

YOUNG AFRICAN THINK'RS CONVENTION

REALIZING THE ENVISIONED AFRICA

“The creativity, energy and innovation of Africa’s youth shall be the driving force behind the continent’s political, social, cultural and economic transformation.”

– Agenda 2063/ Aspiration 6:58

“Many of the challenges that our young people face are also potential opportunities, from the need for job creation to the need to inculcate positive values. A lot of hope is pinned on this generation as being the future leaders of Africa. If we have such great expectations for our young people, it is imperative that we proactively prepare the way for them,”

– Dr. Betta Mengistu, Beza International Ministries, Chairman

Background

“Opportunities are slim in Africa. I tried to start my own business but it failed in its early stages as a start-up. I tried to join in what my friends were doing but theirs didn’t make it either. Now my hope is to migrate to the western world, secure some job and earn good money for my family,”

– The African Youth

What is Young African Think'rs Convention?

Think'rs convention is an annual three-day intense brainstorming and idea-generating summit where African youth from different nations gather and give input. With the aim of making youth participants in the decision-making and solution finding for Africa's way forward, Think'rs convention gathers young people from different parts of the continent. Through the discussion times at the convention, we hope to instill Agenda 2063 in the minds of the young leaders, and inspire action in those who are going to take on leadership positions. As a result of this, we hope to begin to utilize the untapped creativity of the youth to fuel the on-going transformation and realize the anticipated Africa.

After two days of concentrated dialogue among teams, the solutions, suggestions, ideas and policies crafted by the young think'rs will be presented to an audience. Students, business owners, educators and leaders will attend the presentations so as to receive the suggestions and take note of investment opportunities. We hope that the convention will inspire tangible projects that will be taken up in cooperation between the youth and current leaders/business owners.

The Young African Think'rs Convention date is set for November (15th -17th) 2017.

Outcomes of the Convention:

A group of young leaders fully aware of Vision 2030 with a mindset of spreading it further

A group of leader who are advocates of commonly shared African values, identity and ethics

A group of youth who are ready to start leading, turn ideas into businesses and exercise decision making

Subsequent workshops on the discussed topics led by the participants of the convention

Compiled dossier of the ideas, strategies and suggestions generated during the discussion

Selecting individuals who will commit to undertaking projects that were brainstormed and ideated through the conference into a development phase with the help of our senior members.

What do we *think* about?

After two days of brainstorming sessions, each team will sum up their ideas and prepare presentations for the following morning. We drew out the following discussion topics based on the aspirations and goals set in Vision 2030. As future bearers of Africa, we will gather to deliberate, discuss, debate and brainstorm on the various issues listed below:

YOUNG AFRICAN THINK'RS KENYA 2017: THEMATIC AREAS

1. Finance:

The Kenya Vision 2030 is the long-term development blueprint for the country. One of the foundations for Kenya Vision 2030 is macroeconomic stability as it plays a key role in the country's economic growth. There is a virtuous cycle between economic growth and savings. Kenya Vision 2030 identifies that to maintain macroeconomic stability, constraints such as a low savings to GDP ratio must be addressed. The World Bank has also cited that Kenya has a low savings rate. In 2014, the savings rate was 12.46% of GDP, while neighboring Uganda and Tanzania has rates of 19.05% and 19.67% respectively. The Kenya Vision 2030, launched in 2006, projected that the gross national savings, which stood at 15.6% in 2006/2007, would increase to approximately 26% by 2012/2013 and to 29% in 2030. This is not however the case as these projections have not been met. On the contrary, the gross national savings as a percentage of GDP has actually decreased from 15.4% in 2007/2008 to 10.4% in 2011/2012.

It is on this basis that the Young African Think'rs seek to deliberate on innovative ways to encourage Kenyans to save. The finance team is tasked with the mandate of developing a model that will encourage long-term saving particularly in smaller households and in the informal sectors such as the lady selling groceries on the street. This model should be a means to increase domestic savings, which will then be a means to fuel economic growth in Kenya.

2. National Cohesion and Integration:

National cohesion and integration is crucial to all three pillars of Kenya's Vision 2030. Since independence, the Government has made attempts to put in place various mechanisms and institutions to correct pre and post-colonial injustices that have otherwise led to tension among Kenyans. For a long time it appeared that there was progress in this area. However, the post-election violence experienced in 2007 proved otherwise and to-date, with every election period, questions are raised as to whether Kenya is truly on the road to achieving national cohesion and integration or not.

As YAT-Kenya, we aim at looking into what various stakeholders and institutions have done so far to push Kenya towards a more cohesive and integrated society while identifying areas where the youth can step in to offer more practical solutions for their communities.

3. Education:

In 2016 alone, more than 100 schools suffered arson attempts by internal students. The question that arises is, why is it that these students feel that this is the most necessary measure to be taken? Within Vision 2030, the three key pillars stand as Economic, Social and Political Governance. If we are to take a look at the wording of the social pillar, it states verbatim that it wants to "Invest in the people of Kenya and improve the quality of life for all Kenyans through human and social welfare projects and programs."

The Young African Think'rs seeks to investigate the challenge of mental health and wellness within our national curriculum. This will be done by deliberating on how can we develop a wellbeing curriculum that is *a/so* integrative of:

- a) The built environment – Alain De Botton, the author of the architecture of happiness stated, "Space and architecture are really a division of mental health." How can we create safer and more calming spaces within our national schools?
- b) Technology – how can we integrate technology into the wellbeing curriculum to reduce stress and anxiety within our schools?

4. Business and Entrepreneurship:

Strides have been made in the successful setting up of businesses and entrepreneurial ventures in Kenya. While this is to be celebrated, efforts should not stop here. Businesses and entrepreneurial ventures should not be ends in themselves. They should instead be tools of making societal life better; tools of ensuring that all Kenyans lead dignified lives.

The Young African Think'rs will discuss the business and entrepreneurial sector in order to develop innovative ways in which these ventures, particularly SMEs can increase their employment capacity.

5. Technology:

The vision for security in Kenya's Vision 2030 is "a society free from danger and fear". The Government is determined to improve security in order to lower the cost of doing business and to provide Kenyans with a more secure living and working environment. Specific strategies will involve:

- Improve the practice of community policing
- Reducing the police to population ratio
- Adopting information technology (ICT) in crime detection and prevention.
- Enhance police training.

Agenda 2063 has a similar provision on security. Following the above goals as stipulated by Agenda 2063 and Vision 2030 the Technology team will be tasked with design and prototype a crowd sourced crime and corruption reporting platform that uses mobile technology (internet, sms, ussd).

6. Health:

The Kenyan health sector continues to face challenges in providing available, affordable world class healthcare to its people, key of these being inadequate funds and alarmingly low doctor to patient ratio. However, an uninformed or misinformed populous is another grave impediment towards achieving our goal of a healthy working nation. Pertinent information that is both cost and life-saving for the '*common mwananchi*' (ordinary citizen) is neither accessible nor available to the general public. The result is that people suffer and perish because of this lack of knowledge.

In lieu of this, a lot needs to be done to educate and sensitize the populous. YAT-Kenya seeks to develop a model, structure and or platform that will enable the effective dissemination of information. A more informed and engaged public fosters an effective partnership between them and healthcare professionals in dealing with disease. This, we believe, will translate into reduced morbidity and mortality in Kenya.

The Young African Think'rs seek to inculcate the value of **principled leadership** at the heart of the discussions in all these thematic areas.

How will the conference format look like?

Outline of the YAT KENYA 2017 schedule

Time	Day 1 (November 15, 2017)	Day 2 (November 16, 2017)
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Opening Speech	Guest Speaker
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Introduction of the teams and topics	Brainstorming session
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Tea break	Tea break
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Brainstorming session	Brainstorming session
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch break	Lunch break
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Brainstorming session	Brainstorming session
4:00 PM	Clear UN Premises	Clear UN Premises

Time	Day 3 (November 17,2017)
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Guest Speaker
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Teams 1, 2 and 3 present
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Tea break
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Teams 4, 5 and 6 present
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch break
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Panel discussion with leaders on topics presented

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