



# 5TH ANNUAL CONTINENTAL CONVENTION REPORT 2025

**Prepared By:** |  
Young Women of Africa |

# TABLE OF CONTENT



Declaration
Convention Report
Convention Commissions and Breakway Reports
2026 Programme of Action
Convention Agenda
Convention Gallery



# DECLARATION

# DECLARATION

DECLARATION OF THE YWOA 5TH ANNUAL CONTINENTAL CONVENTION  
8–10 December 2025 | African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia

***Adopted on 10 December 2025 at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, we pledge to break barriers now, demand justice without delay, and build a feminist, prosperous, and equitable Africa within our lifetime for all young women and girls.***

## **Preamble**

We, the Young Women of Africa, gathered at the African Union for the 5th Annual Continental Convention with 126 delegates from 30 African countries, under the theme “Advancing Reparative Justice and Shared Prosperity for Young Women and Girls in Africa – Breaking Barriers Now and Building a Gender-Equitable Future,” hereby declare;

Guided by the Constitutive Act of the African Union, Agenda 2063, the African Youth Charter, the Maputo Protocol, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Sustainable Development Goals, and all relevant regional and international human rights and development instruments, we affirm our commitment to a Pan-African feminist future rooted in dignity, autonomy, equality, solidarity, and intergenerational power.

We recognise that Africa’s persistent inequalities are a result of historical and structural injustices, colonialism, bad leadership, patriarchy, economic exclusion, conflict, and systemic underinvestment in women and girls that continue to reproduce poverty and marginalisation across generations. We therefore declare that reparative justice is not symbolic, but a structural, economic, social, and political obligation owed to African women and girls whose labour, bodies, and leadership have sustained societies without commensurate power, protection, or prosperity. We further affirm that shared prosperity cannot be achieved without redistributive justice, inclusive growth, and gender-transformative economic systems.

We reaffirm for all to know that young women and girls are not passive beneficiaries of development, but central agents of resistance, innovation, governance, peacebuilding, and economic transformation. We remain alarmed by the continued realities of gender-based violence, political exclusion, unemployment, unpaid care work, digital inequality, climate vulnerability, educational barriers, leadership exclusion, restricted access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and many other factors affecting the quality of life of girls and young women.

We therefore declare the following;

### ***On the African Union***

We call on the African Union Commission, through the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate, to continue strengthening and institutionalising gender-responsive and youth-centred governance, ensuring girls and young women's participation in decision-making across all AU policy cycles, from agenda-setting to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. This must include formal participation mechanisms, sustained investment in young women-led organisations, inclusive digital and localised engagement beyond elite spaces, and transparent accountability systems aligned with Agenda 2063.

Africa's demographic majority (Young women and girls) must be reflected where decisions are made, not confined to consultative or symbolic spaces. Meaningful participation requires intentional institutional design, predictable resourcing, long-term partnerships, and engagement grounded in the lived realities of young women and girls, including rural, informal, digital, and marginalised contexts. Engagement without accountability undermines trust, credibility, and institutional legitimacy.

## **On the African Youth Charter:**

We reaffirm our full commitment to the African Youth Charter as a binding continental instrument and demand its gender-transformative implementation. While the Charter affirms the rights of all young people, young women and girls continue to face structural, social, and economic barriers that limit the enjoyment of these rights. Advancing young women's leadership is essential to inclusive growth, peace, democracy, and Africa's transformation.

We call on AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and partners to domesticate the Charter with clear gender targets, dedicated financing, and accountability mechanisms; promote young women's leadership and political participation through affirmative measures and mentorship; expand access to education, skills development, decent work, entrepreneurship, and productive resources; and protect young women and girls from all forms of violence and discrimination, ensuring access to justice, health, and social protection.

## **On Reparative Justice as a Continental Gender Imperative:**

We affirm that reparative justice for African women and girls requires historical redress, material restitution, and structural transformation. We commit to advocating for gender-responsive reparations frameworks addressing land, leadership, labour, education, health, entrepreneurship and economic exclusion; holding governments and institutions accountable for systemic gender injustice; advancing truth-telling, memory, and intergenerational healing; campaigning for women's economic set-asides in national economies and procurement systems. We therefore are petitioning the AUC Chairperson, His Excellency Mahmoud Ali Youssouf for a continental report on the state of Africa on reparative justice for African women and girls. This report must include the role of the private sector and development partners and institutions in reparative justice and also in building the Africa we want.

### **On Shared Prosperity and Feminist Economic Transformation**

We commit to continue to increase our advocacy for women empowerment, inclusive, redistributive, and care-centred economies by calling for the expansion of young women's access to finance, land, leadership, markets, entrepreneurship, and capital; investing in young women-led agribusiness, manufacturing, creative industries, green enterprises, and all commanding heights of the economy. We recognise unpaid care and domestic work and call on all African governments to do so. We commit to reconvene the YWOA Trade and Economic Symposium to advance cross border economic inclusion and entrepreneurship and further map solutions that increase the participation of young women in the economy.

### **On Political Participation and Feminist Leadership**

We commit to dismantling political exclusion through campaigns that call for the enforcement of quotas and parity laws. The protection of young women in politics from violence and harassment is non – negotiable. We call on all political parties to invest in feminist political education, leadership pipelines, and intergenerational exchanges. The YWOA commits to a continent-wide mobilisation for young women's participation in political office and convening continental leadership training and mentorship platforms.

### **On Ending Gender-Based Violence (Violence Against Women and Children)**

We declare zero tolerance for all forms of gender-based violence, child marriage, trafficking, and harmful practices, recognising that no development, peace, or prosperity is possible where violence persists. We support survivor-centred justice, comprehensive prevention strategies, and the resourcing of shelters, legal aid, and psychosocial services, particularly for rural and underresourced communities. We call for the strengthening of the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls into meaningful action. We call for the ratification of the AUCEVAWG by AU member states as an imperative call to action in the urgent fight to end violence against women and girls on our continent.

### **On Education, Digital Power, and Knowledge Justice**

We reaffirm education as transformative justice and commit to campaigning for universal access to quality, safe, and inclusive education for young women and girls; scaling STEM, digital literacy, artificial intelligence, and innovation skills; and also protecting our right to learn in conflict and crisis. The YWOA 5th ACC has committed to strengthen the YWOA Back to Class campaign; and deepen the Kipusu Sanitary Towels Campaign to safeguard dignity and access to education.

### **On Health, Bodily Autonomy, and Dignity**

We affirm that bodily autonomy is non-negotiable and commit to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, menstrual health, dignity, and mental health support especially for rural young women and survivors of violence, conflict, and displacement through innovative platforms including the YWOA Virtual Mental Health Hub.

### **On Climate Justice, Land, and Food Sovereignty**

We commit to gender-just climate action by securing women's rights to land, water, and natural resources; scaling women-led climate-smart agriculture and green innovation; and ensuring women's leadership in climate policy and financing.

### **On Peace, Security, and Humanitarian Justice**

We believe that young women are central to conflict prevention, mediation, reconstruction, and peacebuilding. We commit to the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda; protection of women and girls in conflict and humanitarian settings; economic reintegration of survivors of war and displacement; and campaign for the recognition of gender-based violence as a threat to peace and security in Africa.

### **On Digital Rights, Civic Spaces, and Freedom of Expression**

We re – commit to playing our part in defending digital safety, data protection, online freedom, open civic spaces for feminist organising and youth activism, and technology as a tool for accountability, inclusion, and liberation.

## **On Pan–African Solidarity and the Strengthening of YWOA**

We reaffirm YWOA as a uniting Pan African continental feminist movement committed to cross border solidarity, intergenerational leadership continuity, institutional excellence, accountability, and sustained impact. Guided by our Programme of Action for 2026, we commit to leave no young woman behind on the African Continent. We call on the African Union and its organs to mainstream reparative justice and shared prosperity; on Member States to provide adequate, predictable, gender-responsive financing; and on development partners, the private sector, civil society, academia, traditional leaders, and the media to advance gender justice as an urgent continental priority.

Since its establishment in 2021, the Young Women of Africa (YWOA) has made significant strides in empowering young women and girls across the continent. Through flagship initiatives such as Harvesting Hope, Kipusu Pads Drive, Monthly Webinars, the Young Women Economic and Trade Symposium, Miles for Change, and the Back to Class Campaign, the organization continues to cultivate leadership, drive social change, and expand opportunities for girls and young women. YWOA's work prioritizes among many others, gender equality, economic inclusion, leadership and the response to pressing continental challenges, including GBVF, HIV/AIDS and climate change. Through mentorship, advocacy, and access to resources, the organization equips girls and young women with the knowledge, skills, and platforms necessary to lead, innovate, and succeed, thereby contributing to a more equitable and inclusive Africa.

The 5th Annual Continental Convention of YWOA, supported by Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD) and other partners aimed at contributing to the strengthening of a comprehensive policy framework that is aimed at empowering girls and women across Africa. This effort was guided by the principles of the Maputo Protocol, which underscores the importance of women's participation and representation while calling for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

## **Purpose of the Annual Convention**

The primary purpose of the Convention was to position African girls and young women as key stakeholders in shaping Africa's leadership, multilateral engagement, and economic inclusion agenda. In addition, the Convention undertook the critical responsibility of reviewing and adopting annual reports, as well as developing and approving the 2026 Plan of Action to guide the organization's strategic priorities and programmes for 2026.

The YWOA 5th Annual Continental Convention (ACC) strategic objectives included advancing the empowerment of adolescent girls. This is part of our Back To Class flagship campaign which aims to expand accessible learning opportunities for out-of-school adolescent girls, while strengthening their knowledge, skills, and agency to enable them to make informed decisions and shape their futures. The convention becomes a platform for girls and young women to discuss the future they want for themselves and how to be active in building it.

Our commitment to supporting teenage mothers to return to school is clearly reflected in our flagship Back to Class Campaign, which has successfully facilitated the return of more than 1,000 teenage and child mothers to the education system across the African continent.

We therefore call upon the African Union and all developmental partners to recognize girls and young women not as beneficiaries of programmes, but as equal partners, decision-makers, and architects of Africa's future. Sustainable development on our continent requires deliberate investment in the education, leadership, economic empowerment, health, and safety of girls and young women, alongside meaningful inclusion in policy design, implementation, and evaluation. We urge continental institutions and global partners to adopt youth-centered and gender-responsive frameworks that are co-created with young women's organizations, adequately resourced, and accountable to the communities they seek to serve. The YWOA therefore calls for structured collaboration, long-term financing, and institutional recognition of grassroots young women's movements as indispensable partners in advancing Africa's social justice, economic transformation, and democratic renewal.



# REPORT

# REPORT OF THE 5TH YWOA ANNUAL CONTINENTAL CONVENTION

## Background:

The Young Women of Africa (YWOA) convened its 5th Annual Continental Convention (ACC) from 8–10 December 2025 at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme; “Advancing Reparative Justice and Shared Prosperity for Young Women and Girls in Africa: Breaking Barriers Now and Building a Gender-Equitable Future.”

The Convention brought together 126 participants physically from 30 African countries, including policymakers, development practitioners, civil society leaders, and young women activists. More than 100 members from the 16 Countries which could not join physically attended through zoom (Virtually). The gathering was designed as an intentional policy-oriented platform to examine structural barriers limiting girls and young women’s participation in economic, political, and social systems across Africa.

The Convention contributed to continental gender equality efforts aligned with Agenda 2063, the Maputo Protocol, and the East African Girls’ Empowerment and Resilience (EAGER) Programme, which seeks to expand learning, agency, and economic opportunities for adolescent girls and young women.

The Convention prioritised practical policy recommendations, movement coordination, advocacy, and institutional accountability mechanisms aimed at strengthening girls and young women’s participation in governance and economic transformation across the continent.

Grounded in the principles of Pan-Africanism, feminism, and global solidarity, the convention sought to advance several key objectives, including:

- Strengthening girls and young women’s representation and participation in multilateral decision-making processes.
- Promoting inclusive economic growth and advancing financial justice for women.
- Elevating Africa’s voice and influence within global governance frameworks, and
- Contributing to the realization of the vision outlined in Agenda 2063, “The Africa We Want.”

### **Activities:**

The convention convened 126 girls and young women leaders from 30 African countries, policymakers, civil society actors, and experts to engage in strategic dialogue on advancing gender equality, youth leadership, cultural empowerment, and movement building across Africa.

Discussions emphasised the role of young women as drivers of social transformation and highlighted the importance of strengthening feminist movements, cultural ecosystems, and mental wellness frameworks that support the leadership and empowerment of women and girls.

### **Key highlights included:**

- Strengthened collaboration between girls and young women leaders across different African regions.
- Recognition of culture, storytelling, and creative expression as tools for empowerment and healing.
- Increased dialogue on mental health and wellness within feminist and youth-led movements.
- Commitment to dismantling patriarchal practices and promoting gender justice.
- Strengthened advocacy for inclusive leadership, economic empowerment, and social protection for girls and young women.

### **Challenges Identified:**

- Persistent gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices.
- Limited representation of young women in governance, policy-making, and leadership spaces.
- Insufficient investment in mental health and wellness support systems.
- Economic exclusion and limited access to financing for women entrepreneurs.
- Lack of structured intergenerational dialogue platforms for knowledge sharing.
- Cultural norms and patriarchal systems that restrict women's autonomy and participation.

## **Opportunities:**

- Leveraging culture, arts, and storytelling as tools for education, healing, and advocacy.
- Building intergenerational partnerships between elders, community leaders, and youth.
- Expanding digital platforms to strengthen feminist organizing and youth engagement.
- Strengthening mentorship and leadership programmes for emerging young women leaders.
- Promoting intercultural exchanges and regional cooperation among African youth movements.

## **Session Title: Culture, Wellness, and Feminist Movement Building**

### **Objectives:**

- To explore the role of culture and traditional knowledge in empowering girls and young women.
- To promote mental health and wellness as integral components of movement building.
- To strengthen solidarity and collaboration among feminist youth movements.

### **Summary of Discussions:**

The session examined how cultural spaces, storytelling, and creative expression can serve as powerful mechanisms for healing, empowerment, and social transformation. Participants discussed the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge systems while challenging harmful cultural practices that undermine women's rights.

Speakers emphasised the importance of integrating mental health and wellness frameworks into youth and feminist movements to ensure sustainability and resilience among activists. The discussion also highlighted the value of intergenerational dialogue in transferring knowledge, preserving cultural identity, and strengthening community accountability.

## **Facilitators, Experts, and Rapporteurs:**

### **Moderators / Facilitators**

- Ms. Esther Bonyonga – Malawi
- Ms. Winnie Mabena – Zambia
- Ms. Joseline Ngoyiye – DRC

### **Experts / Speakers**

- Ms. Doris Mpoumou – Special Representative, UN Women Liaison Office to the African Union & UNECA
- Dr. Nigest Haile – Founder and Executive Director, Center for Accelerated Women's Economic Empowerment (CAWEE)
- Ms. Edith Akorfa Akua Lumor – Director of Finance, African Union Commission
- Ms. Ritah Muyambo – Programme Specialist for Young Women and Girls Engagement, UN Women
- Ms. Martina Vollmer – Cybersecurity Lead
- Dra Mariam Abdoulaye Ahmed – Health and Wellbeing Advocate (Chad)

### **Breakout Session Leads**

- Economic Empowerment – Ms. Lizzy Nyaribo Kwamboka
- Technology & Innovation – Ms. Martina Vollmer
- Health & Wellbeing – Dra Mariam Abdoulaye Ahmed (Chad)
- Lifelong Learning – Rachel Katende (Uganda) and Take Mahamat (Chad)
- Peace & Security – Emma Kwaje (South Sudan) and Barbara Sanga Siolo

### **Rapporteurs**

- Fatma Hamda – Western Sahara
- Christina Haindaka – Namibia
- Eledi Charity – Ghana
- Amy Top – Senegal
- Dr. Gwendoline Egbe – Cameroon

## **Outcomes and Decisions**

- Agreement to promote cultural storytelling and creative arts as advocacy tools.
- Commitment to strengthening mental health and wellness support for young women activists.
- Decision to develop structured intergenerational dialogue platforms across communities.
- Commitment to strengthen collaboration between youth organisations and cultural institutions.

## **Shared Prosperity and Feminist Economic Transformation**

The convention committed to continue to increase our advocacy for girls and young women empowerment, inclusive, redistributive, and care-centred economies by calling for the expansion of young women's access to finance, land, leadership, markets, entrepreneurship, and capital; investing in young women-led agribusiness, manufacturing, creative industries, green enterprises, and all commanding heights of the economy. We recognise unpaid care and domestic work and call on all African governments to do so.

The 5th ACC committed to reconvene the YWOA Trade and Economic Symposium to advance cross-border economic inclusion and entrepreneurship and further map solutions that increase the participation of young women in the economy.

### **Political Participation and Feminist Leadership.**

The YWOA committed to dismantling political exclusion through campaigns that called for the enforcement of quotas and parity laws. The protection of young women in politics from violence and harassment is non – negotiable, calling on all political parties to invest in feminist political education, leadership pipelines, and intergenerational exchanges.

The YWOA 5th ACC committed to a continent-wide mobilisation for young women's participation in political office and convening continental leadership training and mentorship platforms.

## **Ending Gender-Based Violence (Violence Against Women and Children)**

The YWOA declared a zero tolerance for all forms of gender-based violence, child marriage, trafficking, and harmful practices, recognising that no development, peace, or prosperity is possible where violence persists. The Young Women committed to support survivor-centred justice, comprehensive prevention strategies, and the resourcing of shelters, legal aid, and psychosocial services, particularly for rural and under-resourced communities, calling for the strengthening of the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls into meaningful action. A call for the ratification of the AU-CEVAWG by AU member states as an imperative call to action in the urgent fight to end violence against women and girls on our continent was raised.

## **Education, Digital Power, and Knowledge Justice**

We reaffirmed education as transformative justice and committed to campaigning for universal access to quality, safe, and inclusive education for young women and girls; scaling STEM, digital literacy, artificial intelligence, and innovation skills; and also protecting our right to learn in conflict and crisis. The YWOA 5th ACC has committed to strengthen the YWOA Back to Class campaign; and deepen the Kipusu Sanitary Towels Campaign to safeguard dignity and access to education.

## **Health, Bodily Autonomy, and Dignity**

We affirmed that bodily autonomy is non-negotiable and committed to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, menstrual health, dignity, and mental health support especially for girls, rural young women and survivors of violence, conflict, and displacement through innovative platforms including the YWOA Virtual Mental Health Hub which is already operational.

## **Climate Justice, Land, and Food Sovereignty**

We committed to gender-just climate action by securing young women's rights to land, water, and natural resources; scaling women-led climate-smart agriculture and green innovation; and ensuring women's leadership in climate policy and financing.

## **Peace, Security, and Humanitarian Justice**

We believe that young women are central to conflict prevention, mediation, reconstruction, and peacebuilding. We committed to full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda; protection of young women and girls in conflict and humanitarian settings; economic reintegration of survivors of war and displacement; and campaign for the recognition of gender-based violence as a threat to peace and security in Africa.

We take this opportunity to send messages of solidarity to our members in DRC, and other countries in conflict on our soil, Africa.

## **Digital Rights, Civic Spaces, and Freedom of Expression**

We are committed to playing our part in defending digital safety, data protection, online freedom, open civic spaces for feminist organising and youth activism, and technology as a tool for accountability, inclusion, and liberation.

## **Pan-African Solidarity and the Strengthening of YWOA**

As a uniting Pan African continental feminist movement committed to cross border solidarity, intergenerational leadership continuity, institutional excellence, accountability, and sustained impact. Guided by our Programme of Action for 2026, we committed to leave no girl or young woman behind on the African Continent.

### **Action Items**

- Establish community storytelling and dialogue platforms for girls, young women and elders.
- Develop mentorship programmes linking young women to leaders in culture, arts, and activism.
- Promote mental health awareness initiatives within the Young Women of Africa
- Facilitate intercultural exchange programmes with other African youth movements.

## **1. Outcomes and results obtained**

### **Day One:**

#### **Setting the Scene – Leadership, Empowerment, and Youth Perspectives**

The convention officially opened with high-level remarks from representatives of the African Union Commission, Young Women of Africa leadership, and international partners, setting the strategic tone for discussions on advancing gender equality and youth leadership in Africa.

Participants engaged in an intergenerational fireside chat on women's leadership, which facilitated dialogue between experienced leaders and emerging young women activists on leadership pathways, resilience, and navigating barriers to participation in governance and economic spaces.

A storytelling session titled "HerStories Lounge and Story Wall" provided participants with an opportunity to share lived experiences of young women in political leadership and nation-building across Africa. This activity strengthened solidarity and visibility for women leaders.

A strategic dialogue on inclusive empowerment frameworks allowed participants to explore policy entry points for youth organisations to engage with continental and international development programmes.

Breakout sessions focusing on economic empowerment, technology and innovation, health and well-being, lifelong learning, and peace and security generated youth-driven recommendations to advance inclusive development.

A capacity-building session on "Reclaiming Your Voice – Defining Your Narrative and Building Courage" equipped participants with practical tools for leadership, advocacy, and personal empowerment.

## **Key Outcomes of Day One**

- Strengthened leadership dialogue between girls, young women and institutional partners.
- Identification of key barriers and opportunities for advancing young women's empowerment.
- Increased networking and collaboration among youth leaders from multiple African countries.
- Consolidation of youth perspectives to inform continental advocacy and policy engagement.

## **Day Two:**

### **Institutional Strengthening and Movement Building**

Participants reviewed and discussed the YWOA President's Report, Organizational Report by the Continental DSG, and Finance Report by the Continental Head of Finance, providing transparency and accountability regarding the organization's work and strategic direction.

The convention introduced the Commission framework, enabling members to participate in thematic commissions addressing priority areas affecting young women and girls. Commission breakout sessions provided space for deeper discussions on policy priorities, programmatic interventions, and movement-building strategies.

Rapporteurs from each commission presented their findings and recommendations during the plenary session, contributing to the overall strategic direction of the organization.

A capacity-building session on "Partnerships for Sustainability – Overcoming Funding Barriers for Lasting Impact" strengthened participants' understanding of resource mobilization, partnerships, and funding opportunities.

## **Key Outcomes of Day Two**

- Strengthened internal governance and institutional accountability within YWOA.
- Adoption of key recommendations from thematic commissions.
- Increased knowledge on partnership development and financial sustainability for youth-led organizations.
- Enhanced collaboration between YWOA members, development partners, and civil society stakeholders.

## **Day Three:**

### **Advocacy, Solidarity, and The Way Forward**

Participants held a commemorative walk as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and Human Rights Day, demonstrating solidarity in the fight against violence affecting women and girls across Africa.

An Arts for Change session featured poetry, drama, music, and cultural performances aimed at raising awareness on gender-based violence and promoting social change through creative expression.

Cultural performances and storytelling highlighted the role of arts and culture in healing communities, empowering young women, and promoting gender justice.

Participants also engaged in networking and exploration activities designed to strengthen collaboration and partnership opportunities among participants.

### **Key Outcomes of Day Three**

- Strengthened advocacy and public awareness on ending gender-based violence.
- Increased engagement of girls and young women in arts-based activism and social transformation initiatives.
- Strengthened solidarity among participants across different African countries and communities.
- Expanded networks and opportunities for collaboration among youth leaders and partner organizations.
- Overall Outcomes of the Convention
- Adoption of the YWOA 5th Annual Continental Convention Declaration, outlining commitments and priorities for advancing gender justice and shared prosperity for young women and girls in Africa.
- Strengthened partnerships between YWOA, the African Union Commission, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and youth networks.
- Increased capacity of participants in leadership, advocacy, partnership building, and movement organizing.
- Consolidation of recommendations and action points that will inform future YWOA programs and continental advocacy efforts.
- Appointment of our girls desk led by Una Nkuna and Shani Awadhi to strengthen and elevate the work on the girl child in our movement and society.

## **Overall Outcomes of the Convention**

- Adoption of the YWOA 5th Annual Continental Convention Declaration, outlining commitments and priorities for advancing gender justice and shared prosperity for young women and girls in Africa.
- Strengthened partnerships between YWOA, the African Union Commission, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and youth networks.
- Increased capacity of participants in leadership, advocacy, partnership building, and movement organizing.
- Consolidation of recommendations and action points that will inform future YWOA programs and continental advocacy efforts.
- Appointment of our girls desk led by Una Nkuna and Shani Awadhi to strengthen and elevate the work on the girl child in our movement and society.

### **4. Follow-up required**

The Programme Of Action (POA) as an overarching outcome (attached) was adopted for the year 2026 and it speaks directly to the decisions and discussions coming from the convention. The main thing is to secure funding and intentional creative means to ensure the successful implementation of the POA. The continental executive will oversee its implementation until the 6th Annual Continental Convention.

We will initiate follow-up consultations with development partners to explore support for young women's economic empowerment programmes, including entrepreneurship and digital skills initiatives.

We will also use our internal monitoring mechanism to track the implementation of commitments made in the Convention.

### **5. Recommendations**

To the African Union Commission (AUC)

We come as co-architects of Africa's future. Our demands are proposals for redesigning governance, economies, and justice systems to reflect the lived realities and leadership of young women and girls across this continent;

- Create a Continental Accountability Index tracking member states progression on young women and girls inclusion in decision making and leadership. Further establish an AU Gender budget Compliance Mechanism with annual reporting and peer review.
- Formally adopt a new continental social contract with young women and girls where you recognise us as stakeholders in governance, development and peacebuilding.
- Campaign with us to ensure affordable internet access across rural and marginalised communities in Africa. This should be the starting point towards a digital skills acceleration programme for girls and young women in Africa. The AU must also support young women and girls to have a say in continental digital policy and governance frameworks.
- Strengthen institutional support for girls and young women's leadership by integrating youth-led women's organizations into continental policy development and implementation processes.
- Allocate dedicated funding streams to support programmes advancing economic empowerment, leadership development, and digital inclusion for young women. This is our call for a continental reparative justice fund for young women and girls. This should also include policy redress frameworks addressing historical and structural inequalities.
- Promote stronger implementation of the African Youth Charter and Agenda 2063 commitments related to gender equality and youth participation. Champions of the youth charter must also be girls and young women.
- Facilitate regional platforms that allow young women leaders to engage directly with policymakers and AU institutions. Young women and girls don't want to be on the margins.
- Support the establishment of continental mentorship and leadership programmes by the AU youth and gender directorate for emerging young women leaders.



# **NOTE TO PARTNERS**

## **To Development Partners, Private Sector, and International Organizations**

- Provide long-term institutional funding for youth-led women's organizations to ensure sustainability of programmes and initiatives.
- Support cross-border learning, exchanges, and fellowship programmes that strengthen leadership capacity among young women across Africa.
- Invest in mental health and wellness support systems for activists and youth leaders engaged in social justice work.
- Promote research and data collection on the socio-economic challenges affecting young women to inform evidence-based policies.

## **To Civil Society Organizations and Youth Movements**

- Strengthen coordination and collaboration among youth and feminist movements to amplify advocacy for gender justice and inclusive governance.
- Promote community-based programmes addressing gender-based violence, harmful practices, and social inequalities.
- Facilitate mentorship networks connecting experienced leaders with emerging young women activists.
- Utilize digital platforms and storytelling to raise awareness on issues affecting women and girls.

## **To Governments and Member States**

We are not a generation waiting to be empowered, we are ready to govern. Our demands are not requests for inclusion, they are directives for redesigning African states to reflect justice, dignity, and shared prosperity for young women and girls;

YWOA demands that governments prepare young women and girls for the future economy. Invest in digital, AI, and innovation training for young women and girls. Ensure affordable internet access, especially in rural communities and support young women-led tech enterprises and startups.

- Declare sanitary towels a right in all African Countries. Provide sanitary towels in public schools and communities for girls and young women.
- Increase investment in education, skills development, and entrepreneurship programmes targeting young women and girls.
- Implement gender-responsive policies that ensure equal access to economic opportunities, land ownership, and financial resources.
- Strengthen legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to address gender-based violence and discrimination.
- Promote inclusive governance by increasing the representation of women and youth in decision-making institutions.
- We strongly propose to member states of the African Union to ratify the Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG) which was adopted in February 2025 by the AU.

## **Financial support and Partners**

### **Note of Appreciation to Partners and Sponsors**

The Young Women of Africa (YWOA) extends its sincere appreciation to all partners and sponsors whose commitment and support made the successful convening of the 5th Annual Continental Convention (ACC) possible at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The participation of 126 young women leaders from 30 African countries was made possible through the collective investment of institutions that continue to demonstrate leadership in advancing gender equality, youth empowerment, and inclusive development across the continent.

We wish to acknowledge, with gratitude, the contributions of the African Union Commission Directorate for Women, Gender and Youth, UN Women, PAWO, the United Nations Ethiopia Country Office, The UN Regional Office, the World Bank, International IDEA, ABSA South Africa, GIZ, La Francophonie, EAGER, and all supporting partners who played a critical role in delivering a Convention of continental significance. We also sincerely thank all members who sponsored their travelling to Addis Ababa.

Your partnership enabled not only the successful execution of the Convention, but also the development of strategic outcomes aligned to Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, and broader continental frameworks on youth and gender equality. YWOA regards this collaboration as a strategic partnership towards advancing reparative justice, shared prosperity, and the leadership of young women and girls across Africa. We remain committed to translating the outcomes of the 5th ACC into sustained, measurable impact at national, regional, and continental levels. to Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, and broader continental frameworks on youth and gender equality. YWOA regards this collaboration as a strategic partnership towards advancing reparative justice, shared prosperity, and the leadership of young women and girls across Africa. We remain committed to translating the outcomes of the 5th ACC into sustained, measurable impact at national, regional, and continental levels.

### **Value for Money**

The Convention prioritised continental representation and policy engagement, enabling participation from 126 young women and girl leaders who may otherwise face structural barriers to engaging in continental decision-making platforms especially at the AU. It amplified the voices of young women and girls who become leading figures in their countries after attending conventions. (Record of success stories is available)

The investment generated measurable outcomes, including the adoption of the 5th Annual Continental Convention Declaration outlining policy priorities for young women in Africa that members are petitioning and advocating in their countries. The flagship Programmes of the YWOA informed by the convention discussions are already being implemented through the adopted Programme of Action 2026. The 5th ACC further strengthened partnerships between youth organisations and international development partners, collaboration is already taking place. The girls who attended the convention have already been invited to three UN high level events to speak on the plight of African girls. The UN was part of the partners present in the convention. The 5th ACC has led to capacity development of participants in leadership, partnership development and consolidation of policy recommendations informing future programmes and advocacy initiatives.



# **2026 PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

<b>Month</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PROPOSED HOST COUNTRY</b>	<b>PROGRAMME LEAD FROM THE CONTINENTAL EXECUTIVE AND TEAM</b>
January	Back to Class Campaign	The Back To Class Campaign of the YWOA is about empowering girls and young women to pursue their education and reach their full potential. It's about creating a supportive environment where they can thrive and succeed, and breaking down barriers that might be holding them back in education.	Central Africa Chad	Sandra Murhola and All Regional Secretaries
January	January	This initiative aims to provide a platform for young women and girls to engage in discussions, share experiences, and acquire knowledge on topics relevant to their personal and leadership development.	YWOA Zoom and Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Lioness Sibande – Continental Deputy Secretary General</li> <li>· YWOA Media Team</li> </ul>
February Virtually and May Physically	Kipusu Sanitary Towels Drive and Menstrual Equity & Health Justice	Expanded campaign on menstrual health, dignity, and access to reproductive justice. Includes mobile clinics, school outreach, and policy advocacy.	East Africa Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Sibongile Sibanda – Continental Deputy President</li> <li>· Dorothy Loy Akech – East Africa Regional Secretary</li> <li>· East Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· Uganda Country Executive</li> </ul>
March	Young Women in Governance & Peacebuilding Forum	A leadership summit focused on political participation, peacebuilding, and transitional justice. Includes simulation parliaments and regional policy labs.	West Africa Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Precious Banda – Continental President</li> <li>· Asmawu Idris Omeiza – West Africa Regional Secretary</li> <li>· West Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· Nigeria Country Executive</li> </ul>

<b>Month</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PROPOSED HOST COUNTRY</b>	<b>PROGRAMME LEAD FROM THE CONTINENTAL EXECUTIVE AND TEAM</b>
March	Commemoration of the International Women's Day	To Commemorate the IWD through service, advocacy and grassroots mobilisation	West Africa Mali and Ghana as lead Countries Virtually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Precious Banda Continental President</li> <li>· Rokia Doumbia – West Africa Region Vice President</li> <li>· West Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· Mali Country Executive</li> </ul>
April	African Feminist Knowledge Festival	A celebration of African feminist scholarship, arts, and activism. Includes exhibitions, book fairs, and intergenerational panels.	Southern Africa Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Heather Hunda – Continental Finance Secretary</li> <li>· Modiehi Nkhabu – Southern Africa Regional Secretary</li> <li>· Southern Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· Namibia Country Executive</li> </ul>
May	YWOA Central Africa Regional Launch & Movement Building Camp	Formal launch of the Central Africa region with a week-long camp on organizing, advocacy, and feminist movement building.	Central Africa DRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Jocelyne Ngoie – Continental Head of Communication</li> <li>· Elvira Maye – Central Africa Vice President</li> <li>· Central Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· DRC Country Executive</li> </ul>
May	Young Women in Leadership Dialogue – Breaking Barriers and Social Norms Now	Young Women in Leadership Dialogue is a unique mentorship and inter-generational dialogue designed to empower young women leaders and equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to drive positive change in their communities and organisations.	Southern Africa Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Precious Banda – Continental President</li> <li>· Modiehi Nkhabu – Southern Africa Regional Secretary</li> <li>· Southern Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· Botswana Country Executive</li> </ul>

Month	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED HOST COUNTRY	PROGRAMME LEAD FROM THE CONTINENTAL EXECUTIVE AND TEAM
June	<p>Young Women's Economic Justice &amp; Innovation Expo</p> <p>(YWOA Trade and Economic Symposium)</p>	<p>A continental showcase of youth-led enterprises, cooperatives, and tech innovations. Includes pitch sessions, training, and market access dialogues.</p> <p>Here we will build mentorship, collaboration and networking for a better future</p>	East Africa Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Emmanuela Kaganda – Continental Head of Economic Transformation</li> <li>· Naserian Lilian Martine – East Africa Vice President</li> <li>· East Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· Tanzania Country Executive</li> </ul>
July	Agro-Feminist Summit: Land, Food, and Climate Justice (Harvesting Hope)	<p>A young women summit on land ownership, agriculture, and climate resilience. Includes farm visits, seed exchanges, and policy dialogues.</p>	Southern Africa South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Karabo Mohale – Continental Head of Partnerships</li> <li>· Winnie Mabena – Southern Africa Vice President</li> <li>· Southern Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· South Africa Country Executive</li> </ul>
July	Commemoration of the Pan African Women's Day	To Collaborate with PAWO to commemorate PAWD	PAWO – YWOA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Continental DSG</li> <li>· Regional Secretaries</li> </ul>
August	Pan-African young women' Education and Digital Futures Campaign	<p>A campaign to close the digital divide and promote STEM education for girls. Includes coding bootcamps, mentorship, and digital literacy.</p>	East Africa Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Precious Banda – Continental President</li> <li>· Kanen – East Africa Region Finance Secretary</li> <li>· East Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· Kenya Country Executive</li> </ul>

Month	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED HOST COUNTRY	PROGRAMME LEAD FROM THE CONTINENTAL EXECUTIVE AND TEAM
September	YWOA West Africa Regional Launch & Movement Building Camp	Formal launch of the Central Africa region with a week-long camp on organizing, advocacy, and feminist movement building.	West Africa Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Helena Chiuhuissa – Continental Secretary General</li> <li>· Idris Asmawu Omeiza – West Africa Regional Secretary</li> <li>· West Africa Region Executive</li> <li>· Ghana Country Executive</li> </ul>
October	Continental Gender Justice & Advocacy Week  (Miles For Change Campaign)	A week of empowerment, strategic training, and advocacy for survivors of gender-based violence and systemic exclusion	East Africa South Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Nephtalie Kasaka – Continental Executive Member</li> <li>· Martine Lilian Nasarian – East Africa Vice President</li> <li>· East Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· South Sudan Country Executive</li> </ul>
November	Young Women's Assembly on Migration, Borders & Statelessness	A convening on the rights of migrant, refugee, and stateless young women. Includes testimonies, legal aid, and cross-border solidarity building.	North Africa Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Sibongile Sibanda – Continental Deputy President</li> <li>· Khadija Mohe</li> <li>· North Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>· Egypt Country Executive</li> </ul>
December	6th Annual Continental Convention	Culminating event to reflect, strategize, and celebrate progress. Includes elections, declarations, and a continental youth feminist awards gala.	North Africa Western Sahara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Secretariat</li> </ul>

## Ongoing Activities (All Months):

- Monthly Webinars: Thematic learning sessions on reparative justice, feminist economics, trending continental issues and movement strategy.
- Monthly Continental Executive Meetings: Coordination and accountability across chapters.
- Monthly Bilateral Engagements: Strategic partnerships and networks.
- Quarterly Regional Meetings: Peer learning, reporting, and regional strategy alignment.

## KEY INTERNATIONAL DAYS TO NOTE:

### January

- January 24: International Day of Education

### February

- February 20: World Day of Social Justice

### March

- March 8: International Women's Day
- March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

### April

- April 7: World Health Day
- April 22: International Mother Earth Day

### May

- May 3: World Press Freedom Day
- May 15: International Day of Families
- May 25: Africa Day
- May 28: Menstrual Hygiene day

### June

- June 5: World Environment Day
- June 16: Day of the African Child
- June 20: World Refugee Day

## July

- July 11: World Population Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> July PAWD

## August

- August 12: International Youth Day

## September

- September 21: International Day of Peace
- September 26: International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

## October

- October 11: International Day of the Girl Child
- October 15: International Day of Rural Women
- October 25: Anti sanctions day

## November

- November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

## December

- December 10: Human Rights Day
- December 18: International Migrants Day



# COMMISSION I

# **POLICY, ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION**

Chairperson: Dr Lebogang Ramalepe

Rapporteur: Racheal Katende

## **Purpose of the commission**

To develop declarations, campaigns and action plans to influence continental and national policy platforms. To ensure strengthened leadership, visibility and agency for young African women and girls while shaping feminist advocacy agendas.

## **Key Policy Documents**

### **1.1. The Maputo Declaration**

Is a comprehensive human rights instrument that addresses the specific challenges faced by women in Africa, guaranteeing rights related to equality, dignity reproductive health and participation in political and economic life.

### **1.2. Agenda 2063**

This is the Africa's strategic blueprint for the continent's socio-economic transformation over 50 years from 2013 to 2063 aiming to become a prosperous, integrated, peaceful and globally influential power through inclusive growth, continental unity, good governance and strong cultural identity implemented via the ten-year implementation plans and flagship projects under the core vision: the Africa we want.

### **1.3 The Youth Charter**

Which is a guiding document for promoting youth empowerment, fostering leadership and addressing issues like employment and ensuring youth voice in decision making.

2.1 Ratifications, campaign for ratifications of the Maputo protocol and the youth charter in the countries where they are not ratified.

- Develop a continental ratification map highlighting gaps.
- Launch youth-led advocacy campaigns targeting non-ratifying states.
- Engage parliamentarians and ministries responsible for treaty ratification.

2.2 Create awareness about raising the Maputo Declaration, Youth Charter and Agenda 2063. This is through the media platforms, community workshops, community mobilization and breakdown of the documents so that they are clear and more understandable to the lay man.

- Produce simplified versions and visual summaries.
- Hold community workshops and dialogues.
- Develop media toolkits for journalists and radio hosts.

2.3 Utilizing digital influencing platforms. Social media is a fast-growing tool for delivering information. We recommend that regional governments could shift to platforms such as TikTok that capture the attention of most of the young population and use them to deliver the message about the different documents.

- Create short explainer videos and challenge-based campaigns.
- Partner with digital content creators and youth-led media hubs.
- Train young people on digital advocacy techniques.

2.4 Utilization of the webinars and online meetings to capacitate and make everyone aware of the documents.

- Host quarterly webinars on key frameworks.
- Build an online resource hub containing toolkits, explainer videos, and advocacy guides.

2.5 Create community ambassadors to push the agendas and focus on;

stakeholder engagement with traditional leaders and chiefs.

- Capacity building
- Develop a Community Ambassador Toolkit.
- Facilitate community-to-community peer learning sessions.
- Strengthen relationships with chiefs, elders, and local governance structures.

2.6 Incorporate the different documents in the education curriculum so that children are aware of what is happening in their continent even as they grow.

- Work with Ministries of Education to embed these frameworks into civic education.
- Develop curriculum-aligned study guides and teacher training materials.

2.7 Empower grassroots women to familiarize themselves with the Maputo protocol through acquiring equality, dignity and equal participation in politics and economic life.

- Conduct leadership and rights training for grassroots women.
- Support women-led advocacy structures at community level.
- Facilitate intergenerational mentorship between activists.
- Translate the documents into multiple local languages to ensure accessibility across communities.
- Work with community radio stations, local TV channels, and village information centres to broadcast simplified, easy-to-understand content.
- Train community leaders and ambassadors to communicate key messages using relatable stories, analogies, and practical examples.
- Develop audio versions of the documents for use in low-literacy contexts and remote communities.
- Support culturally rooted mobilisation strategies such as community dialogues, theatre-for-development, and storytelling sessions.

2.8 Invest in influencers. These could include celebrities and famous personalities whom the AU could think of working with to disseminate the documents especially the Youth charter into more comprehensible and fun ways yet delivering the message to the public.

- Identify high-impact influencers per region.
- Co-create creative campaigns such as music, drama, or digital series.

2.9 Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Maputo protocol. The African union should have monitoring and evaluation tools even at the implementation at country level in the different AU member states.

- Create a continental M&E dashboard.
- Support countries to develop national implementation scorecards.
- Publish an annual youth-friendly implementation report.

### **3. Conclusion**

The Commission emphasises that feminist policy advocacy and youth leadership are critical to advancing gender justice, accountability, and continental development. The adopted recommendations and action items offer a clear roadmap for strengthening awareness, ratification, implementation, and monitoring of key AU frameworks. These outputs will contribute to the broader Convention outcomes and guide YWOA's Programme of Action for the year ahead.



# COMMISSION II

# **Commission for Culture, Wellness & Movement Building Report on Strategic Priorities, Programmatic Actions, and Movement-Building Interventions**

## **1. Introduction**

The Commission for Culture, Wellness & Movement Building was established to advance a unified continental agenda that positions culture, mental health, and feminist movement leadership as essential pillars of Africa's social transformation. This report outlines the Commission's strategic priorities, programmatic actions, and policy recommendations aimed at empowering young girls, strengthening community resilience, dismantling patriarchal systems, and promoting cultural preservation and innovation.

The Commission recognises culture not merely as heritage, but as a functional ecosystem for empowerment, economic opportunity, moral leadership, and social justice. Through actionable interventions, the Commission seeks to mobilise cultural spaces as tools for healing, unity, learning, and gender equality.

## **2. Strategic Vision**

To transform African communities by leveraging culture, traditional knowledge, creative expression, and collective care frameworks to:

- Empower young girls and women.
- Build intergenerational relationships and knowledge-sharing systems.
- Strengthen mental health and wellness ecosystems.
- Deconstruct harmful norms and patriarchal practices.
- Promote social cohesion and community accountability.
- Cultivate leadership rooted in dignity, autonomy, and shared humanity.

## **3. Guiding Principles**

All Commission activities are guided by the following principles:

1. Inclusivity – Prioritising young girls, rural women, women with disabilities, and survivors of violence.
2. Intergenerational Continuity – Preserving, transferring, and evolving cultural knowledge across generations.
3. Action Orientation – Ensuring that every intervention is implementable, measurable, and community-driven.
4. Cultural Integrity – Protecting indigenous knowledge and traditional medicine as legitimate sources of healing.
5. Gender Justice – Actively dismantling cultural, structural, and political practices that undermine women's autonomy.
6. Movement Sustainability – Building wellness, care, and leadership into all feminist and youth-led movements.

## 4. Programmatic Priority Areas

### 4.1. Cultural Ecosystems for Empowering Young Girls

The Commission will:

- Establish cultural learning hubs where young girls engage in music, storytelling, drama, and visual arts to build self-awareness, leadership, and confidence.
- Launch cultural competitions to amplify girls' voices and celebrate creative expression.
- Facilitate mentorship programmes linking young girls to women leaders, entrepreneurs, artists, and traditional healers.
- Teach girls to use the arts as tools for advocacy, identity formation, and movement participation.

### 4.2. Intergenerational Conversations and Knowledge Dissemination

To preserve legacy and foster unity, the Commission will:

- Convene structured intergenerational dialogues between elders, women, and youth to exchange cultural knowledge and lived experiences.
- Produce community-based documentation—audio, video, literature—capturing wisdom, rites of passage, healing traditions, and historical memory.
- Introduce intergenerational mediation models to break silence on GBV, early marriage, inheritance, sexuality, and mental health.

### 4.3. Strengthening Traditional Medicine and Indigenous Healing

The Commission will:

- Promote traditional medicine as a recognised and protected wellness resource.
- Support research, documentation, and knowledge transfer from healers to younger generations.
- Integrate indigenous healing—rituals, herbs, chants, dances—into community care and mental health programmes.
- Advocate for policy protection and funding for traditional medicine practitioners.

#### 4.4. Storytelling as a Mechanism for Healing and Unity

The Commission will:

- Implement community storytelling circles for survivors, youth, and elders.
- Use theatre, film, oral tradition, spoken word, and digital storytelling to foster community cohesion.
- Promote content such as “A Girl from Mogadishu” for educational use in schools and community dialogues.
- Build national archives capturing stories of resilience, resistance, and transformation.

#### 4.5. Deconstructing Patriarchal Cultural Practices

To transform harmful norms, the Commission will:

- Establish multidisciplinary cultural review committees to examine and reform oppressive practices.
- Provide advocacy and education distinguishing between protective traditions and patriarchal customs.
- Support women and girls who challenge abusive power structures through legal, psychosocial, and community-based mechanisms.
- Train leaders and institutions on gender-transformative practice.

#### 4.6. Building Self-Awareness in Girls, Communities, and Leaders

The Commission will:

- Train girls in body autonomy, emotional intelligence, boundary-setting, and leadership.
- Conduct community workshops to reduce gender bias and strengthen collective accountability.
- Integrate self-awareness training into community organisations, schools, cultural centres, and leadership programmes.

#### 4.7. Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Justice

Recognising the importance of transforming masculinity, the Commission will:

- Implement national Train a Boy Child initiatives to teach empathy, consent, and non-violence.
- Provide gender justice education targeting fathers, teachers, traditional leaders, and young men.
- Build male allyship networks that confront patriarchy from within families and institutions.
- Support men undergoing behavioural transformation to prevent cycles of violence.

#### 4.8. Intercultural Exchanges and Movement Solidarity

To build continental unity, the Commission will:

- Host annual intercultural conventions showcasing music, art, ceremony, and gender justice innovations from across Africa.
- Facilitate cross-country study tours, including a Women in Business Showcase Tour.
- Promote intercultural learning between communities facing similar gender and social challenges.

### 5. Implementation Framework

The Commission will implement this agenda through:

- National working groups composed of artists, healers, activists, educators, and youth leaders.
- Partnerships with cultural institutions, women's organisations, traditional councils, and ministries.
- Capacity-building programmes for educators, mental health practitioners, cultural workers, and movement leaders.
- Monitoring and evaluation systems requiring each programme to demonstrate measurable impact on wellness, empowerment, and social behaviour change.

## 6. Key Recommendations:

The Commission recommends that Member States:

1. Integrate cultural empowerment into national development and gender policies.
2. Allocate funding to cultural wellness programmes, especially in rural and marginalised communities.
3. Recognise traditional medicine as a vital public health resource.
4. Implement mandatory gender-transformative programmes for schools and communities.
5. Support arts-based learning as part of the national curriculum.
6. Protect women activists and whistleblowers confronting patriarchal abuse.
7. Facilitate intercultural and intergenerational knowledge platforms at national and regional levels.

## 7. Conclusion

Culture is one of Africa's most powerful tools for transformation. By mobilising creative expression, indigenous knowledge, storytelling, and intergenerational learning, the Commission for Culture, Wellness & Movement Building positions itself as a catalyst for structural change. This report outlines a coherent, action-oriented pathway to empower young girls, deconstruct patriarchy, strengthen mental health, and build movements grounded in dignity and shared humanity.

The Commission calls upon all partners, Member States, and community leaders to collaborate in advancing this agenda and ensuring that the cultural and wellness landscape of Africa becomes a foundation upon which women and girls thrive.



# COMMISSION

III

## **Economic transformation and entrepreneurship**

### **1. How Young Women Can Lead Africa ' s Economic Empowerment, Entrepreneurship Ecosystems, and Sustainable Development Transitions.**

Young women play a pivotal role in advancing Africa ' s economic empowerment and entrepreneurial ecosystems. By driving innovation, leveraging technology to address community challenges, and establishing businesses that generate employment, they contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth.

Their leadership in promoting sustainable models, such as green entrepreneurship and socially responsible enterprises, helps accelerate Africa's transition toward sustainable development. The active participation of young women also introduces fresh perspectives, strengthens inclusivity, and enhances Africa's competitiveness in global markets.

With adequate leadership training, supportive policies, and improved access to financial resources, young women can assume central roles in shaping Africa's economic future and fostering resilient development pathways.

### **2. Recommended Skills-Building Workshops, Resources, and Best Practices for Enterprise Development and Economic Leadership**

To strengthen enterprise development and economic leadership among young women, several initiatives are recommended. These include entrepreneurship boot camps, digital literacy training, financial management workshops, mentorship and coaching programs, as well as innovation and incubation labs.

Best practices emphasize experiential learning approaches such as hands-on training, peer-to-peer mentorship, continuous leadership development, and exposure to international markets. Practical business simulations and case studies can further help build confidence, entrepreneurial competence, and long-term leadership capacity.

### 3. Strategies to Build Partnerships with Donors, Philanthropic Networks, Private Sector Actors, and Social Enterprises

Building strong partnerships requires clear alignment of goals and mutual value creation. Youth-led and women-led initiatives should develop compelling value propositions that clearly demonstrate their impact and relevance. Additionally, adopting evidence-based proposals and transparent communication strategies can attract funding and collaboration. Leveraging professional networks, digital engagement platforms, and strategic events can further strengthen partnerships. Establishing transparent governance structures and co-designing community-driven solutions with private sector actors and philanthropic organizations ensures sustainable and impactful collaborations.

### 4. Frameworks to Strengthen Budgeting, Fundraising Accountability, and Sustainability for Youth-Led Initiatives

Strengthening financial management systems is critical for the sustainability of youth-led initiatives. Effective frameworks include zero-based budgeting, strategic financial planning, diversified fundraising approaches such as grants, partnerships, and crowdfunding, as well as robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Transparent governance policies and accountability structures are equally important in building donor confidence and ensuring responsible financial management. Furthermore, sustainability strategies that incorporate revenue-generating activities can help youth-led initiatives remain financially resilient and impactful over time.

### 5. Pathways for Economic Empowerment Through STEM Inclusion, Climate Justice Entrepreneurship, Digital Transformation, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Promoting economic empowerment requires inclusive and innovative pathways. Encouraging women's participation in STEM fields through scholarships, mentorship, and research opportunities can unlock significant economic potential. Climate-smart entrepreneurship also presents new opportunities for sustainable enterprises, particularly in areas such as renewable energy, green agriculture, and environmental conservation. In addition, digital transformation—through tools such as fintech, e-commerce platforms, and digital marketing—can expand market access and improve business efficiency.

In addition, digital transformation, through tools such as fintech, e-commerce platforms, and digital marketing can expand market access and improve business efficiency. Equally important is the integration of indigenous knowledge systems into modern innovation. Traditional practices in areas such as sustainable agriculture, herbal medicine, and local resource management can be transformed into scalable enterprises that promote both economic growth and cultural preservation.

## 6. Advocacy Strategies for Youth Employment Pathways, Enterprise Incubation, and Access to Capital

Advocacy efforts should focus on promoting policies that support youth entrepreneurship and economic inclusion. This includes lobbying for gender-responsive financial policies, advocating for youth-friendly loan schemes, and encouraging the establishment of enterprise incubation and acceleration hubs. Strengthening networks of young women entrepreneurs can also amplify their voices and increase visibility. Engaging policymakers, media institutions, and development partners helps highlight success stories, address systemic barriers, and drive reforms that expand opportunities for youth employment and enterprise growth.

## 7. Models That Enhance Financial Inclusion, Scale Youth-Led Innovations, and Strengthen Entrepreneurship Hubs

Several models can effectively support financial inclusion and entrepreneurial growth among young innovators. These include the use of mobile banking platforms and fintech solutions that expand access to financial services for underserved populations. Accelerator and incubation programs can provide mentorship, funding opportunities, and technical support for promising enterprises. Community-based entrepreneurship hubs also serve as important platforms for collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing. Furthermore, public – private partnerships that invest in youth innovation and social enterprise models – where profits are reinvested into community development – can create sustainable ecosystems that nurture and scale youth-led initiatives across Africa



# COMMISSION

## IV

## Purpose and Focus of the Commission

Commission 4 focused on strengthening the role of young African women in advancing peace-building, human rights protection, democratic participation, and inclusive governance across the continent. The session recognized that women, particularly young women, are often disproportionately affected by conflict, insecurity, political instability, and shrinking civic spaces, yet remain underrepresented in decision-making spaces where solutions are designed.

The commission explored key challenges affecting peace and democracy in Africa, including increasing political tensions, violent conflicts, securitized environments, and the growing backlash against gender equality movements. Participants emphasized the urgent need to position young women not only as beneficiaries of peace processes but as active architects of sustainable peace, defenders of democratic institutions, and champions of human rights.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of strengthening civic engagement, protecting freedom of expression, and ensuring that women have safe spaces to participate in political and social processes. Participants shared experiences from their countries and reflected on practical ways young women can influence policy, governance, and community-level peace initiatives.

## Summary of Key Discussions

Participants engaged in rich discussions around the intersection of peace, security, human rights, and democratic participation in Africa. A recurring theme was the limited inclusion of young women in peace negotiations, political decision-making, and governance processes despite their active role in community peace initiatives.

Delegates noted that across many African countries, civic spaces are shrinking, with increasing restrictions on activism, civil society organizations, and youth participation. Young women activists and human rights defenders often face intimidation, harassment, or online attacks when advocating for democratic reforms or gender equality.

The commission also discussed how conflicts and political instability disproportionately impact women and girls through displacement, economic exclusion, gender-based violence, and limited access to justice. Participants stressed that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without addressing gender inequality and ensuring women's meaningful participation in peace-building processes. Another important issue raised was the growing digital dimension of civic participation and activism. While digital platforms provide opportunities for mobilization and advocacy, they also expose women activists to online harassment and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Participants emphasized the importance of strengthening leadership development, legal awareness, and advocacy skills among young women to enable them to influence governance and accountability processes. The commission also highlighted the role of education, mentorship, and cross-border solidarity in empowering young women leaders. Overall, the discussions reinforced the need for coordinated efforts among governments, civil society, regional institutions, and youth movements to protect democratic values, strengthen human rights frameworks, and support women-led peace initiatives across Africa.

## SECTION B: KEY OUTCOMES

### 7. Strategic Recommendations

The commission proposed several strategic recommendations aimed at strengthening peace, democracy, and human rights across Africa:

- Governments should ensure the meaningful inclusion of young women in peace processes, political leadership, and governance structures.
- National and regional institutions should adopt policies that protect civic space and guarantee freedom of expression, association, and participation.
- There is a need to increase protection mechanisms for women human rights defenders, particularly those facing threats and harassment.
- African governments and institutions should invest in youth-led peace-building initiatives and community mediation programs.
- Educational institutions and civil society organizations should strengthen leadership training and civic education for young women.
- Digital safety measures must be developed to address online harassment and technology-facilitated gender-based violence targeting women activists.
- Regional bodies should strengthen implementation of continental frameworks promoting gender equality and women's participation in governance.

## Proposed Programmes & Initiatives (2025–2028)

The commission recommended the development of several initiatives between 2025 and 2028:

- Young Women Peace Ambassadors Programme
- A continental initiative that trains and supports young women to lead peace-building and conflict prevention initiatives in their communities.
- Women in Democracy Leadership Academy
- A leadership and mentorship platform designed to equip young women with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in political participation, governance, and policy advocacy.
- Digital Safety & Civic Space Initiative
- A program that trains women activists and civil society leaders on digital security, safe online engagement, and strategies to combat online harassment.
- Community Dialogue & Mediation Networks
- Local platforms led by young women to facilitate dialogue between communities, local authorities, and youth groups to prevent conflict and promote social cohesion.
- Human Rights Advocacy Fellowship
- A fellowship program designed to support young women working in human rights advocacy, legal empowerment, and social justice.

## 9. Policy Positions & Advocacy Priorities

The commission adopted several policy and advocacy priorities:

- Strengthening women's participation in peace negotiations and political decision-making processes.
- Protecting freedom of expression and civic engagement for youth and women-led organizations.
- Addressing gender-based violence in both physical and digital spaces.
- Promoting accountability mechanisms for human rights violations.
- Advancing legal reforms that promote gender equality and inclusive governance.
- Supporting regional cooperation to strengthen peace-building initiatives across Africa.

## SECTION C: ACTION PLAN

### 10. Immediate Action Points (0–6 Months)

- Establish a Young Women Peace-building Network within the Young Women of Africa platform.
- Conduct awareness campaigns on democratic participation and civic engagement.
- Organize capacity-building workshops on human rights advocacy and leadership.
- Launch an online platform for knowledge sharing among young women peace advocates.

### 11. Medium-Term Actions (6–18 Months)

- Implement the Young Women Peace Ambassadors Programme across selected African countries.
- Develop partnerships with civil society organizations and regional bodies working in peace and governance.
- Conduct regional dialogues focusing on women's participation in peace and democratic processes.
- Document and publish case studies on successful women-led peace initiatives.

### 12. Long-Term Actions (18–36 Months)

- Establish a continental coalition of young women peace-builders and human rights defenders.
- Advocate for policy reforms that promote gender-inclusive governance and peace processes.
- Strengthen cross-border collaboration among African youth movements working on democracy and peace.
- Expand training programs to reach more young women across the continent.

## SECTION D: RESOURCING & PARTNERSHIPS

### 13. Required Resources

The implementation of the commission's recommendations will require:

- Financial resources to support programs and training initiatives
- Technical expertise in peace-building, governance, and human rights
- Capacity-building tools and training materials
- Digital platforms for collaboration and knowledge sharing
- Research and data collection support

### 14. Potential Partners & Stakeholders

Potential partners include:

- African Union institutions
- Regional economic communities
- Civil society organizations
- Human rights organizations
- Universities and research institutions
- Youth-led organizations
- International development partners
- Government ministries responsible for youth, gender, and governance

## SECTION E: MONITORING & EVALUATION

### 15. Indicators of Success

Key indicators to measure progress include:

- Increased participation of young women in peace-building and governance processes
- Number of leadership and training programs implemented
- Growth in youth-led peace initiatives across African countries
- Strengthened networks of women human rights defenders
- Policy changes that support gender equality and civic participation

## 16. Risks & Mitigation Strategies

Potential risks include:

- Political resistance to youth and women's participation
- Limited funding for long-term initiatives
- Security risks faced by activists and human rights defenders
- Shrinking civic space in some countries

Mitigation strategies include strengthening partnerships, diversifying funding sources, promoting regional collaboration, and ensuring safety and protection mechanisms for activists.

## SECTION F: CLOSING REFLECTIONS

### 17. Key Messages from Young Women

Young African women are not only victims of conflict and injustice but powerful agents of change capable of shaping peaceful and democratic societies. Their voices, leadership, and participation must be recognized and supported at all levels.

Participants emphasized that peace, democracy, and human rights cannot thrive without gender equality and youth inclusion.

### 18. Quotes or Expressions of Solidarity

"Young African women are not waiting to be invited into peace processes, we are already building peace in our communities."

"Democracy becomes stronger when young women have the courage and the space to lead."

## 19. Final Summary (Rapporteur's Note)

The discussions in Commission 4 emphasized the important role that young African women can play in advancing peace-building, protecting human rights, and strengthening democratic participation across the continent. Participants reflected on both the challenges that continue to limit women's participation in these spaces and the growing opportunities for young women to take leadership roles.

A key message from the commission participants was the importance of starting from within recognizing one's own potential, understanding one's human rights, and believing in the ability to occupy and influence spaces related to peace, governance, and justice. Participants stressed that meaningful change begins with young women centering new ways of thinking about themselves as capable, confident, and deserving of participation and leadership.

The commission concluded that when young women are empowered with the right knowledge, confidence, resources, and platforms, they can make significant contributions to building sustainable peace, promoting inclusive governance, and strengthening democratic institutions in Africa. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to collectively promote justice, equality, and peace across the continent while encouraging young women to recognize their own power as agents of change.

## 20. Signatures

Commission Chair: Belinda Mwiinga

Rapporteur: Esther Bella Munezero



# COMMISSION V

1. Commission Name: (5)

Future Africa, Innovation and transformative feminist power

2. Commission Chair(s):

Madam Naserian Lilian Martime

3. Rapporteur(s):

Dr. Egbe Gwendoline Arrika

4. Participating Countries / Chapters Represented:

Ethiopia, Lesotho, Namibia, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia, Cameroon.

SECTION A: SESSION OVERVIEW

5. Purpose and Focus of the Commission

The commission positions YWOA as the engine room of Africa's future- a space where young African women design the next generation of solutions, movements, technologies and cultural renaissances that will define the continent. It champions radical imagination, innovation, digital leadership, transformative feminist vision and youth-driven governance models that break away from outdated systems.

6. Summary of Key Discussions

From the discussions, the following points emerged;

Ø Feminism means different things for different countries and context. In Kenya for example being a feminist means you have become older and bitter especially the unmarried and you want to recruit younger girls to share in your frustration.

Ø The Key elements of Feminist are Shared power, equity and Justice, empathy and care, accountability and transformation. Also, it is worth noting to note that anyone can be a feminist not necessarily a woman

Ø We need to learn how to explore emerging technologies as young women

Ø There is also reemerging governance

Ø Envisioning the Future of Africa and its demographic advantage determines how a youthful population can drive a new development trajectory. We need to Design new solutions and visionary frameworks to guide Africa's next generation.

Ø Digital rights need to be followed.

Ø The place of a woman's motherhood and tender care is being questioned with the growing introduction of Artificial intelligence, child bearing through artificial means, use of robots for household chores.

Ø Also, the issue of inadequate funding sources is a major challenge to development and innovation. There is misuse of resources

Ø Also, under emergent Governance women need to identify the gaps of how they have gone wrong as women in governance.

Ø Monitoring and evaluation on the sustainability and effective implementation of programs, schemes, charters and protocols has always been one of Africa's greater barriers to growth, innovation and continuity.

Ø Language barriers and cultural stereotypes makes it difficult to influence the perceptions of the rural woman and makes it difficult for them to receive innovations.

Ø The increasing rate of corruption in most African countries discourages innovations and businesses.

## 7. Strategic Recommendations

- Ø Women need to create safe spaces in order to listen to one another especially victims of Gender-based violence, share experiences and develop strategies for personal growth.
- Ø There is need for resource mobilization and diversify funding sources.
- Ø Make technology transformative and available for the most vulnerable woman.
- Ø Women's foot prints should be visible and outstanding, thus a call for them to be intentional.
- Ø There should be AI assistance designed for women in rural settings or illiterate women.
- Ø Technology, Data protection, and Digital Rights should be appreciated.
- Ø Gendered biases in AI and data systems, Digital inclusion; Affordable internet, digital literacy, digital website and access for women in rural communities.
- Ø Cybersecurity & online GBV: Policies and technologies that protect marginalized voices.
- Ø Ownership of African data: Ensuring data governance that respects community rights and collective benefit. There should be data protection from deep fake principles.
- Ø Women need to be involved at an early age on knowing their rights, obligations and develop skills and competences to successfully imbibe them.
- Ø There is need for free and affordable trade.
- Ø There is need for transformative Feminist Power; Shifting power structures: Moving from representation to redistribution of power in political, social, and economic realms.
- Ø Intersectionality: Addressing how gender intersects with class, disability, ethnicity, age, and geography in shaping opportunities.
- Ø Body autonomy & safety: Prioritizing digital safety, reproductive justice, and freedom from gender-based violence.

- Ø Leadership and Political Participation; Feminist leadership paradigms: The role of empathy, collaboration, and future-oriented thinking.
- Ø Women in policymaking: How inclusive governance shapes healthier, more resilient societies.
- Ø Young women's activism: The role of Gen Z, digital activism, and community organizing in redefining Africa's political future.
- Ø Cultural Transformation & Social Norms
- Ø Rewriting narratives: Changing harmful gender norms through media, education, and cultural production.
- Ø Feminist storytelling: Using film, literature, and digital media to reimagine African futures.
- Ø Men as allies: Engaging men and boys in co-creating equitable societies.
- Ø Building Resilient, Feminist Futures
- Ø Community-centered design: Solutions designed with communities, not for them.
- Ø Cross-continental solidarity: Connections between Africa and feminist movements across the Global South.

## SECTION B: KEY OUTCOMES

### 8. Proposed Programmes & Initiatives (2025–2028)

1. Draft or design digital right or charter by the Young Women of Africa (YWOA) to advocate for laws with emphasis on empowering the rural girl and woman.
2. Advocate for establishment of reporting channels and hot lines to report Gender-based violence and other negative social vices plaguing women and girls.
3. African Young Women Innovation & Leadership Fellowship
4. Feminist Innovation Labs (FILs); Young Women's Policy Advocacy & Civic Engagement Programme. A programme to strengthen young women's voices in governance and public policy through: Training in feminist advocacy, budgeting, and policy analysis.
5. African Feminist Digital Rights & Safety Initiative: Focuses on online protection and empowerment of young women: Digital safety training.

- Young Women in STEM Acceleration Programme: A platform that helps young women enter and succeed in STEM fields:
- 7 Feminist Social Entrepreneurship Fund: A grant and incubation programme for young women
  - 8 Pan-African Young Women Solidarity & Movement-Building Network
  9. The African Feminist Futures Research & Storytelling Project: A documentation and knowledge-building initiative: Research on young women's innovations. Digital storytelling capturing lived experiences; Publication of feminist futures reports, Production of podcasts, photo essays, and short films
  10. Girls Innovate Africa Bootcamp (GIA): A series of intensive training camps offering: Coding and robotics training, Problem-solving sessions, Prototype development. Awards and recognition competitions.
  11. Gender-Responsive Community Transformation Hubs: Local hubs that support: Community dialogue on gender norms. Training for women's economic empowerment. Support groups for girls in vulnerable environments. Advocacy against child marriage, GBV, and harmful practices
  12. Climate Justice & Eco-Feminist Solutions Programme
  13. Young Women Leadership in Peace & Security Initiative: Strengthens women's role in building peaceful societies: Training in mediation and conflict resolution
  14. Accessible Innovation for Rural Girls Programme: A rural-focused initiative providing Mobile training vans (digital labs on wheels): Distribution of tablets, solar-power kits, and e-learning tools. Training on agritech, mobile applications, and financial literacy.
  15. Intergenerational Feminist Mentorship Platform: Brings together young women and established African feminists: One-on-one mentorship. Thematic dialogues (identity, careers, leadership, rights). Joint activism and innovation projects
  16. African Girls & Women Innovation Awards: Annual awards recognizing outstanding achievements in: Tech and digital innovation, Education initiatives, Climate solutions. Social justice advocacy

## 9. Policy Positions & Advocacy Priorities

- Ø Women should advocate for the effective use of social media and use of digital platforms
- Ø There should be the advocacy for mandated seats for rural women in decision making positions.
- Ø Identify the structural reforms needed by women. Create agency to address imbalance
- Ø Encourage girls in STEM and advocate for the positive role of women in science.

## SECTION C: ACTION PLAN

### 10. Immediate Action Points (0–6 Months)

- Ø Career orientation and mental programming webinars, seminars and conferences.
- Ø Fighting Gender-based violence and check Digital bullying through talk shows and use of local radio stations and social media.
- Ø Entrepreneurship ecosystems: Supporting African women founders through capital, mentorship, and policy change. Creative economies: Amplifying arts, culture, digital content, and storytelling as engines of innovation.

### 11. Medium-Term Actions (6–18 Months)

- Ø Intentional digital rights with policies that are workable, set bills in place that are measured.
- Ø Review/ revise the data protection, curriculum training programs.
- Ø Technological empowerment
- Ø Value chain enhancement. Development of the production-supply chain for food safety.
- Ø Get stakeholders involved through dialogue and develop a plan of action to demand for subsidies from the government.
- Ø Sustainability and care: Embedding feminist values into climate justice, food systems, and peace-building.
- Ø Anticipatory governance: Using foresight and scenario planning to prepare for future challenges. Feminist governance models: Emphasizing care, collaboration, accountability, and community-led decision-making.

## 12. Long-Term Actions (18–36 Months)

- Ø Creation of digital Technology building and institution in Africa. Digital hubs with all generations in place.
- Ø Creation of Data centres like the case of Lesotho to host innovations, for data management and foster creativity.
- Ø Borrow from Namibia's land system policy.
- Ø Implementation of the Disruptive Technology Model.
- Ø Establishment of the social, economic and political offices where communities take ownership for their development.
- Ø Establish strategic partnerships to organize programs to train the community the use of technology, use of applications and websites.
- Ø Urbanization and mega-cities: Reimagining African cities as hubs of creativity, sustainability, and inclusion.
- Ø Climate resilience & green transitions: Centering women and marginalized groups in climate adaptation, renewable energy, and land rights.
- Ø Digital sovereignty: Ensuring Africa shapes, not just consumes, global technologies and AI frameworks.

## SECTION D: RESOURCING & PARTNERSHIPS

### 13. Required Resources

#### Human Resources

- Gender specialists and feminist movement leaders
- Youth mobilizers and facilitators
- ICT and innovation experts
- Policy analysts and advocacy officers
- Communications and media personnel
- Monitoring & evaluation teams

## Financial Resources

- Funding for workshops, innovation labs, and digital platforms
- Grants to support women-led startups and social enterprises
- Budget for community outreach, campaigns, and stakeholder engagement
- Funds for mentorship programs and leadership training

## Technical Resources

- ICT infrastructure (computers, connectivity, mobile tools)
- Digital innovation labs or co-creation spaces
- Skills-development tools (e-learning, coding programs, design thinking materials)
- Research tools and data systems
- Multimedia production equipment for storytelling

## Material Resources

- Venues for meetings and innovation summits
- Educational materials (handouts, toolkits, curricula)
- Translation & accessibility tools (for inclusivity across regions)

## 14. Potential Partners & Stakeholders

- Government & Public Institutions | ·Local government councils
- National innovation agencies
- Civil Society & Feminist Organizations
- African feminist networks (e.g., FEMNET, AWDF)
- Women's rights groups | Youth-led associations
- Community-based organizations | Faith-based youth groups
- Academic & Research Institutions and technical institutes
- Innovation hubs and research think tanks
- Private Sector & Technology Actors
- Telecom companies supporting digital inclusion; Tech hubs (e.g., iHub, MEST Africa, BongoHive)
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR) partners
- International Organizations & Development Partners; UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF AU Women, Gender & Youth Directorate, EU/USAID/DFID development programs on gender and youth
- African Development Bank initiatives on women innovators
- Traditional leaders (supporting gender-transformative dialogue)

## SECTION E: MONITORING & EVALUATION

### 15. Indicators of Success

- Ø Digitalized communities developed
- Ø Innovation & Empowerment Outcomes; Number of young women leading technology or social innovation projects
- Ø Increase in women's participation in STEM and entrepreneurship
- Ø Number of community innovations addressing social or gender challenges
- Ø Uptake of feminist frameworks in innovation programs
- Ø Capacity Building; Number of young women trained in leadership, digital skills, and advocacy
- Ø Increase in mentorship networks and peer-support systems
- Ø Policy & Institutional Influence; Adoption of gender-responsive innovation policies
- Ø Increased funding streams for women-led innovations
- Ø Representation of young women in decision-making platforms
- Ø Community & Social Impact
- Ø Evidence of behavior change toward gender equality
- Ø Growth of collaborative feminist networks
- Ø Increased awareness and use of safe digital spaces for women
- Ø Visibility & Communication; Reach and engagement of campaigns (media impressions, social media stats)
- Ø Publication of stories, case studies, and success testimonials

## SECTION F: CLOSING REFLECTIONS

### 17. Key Messages from Young Women

1. 'The future of Africa is young, innovative and undeniably feminist'.
2. 'We are not just beneficiaries—we are creators, leaders and decision makers.'
3. 'Innovation is powerful but innovation driven by gender justice is transformative'.
4. 'Our Digital voices matter, our stories shape Africa's future'.
5. 'Investing in young women's power is investing in Africa's progress.'
6. 'We are redefining leadership—boldly, creativity and confidentiality.'
7. 'Our ideas are not just dreams, they are solutions for a better, inclusive Africa.'

### 18. Quotes or Expressions of Solidarity

'We stand with every young woman pushing boundaries despite systemic barriers.'

'Together, we rise -building a continent where equality is non-negotiable'.

'Our solidarity is our strength; our unity is our power.'

'We lift each other because African feminist innovation thrives on collective action'.

### 19. Final Summary (Rapporteur's Note)

In conclusion, there is need for economic transformation through a Feminist Lens that is closing gender gaps in STEM and technology. Gender-responsive economic policy: Budgets, taxation, and investment strategies that benefit women. Care economy as infrastructure: Recognizing unpaid care work and designing economies that value it. Also, another critical issue is financing feminist futures and mobilizing capital for women-led and gender-transformative businesses. Innovation is therefore a Catalyst for Inclusive Development; Tech-enabled solutions: Leveraging AI, biotech, fintech, and digital public infrastructure for equitable progress. Lastly, Indigenous knowledge + modern innovation: Merging traditional ecological knowledge with emerging technologies is the future of Africa.

# BREAKAWAY SESSIONS

How young women can lead Africa's economic empowerment, entrepreneurship ecosystems, and sustainable development transitions. Young women can lead these transitions by driving innovation, using technology to solve community problems, creating businesses that generate employment, and championing sustainable models such as green entrepreneurship. Their participation brings fresh perspectives, improves inclusiveness, and strengthens Africa's competitive advantage in global markets. Leadership training, policy support, and access to finance further enable them to take central roles in shaping Africa's economic future.

Recommended skills-building workshops, resources, and best practices for enterprise development and economic leadership. Recommended initiatives include entrepreneurship bootcamps, digital literacy training, financial management workshops, mentorship programs, and innovation labs. Best practices involve hands-on learning, peer-to-peer coaching, continuous leadership development, exposure to global markets, and practical business simulations that build confidence and capacity.

Strategies to build partnerships with donors, philanthropic networks, private sector actors, and social enterprises.

Key strategies include creating aligned value propositions that show the impact of youth and women-led initiatives, using evidence-based proposals to attract funding, leveraging networking events and digital platforms, establishing transparent governance structures, and co-designing community solutions with private sector and philanthropic organizations for sustainable impact.

Frameworks to strengthen budgeting, fundraising accountability, and sustainability for youth-led initiatives. These include zero-based budgeting, strategic financial planning, diversified fundraising models such as grants and crowdfunding, monitoring & evaluation systems, strong governance policies, and sustainability plans that incorporate revenue generation.

Pathways for economic empowerment through STEM inclusion, climate justice entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and indigenous knowledge systems.

Pathways include supporting women in STEM through scholarships and mentorship, promoting climate-smart businesses, adopting digital tools like fintech and e-commerce, and integrating indigenous knowledge into modern innovations such as sustainable agriculture and herbal products.

Advocacy strategies for youth employment pathways, enterprise incubation, and access to capital.

Effective strategies include lobbying for gender-inclusive financial policies, advocating for youth-friendly loan facilities, creating incubation hubs, building networks to amplify young women entrepreneurs, and engaging policymakers and media to highlight success stories and gaps.

Models that enhance financial inclusion, scale youth-led innovations, and strengthen entrepreneurship hubs.

These include mobile banking platforms, accelerator programs, community-based entrepreneurship hubs, public-private partnerships supporting youth innovators, and social enterprise models that reinvest profits into development.



# AGENDA

Day 1: 8 <sup>th</sup> , December 2025			
No	Time	Agenda Item / Activity in Session	Responsible / Lead / Moderator / Speaker / Presenter
1.	08.30 – 09.00	Registration	WGYD, YWOA - Lydia Lemma, Lioness Sibande, Nelisiwe Nkomo
<b>Session 1: Opening Ceremony</b> <b>Master of Ceremony / Moderator: Ms. Thembihle Mahuwa, National Youth Development Agency Board Member (South Africa)</b>			
1.	09.00 – 09.05	AU Anthem	Master of Ceremony
2.	09.05 – 09.15	Welcome remarks	<b>Ms. Prudence Ngwenya, Director of the Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate</b>
3.	09.15 - 09.25	Opening remarks	<b>Ms. Precious Banda, President, Young Women of Africa</b>
4.	09.25 – 09.40	Solidarity Statements	<b>PAWO Message</b>  <b>Ms. Anna Mutavati, UN Women East and Southern Africa Regional Director (ESARO)</b>  <b>Ms. Martha Wolde</b> Skills Development Lead Executive officer at MoLS  <b>Ms. Lerato Mataboge, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy (Virtual)</b>
5.	09.40 - 09.50	Spoken Word/Song	Emma Kwahe - South Sudan
6.	09.50 – 10.00	Keynote Address	<b>Hon. Mathoko Letsoa, IICA Deputy Permanent Representative to the AU</b>
10.00- 10.30		<b>Group Photo and Tea/Coffee Break</b>	

# AGENDA

3.	13.30 – 15.00	<b>Youth Perspectives on Advancing Inclusive Empowerment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic Empowerment</li> <li>- Technology and Innovation</li> <li>- Health and Well-being</li> <li>- Lifelong learning</li> <li>- Peace and Security</li> </ul>	All  <b>Breakout Leads:</b> <b>Economic Empowerment</b> - Ms <b>Technology and Innovation</b> - Ms. Martina Vollmer, Cybersecurity Lead <b>Health and Wellbeing</b> - Dra Mariam Abdoulaye Ahmed - Chad <b>Lifelong Learning</b> - Rachel Katende (Uganda) and Take Mahamat (Chad) <b>Peace and Security</b> - Emma Kwaje - South Sudan and Barbara Sanga Siolo
4.	15.00 - 15.30	Plenary Discussion - Youth Perspectives on Advancing Inclusive Empowerment	All
5.	15.30 – 16.30	<b>Capacity Building Session</b> Reclaiming Your Voice – Defining Your Narrative and Building Courage	Ms. Ritah Muyambo, Programme Specialist - Young women and girls engagement, UN Women
	16.30	<b>End of Day 1</b>	
<b>Day 2: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>			
<b>Session 1: Past, Present, Future</b>			
<b>Moderator: Ms. Esther Bonyoga, Southern Africa Executive Member and Activist (Malawi)</b>			
1.	09.00 - 10.30	<b>Presentation of Reports and Discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President's Report</li> <li>- Organizational Report</li> <li>- Finance Report</li> </ul>	YWOA Presidency - President Precious Banda YWOA Secretary General's Office - Lioness Sibande YWOA Finance Secretary - Heather Hunda
	10.30 - 11.00	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	
2.	11.00 - 11.30	Commission Outline and Announcements	Ms. Loy Dorothy Akech - East Africa Region Secretary
3.	11.30 - 12.30	Commissions (Breakout sessions)	All
4.	12.30 - 13.00	Commissions Report Back and Discussions	Commissions Rapporteurs <b>Fatma Hamda (Western Sahara)</b> - Commission 1 <b>Grace Okeyo (Uganda)</b> - Commission 2 <b>Eledi Charity (Ghana)</b> - Commission 3 <b>Amy Top (Senegal)</b> - Commission 4 <b>Dr Gwendoline Egbe (Cameroon)</b> - Commission 5

# AGENDA

13.00 – 14.00		<b>Lunch Break</b>	
5.	14.00 – 15.30	<b>Capacity Building Session</b> Partnerships for Sustainability - Overcoming Funding Barriers for Lasting Impact	<b>Ms. Ritah Muyambo</b> , Programme Specialist - Young women and girls engagement, UN Women  <b>Ms. Martina Vollmer</b> , Cybersecurity Lead  <b>Mpho Nhlabathi</b> - ABSA
<b>Session 2: Closing Ceremony</b> <b>Master of Ceremony / Moderator: Ms. Una Nkuna</b> , YWOA Lead: Girls and Children Desk and <b>Lizzy Kwamboka Nyaribo</b> , Gender Activist and Human Rights defender			
1.	15.30 – 16.00	<b>YWOA Regional Statements of Commitment</b> (By Nominated Representatives of Member Countries of all YWOA Regions)  YWOA 5 <sup>th</sup> ACC Declaration	Leads: YWOA Vice Presidents and Regional Secretaries  <b>Ms. Shanie Awadhi</b> , School Learner and Activist (Tanzania)
2.	16.00 - 16.20	Award Ceremony + Anniversary Celebration	Continental Executive Committee, YWOA led by DSG <b>Lioness Sibande</b>
3.	16.20 – 16.30	Closing Remarks	<b>Ms. Precious Banda</b> , President, Young Women of Africa  AUC-WGYD
16.30 – 17.00		<b>End of Day 2</b>	
<b>Day 3: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>			
<b>Session 1: Breaking the Silence – Building a Safer Continent Free from Any Forms of Violence</b> <b>Moderator: Heather Hunda</b> - YWOA Continental Finance Secretary			
1.	09.30 -10.30	Walk in commemoration of 16 Days of Activism against GBV and Human Rights Day	Declaration for the March - Una Nkuna
2.	10.30 - 11.30	<b>Arts for Change</b> – Breaking the Silence (Poetry, Motivations and Artistic Performances)	Kearmoetswe Motselanyane Rhoda Lepore Elvira Maye Mapitso Lefenya Baya Dian NJEUNUE  Drama led Regional leaders by Modiehi Nkhabu National Dances and songs
3.	11.30 – 12.30	Tour of the AUC	All
12.30 – 13.30		<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Session 2: Exploration &amp; Networking</b>			
1.	13.30 – 16.00	Side Events, Networking, and Tour of Addis Ababa	

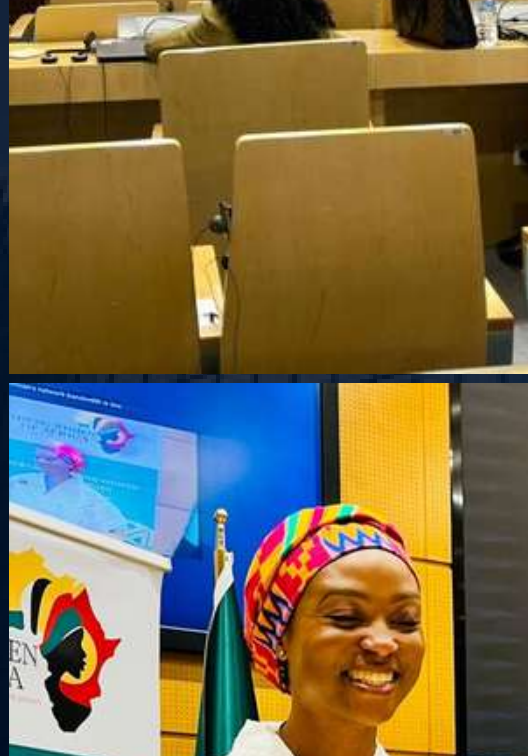
# AGENDA

10:00 - 10:30		Group Photo and Tea/Coffee Break	
Session 2: Advancing Economic Empowerment, Leadership, and Technology for African Women and Girls			
Moderator: Ewel Charity - YWCA West Africa Executive Member			
I.	10:30 - 11:30	<b>A Letter to the Younger Me - An Intergenerational Fireside Chat on Women's Leadership</b>	<p>Moderator: Ms Winnie Malunga - Zambia</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Edith Akorfe Akua Lutter, Director, Finance, AUC (TBC)</li> <li>Ms. Rishu Moyamba</li> <li>Dr. Rigael Hala, Founder and Executive Director, Center for Accelerated Women's Economic Empowerment (CAWEE) (TBC)</li> </ul>
II.	11:30 - 12:30	<b>HerStories Lounge and Story Wall - Young Women in Political Leadership and Nation Building in Africa</b>	<p>Storytellers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Domingo Ntata - Namibia</li> <li>Ms. Malina Jourdain</li> <li>Ms. Ibra Ahamar - Nigeria</li> <li>Ms. Jocelyne Ngisa - CRC</li> </ul> <p>Story Wall - All participants</p> <p>AUC - YWCA</p>
III.	12:00 - 12:30	<b>Strategic Frameworks for Inclusive Empowerment and Entry Points for Youth Organizations</b>	<p>Ms. Hannah Elisabeth Schmidt, UN Country Office - Lead</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bamiya Abdulkadir Goda - Ethiopian Youth Entrepreneurs Association General Manager</li> <li>• Meshyaa Yaga - Ethiopian Association of Startup Ecosystem (EASE) General Manager</li> <li>• Aman Frew Mesele - EU Youth Sounding Board Member and Youth</li> </ul>



# GALLERY









**Towards building a better Africa for  
young women and girls  
Asante Sana**

**[youngwomenofafrica2021@gmail.com](mailto:youngwomenofafrica2021@gmail.com)**

**[https://www.facebook.com/share/1J3f  
wyyPcp/](https://www.facebook.com/share/1J3fwyyPcp/)**