



INTERNATIONAL PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

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CONCEPT NOTE

Dates: 21st – 23rd October 2026

Theme: Pan-African Youth for a Just, Inclusive & Sustainable Africa



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1.0 Background & Rationale

The African Union Students' Platform (AUSP) is a continental community with a membership spanning over 46 African countries and a global diaspora. Founded on the pillars of Education, Connection, and Empowerment, AUSP's mission is to mobilize Africa's greatest asset, its youth, to combat continental challenges and accelerate development.

With over 70% of sub-Saharan Africa under 30, the continent stands at a pivotal juncture. Harnessing this demographic dividend is not an option but an imperative for achieving the transformative goals of Africa's Agenda 2063: "The Africa We Want" and the global United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). This conference is conceived as AUSP's flagship intervention to translate potential into power. It will move beyond dialogue to foster actionable strategies, placing students and youth at the very heart of designing and driving Africa's future.

Official Languages: Reflecting the linguistic diversity of the African Union, the conference will be conducted in the AU's official languages: Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swahili, with provisions for sign language interpretation.

2.0 Conference Objectives

1. Analyze & Align: Critically examine the synergies and implementation gaps between AU Agenda 2063 and UN Agenda 2030 from a youth perspective.

2. Ideate & Innovate: Generate youth-led, practical solutions and policy recommendations addressing the conference's critical sub-themes, including the emergent Blue Economy.

3. Connect & Empower: Forge a powerful, interdisciplinary network of young leaders, experts, and institutions to foster mentorship, collaboration, and advocacy.

4. Amplify & Act: Launch concrete initiatives, such as the AUSP Youth Solutions Challenge and a Digital Progress Dashboard, to ensure conference outcomes translate into tangible, trackable action.



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3.0 Thematic Pillars (Sub-Themes)

The program will be structured around five interconnected pillars that build towards a just, inclusive, and sustainable Africa:

Foundation & Identity

- **Sub-Theme 1: Pan-Africanism Reawakened**

Focus: Moving beyond historical symbolism to actionable modern PanAfricanism. Sessions will explore digital Pan-Africanism, reclaiming cultural narratives, redefining civic responsibility, fostering diaspora investment and knowledge repatriation, and securing Africa's interests in its Blue Economy resources for shared prosperity.

Systems & Society

Systems & Society

- **Sub-Theme 2: Ethical Leadership & Active Citizenship**

Focus: Building transparent and accountable institutions. Discussions will center on combating corruption, leveraging technology for civic engagement, the role of youth in electoral integrity, and modeling servant leadership.

- **Sub-Theme 3: Peace, Security & Social Cohesion**

Focus: Moving from conflict response to prevention. Panels will address youth as peacemakers, the impact of armed conflicts on development, addressing root causes of extremism, and building resilient, cohesive communities.

Prosperity & Progress

Prosperity & Progress

- **Sub-Theme 4: Inclusive Growth & Social Impact**

Focus: Leaving no one behind. This pillar will tackle structural inequalities, youth unemployment solutions, ending GBV, ethical management of migration, and specific strategies for the empowerment of women, youth, and persons with disabilities as central actors in development.

- **Sub-Theme 5: Industry, Trade, Innovation & Digitalization**

Focus: Driving Africa's economic integration and Fourth Industrial Revolution, including sustainable ocean economies. Sessions will explore intra-African trade, youth-led tech innovations (AgriTech, FinTech, BlueTech, and HealthTech), building smart infrastructure, bridging the digital divide, and preparing the future workforce.

Evening Engagement: Each evening will feature a voluntary Cultural Showcase, a celebration of the rich tapestry of African and diaspora heritage through traditional attire, music, dance, art, and storytelling, fostering unity and deepening personal connections.

4.0 Key Initiatives & Expected Outcomes

This conference is designed to produce more than just dialogue; it will launch a movement with tangible outputs and measurable impact.



4.1 The AUSP Youth Solutions Challenge

To turn ideas into action, AUSP will launch a continent-wide Call for Applications for youth-led projects. This competition will seed-fund the most promising innovations.

- **Categories:** Projects can be submitted under categories aligned with our thematic pillars, including:
 - a. Environment & Climate Action (including Blue Economy)
 - b. Education & Skills Development
 - c. Health & Wellbeing
 - d. Economic Empowerment & Entrepreneurship
 - e. Innovation & Digitalization
 - f. Leadership, Youth Rights & Governance
 - g. Peace, Sports & Social Cohesion
 - h. Arts, Creativity & Culture
- **Selection Process:** A joint panel of AUSP and external experts will review submissions and select 10 finalists per category (5 male, 5 female). Finalists will submit short project videos and be featured during the conference.

- **The Pitch & Awards:** During the conference, a judging panel will select 2 winners per category (1 male, 1 female). Each winner will receive a seed award of USD 2,500 to pilot or scale their project.

- **Incubation & Capacity Building:** To ensure sustainability, all finalists will participate in dedicated breakout sessions facilitated by our partners and tech hubs. These sessions will cover critical skills like project management, impact measurement, and business development. Partners will also have the opportunity to mentor winners and explore further investment.

4.2 Implementation & Accountability Mechanisms

To ensure conference commitments translate into real-world change, a robust, digital-first Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework will be deployed.



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- **Human-Centred Adaptive Impact Framework:** This framework will guide implementation tracking across pre-event, event, and post-event stages.
- **Commitment Documentation:** Policy recommendations and partnership pledges from dialogue sessions will be formally captured as traceable commitments with defined objectives, stakeholders, and timelines.
- **Digital Progress Dashboard:** A public-facing, real-time dashboard will track progress on commitments, including the implementation status of policy recommendations and the milestones reached by Youth Solutions Challenge winners. This ensures full transparency and accountability to all partners and stakeholders.
- **Pulse Evaluation Cycles:** Progress reviews will be conducted at three structured intervals post-conference (3, 6, and 12 months) using:
 - An online platform for project leads to submit digital progress reports.

- Quarterly virtual review meetings to share wins and troubleshoot challenges.
 - A shared online workspace (e.g., Notion) for collaborative documentation.

- **Annual Virtual Impact Forum:** One year after the conference, an online event will present a comprehensive impact report, highlighting successes, lessons learned, and areas for improvement, thus closing the feedback loop.

4.3 Post-Conference Continuity: A Sustained Movement

The conference is designed as an annual milestone within a continuous cycle of engagement.

- **Digital Community Platform:** We will launch an online hub to connect students, youth, partners, and working groups year-round, facilitating the sharing of ideas, opportunities, and project updates.
- **Year-Long Mentorship & Training Calendar:** A structured calendar of virtual workshops, webinars, and mentorship circles will keep the network active, build capacity, and maintain collaboration between conferences.

4.4 Publication of Proceedings

A formal report capturing key insights, case studies, policy recommendations, and agreed-upon frameworks will be disseminated to stakeholders, including the AU Commission, UN agencies, and national governments.

5.0 Why This Conference? Global Impact

This is not merely an African conversation but a global one. Africa's success in achieving inclusive growth, peace, and technological leapfrogging is critical to global stability and achieving the SDGs worldwide. This conference will:

- **Reframe the Global Narrative:** Shift the discourse on Africa from one of challenges to one of solutions, agency, and partnership.
- **Produce Exportable Models:** Youth-driven solutions in governance, digitalization, and the Blue Economy can serve as models for other regions.
- **Strengthen Multilateralism:** Demonstrate how continental frameworks (Agenda 2063) and global goals (Agenda 2030) can be synergistically implemented.



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6.0 Inclusion and Accessibility

We are committed to a conference that leaves no one behind. Our hybrid format will be underpinned by robust accessibility measures:

- **Linguistic Accessibility:** The plenary sessions will be conducted in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation available.
- **Disability Inclusion:** Sign language interpretation will be provided for participants with hearing disabilities. All virtual sessions will include closed captions.
- **Reach & Connectivity:** To reach youth beyond the digital divide, we will partner with community radio and television stations to broadcast key sessions. For online attendees, we will offer data-friendly streaming options to ensure participation from regions with limited internet connectivity.

7.0 Call to Action: Be Part of the Reimagining

The vision of "The Africa We Want" demands a collective, continent-wide, and global partnership. We call upon you to join us in this critical endeavor.

- **To Potential Sponsors and Development Partners:** Partner with us to fuel a generation of problem-solvers. Your support underwrites critical dialogues, seeds innovations through the Youth Solutions Challenge, and demonstrates a tangible commitment to the SDGs. Align your brand with a prestigious pan-African movement and gain visibility through exclusive branding, speaking engagements, and our AUSP Partnership Awards.

- **To the Private Sector:** See how the Industry, Innovation & Digitalization and Blue Economy pillars directly advance your ESG goals and strengthen your talent pipelines. Engage with our Solutions Challenge to scout innovative ideas, mentor young entrepreneurs, and pilot groundbreaking concepts that can drive your future growth.
- **To Institutions, Academia, and Research Bodies:** Share your platform, expertise, and research. Collaborate with us to drive innovation, provide case studies, and help bridge the gap between theory and practice. This is an opportunity to shape the next generation of leaders and contribute to a living laboratory for sustainable development.
- **To Visionary Speakers and Facilitators:** Lend your voice and wisdom to shape the dialogue. Your journey and strategic insight will ensure that the discourse is not only inspirational but grounded in real-world experience.
- **To African Students and Youth Across the Globe:** This is your platform. Your voice is non-negotiable. Register. Participate. Lead. Submit your solutions for the Youth Solutions Challenge. The future is not a place we are going, but one we are creating. Let's build it together.



ACT NOW.

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- Secure your participation as a delegate or partner.
- Nominate or apply as a speaker or session facilitator.
- Explore sponsorship packages and collaboration opportunities.
- Submit an innovation for the Youth Solutions Challenge.

For strategic partnerships and speaker nominations, Contact:

The Program & Speakers Committee,

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