress represents a crucial opportunity to empower youth, strengthen regional cooperation, and promote the principles of peace, unity, and sustainable development in the Afro-Arab region. By bringing together young leaders, fostering dialogue, and launching strategic initiatives, the congress will contribute to building a brighter future for the youth of the Afro-Arab Space.

THE CONGRESS IS EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE

- Successful launch of the fundraising drive;
- Scheduling of the next elective General Assembly for New leadership;
- Strategic alignment and development of the AAYC agenda for the next 10 years, ensuring its programs contribute to regional development objectives.
- Increased engagement and participation of members in AAYC programs.
- Establishment of a platform for youth networking and collaboration, strengthening Pan-African and Afro-Arab solidarity.
- Enhanced awareness of youth, peace, unity, and development issues.



PROGRAMME FOR AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL CONGRESS OCTOBER 2025

Theme: *“Amplifying Youth voices for Peace Unity and Prosperity”*

Time	Event	Responsible Person	Venue / Room
6TH OCTOBER 2025 ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES			
0600hrs – 1800hrs	Arrival of Foreign delegates	AAYC/NOC	Hotel Africana
	Arrival of National delegates	AAYC/NOC	Imperial Group of Hotels
7TH OCTOBER 2025 OPENING CEREMONY			
0700hrs – 0830hrs	Breakfast		Respective hotels
0830hrs – 0900hrs	Arrival and registration of delegates at the venue	NOC	Speke Resort Munyonyo
	Entertainment		

Time	Activity	Responsible Person	Venue
0900hrs-0910hrs	Arrival of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chancellors of Universities. • Governor, Bank of Uganda. • Commissioner General of Prisons. • Inspector General of Police. • Chief of Defence forces. • Permanent Secretaries. • Head of Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet. • Chairpersons of Constitutional Commissions. • Inspector General of Government. • Religious Leaders. • Traditional Leaders. • Former National Leaders • Hon. Members of Parliament. 	AAYC & MC	Speke Resort Munyonyo
0910hrs- 0920hrs	Arrival of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of Diplomatic Mission. • Justices of the Court of Appeal. • Justices of the Supreme Court. • Principal Judge • Hon. Ministers of State. • Hon. Cabinet Ministers. 	AAYC & MC	Speke Resort Munyonyo
0920hrs – 0930hrs	Arrival of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Ministers from participating countries. • Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Ministers. • Rt.Hon. Prime Minister. • 1st Vice Chairman, NRM • The Deputy Chief Justice • Rt.Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament. • His Lordship the Chief Justice. • Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament 	AAYC & MC	Speke Resort Munyonyo
0930hrs-0940hrs	Arrival of H.E The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda	Host Minister	Speke Resort Munyonyo
0940hrs-0950hrs	Arrival of the Visiting Heads of State	Host Minister	Speke Resort Munyonyo
0950hrs - 1000hrs	Arrival of H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda and the First Lady	Host Minister & AAYC	Speke Resort Munyonyo



Time	Activity	Responsible Person	Venue
	Anthems	MC	Speke Resort Munyonyo
	Opening Prayers (His Grace the Rt. Rev. Paul Ssemwogere to lead Christian Faith and His Eminence Sheikh Shaban Ramadhan Mubaje to lead Islamic Faith)	MC	Speke Resort Munyonyo
01000hrs - 1020hrs	Welcome statement from AAYC Secretary General	Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba	Convention Centre Speke Resort Munyonyo
01020hrs - 1030hrs	Welcome remarks from the Presidential Special Envoy	Rt. Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda	
1030hrs - 1050hrs	Remarks from the Minister of State for Youth, Uganda	Hon. Dr. Balaam Barugahara	
1050hrs - 1120hrs	Remarks from the AAYC President.	Hon. Dr. Lahweej Abdulhadi	
1120hrs - 1130hrs	Minister in charge of the Presidency requests H.E the President to address the Congress	Hon. Milly Babirye Babalanda	
1030hrs - 1300hrs	H.E Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda and the Patron of the AAYC addresses the Congress		Speke Resort Munyonyo
	Keynote address from General Khalifa Haftar		
	Keynote address from H.E William Ruto, the President of the Republic of Kenya		
	Keynote address from His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of UAE		
	Installation of the Patron, Co-Patron and Custodian	AAYC Secretary General	
	Launch of the fundraising drive of the AAYC International Headquarters construction	Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda	
1300hrs - 1500hrs Lunch			
1500hrs - 1630hrs	Plenary session One	Moderator	Convention Centre Speke Resort Munyonyo
1630hrs - 1800hrs	Plenary Session Two	Moderator	
1800hrs - 1900hrs	Plenary Session Three	Moderator	
1900hrs - 2000hrs	Preparation for Africa Night	MC	
2000hrs - 2200hrs	Africa Night Climaxing with dinner	AAYC	Hotel Africana
8TH OCTOBER 2025 CONGRESS SESSIONS			
0700hrs - 0830hrs	Breakfast		Respective Hotels
0830hrs - 0900hrs	Debriefing	Youth Leaders / Heads of Delegation	Convention Centre Speke Resort Munyonyo
090hrs - 1130hrs	Keynote address	H.E Umaro Sissoco Embaló the President of Guinea- Bissau	Speke Resort Munyonyo
	Keynote address	H.E Mamady Doumbouya, President of the Republic of Guinea Conakry	Speke Resort Munyonyo



Time	Activity	Responsible Person	Venue
	Keynote address	Keynote address from H.E Ibrahim Traore, President of Burkina Faso	Speke Resort Munyonyo
1130hrs-1200hrs	Break tea		Speke Resort Munyonyo
1200hrs-1400hrs	Interactive session with the participants	H.E Mahmoud Ali Youssouf the Chairperson of the African Union Commission	Speke Resort Munyonyo
		H.E Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit the Secretary -General of the League of Arab States	Speke Resort Munyonyo
		Aguilu Saleh Issa Gueider, Speaker of Libya House of Representatives	Speke Resort Munyonyo
1400hrs-1500hrs Lunch			
1500hrs-1630hrs	Plenary session One	Moderator	Speke Resort Munyonyo
16300hrs-1800hrs	Plenary Session Two	Moderator	
	AAY General Council	AAYC Secretary General	
1800hrs – 1900hrs	Preparation for Arab Night	MC	
1900hrs – 2200hrs	Arab Night Climaxing with dinner	AAYC	Hotel Africana

Time	Activity	Responsible Person	Venue
9TH OCTOBER 2025 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS			
0700hrs-0800hrs	Breakfast and Preparation for the Independence Day		Respective Hotels
0800hrs-1000hrs	Travel to Independence Day Celebrations venue		Kololo Ceremonial Grounds
1000hrs-1400hrs	Participate in the Independence Day Celebrations		
1400hrs-1500hrs Lunch			
1500hrs-1900hrs	Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busowoko falls • Mabira forest • Luwero Industries under NEC • Kiira Motors 	NOC/AAYC	
1900hrs-1930hrs	Preparation for Afro-Arab Night		
1930hrs – 2200hrs	Afro-Arab Night Climaxing with dinner	AAYC	Hotel Africana
10TH OCTOBER 2025 CLOSING CEREMONY			
0700hrs: – 0800hrs	Breakfast		Respective Hotels
0830hrs – 0900hrs	Arrival of Delegates at Venue		Convention Centre Speke Resort Munyonyo



Time	Activity	Responsible Person	Venue
0900hrs - 0910hrs	Arrival of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chancellors of Universities. • Governor, Bank of Uganda. • Commissioner General of Prisons. • Inspector General of Police. • Chief of Defense forces. • Permanent Secretaries. • Head of Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet. • Chairpersons of Constitutional Commissions. • Inspector General of Government. • Religious Leaders. • Traditional Leaders. • Former National Leaders • Hon. Members of Parliament 		Convention Centre Speke Resort Munyonyo
0910hrs - 0920hrs	Arrival of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of Diplomatic Mission. • Justices of the Court of Appeal. • Justices of the Supreme Court. • Principal Judge • Hon. Ministers of State. • Hon. Cabinet Ministers. 		Speke Resort Munyonyo
0920hrs - 0930hrs	Arrival of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Ministers from participating countries. • Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Ministers. • Rt.Hon. Prime Minister. • 1st Vice Chairman, NRM • The Deputy Chief Justice • Rt.Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament. • His Lordship the Chief Justice. • Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament 		Convention Centre Speke Resort Munyonyo
0930hrs - 0935hrs	Arrival of H.E The Vice President of Uganda		Speke Resort Munyonyo
0935hrs - 0945hrs	Arrival of the Visiting Heads of State		
01000hrs	Arrival of H.E The President of The Republic of Uganda and The First Lady		
	Anthems		
	Entertainment		
1030hrs - 1045hrs	Remarks from Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba, the Secretary General, AAYC	Moderator	
1045hrs - 1100hrs	Remarks from Hon. Dr. Lahweej Abdulhaddi, the AAYC President		
1100hrs - 1130hrs	Remarks from the Minister of state for Youth, Uganda		
	Reading the AAYC Communique to the delegates		
1130hrs - 1300hrs	Keynote address from H.E Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the republic of Uganda and the Patron of the AAYC		
	Keynote address from H.E Bola. Ahmed Tinubu, the President of Nigeria		
	Keynote address from His Majesty Sidi Mohammed VI, the King of Morocco		
1300hrs-1400hrs	Fundraising Session		
1400hrs-1500hrs	Lunch		
1500hrs- 1800hrs	Press Conference	NOC	Speke Resort Munyonyo
	Shopping		Kampala Capital City



SESSION TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

DATE	TOPIC	QUESTIONS	PANELISTS
7 th October, 2025	Young People Taking Charge of Their Destiny (Mentorship session)	Focus areas: i. Academics, ii. Leadership, iii. Business, iv. Innovation, v. Employment vi. Migration vii. Entrepreneurship	Moderator: Mr. Ahmed Bening Wiisichong (Secretary General, Pan African Youth Union) Presenters: i. Ms. Pamela Derom (Vice President PYU- North Africa) ii. Mr. Haitham Al-Warfali (Activist -Libya) iii. Ms. Nabulo Asha Mafabi (Uganda) iv. Dr. Abdulwahid Al Murshidi (Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International Bank, Sultanate of Oman)
	Green Entrepreneurship and Agribusiness: Opportunities and Challenges for Young Innovators	a) Role of; i. Government, ii. Civil society and iii. Private sector b) Opportunities for young people in the fossil energy sector. c) Opportunities and investments in recycling of plastics d) Opportunities and investments in waste management e) Opportunities in harnessing divergent climate regimes f) Opportunities in harnessing water resources for production g) Mobilizing goodwill and support for the green campaign	Moderator: Ms. Mandipa Amantle Hlabano (Founder, Put YouthOn, Youth Vox & HerAmour - Botswana) Presenters: i. Ms. Eya Essif (Secretary General, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation -Tunisia) virtual presentation ii. Mr. Adnane Touil (President of the Center for Environmental and Energy Research and Studies- London) iii. Ms. Marion Stetchy (EAC Youth Ambassador & CEO WOMP-Kenya) iv. Mr. Antonio Oliveira (President of the African Diamond Manufacturers Association-Angola)



DATE	TOPIC	QUESTIONS	PANELISTS
7 th October, 2025	From Empowerment to Impact: The Role of Girls in Community Development	a) What are the most effective approaches to empowering girls in today's Afro-Arab context? b) How can education and digital skills become real tools of empowerment for girls? c) What barriers still limit girls' access to leadership roles in community and national decision-making? d) What policies are needed to protect and expand opportunities for girls? e) How can youth councils and civil society ensure girls' voices are heard in policy spaces? f) What role can Afro-Arab solidarity play in amplifying girls' contributions to sustainable development?	Moderator: Ms. Nour AlHuda Alriteemi (Libyan Future Movement) Presenters: i. Mai Aglan (Expert researcher in women, peace and security -Egypt) ii. Mrs. Dinara Guileva (Exprt in Social and Human Sciences Sector, ICESCO) virtual presentation iii. Ms. Lina Echebli (Palestine) iv. Ms. Mutesi Oliver (Vice President PYU-Uganda)
8 th October, 2025.	Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Sports as Drivers of Youth Employment	a) Role of; i. Government, ii. Civil society and iii. Private sector in leveraging AI/sports b) Opportunities available for young people in AI /sports c) Challenges anticipated/ expected with AI d) Protection of those vulnerable to AI e) Digital transformation and its effects on human resource f) Relevance and applicability of international conventions of AI g) AI and security h) Sports and creative arts as an investment i) Role of sports in peace building	Moderator: Angelique Juliette (PYU VP Southern Africa - Seychelles) Presenters: i. Prof. Dr. Romeo Gbaguidi Megninou (President of the Laboratory for the Study of African Migrations -Madrid) ii. Hon. Mohammed Mubarak Al Ramzani Al Nuaimi, (President of the Qatar Billiards Federation) iii. Mr. Olivier Bampendi Mufuta (Program Analyst and Head of Solutions Mapping at UNDP Accelerator Labs) iv. Mr. Valentine Kuzondishaya (CEO of VK Capital - Zimbabwe)



DATE	TOPIC	QUESTIONS	PANELISTS
8 th October, 2025.	Mental Health	a) Role of; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Government, ii. Civil society and iii. Private sector in breaking the stigma and building awareness b) Healing and reconciliation through psychosocial support c) How does the conversation about mental health differ across African and Arab cultures? d) Opportunities and challenges in managing mental health e) Strategies that can be taken to manage mental health	Moderator: Mr. Falit Sijariya (Vice- Chairperson for Policy & Advocacy, CYC- India) Presenters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Dr. Juliet Nakku (Executive Director, Butabika Mental Hospital – Uganda) ii. Mr. Richard Chubaka (EAC Youth Ambassador & ED Lumumba Leadership Forum- DRC) iii. Mr. Leonard Nangolo Akathingo (Popya Assistance Foundation - Namibia) iv. Ms. Hope Ezra Mukwinda (AU-EU Youth Voices Lab Advisory Board - Zambia) v. Dr. Salem Bouzzerida (President of Libyan Authority for Relief and Humanitarian Aid)



The Secretary General AAYC presenting a plaque to Prof. Roland Lumumba at the 20th Anniversary Celebrations



Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda to lead The Fundraising Drive

The Afro-Arab Youth Council, during its General Assembly at the 2nd Afro-Arab Youth Festival in 2008 in Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda, entered into a Host Country Agreement with the Government of Uganda. This partnership was further strengthened by the patronage of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda.

By virtue of this agreement, the Government of Uganda officially recognized the Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC) as a legitimate international organization representing the youth of Africa and the Arab world. In fulfilment of his pledge as Patron of the AAYC, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, officially granted 50 acres of land in Nakawuka, Wakiso District, for the construction of the Council's headquarters.

The proposed development plan for the headquarters includes five key projects:

1. An Administrative Office Block
2. An International Sports Stadium
3. A Hotel with accompanying Recreational Facilities
4. A University of Science and Technology
5. An African and Arab Cultural Heritage Centre



*Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda,
Former Prime Minister Of Uganda,
Special Envoy For The Afro Arab Youth Council*

A comprehensive engineering and architectural designs along with the project budget are available.

At the meeting of the AAYC Executive Committee with H.E. the President and Patron of the AAYC, held on 27th January 2025 at State House Entebbe, His Excellency appointed Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, to assume a key leadership role in advancing the realization of the AAYC Headquarters project. We are optimistic that this exercise shall take a short time after its kickoff.



By virtue of this agreement, the Government of Uganda officially recognized the Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC) as a legitimate international organization representing the youth of Africa and the Arab world.

A Transformational Leadership Model for the Youth

In every organization, leadership is the cornerstone of progress. It is a critical force that turns vision into reality and mobilizes collective action towards shared goals. The Afro-Arab Youth Council, empowering the next generation of leaders, is not just an objective; it is its core mission to equip the youth with the skills, confidence, and networks needed to excel. What is required is a tailored, culturally-attuned, and transformative development framework designed to unlock their unique potential and position them as drivers of positive change in a globalized world.

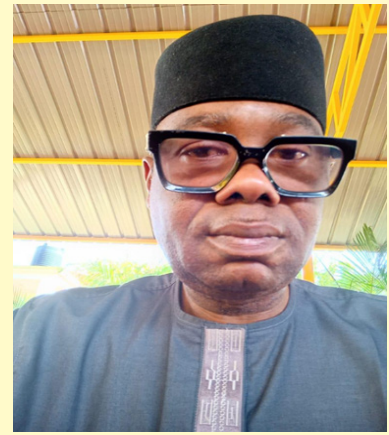
Understanding the Leadership Landscape

Leadership is the dynamic process of influencing and guiding others to achieve common objectives. While various styles exist, each with distinct strengths, they offer different implications for youth development:

- **Autocratic (Authoritarian) Leadership:** Top-down and efficient in crises, but it stifles creativity and marginalizes the voices of youth.
- **Democratic (Participative) Leadership:** Collaborative and inclusive, this approach builds ownership and teamwork but may slow decision-making.
- **Laissez-Faire (Delegative) Leadership:** Empowers innovation and autonomy, but requires a high degree of self-discipline to avoid a lack of direction.
- **Pacesetter Leadership:** Drives excellence through high standards, but can create burnout if not balanced with mentorship and support.
- **Transformational Leadership:** This style stands apart. It focuses on inspiring change, igniting collective passion, and elevating individuals to surpass their own expectations for the greater good. It is not about issuing commands, but about sharing a compelling vision that motivates others to follow.

A Call to Action

The Afro-Arab youth, Transformational Leadership is not merely an option it is the most potent and necessary approach.



Hon. Ebenezer M. Oyetakin
Chairman Supervisory and Audit
Committee (AAYC)

- **Articulate a Shared, Inspiring Vision:** Create a compelling picture of a unified, prosperous, and peaceful Afro-Arab future.
- **Foster Intellectual Stimulation:** Challenge outdated paradigms and encourage critical thinking, innovation, and creative problem-solving.
- **Provide Individualized Consideration:** Act as mentors who recognize the unique talents of each young person and nurture their personal growth.
- **Lead with Inspirational Motivation:** Communicate with passion and optimism, building unwavering commitment to common goals.

As we celebrate this year's Congress, I call upon the youth to rise beyond being managed and to embrace the power of leading a movement. This shift empowers youth not only to achieve success but also to emerge as visionary leaders.



THE TRIUMPH JOURNEY OF AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL.

Signing of the Host Country Agreement

During the deferred International Youth Day celebrations held on August 18, 2023, in Kabale District, Uganda, the Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC) marked a historic milestone with the signing of the long-anticipated Host Country Agreement. His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda and Patron of the AAYC, presided over the signing ceremony between the Government of Uganda and the Afro-Arab Youth Council.

This landmark agreement formally recognizes the AAYC as an international organization with legal international standing, granting it the privileges and immunities necessary for its effective operation within Uganda. It also paves the way for enhanced cooperation in promoting unity, peace, and development among African and Arab nations.

In his address, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni urged the youth and members of the AAYC to reject ideologies rooted in sectarianism, religion, and tribalism. He emphasized that such divisions have historically impeded development and stability across the continent, citing examples of post-independence African leaders who, despite their youthful energy, failed to lead effectively due to a lack of ideological clarity.



The historic signing of the Host Country Agreement between the AAYC and the government of Uganda was witnessed by H.E. Y.K. Museveni at the Kigezi High School lower grounds, Kabale district, on 18th August 2023, during the belated International Youth Day Celebrations.



AAYC 18th Anniversary Celebrations

In 2022, the Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC) held its 18th Anniversary, which was marked by a series of impactful activities in the Eastern region of Uganda under the theme, **'Transforming food systems, youth innovation for human and planetary health.'** This theme was preferred because food systems are the nexus of several global challenges, and agriculture

is the major driver of climate change, biodiversity loss, and water use. Transforming food systems through youth innovation, human and planetary health requires a multi-pronged, inclusive, and systematic approach.

The celebration was officiated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gen. Kahinda Otafiire, representing H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, at

Makerere University. Later, we conducted a fruit tree planting exercise in Katakwi and Bukedea Districts in the Teso Sub-region, and lastly conducted the Source of the Nile Bicycle Rally in Jinja, Busoga Sub-region. The celebration was officiated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Gen. Kahinda Otafiire, representing H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, at Makerere University.



Group Photo of participants in the Bicycle Rally during the 18th Anniversary Celebrations in Jinja, Busoga Sub-Region.

AAYC 19th Anniversary Celebrations

On 9th March 2023, AAYC celebrated the 19th Anniversary through a high-level youth dialogue held at Kampala International University (KIU) under the theme: "Healthy Youths, Wealthy Nations." The celebrations marked a significant milestone with the official inauguration of the AAYC KIU Chapter, presided over by Dr. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, the President and Vice Chancellor of KIU, alongside Hon. Abbas Agaba, the AAYC Secretary General; Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahweej, KIU AAYC representative; and H.E. Ibrahim Ahmed Sultan, Ambassador of Libya to Uganda. The dialogue also attracted delegates from Sudan, Morocco, Libya, and Nigeria, with the Deputy Ambassador of Morocco to Uganda, H.E. Elhoussaine Rahmouni, serving as the Guest of Honour.



The AAYC team handing over a heifer, among other gifts, to the best performers during the AAYC @19 anniversary celebrations in Kitagwenda District.

The AAYC 20th Anniversary 2024

The 20th anniversary celebrations at Makerere University, themed “Youth, Culture, Peace and Wellbeing,” featured a series of events including intergenerational dialogues, a Mental Health Day, Sports and Cultural activities, a Tourism Day, International Women’s Day celebrations, and an Anniversary Day on youth entrepreneurship and skills development. The events attracted over 800 participants from Uganda and more than 100 international delegates representing ICESCO, the UN, PYU, and other organizations, highlighting youth empowerment, wellbeing, and sustainable development across Africa and the Arab region

A fireside chat was held at the Okot P’Bitek Pavilion in honor of Prof. Roland Lumumba, son of the great Pan-Africanist Patrice Émery Lumumba. Inspired by the African tradition of fireside conversations within community structures, the session created a calm, non-conventional space for dialogue on youth empowerment, leadership, and regional cooperation. It offered the elders a rare opportunity to speak heart-to-heart with the youth delegates, fostering intergenerational exchange and reflection.



Delegates at Okot P’Bitek Pavilion for the fireside chat.



The Secretary General AAYC presenting a plaque to Prof Roland Lumumba at the fireside chat

AAYC Mental Health Awareness Campaign at KIU

On 5th March 2024, AAYC, in partnership with ICESCO, held a Mental Health Awareness Campaign at Kampala International University. The event gathered youth representatives, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from Africa and the Arab region to discuss youth well-being and mental health. Activities included a tour of the KIU Innovation Centre, the launch of a new cohort of ICESCO Youth Peace Ambassadors, the signing of an AAYC-ICESCO MOU, and a mental health session led by distinguished experts and leaders. The program concluded with the official



The Director General of ICESCO, H.E. Dr. Salim M. AlMalik, addressed delegates and participants at the AAYC 20th anniversary opening ceremony.

accreditation of the new Youth Peace Ambassadors, officiated by ICESCO Director General Dr. AlMalik and Dr. Musingo, Uganda's State Minister for Higher Education, representing the First Lady and Minister of Education, Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni.



(L-R)The Secretary General AAYC, Dr. Abbas Agaba, the state minister for Higher Education, Dr. John C. Muyingo, the Director General of ICESCO, Dr. Salim M. AL Malik, the Vice Chancellor of KIU, Dr. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo at Kampala International University

H.E THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA MEETING WITH AAYC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The AAYC team, led by the President, Hon. Dr. Abdulhaddi Lahweej, held a meeting with the President and Patron of the AAYC, Prof. Roland Lumumba, son of the late Patrice Emery Lumumba and former Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The meeting also brought together members of the AAYC Executive Committee, representatives from various countries participating in the 20th anniversary celebrations, and Hon. Ahmed Bening, Secretary General of the Pan-African Youth Union, who had been invited to preside over the closing ceremony.

During the discussions, the President pledged that, with the land now secured, he was ready to initiate fundraising for the construction of the AAYC International Headquarters. He further instructed his Principal Private Secretary to follow up by drafting letters to his counterparts in support of this initiative.



Group photo moment of the AAYC delegation with H.E. the President.



AAYC and ICESCO signs a Memorandum of Understanding

Hon. Dr. Agaba, Abbas, The Secretary-General of the African-Arab Youth Council, and Ms. Ramata Almamy Mbaye, The Head of the Social and Human Sciences Sector at ICESCO, signed an MOU between AAYC and ICESCO. The partnership aims to strengthen cooperation through joint programs in areas such as culture, sports, mental health, tourism, peace building and artificial intelligence for the youth in the African and Arab space..



Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba and Ms. Ramata Almamy Mbaye signed a memorandum of understanding.



The new cohort of the ICESCO Youth Peace Ambassadors



AAYC together with Pan-African Youth Movement (PYU) sign a Memorandum of Understanding

On 9th March 2024, the Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC) concluded its anniversary celebrations with a closing ceremony at the Islamic University in Uganda, Kabojja Females Campus, under the theme “Youth employment, skilling, and participation in trade in the social media era.” The event featured the launch of the AAYC-IUIU Students Chapter and the signing of an MOU between AAYC and the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU).

Representing the PYU Executive Committee, H.E. Ahmed Bening Wiisichong commended AAYC and

the Ugandan government for championing youth engagement and inclusion. He emphasized the importance of Africa-Arab cooperation in building a resilient south-south partnership capable of advancing peace, prosperity, industrialization, and sustainable transformation. H.E. Ahmed Bening Wiisichong highlighted Africa’s vast resources as catalysts for poverty alleviation and development, urging governments and citizens alike to invest their skills and resources in creating resilient, progressive societies for a shared future.



He emphasized the importance of Africa-Arab cooperation in building a resilient south-south partnership capable of advancing peace, prosperity, industrialization, and sustainable transformation.



The Secretary General of PYU, Ahmed Bening Wiisichong and the Secretary General of AAYC appended their respective signatures to the MOU



H.E. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA MEETING WITH ICESCO AND AAYC DELEGATES

Hon. Dr. Agaba Abbas, The Secretary-General of AAYC, led a delegation of representatives from member countries and networks to meet H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda and Patron of AAYC. In his address, the President of the Republic of Uganda emphasised that the Council's core role is to promote the ideology of common interests over differences, highlighting Peace and unity as the foundation for collective progress.



The ICESCO team presents a souvenir to H.E. Yoweri Kaguta, President of the Republic of Uganda and Patron of the AAYC.



The President of the Republic of Uganda emphasised that the Council's core role is to promote the ideology of common interests over differences, highlighting Peace and unity as the foundation for collective progress.





Working Visit of the Afro Arab Youth Council to Nigeria and the Launch of the AAYC West Africa Regional Coordinators Office.

Following the 20th Anniversary celebrations of the Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC), held in partnership with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) from 3rd to 10th March 2024 in Uganda, and with the active participation of the National Youth Council of Nigeria, the AAYC Executive Committee held a series of consultations and meetings. Among these was an engagement with H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda and Patron of the AAYC, during which the National Youth Council of Nigeria was nominated to serve as the Coordinator for West Africa..



The state minister for Youth Development received AAYC Regalia from the Secretary General.

The youth of Africa convened at the 4th Pan-African Youth Forum (PAYF), held from 1st to 4th November 2024 in Oran, Algeria, under the High Patronage of H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. Organized under the auspices of the African Union Commission (AUC) and hosted by the Government of Algeria through the Higher Council of Youth—a consultative body to the President of the Republic, endowed with legal personality and financial independence—the Forum brought together young leaders from across the continent.

The Forum also marked the celebration of African Youth Day, in alignment with the African Union's theme of the year: "Educate an African Fit for

AAYC PARTICIPATION IN THE PAN AFRICAN YOUTH FORUM



the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems." Participants reflected on the multifaceted challenges confronting Africa's youth and underscored the urgent need to accelerate collective efforts to address their aspirations and safeguard their future.

The Afro-Arab Youth Council's (AAYC) participation in the Pan-African Youth Forum 2024 yielded significant outcomes, particularly in advancing interregional cooperation and strengthening collaborative efforts. By directly engaging with youth leaders and organizations from across the continent, the AAYC broadened its network and forged meaningful partnerships with key stakeholders, thereby reinforcing its role as a vital bridge between African and Arab youth.



AAYC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS

The Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC), in partnership with the Makerere University Red Cross Chapter, organized a vibrant community give-back initiative in and around Makerere University as part of the celebrations marking the institution's 100 years of existence.

The AAYC Makerere Chapter, one of the Council's most active chapters, played a leading role in implementing this impactful activity. The exercise featured tree planting at Makerere Police Station, a thorough clean-up of Katanga community with the support of the 7 Hills Organization, and the distribution of scholastic materials to schools, including Emirates Nursery and Primary School, Rosario Primary School, BCD Nursery and Primary School, and Wandegaya Muslim Primary School, drive youth-led transformation and social responsibility across Africa and the Arab world.



The head girl Wandegaya Muslim School receiving scholastic Materials from AAYC and Red Cross.



AAYC Secretary General Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba planting trees to Launch the give back to community activity at Makerere University Police Station.



AAYC Delegation, together with ICESCO, handed over a donation worth 70,000 USD to Butabika National Referral Hospital

AAYC, together with ICESCO, donates to Butabika Mental Hospital

On September 9, 2024, the Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC), in partnership with ICESCO donated \$7,000 to Butabika National Referral Hospital in support of mental health care. This contribution forms part of a broader initiative to strengthen mental health services at the hospital and to respond to the growing mental health challenges facing the region..



AAYC LAUNCHED SCHOOL CAPACITY BUILDING CAMPAIGN

The Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC) launched its School Outreach Capacity Building Campaign on 4th and 6th June 2024 at Aggrey Memorial Secondary School in Bunamwaya and Wanyange Girls' School in Jinja. The campaign reflected the organization's vision of Peace, Unity, and Development, and aimed at empowering young people with values and skills essential for their growth.

During the outreach, the AAYC team engaged students and teachers in interactive sessions focused on peacebuilding and conflict resolution, personal development, self-discipline, and self-preservation—equipping the next generation with tools to become agents of positive change in their communities..

Capacity building at Aggrey Memorial Secondary School, Central Region

The AAYC team paid a courtesy visit to Aggrey Memorial Secondary School for a three-day capacity-building training held on 4th, 7th, and 10th June 2024. The sessions engaged both O'Level and A'Level students in discussions on peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and personal development, with a focus on self-discipline and self-preservation. The training further strengthened the students' ability to transform personal and team resolutions into SMART goals, thereby enhancing their effectiveness and improving their chances of success.



The Manager for Liaison Department addressing the students at Aggrey Memorial S.S.



A picture moment with A Level students of Aggrey Memorial S.S.

Capacity building at Wanyange Girls Secondary School, Eastern Region.

The AAYC team visited Wanyange Girls' Secondary School and Cornerstone Community Primary School, where they held interactive sessions with students on the importance of the values of Peace, Unity, and Development. The discussions emphasized how these values serve as a foundation for building a brighter and more successful future, rooted in peaceful coexistence among the youth.



The project & Programs Manager speaking to the O'Level Students of Wanyange Girls S.S.



AAYC'S PARTICIPATION IN RAMADAN IFTAR

The Afro-Arab Youth Council, in partnership with the Arab and African Cooperation and Partnership Fund, supported by businessmen from Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, successfully launched the "Ma'edat Al-Rahman" (Tables of the Merciful) humanitarian initiative in Uganda. The campaign provided breakfast and Iftar meals to about 5,000 fasting individuals in mosques and universities, and distributed 1,000 Ramadan baskets across various regions marking the first initiative of its kind by the Council and the Fund.

A field visit was also conducted to several districts and institutions—including mosques in Busia, Oyam, and Gaddafi, as well as Bilal High School, KIU, and a community dinner held at the Council's headquarters in Bunamwaya and at the State House.



The AAYC President H.E Abdul Hadd Lahweej, and Hon. Betty Among, minister of Gender labour and social development in Oyam district.

AAYC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

AAYC maintains strategic partnerships with key continental and international institutions, including the African Union, the Arab League, ICESCO, UN agencies such as UNAFRI, as well as UNICAF University, Kenya Airways, youth-led organizations and networks, embassies and diplomatic missions.

AAYC in the spirit of spreading out to as many youth and youth organisations as possible, is at its incubation stage of formalising a partnership with the Arab Youth Centre Abu Dabi.



ACTIVE AAYC UNIVERSITY CHAPTERS

The Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC) has established chapters in several universities across Uganda to foster youth leadership, skill development, and intercultural collaboration. These chapters play a key role in advancing AAYC's mission of empowering students to become active agents of peace, unity, and socio-economic transformation.

Currently, AAYC has active chapters in the following major universities:

- Makerere University

- Islamic University in Uganda – Females' Campus
- Kampala International University (Ishaka & Kampala)
- UCU

AAYC remains committed to expanding its presence by establishing additional chapters in other universities across the country. This expansion aims not only to amplify the impact of AAYC's programs but also to inspire more young people to actively contribute to shaping a better future for Uganda and the broader Afro-Arab region.



Launch of the AAYC IUIU student's chapter



AAYC remains committed to expanding its presence by establishing additional chapters in other universities across the country.





Youth and the Dynamics of Peace: The Afro-Arab Youth's Role in Conflict Resolution and Stability in 2025

Backing young people isn't charity; it's the smartest security move and the clearest road to lasting peace. Mid-2025 highlights the urgency of this truth as Afro-Arab youth navigate war, climate upheavals, economic crises, and forced migration, while stepping forward with bold ideas and active leadership in peacebuilding.

Recent developments show a shift from rhetoric to structured programs recognizing youth not merely as beneficiaries, but as active shapers of peace. In July 2025, the Arab Region launched the *Arab Strategy for Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) Action Plan* in Amman, signaling a clear commitment by several Arab states to embed youth engagement into tangible policies and practices rather than symbolic gestures. National coalitions are being established, or planned, in countries including Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, and Tunisia, giving young people a seat at decision-making tables.

In Eastern Africa and the Horn, similar momentum is evident. The 2025 IGAD Youth Peace and Security Conference brought together youth, civil society, and government officials to confront exclusion from governance, displacement, and unemployment. Discussions focused on integrating youth into peace processes and election oversight, and leveraging digital tools to amplify their voices. Somalia's YOU-ACT project (*Youth in Action: Empowering Youth to Contribute to Peaceful Transition in Jowhar*) demonstrates practical innovation: young people mediate inter-clan disputes, map conflict risks digitally, and rebuild local governance trust, with over 700 participants directly engaged.

Another example is Uganda's 2025 "Voices of Peace" campaign, led by the African Center for Justice and Peace



Amina Hilmi
Deputy Secretary General AAYC

Studies (ACJPS). Bright posters in public spaces advocate for calm and inclusivity while highlighting the militarization of youth, particularly the recruitment of minors into armed groups—an issue civil society increasingly identifies as a barrier to sustainable peace.

At the continental level, the African Union's *Youth for Peace (Y4P)* program remains a central mechanism to engage youth across Africa on peace and security. Through Youth Ambassadors for Peace, promotion of national action plans, and amplification of youth voices, the program challenges narratives that frame youth as a risk, emphasizing their role as partners in building peace.

Despite progress, persistent challenges remain. Youth participation, while formally recognized in strategies like YPS Action Plans, AU frameworks, and IGAD policy, often lacks real decision-making power. Unemployment, poverty, and lack of opportunities—especially in conflict-affected regions—continue to push young people toward armed groups or radicalization. In active conflict zones, youth



are frequently the first recruited or displaced. Reports highlight the recruitment of children and adolescents by non-state militias.

Implementation gaps also exist. Some national YPS frameworks are underfunded or poorly integrated into broader peace and security policies. Digital activism offers opportunities but exposes youth to misinformation, surveillance, and government repression, undermining their impact.

To enhance youth roles in peace, several strategies are essential:

- 1. Strengthening YPS frameworks** with sustainable funding, institutional support, and legal backing to ensure youth action plans translate into measurable results.
- 2. Expanding participation in formal peace negotiations** by granting youth representatives actual seats or observer roles, coupled with training and mentorship.
- 3. Addressing socioeconomic drivers** of conflict through job creation, vocational training, climate resilience initiatives, and meaningful education reforms.
- 4. Protection and psychosocial support** for displaced or conflict-affected youth, preventing recruitment of minors, and promoting mental health and trauma recovery.
- 5. Safe civic spaces and digital tools** that allow youth to engage responsibly, resist misinformation, and freely express their views.
- 6. Gender inclusion and intersectionality**, ensuring young women, girls, displaced youth, and those with disabilities have genuine influence rather than symbolic presence.
- 7. Regional and inter-organizational coordination**, with bodies like the Afro-Arab Youth Council aligning policies, sharing best practices, and scaling effective models, while donor coordination avoids overlap and ensures local ownership.

Current crises, the ongoing war in Sudan, the protracted Palestinian issue, instability in the Sahel, displacement in the Horn of Africa, and increasing climate pressures, highlight the stakes. Youth are already active: delivering aid, mediating disputes, and advocating for peace. Without structural support, their contributions risk being temporary or limited. For sustainable peace, their potential must be embedded in systemic frameworks, not just short-term programs.

By 2025, Afro-Arab youth are asserting themselves as stakeholders and innovators, no longer passive victims. They actively propose solutions, lead initiatives, and amplify their voices. The key question remains whether governments, regional organizations, and global partners will move beyond pledges and token inclusion toward genuine, sustained empowerment. If they act decisively, stability may prevail; if not, another generation will bear the consequences of inaction.





The African Brain Drain to Europe: Between Talent Loss and Opportunities for Cooperation.

The exodus of African talents, commonly referred to as the brain drain—particularly towards Europe—began as early as the 1980s. It refers to the significant migration of highly qualified professionals from their home countries to more developed ones.

Among the main reasons behind these departures, which consequently result in the loss of African expertise, are poor working conditions and political instability in several African countries. Indeed, the lack of jobs matching the training and qualifications acquired, lower wages, and less favorable living conditions push skilled professionals to seek opportunities abroad. Likewise, recurrent or permanent conflicts, insecurity, nepotism, and tribalism create an environment that is not conducive to the professional fulfillment and advancement of highly capable young people.

This phenomenon severely undermines economic development, healthcare systems, and innovation on the continent, which has been investing for decades in education and training without, however, being able to retain its talents. European countries, in particular, often facing the challenge of renewing their workforce, invest in attracting talents and provide more

advanced research and training facilities that entice African graduates.

The consequences of this phenomenon are evident, as African countries face a shortage of qualified personnel, especially in fields that can and should contribute to national development. This directly affects, for example, healthcare systems, scientific research, and agricultural production. The loss of skilled human capital limits productivity, innovation, and the continent's capacity for technological development. In the short and medium term, this often leads to the recruitment of expatriates to fill the skills gap—at an annual cost of several billion dollars for African states.

It should be emphasized that the domestic policies of African countries, combined with the demographic equation of Western nations and globalization, have transformed the once temporary migration of African professionals into permanent migration, and therefore into a constant loss of talent. Moreover, the African brain drain has increasingly turned into migration as a life horizon—that is, with no real prospect or intention of return.

To retain African talents, leaders would need to seriously invest in sustainable solutions, including creating a



Dr. Roméo GBAGUIDI,
*President of the Laboratory for
the Study of African Migrations
(LemAfri2)*

favorable working environment by offering competitive salaries, social benefits, career advancement opportunities, and good governance. It is also essential to consider the African diaspora—widely recognized for its talents—as an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation. Engaging the diaspora in the continent's development projects through the transfer of knowledge, technologies, investments, and partnerships would contribute to consolidating and revitalizing capacities between African countries and their international partners.



Afro Arab Youth Council at the Center of addressing Youth issues

The Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC) addresses one of the largest and most dynamic youth populations in the world, with nearly 60% of people in Africa and the Arab region under the age of 25. This demographic reality presents both a challenge and an opportunity. While increasing unemployment and illiteracy rates led young people to frustration, delinquency, and involvement in armed conflicts, this same generation also holds the potential to become a powerful drive of social and economic development if guided, empowered, and equipped to utilize the region's vast human and natural resources.

This places a significant responsibility on the AAYC to take a leading role in advocating for integrated youth empowerment policies, focusing on the aspects that enhance the role of young people in retaining the stability of the region. This is considered as a core stone of sustainable development.

To achieve its mission, the Afro-Arab Youth Council must work on influencing youth-related policies across Africa and the Arab world, while also implementing peacebuilding programs that nurture young change-makers. It should facilitate cultural and educational exchange initiatives to strengthen ties between the two regions and create platforms for youth diplomacy that encourage dialogue and mutual understanding. In addition, the Council must empower young people to actively participate in peace building processes, ensuring they are equipped to contribute meaningfully to peace, security, and development. By cultivating youth leadership, developing peace and security initiatives, advocating for rational youth policies, the Council can help transform challenges into opportunities.

Ultimately, the Afro-Arab Youth Council should serve as a unifying platform that brings together young people from the conflicting nations in both regions to define common grounds and form a starting point for peace building.

Through sustained and wise youth development interventions, youth diplomacy, and innovative policy engagement, the AAYC can contribute to ensuring peace, stability, and prosperity across Africa and the Arab world.



Abubakr Abdalla -Sudan

...the Afro-Arab Youth Council must work on influencing youth-related policies across Africa and the Arab world, while also implementing peacebuilding programs that nurture young change-makers.





Education as a Tool for Bridging the Arab–African Development Gap

Coming from Kenya, a land of resilience, innovation, and deep-rooted Pan-African pride, I've seen firsthand how education can transform not only individuals but entire communities. From the bustling city streets of Nairobi to the drylands of Turkana, it is clear: when you equip a young mind with knowledge, you empower a whole generation.

As East African Coordinator for the Afro-Arab Youth Council, I carry with me the voices of young people from across our diverse landscapes who are hungry for opportunity, connection, and change. In both Africa and the Arab world, we face a common challenge: how do we bridge the development divide in a way that is equitable, sustainable, and youth-driven?

Education is not just about books and classrooms; it is a bridge between potential and progress. It builds common understanding, encourages innovation, and ignites the kind of leadership our regions desperately need. Yet, in many parts of Africa and indeed even in Kenya, access to quality education remains unequal. Some children still walk long distances to school, learn under trees, or study without electricity. In contrast, many youths in Arab states have better infrastructure but still face challenges around skills mismatch, youth unemployment, and limited civic engagement.

Despite these differences, the struggle is shared and so must be the solution. **“Reimagining Education for a Shared Future”**

To truly close the development gap between Arab and African states, we must:

- Invest in inclusive access. No young person should be left behind, whether in rural Isiolo or rural Iraq.
- Foster Afro-Arab academic exchange; Imagine Kenyan students in Cairo, Sudanese students in Nairobi, Somali scholars in Oman; building networks that last a lifetime.
- Make education practical; From coding bootcamps to agribusiness labs, we must
- Equip youth with real-world, future-proof skills.
- Embrace digital learning. Kenya's experience with digital learning platforms during COVID-19 showed what's possible when innovation meets necessity..



By Lisper Machoka
East African Coordinator, Afro-Arab Youth Council



The Youth Must Lead: One thing I love about Kenya and East Africa as a whole is our hustle spirit. The average young person doesn't sit around waiting for change. We are the change.



Sports: The Silent Architect of Peace and Progress



Hon. Peter Ogwang
Minister of State for Sports

A famous African proverb reminds us that when the young play together, tomorrow they will work together. Sports embody this truth, for they are not just games but a unifying force that transcends borders, heals divisions, and inspires nations toward peace and prosperity. This week, as Uganda lines up in the World Cup qualifiers, the echoes of drums, chants, and cheers remind us that football and sports at large are more than a pursuit of trophies. They are a platform for unity. When the Cranes step onto the pitch, they carry with them the collective hopes of a nation that has often found in sport the strength to rise above political and social divides. From the dusty fields of Kampala to the regional stadiums of Arua and Mbale, football

has long been a binding thread in Uganda's national identity. Even in challenging times, sports have brought Ugandans together in ways few other activities could. Whether it was the historic CECAFA Cup triumphs or the unforgettable qualification for AFCON after nearly four decades of waiting, Ugandan sport has shown that unity and perseverance always prevail. Today, as Uganda faces opponents in the World Cup qualifiers, it is not merely about victory on the field, it is about inspiring the youth, fostering discipline, and showing that national pride is built when everyone rallies behind a common cause. Sports remind Ugandans that peace is possible, that communities can coexist, and that prosperity requires teamwork both on and off the field.

Across Africa, the story is no different. From Kenya's Harambee Stars to Morocco's historic run in the FIFA World Cup, and South Africa's triumphs in rugby and cricket, the continent has shown that investment in sports yields dividends far beyond medals.





Sports infrastructure creates jobs, tournaments boost economies through tourism, and victories on the global stage inspire future generations to believe in their potential. But even more importantly, sports serve as a school of values teaching integrity, resilience, teamwork, and respect. African nations have often struggled with divisions rooted in politics, ethnicity, or history. Yet when the whistle blows and the ball rolls, these differences fade. For ninety minutes, the only identity that matters is the jersey on the pitch. That is the true power of sports: it builds peace by uniting people under one flag, one anthem, and one dream.

The Arab world, too, has embraced sports as a bridge of

unity and prosperity. The Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup was more than a tournament, it was a global statement that the Arab region can host, inspire, and lead through sport. Morocco's semi-final run in that World Cup not only lifted African pride but also symbolized what Afro-Arab cooperation can achieve when resources, talent, and vision align. In this spirit, the Afro-Arab partnership through youth and sports remains critical. Shared tournaments, exchange programs, and collaborative investments in infrastructure can help transform the regions into hubs of excellence. Together, Africa and the Arab world can leverage sports not only to foster peace but to accelerate prosperity, building stronger societies that thrive on unity rather than division.

Every competition whether Uganda's World Cup qualifier, Kenya's heroic AFCON run, or Morocco's World Cup journey carries lessons that transcend sport. They show us that discipline yields excellence, unity strengthens resolve, and investment in people reaps prosperity. If sports can bring together divided communities, ignite economies, and inspire generations, then they remain one of the most powerful tools for peace building. Uganda, Africa, and the Arab world must therefore see sports not just as entertainment, but as an essential pillar of national and regional development. And so, as the Cranes play today, they carry more than a ball, they carry a vision of peace, unity, and prosperity for generations to come.

Youth at the Center of Growth, Employment and Wealth Creation for a Sustainable Development.

Across Africa and the Arab world, the youth population is growing faster than job opportunities. With millions entering the job market each year, governments are under pressure to create pathways that empower young people with skills, resources and opportunities to secure their future. Countries like Uganda, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia offer useful examples of initiatives designed to boost youth employment and wealth creation.

In Uganda, youth make up the majority of the population with over 75% citizens under the age of 30 yet unemployment remains a serious challenge. To address this, the government launched the Youth Livelihood Program which provides revolving funds to youth groups to start small business in farming, trade and services. Coupled with vocational training centers, the program equips young people with hands on skills that match market needs. These efforts are gradually shifting youth from job seekers



*Hon. Mutasingwa Diana,
Minister of state in Office of the
Vice President*



to job creators, especially in agriculture and small-scale enterprises.

Kenya has embraced technology as a solution to youth unemployment. Through the Ajira Digital Program, thousands of young people have been trained in digital skills enabling them to earn income through online work such as freelancing, transcription and software development. In addition, the youth enterprise development fund provides affordable loans and mentorship for young entrepreneurs. The initiatives are transforming Kenya into a hub where young people not only find jobs but also create wealth by tapping into the global digital economy.

In the Arab region, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and UAE provide contrasting but complementary examples. Egypt with its large population, faces high youth unemployment but is making strides in vocational training and entrepreneurship. Initiatives like the Rowad 2030 program promote innovation and provide platforms for young entrepreneurs to create business that can drive the economy forward.

The United Arab Emirates has made youth empowerment central to its development agenda with its vision 2030 and vision 2071 strategies. The government established youth entrepreneurship hubs across the country, creating spaces where young people can exchange ideas and develop solutions to national challenges. Programs under the national youth strategy focus on future skills

including artificial intelligence, robotics and space science. The Mohammed bin Rashid fund for SME support offers financing and mentorship to young entrepreneurs. By combining innovation with entrepreneurship, the UAE is preparing its youth for industries of the future while driving economic diversification.

Saudi Arabia's ambitious vision 2030 is transforming the country's economy with youth empowerment at its heart. The government's Monsha'at Authority supports small and medium enterprises through funding, incubation and training. At the same time, large scale vocational programs in tourism, technology and renewable energy are preparing young Saudis for emerging sectors. These initiatives are opening doors for youth not only to secure jobs but also to become active players in building a diversified and sustainable economy.

Through the contexts differ, the message is the same investing in youth is investing in the future. Uganda and Kenya are proving that entrepreneurship and digital skills can turn unemployment into opportunity. Meanwhile the UAE and Saudi Arabia demonstrate how innovation and economic diversification can create wealth for the next generation. To maximize their potential, governments must prioritize policies that invest in quality and relevant education, support entrepreneurship and access to finance, foster public-private partnerships for job creation and promote youth participation in governance and decision making. If more countries adopt such targeted initiatives, today's young people will not only find employment but also become the driving force behind economic growth and national prosperity..



Uganda and Kenya are proving that entrepreneurship and digital skills can turn unemployment into opportunity. Meanwhile the UAE and Saudi Arabia demonstrate how innovation and economic diversification can create wealth for the next generation.



Agribusiness as a Catalyst for Youth Livelihood Development

Across the world, youth unemployment remains one of the most pressing development challenges. In Africa alone, more than 60% of the population is under the age of 25, yet formal job opportunities are scarce. Many young people migrate to cities in search of work, only to encounter limited prospects and unstable livelihoods. Meanwhile, agriculture, the backbone of most developing economies, faces an aging workforce and declining youth interest. This mismatch creates a critical question: how can agriculture be repositioned as an attractive and sustainable livelihood option for young people? The answer lies in agribusiness. Unlike subsistence farming, agribusiness encompasses the entire agricultural value chain, integrating entrepreneurship, technology, and value addition. It transforms farming from a

survival activity into a profitable venture.

Agribusiness is far more than tilling the soil. It includes crop and livestock production, agro-processing, input supply, packaging, marketing, and even agri-tourism. This diversity provides countless entry points for youth, especially those who may not own land but still wish to participate in agriculture-related enterprises. For example, a young person with digital skills can develop apps to connect farmers to buyers, while another with marketing expertise can brand and package agricultural products for urban consumers. Similarly, those interested in mechanics can build careers in the repair of farm machinery. By broadening the definition of agriculture, agribusiness unlocks a wide spectrum of livelihood opportunities.

Young people are quick to



Rebecca Gaseka
Programs Manager, AAYC
Secretariat

adopt technology and adapt it to local challenges. In Kenya, youth-led startups are using mobile platforms to provide smallholder farmers with access to weather forecasts, market prices, and online training. In Nigeria, young entrepreneurs are investing in aquaculture, producing high-quality fish feed locally to cut costs for farmers. Such innovations not only increase productivity but also create

job creation. Every youth agripreneur who sets up a processing plant, an agro-dealership, or an online marketplace employs other young people, from drivers and logistics officers to sales representatives and technicians.

Despite the potential, young people face significant barriers when attempting to enter the agribusiness sector: **1. Access to Finance** Banks and credit institutions often perceive youth as high-risk borrowers due to limited collateral or lack of credit history. This makes it difficult for young entrepreneurs to access start-up capital. **2. Land Ownership, Issues.** In many countries, land rights are tied to inheritance and cultural norms, leaving young people, especially young women, locked out of farming opportunities. **3. Skills Gap,** although energetic and ambitious, many youths lack the technical knowledge, business acumen, and practical training required to succeed in agribusiness. **4. Perception of Agriculture,** Agriculture is often viewed as dirty, difficult, and unprofitable. Without role models or success stories, young people may shy away from the sector

To turn agribusiness into a true catalyst for youth livelihood development, stakeholders must work collectively to reduce these barriers. Key actions include: **Capacity Building:** Governments, NGOs, and educational institutions need to provide training in both modern farming practices and entrepreneurship. Youth agribusiness incubators, mentorship programs, and demonstration farms have proven effective in equipping young people with practical skills. **Access to Finance:** Tailored financial products, such as youth-friendly loans, grants, and savings schemes, can help overcome the challenge of start-up capital. Partnerships between banks and development organizations can reduce perceived risks. **Land Access Models:** Innovative approaches like leasing schemes, cooperative farming, and contract farming can allow youth to participate in agriculture without owning land. **Changing Mindsets:** Campaigns that highlight successful young agripreneurs can reshape the image of agriculture. Role models and peer networks are powerful in influencing youth perceptions

Across the globe, young people are already proving that agribusiness can be both profitable and transformative. **Ghana:** A group of university graduates started a cassava-processing business that now supplies flour to bakeries in Accra. Within three years, they expanded to employ over 50 youths in their community. **Uganda:** Youth

cooperatives are producing and branding organic vegetables for urban supermarkets, fetching premium prices while also providing healthier food options. **Rwanda:** Young innovators are using drones for precision farming, helping farmers optimize fertilizer use and monitor crop health more effectively. These examples show that when youth are empowered, they not only create livelihoods for themselves but also drive food security and economic growth.

The future of agriculture lies in the hands of the youth. With the right support systems, agribusiness can transform into a vibrant sector that attracts, empowers, and sustains young people. This shift requires breaking down barriers to finance, land, and skills, while also reshaping perceptions about farming. By positioning agribusiness as a pathway to prosperity, communities and governments can turn a challenge youth unemployment into an opportunity for inclusive development. In doing so, they ensure that the next generation is not only employed but also leading the transformation of food systems worldwide. Agribusiness, therefore, is not just about feeding the world it is about fuelling the dreams and livelihoods of its youth.





LEADERSHIP: A QUESTION FOR THE CONTINENT'S DEVELOPMENT

The most oft-repeated explanation for the weaknesses of African democracy is that the continent is saddled with 'poor leadership'. This diagnosis is common among scholars, journalists and public commentators, both in Western Europe and North America and in Africa itself. It is so widespread that it has come to be seen as an expression of common sense.

According to the African Journal of Political Science and International Relations, the crisis of leadership in Africa results in continued poverty for millions of men, women and children, underdevelopment and continued dependency.

It is also established that the African continent is still facing serious challenges of development, regardless of leadership changes. Dependency in Africa has introduced corruption, fraud, underdeveloped infrastructure, poor leadership, and unsustainable development.

The youth on the continent want and hope for a better Africa, and they are optimistic and taking action to shape that future. But the big question remains as to whether the youth on the continent are up to the task or not.

Africa continues to experience an explosion in its youthful population; the continent has the youngest population in the world, and it is estimated that more than 400 million Africans are aged between 15 and 35 years. Across the



*Hon. Ahmed Belal Saad Elbrollosy
Member of Parliament and AAYC Regional
Coordinator, North Africa.*



The African continent is still facing serious challenges of development, regardless of leadership changes. Dependency in Africa has introduced corruption, fraud, underdeveloped infrastructure, poor leadership, and unsustainable development.

continent, young people are yearning and taking remarkable action to secure a better future for Africa. However, defining and shaping a better future for Africa will not be easy, and young people must be ready to face and overcome many challenges.

Reports show that underdevelopment in Africa is mostly caused by the type of leaders who are elected to take leadership positions. Africa has many challenges, but the center of all challenges after independence is corruption.

Afro-Arab Youth Council is committed to enhancing the leadership skills of young leaders through the leadership training programs for Africa to receive the leaders Africa needs to drive positive change and development in their communities.



Youth Today in the Rapidly Changing World

The youth of today face a unique set of challenges that are vastly different from those encountered by previous generations. Growing up in a world characterized by rapid technological advancements, social media saturation, and increasing uncertainty, young people are forced to navigate a complex and often overwhelming landscape.

One of the defining characteristics of the youth of today is their desire for ease and convenience. Having grown up with the internet and mobile devices at their fingertips, young people are accustomed to instant access to information, entertainment, and communication. This has created a culture of instant gratification, where young people expect quick solutions to their problems and effortless achievement of their goals.

As a result of this desire for ease and convenience, many young people are hesitant to embark on paths that are fraught with challenges and uncertainties. They are often discouraged by the prospect of hard work, dedication, and perseverance, and may seek to avoid situations that require them to confront their fears, doubts, and limitations.

By shying away from difficult situations, young people may miss out on valuable learning experiences: Challenges and setbacks provide opportunities for growth, learning, and self-improvement. They fail to develop resilience and perseverance: The ability to cope with adversity and bounce back from failure is essential for success in all areas of life.

However, this requires a mindset shift: Recognizing that challenges are an inevitable and essential part of life, and that they provide opportunities for learning and growth, developing resilience and perseverance: Cultivating the ability to cope with adversity, bounce back from failure, and persist in the face of challenges.

In Conclusion, the Youth of today face a unique set of challenges that require them to be resilient, adaptable, and open to growth and development. By embracing challenges and viewing them as opportunities for learning and growth, young people can develop the skills, confidence, and perseverance needed to thrive in today's rapidly changing world.



*Mr. Ahmed Hamadou Ali Mogola
Regional Coordinator, Eastern
Africa Djibouti*



**...young people
are accustomed
to instant access
to information,
entertainment, and
communication.**





Entrepreneurship taking Africa by storm

It is no secret that entrepreneurship is taking Africa by storm. Dozens of youth across the continent have grabbed the bull by the horns and have taken entrepreneurship to a whole new level, mostly because of the low employment rates. Even with this, it has not stopped the African economy from growing. In Uganda alone, the number of businesses is at all-time high, though this is great news for the economy, we can't help but ask ourselves how much of these business ventures help protect environment. If you think of packaging alone, you may find that majority of product packaging is not eco-friendly, hence our topic today.

Green entrepreneurship, also known as eco-entrepreneurship or sustainable entrepreneurship refers to creating and operating businesses that prioritize environmental sustainability while generating economic and social value. Green entrepreneurs develop products, services, or business models that positively impact the environment by addressing challenges such as climate change, pollution, resource depletion, and biodiversity loss.

Their approaches often embrace innovation, like developing renewable energy technologies, sustainable agriculture, eco-friendly products, waste management, and green building materials. This type of entrepreneurship goes beyond profit by

considering the triple bottom line of financial, social, and environmental outcomes, often promoting ethical labour practices and community well-being. Green entrepreneurship is an essential driver for building a green economy- a low-carbon, resource-efficient, and socially inclusive economic system that reduces emissions and conserves natural resources while creating jobs and economic opportunities.

Imagine a young woman in a small town who starts a company turning agricultural waste into eco-friendly packaging. Her motivation goes beyond profit- she wants to reduce the plastic waste suffocating her environment and create jobs for local farmers. Or think of a man creating solar-powered lamps in off-grid villages, bringing light to homes previously in darkness, improving quality of life, and cutting reliance on harmful fossil fuels. These stories aren't just about business; they are deeply human stories filled with passion, creativity, and resilience.

These entrepreneurs inspire us to think differently about consumption and production. Through their work, they awaken hope for a greener, fairer world. They remind us that every small action counts and that business can be a powerful force for good. Green entrepreneurship ignites change by linking innovation with responsibility, opening



*Mr. Béchir Khliif
President of the Tunivisions
Foundation and Member AAYC
Tunisia*

doors for new jobs, healthier communities, and a planet that future generations can cherish.

In essence, green entrepreneurship is a story of hope, courage, and commitment to something bigger - to be part of this essential journey towards sustainability. Their stories motivate us to imagine and build a world where business success and environmental stewardship walk hand in hand. This human side of entrepreneurship is what makes it truly powerful and transformational.

Green entrepreneurship, also known as eco-entrepreneurship or sustainable entrepreneurship refers to creating and operating businesses that prioritize environmental sustainability while generating economic and social value.



THE POWER OF COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

As I continue to witness the evolution of the world around us, one undeniable force stands out: the dynamic potential of young people. In my role as the Humanitarian & Social Support / Research, Policy & Advocacy head at the Afro Arab Youth Council and world experience, I have had the privilege of seeing youth leadership firsthand, and I truly believe that leadership is not about taking charge only, it is also about understanding the diverse contexts in which we live, fostering collaboration, and creating solutions that speak to the needs of a global community.

The Afro-Arab Youth Council Congress is, without a doubt, the perfect platform for us to examine this power and explore how young people can forge paths toward progress. There breakout sessions organized for dialogues to enrich youth mindsets during the Congress.

Youth Leadership

Leadership is often seen as a position of authority, but in my experience, true leadership transcends titles. It is about influence, vision, and the ability to guide others toward a common goal. For young people, leadership takes on an even deeper meaning. Today's youth face unprecedented challenges viz; political instability, climate change, economic disparities and cultural divides. However, I am glad to say that these challenges come with opportunities for innovation, fresh perspectives and most importantly, the chance to build unity across borders.

At the Afro-Arab Youth Council, we recognize that youth leadership is not about individual achievement. It is about forging collective solutions, and that is something we will focus on during the congress, how to leverage youth power to drive change and influence communities in ways that matter.



Eya Essif
Secretary General of the United Towns Agency (UTA)

The Afro-Arab Context: A Shared Vision for the Future

The Afro-Arab connection is rich with historical, cultural, economic and social significance and this is something I am especially passionate about! Both regions have long been centers of innovation, trade, and learning. When we unite as Afro-Arab youth, we form a collective strength that can shape the world's future. But beyond our shared heritage, we must actively seek to collaborate across our differences.

In today's interconnected world, youth leaders have a unique role in bridging cultural gaps, creating solutions that address local challenges while contributing to a broader global narrative. Whether from Cairo or Lagos, young leaders are the catalysts for change in areas like education, employment, healthcare, and technology, finding ways to approach these issues that are both innovative and culturally relevant.

Collaborative Leadership: A Key to Success

One thing I deeply believe in is collaborative leadership. In the past, leadership may have been seen as an individual pursuit or a position of power. However, in today's world, the most successful leaders are those who can bring diverse groups together, building coalitions that work toward common goals. Collaborative



leadership is based on mutual respect, shared responsibility, and collective action.

For Afro-Arab youth, this means coming together regardless of socio-economic, cultural, or religious differences, to create a space where each voice is heard. It is about crafting solutions that are inclusive and resonate across borders. This is the kind of leadership we need to tackle global challenges and create positive, lasting change for our communities.

Empowering the Leaders of Tomorrow

To truly empower young leaders, we must provide them with the tools, knowledge, and networks they need to succeed. The next generation must not only have formal education but also the ability to think critically, act creatively,



At the Afro-Arab Youth Council, we recognize that youth leadership is not about individual achievement. It is about forging collective solutions, and that is something we will focus on during the congress, how to leverage youth power to drive change and influence communities in ways that matter.

and engage in meaningful dialogue.

I believe that youth leadership is not confined to formal roles. It is present everywhere, from advocating for climate justice and pioneering tech innovations to leading social movements. As the saying goes, "Leadership is not about being in charge; it is about taking care of those in your charge." For today's

youth, this means leading with empathy, accountability and a deep commitment to improving their communities and beyond.

The youth of today are principally the leaders of tomorrow and some, they are leading today, and that is something we must celebrate and nurture.

THE IMPERATIVE OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

In the dynamic fabric of any society, young people are not merely citizens-in-waiting; they are active agents of change, driven by innovation, passion, and a distinct vision for the future they will inherit. Yet, too often, their voices remain at the margins of critical decision-making processes, and their potential goes underutilized in shaping the course of national and global development. Enhancing youth participation in decision-making is no longer a progressive aspiration — it is an urgent imperative for building resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking societies.

Why Their Voice Matters: Beyond Tokenism

The inclusion of youth in decision-making processes is too often misconstrued as an act of goodwill or charity. In reality, it is a strategic imperative that delivers profound and lasting benefits.

First, young people bring fresh and unique perspectives. As digital natives, they stand at the forefront of technological and social innovation — from climate activism to digital entrepreneurship.



Hassan Almarzooq



Their lived experiences with contemporary challenges such as the digital divide, education reform, and mental health offer valuable insights that older generations may not fully grasp.

Second, youth inclusion leads to better and more sustainable policies. Policies crafted without the input of those most affected are often short-sighted and ineffective. When young people participate in shaping decisions on education, employment, urban development, and environmental protection, the outcomes are more relevant, equitable, and enduring. This ensures that long-term planning is not merely *for* the youth, but *by* the youth.

Finally, meaningful youth participation strengthens the very foundations of democracy. Civic engagement is a habit best cultivated early. By involving young people in dialogue and governance,

societies nurture a generation of informed, responsible, and engaged citizens. This not only combats political apathy but also reinforces trust in public institutions — safeguarding the vitality of democracy for generations to come.

Barriers to Youth Participation: The “Why Not”

Despite the evident benefits of involving young people in decision-making, several obstacles persist. Structural and institutional barriers, such as age limits, bureaucratic complexity, and inaccessible engagement processes, often exclude youth from formal participation. Cultural attitudes that dismiss young people as inexperienced lead to tokenism rather than genuine inclusion. Additionally, limited access to resources, information, and networks—especially among marginalized youth—further restricts their ability to engage meaningfully in decision-making spaces.

Pathways to Meaningful Youth Engagement: From Rhetoric to Reality

Transforming youth participation from rhetoric to reality requires intentional, inclusive strategies. These include lowering the voting age and supporting youth leadership in politics; establishing empowered youth councils with real influence; and integrating civic education to build practical engagement skills. Leveraging digital platforms can broaden access, while creating safe, inclusive spaces ensures all voices are heard. Finally, true participation demands co-creation—engaging youth throughout every stage of decision-making, from problem identification to implementation and evaluation.

An Investment in Our Collective Future

In conclusion, enhancing youth participation is not about handing over the keys to the kingdom; it is about building a bigger table where diverse voices can collaborate. It is an acknowledgment that the complex challenges of the 21st century—from climate change to social inequality—require the fresh energy, moral clarity, and innovative thinking that young people possess in abundance.

By dismantling barriers and creating authentic pathways for engagement, we do more than just empower a generation. We make better decisions today and invest in a more robust, equitable, and democratic tomorrow. The future is not a distant destination; it is being shaped right now. It is time we ensured that its architects are in the room.



Despite the evident benefits of involving young people in decision-making, several obstacles persist. Structural and institutional barriers, such as age limits, bureaucratic complexity, and inaccessible engagement processes, often exclude youth from formal participation.



AAYC Executive Committee

AAYC PATRON

**H.E YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

Title	Name	Country
President	Hon. Dr Abdulhadi Lahweej	Libya
Secretary-General	Hon. Dr Abbas Agaba	Uganda
Vice President	Anglophone: Mr. Alfred Muzuakhe Sigudhla	South Africa
	Francophone: Mr. Khadim Diop	Senegal
	Arabophone: Mr. Muhammad Alhajiri	Saudi Arabia
Deputy Secretary-General	Mrs. Amina Hilmi	Morocco
Regional Coordinators	Arab Mashreq: Mr. Hameed Ali Hameed	Iraq
	Gulf & Yemen: Mr. Hassan Al Marzouq	Bahrain
	Eastern Africa: Mrs Machoka Kerubo Lisper	Kenya
	North Africa: Mr. Mohcine Bouzidi	Morocco
	West Africa: Mr. Mukhtar Ademola Akoshile	Nigeria
	Central Africa: Mr. Olivier Mufuta	DRC
	Southern Africa: Mr. Brown Kudakwashe Gift	Zimbabwe
	Diaspora: Mr. Yassine Joulal	France
Coordinator with Organizations:	Mr. Ahmed Hamadou Ali	Djibouti
Young Leaders Program Coordinators:	Mr. Béchir Khlifi	Tunisia
	Hon. Anastancia Ndhlovu Former Deputy Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry	Zimbabwe
	Hon. Ahmed Belal Elbrollosy Vice President of the Parliamentary caucus of the Tagammu Party, House of Representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt	Egypt
	Hon. Mamadou Touré Minister of Youth Promotion, Professional Integration and Civic Service	Ivory Coast
	Hon. Muammar El-Aryani Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism	Yemen
	Hon. Alyassa Authuman Al Ghasim 1st AAYC Secretary-General	Sudan
The Audit & Discipline Committee	Chairman: Hon. Ebenezer Oyetakin	Nigeria
	Members: Mr. Abubaker Abdallah	Sudan
	Mohamed Saif Rashed Matar Al-Jabiri	United Arab Emirates



AFRO-ARAB MEMBER COUNTRIES

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Bahrain
4. Benin
5. Botswana
6. Burundi
7. Cameroon
8. Cape Verde
9. Central African Republic
10. Chad
11. Congo Brazzaville
12. Djibouti
13. DR Congo
14. Egypt
15. Equatorial Guinea
16. Eritrea
17. Ethiopia
18. Gabon
19. Gambia
20. Ghana
21. Guinea Bissau
22. Guinea Republic
23. Ivory Coast
24. Iraq
25. Jordan
26. Kenya
27. Kuwait
28. Lebanon
29. Lesotho
30. Liberia
31. Libya
32. Madagascar
33. Malawi
34. Mali
35. Mauritania
36. Mauritius
37. Morocco
38. Mozambique
39. Namibia

40. Niger
41. Nigeria
42. Oman
43. Palestine
44. Qatar
45. Rwanda
46. Saudi Arabia
47. Senegal
48. Seychelles
49. Sierra Leone
50. Somalia
51. South Africa
52. Sudan
53. Swaziland
54. Syria
55. Tanzania
56. Togo
57. Tunisia
58. U.A.E
59. Uganda
60. South Sudan
61. Yemen
62. Zambia
63. Zimbabwe

OBSERVERS

1. Azerbaijan
2. Canada
3. China
4. Cuba
5. France
6. Germany
7. India
8. Japan
9. Malaysia
10. North Korea
11. Norway
12. Spain
13. Thailand
14. Kingdom of Brunei

TOURIST INFORMATION ON UGANDA



Uganda is a landlocked country located in East Africa with an area of 236,040km² of which 36,330km² is covered by water bodies and 199,710km² by land.

NATIONAL PARKS

QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Location: South west, near Kasese Town

Accessibility: The Park lies 5-6 hours from Kampala on a surface road via Mbarara, and can be reached on a murram road from Mwindi. It is accessible by public transport.

When to visit: Throughout the year.

Where to stay: Mweya Safari Lodge



RWENZORI MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Location: On the Congo border close to Kasese Town

Accessibility: the Nyakalengija trailhead lies off the Fort Portal Road, 22km from Kasese. Transport can be arranged in Kasese.

When to visit: Throughout the year.





SEMLIKI NATIONAL PARK

SIZE: 500sq km

LOCATION: In the west,

GETTING THERE: near Fort Portal. Follow the road towards Semliki National Park for 30km, and then take a right turn, which after about 35km leads to the lodge.

WHAT TO DO: Game drives, guided walks and boat trips on Lake Albert can be arranged from the lodge.

WHEN TO VISIT: Any time of year.

WHERE TO STAY: There is an excellent up market lodge



THE KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

SIZE: 1,442 sq km.

LOCATION: On the Sudan border in the northeast

WHERE TO STAY: At the Park there are 16 self-contained chalets at Apoka Rest Camp.

GETTING THERE: Chartered aircraft are available from Entebbe International Airport to the Park Headquarters. The CMI Aviation Authority manages an airstrip at Lomej, about 3 km south of the Park Headquarters.



MGAHINGA GORILLA NATIONAL PARK

SIZE: 33 sq km

LOCATION: Far southwest, bordering Rwanda and Congo, 14km from Kisoro Town.

WHERE TO STAY: If you are a 'go camping tourist', then there is ample





space. at the park gate and Mt. Gahinga Rest Camp for 'Do it Yourself Camping'. Besides that, there is also excellent traditional Bandas managed by the local community.

GETTING THERE: Road: Kisoro is about 540 km from Kampala (Uganda's capital city). It takes about 8 hours via Kabale by car. For public transport, there are daily buses/minibuses, which set off at 7.00pm from Kampala. Once in Kisoro Town, you can hike to the park if you are strong enough or hire a cab to the park gate.

MOUNT ELGON NATIONAL PARK

SIZE: 1,145 sq km

LOCATION: Near Mbale on the east border with Kenya.

GETTING THERE: Mbale lies 3-4 hours from Kampala along a good tar road.

The trailhead at Budadiri, 20km from Mbale, is accessible by public transport.

WHAT TO DO: Day walks from Budadiri or within the Mount Elgon Forest Exploration Centre; hikes of four days or longer traverse the peaks. Well worth visiting is the lovely Sipi Falls.

WHEN TO VISIT: The lower slopes are fine throughout the year. The drier months (June to August, December to March) are best for hiking.

WHERE TO STAY: Up-market lodge at Sipi Falls. Midrange hotels in Mbale. Budget lodging at Sipi Falls, Mbale and Budadiri. Within the park, camping only.



LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

SIZE: 260 sq km

LOCATION: In the south, near Mbarara Municipality

WHERE TO STAY: Lake Mburo National Park has 4 tents at Rwonyo Park



PLACES OF WORSHIP

- Old Kampala National Mosque
- Kibuli Mosque
- Christ the King Catholic Church Located in the City Centre: Colville Street, Kampala. Tel: (0414) 241505.
- Baha'i House of Worship Kikaya, Kampala.
- First Presbyterian Church in Uganda Kisenyi Road, Kampala. Tel: (0414) 273128. OR Tel: (0414) 540511.
- All Saints Cathedral (Anglican Church) Located in the City Centre, Akii Bua Road, Nakasero. Tel: (0414) 342128.
- Orthodox Church Hoima Road. Tel:(0414) 542461.
- Rubaga Cathedral Rubaga Road. Tel: (0414) 258112
- St. Paul's Namirembe Cathedral (Anglican), Namirembe Hill. Tel: (0414) 270212.
- Uganda Martyrs Shrine Namugongo. Tel: (0414) 285504.



CULTURAL SITES

KASUBI TOMBS

The Kasubi Tombs site is a masterpiece of human originality both in its outset and its execution. The site bears eloquent witness to the living cultural traditions of the Baganda. They constitute a site embracing almost 30 ha of hillside within Kampala City. Built in the finest traditions of Ganda architecture and palace design, it reflects technical achievements developed over many centuries. This is the former palace of the Kabakas of Buganda, built in 1882 and converted into the royal burial ground in 1884. Four royal tombs now lie within the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga, the main building, which is circular and surmounted by a dome. It is a major example of an architectural achievement in organic materials, principally wood, thatch, reed, wattle and daub. The site's main significance lies, however, in its intangible values of belief, spirituality, continuity and identity.



UGANDA NATIONAL THEATRE

The National Theatre is situated on plots No.2, 4 and 6 Dewinton Road. Established in 1952, the theatre has a hall with the seating capacity of 460. Various drama groups from Uganda perform at the theatre. In addition, the theatre has the arts and crafts village where the diversity of Uganda culture can be got in lumpsum. This makes the theatre a must go zone.



UGANDA NATIONAL ANTHEM

1. Oh Uganda,

May God uphold thee,
We lay our future in thy hands,
United, free, for liberty,
Together we'll always stand

2. Oh Uganda,

The land of freedom,
Our love and labour we give
And with neighbours all,
At our country's call,
In peace and friendship, we'll live.

3. Oh Uganda,

The land that feeds us,
By sun and fertile soil grow,
For our own dear land,
We always stand,
The pearl of Africa's crown.



Delegates representing different member countries enjoying the beautiful sceneries of Mabira Forest.



Some of the delegates in attendance for the Mental Health day at KIU.



مجلس الشباب العربي والإفريقي
AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL (AAYC)
Conseil de la Jeunesse Arabo - Africaine

The AAYC Secretariat



Bunamwaya, Zzana, Entebbe Road
P.O. Box 34933, Kampala, Uganda
Telephone: +256 414 660357 or +256 414 660345
Email: info@aayouthcouncil.com
Website: www.aayouthcouncil.com