

# 2025

African Union 

YOUNG WOMEN OF AFRICA 



## 5TH ANNUAL CONTINENTAL CONVENTION OF THE YOUNG WOMEN OF AFRICA (YWOA)

### THEME

ADVANCING REPARATIVE JUSTICE AND SHARED PROSPERITY FOR YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFRICA - BREAKING BARRIERS NOW AND BUILDING A GENDER EQUITABLE FUTURE

8-10 DECEMBER 2025 | AFRICAN UNION HQ, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA .



# YWOA BOOKLET



# Content Strategy



- **AGENDA**
- **ORGANISATIONAL REPORT**
- **2026 POA**
- **COMMISSIONS OUTLINE**



# 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. Thembisile Mahuwa</b> , National Youth Development Agency Board Member (South Africa)			
1.	09.00 – 09.05	AU Anthem	Master of Ceremony
2.	09.05 – 09.15	Welcome remarks	<b>Ms. Prudence Ngwenya</b> , Director of the Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate
3.	09.15 - 09.25	Opening remarks	<b>Ms. Precious Banda</b> , President, Young Women of Africa
4.	09.25 – 09.40	Solidarity Statements	<b>PAWO Message</b>  <b>Ms. Anna Mutavati</b> , UN Women East and Southern Africa Regional Director (ESARO)  <b>Ms. Martha Wolde</b> Skills Development Lead Executive officer at MoLS  <b>Ms. Lerato Mataboge</b> , AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy (Virtual)
5.	09.40 - 09.50	Spoken Word/Song	Emma Kwaje - South Sudan
6.	09.50 – 10:00	Keynote Address	<b>Hon. Matheko Letsie</b> , RSA Deputy Permanent Representative to the AU
10.00– 10.30		<b>Group Photo and Tea/Coffee Break</b>	



# AGENDA



10.00– 10.30		<b>Group Photo and Tea/Coffee Break</b>	
<b>Session 2: Advancing Economic Empowerment, Leadership, and Technology for African Women and Girls</b> <b>Moderator: Eledi Charity - YWOA West Africa Executive Member</b>			
1.	10.30 - 11.30	<b>A Letter to the Younger Me – An Intergenerational Fireside Chat on Women’s Leadership</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> Ms Winnie Mabena <input type="checkbox"/> Zambia  <b>Panelists:</b> <b>Ms. Edith Akorfa Akua Lumor,</b> Director, Finance, AUC (TBC)  <b>Ms. Ritah Muyambo  </b>  <b>Dr. Nigest Haile,</b> Founder and Executive Director, Center for Accelerated Women’s Economic Empowerment (CAWEE) (TBC)
1.	11.30 - 12.30	<b>HerStories Lounge and Story Wall - Young Women in Political Leadership and Nation Building in Africa</b>	<b>Storytellers:</b> Ms. Duminga Ndala - Namibia Ms. Melina Jourbate Ms. Idris Asmau – Nigeria Ms. Jocelyne Ngoie – DRC  <b>Story Wall – All participants</b>
2.	12.00 - 12:30	Strategic Frameworks for Inclusive Empowerment and Entry Points for Youth Organizations	AUC – WGYD  <b>Ms. Hannah Elizabeth Schmit,</b> UN Country Office – <b>Lead</b>  <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Samiya Abdulkadir Godu</b> - Ethiopian Youth Entrepreneurs Association: General Manager</li> <li>● <b>Nebiyou Yirga</b> - Ethiopian Association of Startup Ecosystem (EASE): General Manager</li> <li>● <b>Amen Frew Messele</b> - EU Youth Sounding Board: Member and Youth</li> </ul>



# 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>	<b>All</b>  <b>Breakout Leads:</b> <b>Economic Empowerment - Ms Technology and Innovation - Ms. Martina Vollmer, Cybersecurity Lead</b> <b>Health and Wellbeing - Dra Mariam Abdoulaye Ahmed - Chad</b> <b>Lifelong Learning - Rachel Katende (Uganda) and Take Mahamat (Chad)</b> <b>Peace and Security - Emma Kwaje - South Sudan and Barbara Sanga Siolo</b>
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	<b>Ms. Ritah Muyambo, Programme Specialist - Young women and girls engagement, UN Women</b>

16.30

**End of Day 1**

**Day 2: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Session 1: Past, Present, Future**

**Moderator: Ms. Esther Bonyoga, Southern Africa Executive Member and Activist (Malawi)**

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
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10.30 - 11.00

**Tea/Coffee Break**

2.	11.00 - 11.30	Commission Outline and Announcements	<b>Ms. Loy Dorothy Akech - East Africa Region Secretary</b>
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) - Commission 1</b> <b>Grace Okeyo (Uganda) - Commission 2</b> <b>Eledi Charity (Ghana) - Commission 3</b> <b>Amy Top (Senegal) - Commission 4</b> <b>Dr Gwendoline Egbe (Cameroon) - Commission 5</b>



# 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, YWOA Lead: Girls and Children Desk and Lizzy Kwamboka Nyaribo, Gender Activist and Human Rights defender</b>			
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 - YWOA Continental Finance Secretary</b>			
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)	Keamoetswe 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	

# Introduction



## YOUNG WOMEN OF AFRICA ANNUAL REPORT 2025



YWOA Yearly Report for the 5th Annual Continental Convention 2025 .

### Executive Summary

The Young Women of Africa (YWOA), now active in 43 African countries with a membership of 2,861 as per our last annual membership audit ended 28th November 2025, has continued to grow as a transformative force for feminist and gender justice, youth empowerment, leadership, and Pan-African solidarity. This report reflects on our progress since the 4th ACC in 2024 December. We highlight strategic achievements, challenges and sets the basis for the adoption of the 2026 Plan of Action.

Under the ACC 2025 theme: “ Advancing Reparative Justice and Shared Prosperity for Young Women and Girls in Africa – Breaking Barriers Now and Building a Gender - Equitable Future,” the 5th ACC convenes over 100 young women leaders, policymakers, and partners to reaffirm our commitment to inclusive development, economic justice, and intergenerational leadership.

### YWOA Strategic Growth and Continental Footprint

#### 1. Expansion of YWOA Chapters Across African Regions

The YWOA has grown its chapters in the Continent and is active in 43 African countries, standing for all five African regions. The membership includes 2,861 young women members, reflecting a strong and growing grassroots presence. Each country chapter contributed to a broader continental agenda, ensuring regional representation and local relevance. Chapters were empowered to lead initiatives such as the Harvesting Hope, Miles for Change, Kipusu Pads Drive, and Back to School Campaign, fostering leadership and community impact.





## 2. Strengthening Partnerships with AU, Progressive Multilateral Institutions, Feminist Networks, and Youth -Led Movements

YWOA aligned its work with Agenda 2063, the GEWE Strategy, and the one million Next Level Initiative. Our Convention contribute to the 20th Anniversary Review of the African Youth Charter, advocating for gender -sensitive reforms. We collaborated with the Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate (WGYD) of the AUC , engaged with strategic partners like AfCFTA , ABSA, FES, Inter national IDEA, Government Department s in different countries, UN country offices, and development partners to support program sustainability. The YWOA fostered intergenerational exchange , collaboration, leadership, mentorship, and cross -border alliances among young women leaders, scholars, and activists. YWOA's programs addressed intersectional issues like GBVF, dialogue through monthly webinars, period poverty in the continent , education, climate change, political participation by young women, and economic justice, going beyond broader feminist and youth-led agendas.

## 3. Milestones in Regional Convening s and Cross -Border Solidarity Campaigns

The YWOA ACC has become the apex and cornerstone of young women's concrete activism and patriotism to the continentsince 2021. The 5th ACC (2025) will be attended by more than one hundred young women leaders from across Africa, reinforcing regional equity and Solidarity. Our programmes foster cross -border learning, leadership, and advocacy. Beyond the ACC, all our Continental programs are attended by members outside the host country. Our host countries also work with different partners to ensure programs are a success.

## 4. Leadership Development and Capacity Building :

The Young Women of Africa (YWOA) in South Africa convened a transformative capacity -building workshop under the theme "African Renaissance: Exploring Women's Agency in the African Development Agenda." At the Fredrick Egbert Stiftung FES South Africa Offices - Lindiwe Mabuza Space, Johannesburg, 13 -15 June 2025.

The program brought together emerging young women leaders from the Southern Africa Region to explore feminist perspectives on development, strengthen leadership capacities, and formulate a collective action plan to advance women's empowerment across the continent.

The workshop was rooted in the vision of the African Renaissance , a revitalised , decolonized, and prosperous Africa. Recognizing the pivotal role of women in shaping Africa's development, the program addressed systemic barriers such as gender inequality, limited access to resources, and cultural constraints. It aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing young women's agency in political, economic, and social transformation. The workshop employed participatory and experiential learning approaches .





## 5. Organizational Transitions and Governance .

YWOA's leadership structure now mirrors the African Union and Pan African women's organization PAWO with roles such as President, Vice President, Secretary General, and Deputy Secretary General among a committee of 12 continentally.

The appointment of Lioness Sibande as Continental Deputy Secretary General in January marked a pivotal step in formalizing leadership and enhancing advocacy capacity. She has been working as Acting Secretary General in the absence of our SG who has health challenges .

In 2025, the Young Women of Africa (YWOA) undertook a significant organizational transition by formalizing and decentralizing its leadership through the appointment of regional structures across the continent. This strategic move aimed to enhance representation, inclusivity, and responsiveness to the diverse cultural, social, and economic realities faced by young women in different regions of this steadily growing movement . The transition marked a shift from a centralized model to a more participatory and localized governance framework, ensuring that grassroots voices are better integrated into continental decision -making.

The establishment of regional leadership enhanced coordination, equity, and responsiveness to local contexts.

Each of the five regions , Southern, West, East, Central, and North Africa now has a fully constituted leadership team, including Regional Vice Presidents, Executive Secretaries, Finance Secretaries, and Heads of Mobilization and Communications. Notably, Central Africa emerged as the most dynamic and fastest -growing region, contributing the majority of new country chapters that expanded YWOA's footprint from 35 to 43 countries in 2025. The induction of all regional leaders held on April 5, 2025, with immediate commencement of duties. This transition provided for in our statute not only strengthened internal coordination and accountability but also positioned YWOA to scale its impact, deepen continental solidarity, and accelerate progress toward a gender -equitable Africa.



## 6. Solidarity Actions and Movement Mobilization

YWOA had joint Actions with Liberation Movements, International organisations and multilateral institutions, Youth Coalitions, and Civil Society. YWOA South Africa joined civil society organizations and women's rights activists in a public march demanding justice for CWEKWE, a child victim of gender-based violence. This action amplified community outrage and called for systemic accountability. They again joined the Women for Change purple movement calling an end to GBV ahead of the G20. This was timely after our very own two-day Miles for Change Campaign where we were joined by more than 10 local organisations.

Collaborative Campaigns Across Southern Africa, chapters in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho, and Eswatini partnered with government ministries, local NGOs, and youth coalitions to organize GBV awareness campaigns, protest marches, and community dialogues.

### Peace Advocacy and Solidarity in Conflict-Affected Regions:

The Young Women of Africa (YWOA) took a principled and initiative-taking stance in promoting peace, justice, and the protection of human rights across the continent. In response to escalating crises in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, Sudan, Eswatini, and Western Sahara, YWOA issued formal statements and correspondence to African Union organs, regional bodies, and diplomatic missions, urging immediate action to end violence and uphold the dignity of affected communities.

Through these interventions, YWOA:

- Advocated for peaceful, inclusive, and gender-responsive solutions to conflict and political repression.
- Amplified the voices of young women and girls in conflict zones, calling for their protection and meaningful participation in peacebuilding processes.
- Provided solidarity and support to its members in affected countries through psychosocial outreach, visibility campaigns, and regional coordination.
- Mobilized its continental network to stand in unity with communities facing displacement, militarization, and systemic injustice.

These actions reflected YWOA's unwavering commitment to Pan-African solidarity, feminist peacebuilding, and the right of all young women to live in freedom, safety, and dignity.

### This convention must also discuss post - election violence and arrests.

**Cybersecurity and Digital Rights (Malawi):** Participation in the African Girls in Cyber Security Initiative expanded YWOA's alliances with tech-based civil society actors, enhancing digital safety and visibility for young women.

Responses to Crises: Conflict, Climate, and Political Repression

**Miles for Change (South Africa):** Launched as a direct response to the GBV crisis, this campaign extended YWOA's reach into vulnerable communities, combining healing, advocacy, and visibility.

**Climate and Rural Resilience:** Through the AgriFestival in Zimbabwe and rural outreach programs, YWOA addressed climate justice and food sovereignty, positioning young women as agents of sustainable development.

### Mobilization Strategies and Lessons from Mass Actions

Community-Rooted Organizing, events like the Sister's Picnic & Empowerment Colour Run and traditional food fundraisers in Botswana and Chad demonstrated how cultural celebration can be a tool for mobilization and fundraising.

Youth-Led Visibility Tactics like use of marches, symbolic dress, social media campaigns, and public storytelling helped personalize structural issues and build emotional resonance.





## 2. Strengthening Partnerships with AU, Progressive Multilateral Institutions, Feminist Networks, and Youth -Led Movements

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# SECTION 2



Young Women of Africa (YWOA) 2025 Continental Programmes Report

1. Back to Class Campaign - Lesotho Chapter: In January 2025, the Lesotho Chapter launched the first continental rollout of the Back to Class Campaign, aimed at reintegrating girls and young women who had dropped out of school. Under the theme "Opening doors of learning for young women and girls, shaping the future," the campaign mobilized stakeholders, hosted mentorship sessions, and distributed educational materials and sanitary products. The launch at Khubetsoana High School featured keynote addresses from YWOA President Precious Banda and members of parliament, with strong support from local leaders and media. The campaign restored dignity, increased school retention, and sparked new interest in YWOA membership.

2. Trade & Economic Empowerment Symposium - Zambia Chapter: Held in Lusaka on 27-28 June 2025, the YWOA Trade & Economic Empowerment Symposium convened 124 participants from five countries to advance women's roles in trade and entrepreneurship. The event featured panels, workshops, and keynote addresses from ABSA, AfCFTA, and government officials. Key themes included financial literacy, digital inclusion, and formalization of informal businesses. Empowerment kits, mentorship, and policy recommendations emerged from the summit, with a strong call to support women-led enterprises and close the gender financing gap.

3. World Menstrual Hygiene Day - Kenya Chapter: On 29 May 2025, the Kenya Chapter commemorated World Menstrual Hygiene Day with a large-scale pad drive and education campaign on Rusinga Island, Homa Bay County. The initiative, known as the Kipusa Pad Drive, distributed over 1,200 sanitary pads and hygiene kits, trained peer educators, and hosted mentorship and climate action sessions. The campaign addressed stigma, absenteeism, and health risks associated with poor menstrual hygiene, while promoting environmental sustainability and community engagement. Long-term goals include increasing school retention and reducing vulnerability among adolescent girls.

1. AgriFestival - Zimbabwe Chapter: From 27-29 August 2025, the Zimbabwe Chapter hosted the YWOA AgriFestival in Harare, showcasing young women's leadership in agriculture. Delegates from Zambia, South Africa, Eswatini, and all ten Zimbabwean provinces participated in farm tours, leadership meetings, and exhibitions. Keynote speakers included Hon. Tino Machakaire and representatives from the Ministries of Women's Affairs and Agriculture. The festival emphasized land ownership, vocational training, and youth empowerment, with YWOA Zimbabwe recognized for training over 1,000 young women in agriculture. The event concluded with a high-profile exhibition at the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show.

2. Miles for Change Campaign - South Africa Chapter: Launched in August and culminating in November 2025, the Miles for Change Campaign tackled Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) through awareness marathons, survivor support, and policy advocacy. Activities included storytelling, mental health sessions, and distribution of empowerment kits (sewing, salon, farming, catering). Funds raised supported the construction of safe houses in rural areas. The campaign aligned with six SDGs and concluded with a policy brief submitted to government departments, reinforcing YWOA's commitment to survivor-led justice and systemic change.



# REGIONAL REPORTS:



## → CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL GROWTH

Central Africa emerged as the most vibrant and fastest-growing region in 2025, contributing the majority of new country chapters that expanded YWOA's footprint from 35 to 41 nations. Central Africa led impactful programs from humanitarian outreach and menstrual hygiene campaigns to artistic activism and policy forums. The region demonstrated strong grassroots leadership and creative mobilization, positioning Central Africa as a continental force for gender justice and youth empowerment.

### Chapter Highlights

Continental Engagement, Participated in the WYDE and International IDEA Dialogues in Addis Ababa, Malawi, Kenya, and the Regional & Intergenerational Dialogue in Dakar. We also participated in the different young women academies by International IDEA which have empowered a lot of our members across the continent.

Humanitarian Outreach programs are implemented by almost all chapters, like the Visit at Bethanie Orphanage in N'Djamena, distributing clothes, shoes, and gifts to orphans during Ramadan.

All our chapters conduct Menstrual Health Advocacy and awareness campaigns like in Koundoul Village and a girls' school in N'Djamena to promote dignified menstrual hygiene.

Our chapters organise Team Building in various forms, others Organise picnic for the executive teams to strengthen internal cohesion and plan future initiatives while others go for outings and outdoor activities.

We also have a fair share of Artistic Empowerment where we Leverage on poetry, music, and performance to promote women's leadership and social transformation like in Equatorial Guinea

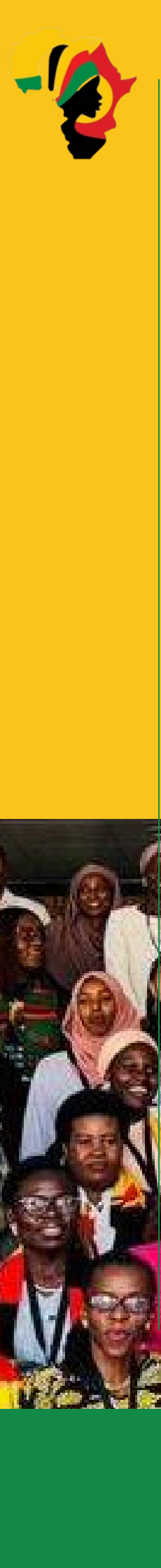
In other countries, we have kept the work consistently though the momentum is slow.

In Equatorial Guinea, we hosted a poetic recital for Africa Day and a concert meeting in Elanguema. Attended the GIMAC/RECSY partners meeting and a child protection workshop with UNICEF. Convened a health care planning session focused on women's well-being. Economic Report, Activities such as the Africa Day recital exceeded budget expectations, highlighting the need for financial planning and support.

### Regional Themes

- Leadership and intergenerational dialogue
- Menstrual health and dignity
- Artistic activism and cultural empowerment
- Humanitarian outreach and social solidarity
- Institutional engagement with AU-aligned platforms





# EAST AFRICAN REPORT:

In 2025, the East Africa Region showed bold leadership in advancing menstrual health, youth empowerment, and Pan-African solidarity. Through 12 major events, the region reached over 3,000 girls and young women, distributed 1,852+ sanitary pad packets, and trained 40+ peer educators.

## Key Achievements

Kenya launched the Continental program of Kipusa Initiative on World Menstrual Hygiene Day, integrating menstrual health education, pad distribution, mentorship, and climate action through tree planting. The campaign influenced all countries and 10000+ sanitary towels were donated in year 2025.

Uganda hosted multiple Pad a Girl Runs, media campaigns, and partnered with PAWO and Her Worth Foundation to normalize menstruation and promote dignity.

Tanzania officially launched its national chapter during Africa Day, amplifying young women's voices in Pan-African leadership spaces.

## Cross-Cutting Themes East Africa focused on

- Gender equality and youth leadership
- Menstrual health and wellbeing
- Climate action and sustainability
- Pan-African solidarity through joint programming

## Challenges faced in 2025

- Limited resources and infrastructure
- Cultural taboos around menstruation
- Need for sustained mentorship and rural outreach

## Strategic Recommendations and 2026 action plan by East Africa.

- Establish a Regional Menstrual Health Fund
- Expand cross-border mentorship and media visibility.
- Support local production of eco-friendly sanitary products.
- Strengthen environmental and health education campaigns.
- 

The East Africa Region is still a vibrant force within YWOA, championing dignity, leadership, and opportunity for every girl and young woman across the continent.



# WEST AFRICAN REPORT:

In 2025, the West Africa Region showed dynamic growth, creative mobilization, and strategic advocacy across all chapters especially Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Cameroon. The region grew its footprint from five countries in West to now 12 West African countries which are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. The West African Region focused on menstrual health, artistic empowerment, leadership development, and institutional structuring. Although most are still mobilising more women and focusing on building its structures the established countries did outstanding work:

They conducted the Pad A Girl Child Campaign across all thirty-six states, reaching thousands of schoolgirls. Distributed over 2000+ sanitary pads to rural communities. Trained 300+ young women in leadership and digital skills. Commemorated the International Day of the Girl Child with hybrid empowerment events. Developed a national operational framework and initiated stakeholder engagement.

We also focused on artistic activism and cultural empowerment. Hosted events including poetic recitals, concerts, and dialogues on gender and peace. Partnered with UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs for child protection and health planning. Engaged in regional platforms like GIMAC/RECSY and WYDE dialogues.

Executed menstrual hygiene outreach in Senior and Junior High Schools, reducing period poverty. Participated in national summits including Women in Sustainability and AFRIWOCC. Swore in a new executive team and Patron, strengthening chapter governance. Initiated high-level advocacy meetings with government and private sector leaders.

Formed a national executive team and launched a coordination group. Distributed sanitary pads to displaced girls at Centre Mabilé. Participated in the Pan-African Women's Day celebration with government and civil society. Initiated contact with the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO) for strategic alignment.

Focused on legal registration and structural setup. Planned flagship visibility activities and launched a communications strategy. Prepared for full operational rollout in 2026.

## West Africa Regional Themes

- Menstrual health and dignity
- Artistic and cultural empowerment
- Youth leadership and digital literacy
- Institutional development and legal recognition
- Pan-African solidarity and regional advocacy

## Challenges

Funding constraints and logistical barriers in rural outreach. Delays in official launches due to resource limitations. Need for stronger inter-chapter coordination and mentorship

## Recommendations

- Establish regional advisory councils and donor support systems.
- Strengthen cross-border collaboration and communication platforms.
- Expand creative and cultural programming as tools for advocacy.
- Accelerate legal registration and operational readiness in emerging chapters.

West Africa continues to be a vibrant and visionary region within YWOA, blending grassroots activism with continental influence to empower young women and girls across diverse contexts.



# SOUTHERN AFRICAN REPORT:

## YWOA Southern Africa Regional Report 2025

Countries Covered: Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Malawi, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho, Eswatini, Namibia.

The Southern Africa Region of YWOA has made significant strides in empowering young women and girls through advocacy, leadership development, and community-based programming. Since the regional launch in August 2024 in Harare, Zimbabwe, the region has expanded its footprint, strengthened partnerships, and mobilized thousands of young women across diverse contexts.

### Key Activities and Initiatives

Regional Symposium (Zambia), Promoted entrepreneurship, cross-border collaboration, and officially launched the Zambia chapter and hosted an award ceremony. AgriFestival (Zimbabwe), Hosted the continental 2025 AgriFestival, celebrating agricultural innovation and sustainability. Miles for Change (South Africa), A GBVF-focused campaign expanding YWOA's reach into communities. March for CWECWE (South Africa), Mobilized civil society and community members to demand justice and raise awareness on GBV. GBV Awareness Campaigns, Chapters across the region engaged in protests, dialogues, and match-pasts in collaboration with government ministries and CSOs. FES Workshop (South Africa), Empowered young women to engage in the African Renaissance through feminist leadership. Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training, over eight hundred women trained across the region. ICT Training, provided to young women in high-density areas to bridge the digital divide. Back to Class Campaign (Lesotho), Encouraged girls to return to school and pursue education. Menstrual Hygiene and Dignity Drives, Distributed over five hundred sanitary pad packs and donated clothes and essentials to vulnerable children. Namibia Panel Discussion, Explored "Epistemological Analysis on Women Empowerment and Development Towards Vision 2030." Cybersecurity Engagement (Malawi), Took part in the African Girls in Cyber Security Initiative to enhance visibility and digital safety.

### Focus Areas

- Gender Equality and Leadership Development
- Mental Health and Personal Growth
- Advocacy Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship
- Rural Development and Youth Engagement

### Achievements

- 300+ women trained in leadership and entrepreneurship.
- 5000+ sanitary pads distributed in year 2025 throughout the continent.
- Zambia chapter officially registered.
- Increased regional membership and visibility.
- Strengthened cross-border collaboration and solidarity.

We partnered with the Kofi Annan Foundation in Namibia for training. We also hosted a big back to class campaign on the eve of the inauguration of the President of Namibia. This chapter also took time to play with children in a home, an act of mentorship that we must encourage.



# SOUTHERN AFRICAN REPORT:



➔ **CONT...**

## Challenges

- Financial Constraints, Limited funding for outreach, events, and registration fees.
- Logistical Barriers, Transportation challenges for rural members and large-scale event coordination.
- Engagement Gaps, Low participation from some members and unclear leadership roles in certain chapters.

## Opportunities

- Leverage partnerships with ministries, parastatals, and CSOs for greater impact.
- Expand capacity-building programs across rural and urban areas.
- Foster cross-border knowledge exchange and mentorship
- Strengthen digital platforms for coordination and visibility.

## Recommendations and future goals:

- Prioritize resource mobilization and diversify funding streams.
- Establish mentorship programs pairing experienced leaders with emerging voices.
- Implement monitoring and evaluation frameworks for accountability.
- Host quarterly regional leadership check-ins.
- Provide leadership training for chapter executives.
- Finalize legal registration and open bank accounts for all chapters.
- Introduce membership fees to support sustainability.
- Expand fundraising efforts for outreach and branding.
- Deepen partnerships with schools, community centers, and government bodies.
- Launch mentorship and leadership programs targeting rural youth.

Despite financial and logistical challenges, YWOA Southern Africa has demonstrated resilience, innovation, and collective strength. The region continues to be a beacon of feminist leadership and Pan-African solidarity, empowering young women to lead transformative change in their communities and beyond.



# NORTH AFRICAN REPORT:



The North Africa Region of the Young Women of Africa (YWOA) made foundational progress in 2025, focusing on leadership development, peace advocacy, and cultural empowerment. Despite structural and political challenges, chapters in North Africa led groundwork for full integration into the continental movement.

## Key Activities and Initiatives

Egypt hosted youth leadership forums in Cairo and Alexandria, focusing on gender equality and civic engagement. The chapter issued solidarity statements and participated in regional consultations advocating peaceful resolutions in Sudan and Libya. It also partnered with universities to promote young women's participation in STEM fields.

Tunisia conducted legal literacy workshops on women's rights and civic participation. It led climate justice campaigns through coastal clean-up drives and education aligned with Agenda 2063. A feminist mural project was launched in Tunis to amplify young women's voices through public art.

Western Sahara trained over 150 young women in digital literacy, online safety, and entrepreneurship. It facilitated Pan-African cultural exchange forums and distributed menstrual hygiene kits in underserved communities.

## Cross-Cutting Themes

The region's work centred on peace-building and political inclusion, cultural and artistic expression, climate and environmental justice, and digital and economic empowerment. These themes were reflected in advocacy campaigns, training programs, and creative initiatives that challenged stereotypes and promoted feminist narratives.

## Regional Impact Summary

Across Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria, Western Sahara YWOA North Africa reached over six hundred young women. More than fifty participants received help from leadership and digital empowerment trainings.

## Challenges

The region faced limited legal recognition pathways in some countries, political instability in Libya and Mauritania, cultural resistance to feminist organizing, and funding gaps for regional convening and cross-border collaboration.

## Recommendations

YWOA should accelerate chapter registration in Western Saharawi, Libya, and Mauritania, and set up a North Africa Regional Fund for peacebuilding and civic engagement. Expanding partnerships with universities and AU regional offices, launching mentorship exchanges with other regions, and developing Arabic-language advocacy materials are also recommended.

North Africa's contribution to YWOA in 2025 reflects resilience, creativity, and a growing commitment to Pan-African feminist transformation. As chapters deepen their engagement and visibility, the region is poised to become a strategic hub for peace advocacy, cultural leadership, and youth empowerment across the continent.



# SECTION 3



## COUNTRY PROGRAMS 2025:

Young Women of Africa (YWOA) Activities Report January – November 2025: These are reports of countries that hosted the most outstanding programmes each month. We however acknowledge each country for the splendid work they did this year to ensure the coordination of our continental programmes in countries and their own adopted programmes.

### JANUARY

- Jan 31 - Lesotho Chapter launched the Back to Class campaign at Khubetsoana. The YWOA President visited Bishop Sekese Assemblies of God New Life Centre in Maseru to share the movement's work and met with the Minister of Education to discuss shared priorities in the education sector.

### FEBRUARY

Feb 1 - Zimbabwe Chapter held its inaugural meeting, marking the start focused on women's empowerment and social change.

Feb 10 - Malawi Chapter, joined by the YWOA President, visited Tsabango Community Day School in Lilongwe to motivate girls and donate sanitary towels as part of the Back to Class campaign. This was when the President was invited by International IDEA as a facilitator at the Southern Africa Young Women Academy in Malawi.

Feb 11 - South Africa Chapter hosted a Back to Class campaign at Lofentse Girls High School in Soweto, joined by the Deputy Secretary General.

Feb 11-13 - Southern Africa Region took part in the WYDE Young Women Empowerment Academy, with five delegates from Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, and South Africa, led by the President.

Feb 15 - Deputy SG Lioness Sibande delivered remarks at the Basali Pele Prayer Session in Johannesburg.

Feb 18 - YWOA President attended the Southern Africa Student Union Induction with student leaders.

Feb 19 - Central Africa Region took part in the WYDE Young Women Empowerment Academy.

Feb 20 - South Sudan Chapter conducted an awareness session with the UNMISS Conduct and Discipline Team to empower girls and young women.

Feb 20 - Lesotho Chapter donated clothes to the Good Shepherd Sisters' Centre for Teenage Mothers in Sehlabeng, Berea.

Feb 21 - Kenya Chapter launched the Annual Dignity and Kipusu Sanitary Towels Drive.

Feb 23 - Nigeria Chapter launched free JAMB registration support for girls as part of the Back to Class campaign.

Feb 24 - YWOA participated in the Southern Youth Leaders Dialogue on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Feb 26 - YWOA President attended the Litha Labantu 35th Anniversary and CSW Consultation under the theme Women's Rights at the Crossroads.

Feb 27 - South Africa Chapter and the DSG attended the G20 Women's Launch in Tshwane.

Feb 27 - Chad & Equatorial Guinea Chapters took part in the WYDE Regional Dialogue on Transformative Gender Norms in ECOWAS and Sahel regions.





## **MARCH**

**Mar 2 - South Africa Chapter attended Blossoming Beyond Our Past, a women's empowerment event.**

**Mar 6 - YWOA President led the South Africa delegation to the UN Women IWD commemoration and served as a panellist reflecting on 30 years of the Beijing Platform for Action.**

**Mar 7 - President spoke at Women Can Lead IWD event.**

**Mar 7 - South Africa Chapter attended ABSA's IWD event on positive masculinity.**

**Mar 11 - Botswana Chapter joined IWD commemorations in Shashe West, Mathangwane.**

**Mar 19 - Namibia Chapter donated sanitary towels and motivated learners at Jakob Murenga Secondary School.**

**Mar 21 - YWOA President led the delegation to the inauguration of Namibia's first female President, H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.**

**Mar 22 - Zimbabwe Chapter attended the Youth Empowerment Fund Launch in Harare.**

**Mar 29 - President took part in a dialogue on transforming patriarchal masculinities hosted by Tshwane University of Technology, UN Women, and the Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities.**

**Mar 31 - South Africa Chapter joined national marches demanding justice for Cwecwe, a 7-year-old survivor of sexual violence.**

## **APRIL**

**Apr 1 - Botswana Chapter hosted a Sanitary Towel Drive in Matthagane Village.**

**Apr 5 - South Africa Chapter hosted virtual GBVF conversations to create safe playgrounds for children.**

**Apr 5 - President attended the Christ Embassy Teen Camp with the South Africa Chapter.**

**Apr 11 - Botswana Chapter took part in a community-sponsored walk led by the Assistant Minister of Health.**

## **MAY**

**May 10 - Lesotho Chapter attended a Mother's Day celebration hosted by Bothoba Pelo Foundation in Qeme, Maseru.**

**May 11 - Uganda Chapter took part in the Pad Run Drive in Arua City.**

**May 11 - Lesotho Chapter celebrated Mother's Day with teenage mothers at the Good Shepherd Center.**

**May 24 - Head of Economic Transformation Emmanuela Kaganda delivered a keynote at the Tanzania Chapter launch and Africa Day commemoration.**

**May 29 - Kenya Chapter launched the Dignity and Sanitary Towels Campaign at Kaswanga Girls School, Rusinga Island.**

**May 29 - Eswatini Chapter officially launched, marking a milestone in expanding YWOA's reach.**

**May 30 - South Africa Chapter attended the National Youth Machinery Meeting and the UN Women Consultation on the 2026-2030 Cooperation Framework.**





## **JUNE**

**Jun 2 - Nigeria Chapter commemorated World Menstrual Hygiene Day at an IDP camp in Makurdi.**

**Jun 14 - South Africa Chapter hosted a capacity-building workshop with eighty delegates from 9 SADC countries, in partnership with FES.**

**Jun 26 - Zimbabwe Chapter empowered ZCC youth with technical skills training.**

**Jun 26 - YWOA attended the ABSA InspireMe Conference in Lusaka.**

**Jun 27-28 - Zambia Chapter hosted a Trade and Economic Symposium in Lusaka.**

## **JULY**

**Jul 3 - Ghana Chapter donated sanitary pads to a school in Accra.**

**Jul 8 - Equatorial Guinea Chapter attended the #7GIMACREs meeting on gender justice and reparations.**

**Jul 16 - Zimbabwe Chapter offered free ICT training to bridge the STEM gender gap.**

**Jul 23 - South Africa Chapter partnered with Zesuliwe Foundation to raise awareness on child and teenage pregnancy.**

**Jul 24 - Zambia Chapter co-hosted a stakeholder engagement on removing policy and cultural barriers.**

**Jul 25-27 - President and DSG attended the Liberation Movements Summit in South Africa.**

**Jul 30 - Botswana Chapter hosted a Cultural Day fundraiser featuring indigenous Setswana cuisine.**

## **AUGUST**

**Aug 2 - South Africa Chapter joined the Women's Month launch and Empower Her Trade Fair.**

**Aug 2 - Zimbabwe Chapter partnered with Zion Christian Church to distribute four hundred sheep to elders.**

**Aug 18 - South Africa Chapter supported GBVF survivors and donated sanitary pads in Kempton Park.**

**Aug 22 - YWOA participated in a Nairobi dialogue on men's role in gender equality, hosted by IDEA, UN Women, and WYDE.**

**Aug 23 - Lesotho Chapter hosted the Advance Her Leadership workshop.**

**Aug 23 - YWOA attended the Y20 Summit in South Africa with over 2,000 youth delegates.**

**Aug 28 - Zimbabwe Chapter hosted the Agri Festival Conference under the theme Harvesting Hope.**

**Aug 30 - Lesotho Chapter attended the Finite Magazine Women Appreciation Awards.**

## **SEPTEMBER**

**Sep 5 - Lesotho Chapter hosted the Advance Her programme and sanitary pad drive at St. Phillips High School, Leribe.**

**Sep 9 - YWOA attended the ANCYL NGC in Kimberley.**

**Sep 10 - YWOA participated in Africa Industrialization Week in Lusaka.**

**Sep 18 - Lindiwe Sanitary Pads, a key YWOA partner, won the News24 and Lula SME 2025 Business of the Year Award.**

**Sep 26 - South Sudan Chapter and Amref visited Juba Proper International Secondary School for a CSE awareness session.**

**Sep 29 - President attended the Egumeni Conference on Gender Equality under the theme Shaping Equitable Gender Norms.**





## OCTOBER

Oct 4 - Chad Chapter hosted a Menstrual Hygiene Management and Sanitary Towel Donation event.

Oct 6 - YWOA was represented at the African Women and Children Conference in Accra, Ghana.

Oct 17 - Ghana Chapter donated food and supplies to Good Shepherd Orphanage in line with SDG 2.

Oct 20 - President took part in the G20-UN Roundtable on Gender Equality in South Africa.

Oct 24 - Namibia Chapter donated sanitary towels at Khomastura High School in Windhoek.

Oct 26 - Botswana chapter hosted a sister hood picnic under the theme stronger together, empower the women empower the nation The objective was to build connections, discuss mental health issues, foster sisterhood, and celebrate women empowerment in a relaxed and joyful environment.

October 27<sup>th</sup> YWOA, Nigeria Chapter took part in the YWOA dignity and Sanitary campaign.

October 28<sup>th</sup> YWOA Of Chad organized a picnic and paint session for the sisters to address mental health issues.

October 29<sup>th</sup> YWOA EQUATORIAL GUINEA promotes female care at Mariaemaculada boarding school.

October 31<sup>st</sup> YWOA DRC CHAPTER organized a breast cancer day under the theme together to prevent cancer. More than fifty women from PENIEL Evangelical mission church too part in this activity focused on prevention and community engagement.

## November

01<sup>st</sup> November YWOA South Africa Chapter attended the G20 ministerial Dialogue in positive masculinity.

01<sup>st</sup> November YWOA Nigeria Chapter hosted a landmark event bringing together youth leader and women leaders. The event marked the unveiling and launch of the Young Women of Africa Magazine and Writing Materials. Nigeria also commemorates the girl child day.

01<sup>st</sup> November YWOA Lesotho Chapter hosted a workshop on the protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment policy which helps create a safe space environment for staff, beneficiaries, and communities. The workshop was held in Maseru.

01<sup>st</sup> November YWOA ESwatini Chapter hosted a team building session in Elangeni Eswatin. The session was graced by the President of YWOA, and the aim was to enhance teamwork, collaboration, and communication among team members.

It's important for us to mention that monthly webinars happen ed once every month and different members were tasked with leading the monthly webinars dealing with different topics.

Our leaders and members have attended so many events of different organisations who invited us.

## CONCLUSION

As we come to the end of the year, we take stock of the work we have done and also reflect into the future confidently. More work has been done but we still need to do more. We must never leave behind the marginalised communities of our continent especially those with disabilities, rural communities, and the poor. We recommit in playing our role to safeguard the future of our continent through hard work, unity, and patriotism. Towards building a better Africa for girls and young women. We thank you



# YWOA 2026 Continental Programme of Action

Month	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED COUNTRY	HOST	PROGRAMME LEAD FROM THE CONTINENTAL EXECUTIVE AND TEAM
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. We also ensure girls who dropped out due to teenage/child pregnancies and rapes are integrated and enrolled.	Central Africa Chad		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra Murhola – Member of the Continental Executive</li> <li>• Dra Mariam Abdoulaye – Central Africa Regional Secretary</li> <li>• Central Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>• Chad Country Executive</li> </ul>
January	Launch of the Monthly Webinars	<p>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.</p> <p>The webinars will be hosted on Zoom and simultaneously streamed live on Facebook, ensuring broad accessibility and inclusivity. Through this platform, YWOA seeks to foster a community of empowered young women and</p>	YWOA	Zoom and Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lioness Sibande – Continental Deputy Secretary General</li> <li>• YWOA Media Team</li> </ul>
		<p>girls equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to drive positive change in their communities.</p> <p>These are empowering conversations, insightful discussions and game changing ideas that ignites our passion and fuel our purpose</p>			
February	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>• Danilla Braganca – Continental Executive Member.</li> <li>• Roukia Doumbia – West African Regional Vice President.</li> <li>• West Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>• Nigeria Country Executive</li> </ul>
March	Commemoration of the International Women's Day	To Commemorate the IWD through service, advocacy and grassroots mobilisation	West Africa Mali		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helena Chiuhiissa – Continental Secretary General</li> <li>• Rokia Doumbia – West Africa Region Vice President</li> <li>• West Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>• Mali Country Executive</li> </ul>



# YWOA 2026 Continental Programme of Action cont...

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. This initiative provides a safe and supportive environment where young women can share their experiences, challenges, and ideas, and learn from one another. This is also to encourage young women to take up space in the electoral processes of the countries as Local or national leaders.	Southern Africa Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lioness Sibande – Continental DSG</li> <li>• Modiehi Nkhabu – Southern Africa Regional Secretary</li> <li>• Southern Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>• Botswana Country Executive</li> </ul>
June	Young Women's Economic Justice & Innovation Expo	A continental showcase of youth-led enterprises, cooperatives, and tech innovations. Includes pitch sessions, training, and market access dialogues.	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> </ul>
	(YWOA Trade and Economic Symposium)	Here we will build mentorship, collaboration and networking for a better future		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>• Tanzania Country Executive</li> </ul>
July	Agro-Feminist Summit: Land, Food, and Climate Justice (Harvesting Hope)	A young women summit on land ownership, agriculture, and climate resilience. Includes farm visits, seed exchanges, and policy dialogues.	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>• Office of the President</li> <li>• Continental Secretariat</li> <li>• Regional Secretaries</li> </ul>
August	Pan-African young women' Education and Digital Futures Campaign	A campaign to close the digital divide and promote STEM education for girls. Includes coding bootcamps, mentorship, and digital literacy.	East Africa Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sibongile Sibanda – Continental Deputy President.</li> <li>• Kanen – East Africa Region Finance Secretary</li> <li>• East Africa Regional Executive</li> <li>• Kenya Country Executive</li> </ul>
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 Chiuhiissa – 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>• Khadija Mohamad</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>

# YWOA 2026 Continental Programme of Action cont...

## 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 OUTLINE

## YWOA 5th Annual Continental Convention Commissions Outline

The following commissions are proposed to align with the objectives and expected outcomes of the YWOA 5th Annual Continental Convention

NAME OF COMMISSION	DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES	TASKS FOR THE COMMISSION
Commission 1: Policy, Advocacy, Leadership and Empowerment Commission	<p>This commission develops declarations, campaigns, and action plans to influence continental and national policy platforms. It strengthens leadership, visibility, and agency for young African women and girls, while shaping feminist advocacy agendas that challenge structural inequalities and patriarchal systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss policy advocacy, lobbying, and engagement strategies for regional, national, and AU-level influence.</li><li>• Equip participants with skills to shape policy agendas, effectively communicate demands, and amplify</li></ul>	<p><i>All Commissions are expected to select their scribes in the commission</i></p> <p>Chairperson- <b>Dr Lebogang Ramalepe</b> Scribes – Rapporteur – <b>Fatma Hamda</b></p>



# COMMISSION OUTLINE CONT...

	<p>young women's voices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Propose programmes that support leadership development, advocacy training, and intergenerational exchange.</li><li>• Advance continental positions on gender justice, youth rights, reparations, and feminist development priorities.</li><li>• Develop campaigns for monitoring the implementation of the Maputo Protocol, African Youth Charter, Agenda 2063, and other key frameworks.</li><li>• Design and evaluate programs aligned with the Convention's theme and the annual YWOA Programme of Action.</li><li>• Create campaigns supporting curriculum development, study guides, and learning tools for girls and young women.</li><li>• Advocate for inclusive governance, gender quotas, youth representation, and the dismantling of patriarchal norms within political and corporate institutions.</li><li>• Generate ideas for strengthening advocacy, movement-</li></ul>	
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# COMMISSION OUTLINE CONT...

	<p>building, and feminist leadership capacities across the continent.</p>	
<p>Commission 2: Culture, Wellness &amp; Movement Building</p>	<p>This commission celebrates African heritage, arts, culture, and storytelling as tools for feminist resistance, healing, and identity affirmation. It focuses on building cross-border solidarity, strengthening movement ecosystems, and promoting collective care and wellness for young African women activists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop programmes that promote mental health, collective care, and feminist leadership wellness practices.</li> <li>• Propose strategies to strengthen cross-border alliances, inter-movement collaboration, and a shared continental vision for gender justice.</li> <li>• Design mechanisms that foster continental solidarity and collaboration among young women activists, creatives, and cultural workers.</li> <li>• Explore strategies to amplify young women's voices across media platforms, digital spaces, and creative industries.</li> </ul>	<p>Chairperson- <b>Esther Bonyongo</b>          Scribes          Repportuer – <b>Grace Okeyo</b></p>



# COMMISSION OUTLINE CONT...

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend models for creative and cultural exchange programmes, feminist storytelling initiatives, and cultural diplomacy.</li> </ul>	
<p>Commission 3: Economic Transformation, and Young Women Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>This commission aligns YWOA's programmes with the African Union's economic transformation agenda and equips participants with tools to drive meaningful economic change. It delivers proposals to promote economic inclusion, entrepreneurship, and innovation among young women across Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore how young women can lead Africa's economic empowerment, entrepreneurship ecosystems, and sustainable development transitions.</li> <li>• Recommend skills-building workshops, training resources, and best practices for innovation, enterprise development, and economic leadership.</li> <li>• Develop strategies to build partnerships with donors, philanthropic networks, private sector actors, and social enterprises for sustainable impact.</li> </ul>	<p>Chairperson – <b>Nelisiwe Nkomo</b>          Scribes          Rapporteur-  <b>Eledi Charity</b></p>



# COMMISSION OUTLINE CONT...

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss frameworks to strengthen budgeting, fundraising strategies, financial accountability, and long-term sustainability for youth-led initiatives.</li><li>• Identify pathways for economic empowerment through STEM inclusion, climate justice entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and indigenous knowledge systems.</li><li>• Propose advocacy strategies for youth employment pathways, enterprise incubation, and access to capital for young women-led businesses.</li><li>• Highlight models for enhancing financial inclusion, scaling youth-led innovations, and strengthening entrepreneurship hubs.</li></ul>	
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# COMMISSION OUTLINE CONT...

<p><b>Commission 4:</b> Peace-building, Security, Human Rights &amp; Democratic Participation</p>	<p>This commission elevates young African women as architects of peace, protectors of democracy, and defenders of human rights. It addresses conflict, shrinking civic space, securitised environments, and the intensifying pushback on gender equality and democratic participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss strategies to strengthen women's participation in peace processes, mediation, conflict resolution, and community peace infrastructures.</li><li>• Generate ideas for advancing civic engagement and democratic literacy among young women and girls.</li><li>• Address the protection of human rights defenders, feminist activists, and social justice leaders.</li><li>• Propose strategies to counter shrinking civic space, political repression, and online violence against women — pushing back the pushback.</li><li>• Develop a framework for a Young Women's Charter on Peace &amp; Democratic Participation, outlining principles, demands, and accountability mechanisms.</li></ul>	<p>Chairperson – <b>Belinda Mwiinga</b> Scribes Rapporteur - <b>Amy Top</b></p>
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# COMMISSION OUTLINE CONT...

## Commission 5:

Future Africa, Innovation & Transformative Feminist Power

This 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.

- Reimagine governance, justice, education, and development through feminist, young women powered lenses.
- Explore AI, digital justice, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies through a feminist framework and strengthen young women's capacity in digital innovation, tech entrepreneurship, and online organising.
- Build ideas for a Young Women's Digital Rights Charter for Africa.
- Pan-African Future Framework outlining young women's vision for Africa's next 25 years.
- A Young Women's Innovation & Governance Playbook for AU, national

Chairperson – **Naserian Lilian Martime**  
Scribes  
Rapporteur- **Dr Gwendoline Egbe**



# COMMISSION OUTLINE CONT...

	<p>governments, and global partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Digital Feminist Power Strategy for strengthening online leadership, safety, and political participation.</li><li>• Launch of a Young Women's Africa Lab — a space for innovation, future-making, and experimentation.</li><li>• A continental Creative &amp; Tech Fellowship to elevate young women leading in arts, activism, tech, climate, and policy.</li><li>• Actionable models that position young women not as participants, but as co-creators of Africa's future.</li></ul>	
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**YWOA**



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