



**NYR**

Because we believe in the youth too

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## NATIONAL YOUTH ROUND TABLE



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# HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

*National Youth Round-table (NYR) is an initiative with the main aim of advising the top leadership on the youth welfare, our main focus is mainstreaming and organizing this big constituency to be the biggest beneficiaries of the agenda four of national development.*

Young Lives is a key part of the long-term commitment in developing a nation especially working with them, to champion their rights and develop broad-based strategies to incorporate their capacities, participation and interests, by tapping into their creativity, innovativeness, energy and passion for entrepreneurial purposes. The first prerequisite to achieving this, is the holistic approach that encompasses human, environmental, and economic sustainability concerning the present and future generations in a global-scale context. It's important to involve them in addressing the fundamental and related questions of Sustainable Development for instance: ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY (Financial Sustainability, SME, micro-finance, emerging Countries and International Trade); ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (Water, Forest and Soil conservation, Healthcare, Renewable Energies, Food and Environmental Legislation) and

SOCIO-CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY; (Integration and Cohesion, Sustainable Urbanism, Education, Governance Sustainability, Human Development, Psychology and Sociology).

Young people in Kenya, like everywhere in the world, have numerous challenges, concerns and expectations. As such the mainstreaming strategy should not be left solely in the hands of the government but, other several initiatives should be marshalled to work hand in hand in supporting government efforts where youth affairs will be addressed at all levels locally, regionally and globally.





## OUR ROLE

We spearhead trainings and elaborate youth economic empowerment and participation dialogue. We support young people in creating a youth branded platform from where they can positively participate, take appropriate action, and inspire belief that will have a catalytic impact all over the country through youth-led economic Community Action Projects commonly referred to as CAPs. The youth leaders will be given opportunity to show-case their economic project ideas on the following topic digital economy, business/and social enterprises, agri-business and climate change, Sports, Arts, and recreation and finally leadership and government. The best identified scalable and bankable entrepreneurial projects are then supported financially to revitalize them into bulk industries that can create better paying employment opportunities for the youth population.

“ THE YOUTH OF A NATION  
ARE THE TRUSTEES OF  
POSTERITY.

- BENJAMIN DISRAELI

# OUR FOCUS

National Youth Round-Table (NYR), exists to forge interactions and synergies, through proper structuring and opening up opportunities for collective representation and growth among these young people at the county and national level, by advancing the youth development agenda and coordination of activities and youth policies.

Our programs focus areas include:-

- County Mapping and Structuring of various youth organizations
- Regional (Inter-county)/National Dialogue and civic education forums
- Regional (Inter-County) /National youth Entrepreneurial Challenge Conventions
- Annual National Youth Innovative Fair
- International Youth Exchange programs

## COUNTY MAPPING AND STRUCTURING OF VARIOUS YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

This is highly participatory process during which NYR sets the stage for deep and analytical review of the strong and promising programs run by young people in groups or individually in selected Counties more so with strong party presence.

## ANNUAL NATIONAL YOUTH INNOVATIVE FAIR

This is a program designed to support Sustainable Development of youth entrepreneurial ideas, by giving them an opportunity to showcase their novel products to the local, regional and international markets.

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

NYR team also recognizes the mutual benefits of international engagement to expand the space for the youth and to ensure that they are provided immense opportunities and the means necessary to flourish across borders.



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## SHARED FOCUS AREAS

### REGIONAL YOUTH ENTREPRENEURIAL CHALLENGE CONVENTIONS

Young people in the 47 counties in Kenya are majorly organized in groups sharing a particular passion or special interest and working on small scale income generating projects within their counties to earn a living.

Support young people in structured organizations pursuing creative and performing arts as well as sports for recreation and community service and transform them into stable economic ventures within the counties

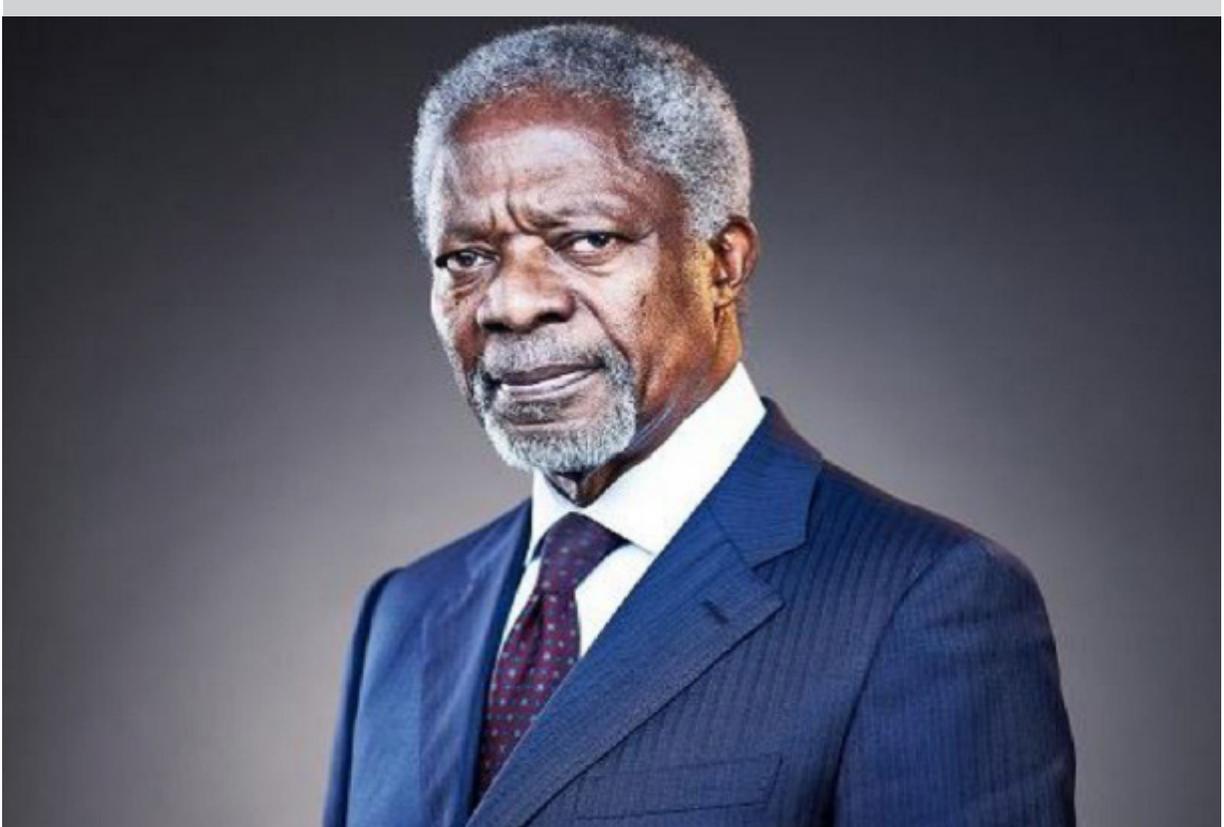
We also share in engaging on agricultural based projects supporting them to become mechanized, supporting cottage industries in the Counties, as well as making Agriculture cool to the youthful population. The workshops will put emphasis on the need to champion creative youth-led initiatives in conserving the environment by engaging in joint activities and inter-counties exchange programs to protect the environment such as tree planting, waste disposal and management, bio-diversity conservation, wildlife preservation campaigns and agro-forestry in Counties

Working with the County Executive in charge of youth affairs to sensitize young people against crime, drug and substance abuse and in promoting reproductive health and girl child education will also be explored in this first phase

It is also very important that young people living in the grassroots or even in the outskirts of major urban centers get access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT), which today is viewed as the most powerful tool for social and economic transformation

Finally, there is serious need for young people pursuing economic projects in every county to be able to access funds both locally, nationally and internationally either as individuals

# A WORD FROM KOFI ANNAN



We view young people as key drivers of change and it has always been our sincere belief that they should take lead role in the implementation of national policies and innovative solutions to the challenges they face. However, the youth continues to be disproportionately affected by the world's challenges, including access to education, gender inequality, unemployment, and pandemics.

Another challenge we face today as a continent is massive youth unemployment and underemployment, which is why in implementing any Youth Agenda we need to employ the strategy that will address youth entrepreneurship and youth unemployment as one of the main pillars. The strategy must seek to increase the level of social, economic, cultural, and political participation of the youth. We also recognize the fact that for young people to be fully involved in the planning, design,

implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and actions affecting their lives, it essential to give them the political will and support they require.

As leaders we must work hand in hand with other stakeholders to harness the innovative spirit of young people in addressing their challenges and mainstreaming them in the national development agenda. We hope that by involving young people in every aspect of the implementation of the national policies, we will increase their participation in the social, economic, cultural, and political aspects of life.

## ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Policies should be implemented in consultation with the youth sector and should be concerned with removing obstacles so that the youth sector can help itself rather than with providing financial support. Measures taken should include the reduction of barriers to formal sector activity by establishing clear property rights and minimizing the regulatory costs of doing business.



SOCIAL PACTS



INDUSTRIAL GOALS



ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS



LEARNING ISSUES



PROFFESIONAL TRAINING



COHESION WORKS



INTEGRITY ISSUES



SUCCESSES NURTURING

### WHAT NATIONAL YOUTH ROUND TABLE STANDS FOR

According to study research conducted by the team from NYR, it was deduced that young people have organized themselves both individually and in groups with creative and innovative practical projects/ideas aimed at socio-economically and politically uplifting their lives and developing their societies. However they are lacking to a bigger extent proper institutional structuring, synergy, networking and exposure to opportunities, successful personalities as well as institutions that can support them to fully operationalize, grow and develop to serious income generating ventures, collective voices and sources of alternative employment.

### OUR VISION

To mainstream young people in national leadership, governance and development agenda.

### OUR VALUES

There are numerous organizations existing in the Country in the name of empowering and supporting youth initiatives. However the impact of their activities is merely felt, one of the ingredients to make organizations survive the test of times, is steadfast adherence to a set of beliefs/values that govern them with that they can enjoy long-term success and longevity in the fast-changing global landscape.

We at NYR have the following, sound set of beliefs that will guide our policies and actions and helps us meet the challenges of the ever changing world:-

Focused Leadership | Advocacy | Opportunity | Integrity | Professionalism | Collaboration | Creativity

### OUR MISSION

Tapping the youth potential and turning it into creative and innovative socio-economic ventures.

# MAINSTREAMING YOUTH ISSUES

The objective of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is to empower youth to ensure their full potential and participation in society as equal and valuable partners. By so doing, Unesco considers young people as a resource, not part of the problem and as partners as opposed to mere beneficiaries in the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes aimed at improving their welfare.

Unesco employs a variety of approaches to involve young people in its activities. These include:

Ensuring the presence of young women and men in Unesco bodies such as the secretariat, delegations, and national commissions.



UNESCO EMPOWERS YOUTH TO ENSURE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL  
AND PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY AS EQUAL AND VALUABLE  
PARTNERS

## EMPOWERMENT

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Empowerment is therefore a process that strengthens and activates the capacity of the youth to satisfy their own needs, solve their own problems, and acquire the necessary resources to take control over their lives.



## EDUCATION

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Education is the next important area for engaging the youth and for youth development. In fact, youth access to relevant education and training is also entrenched in the 2010 constitution.

## EMPLOYMENT

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The final key area of youth engagement and development is employment. Having been sufficiently empowered or not, and having accessed education and training or not, the youth still need to find jobs to actualise their livelihood through to adulthood.



# UNEMPLOYMENT

Lets share a few facts that typify the African youth. Young make up %37 of the working-age population in Africa, but %60 of the unemployed. Young people are more likely to work longer hours under insecure work arrangements, characterized by low productivity and meager earnings. Females face particularly strong challenges in entering the labor force, due to early motherhood and lack of education.

The face of Africa's youth is an eighteen-and-a-half year old female, living in a rural area, with some education and literate, but

not attending school. The main challenge for her is to find and sustain productive employment with a reasonable income.

There are several dimensions to the problem of youth. There's a demographic dimension: Africa's population profile is shaped like a typical pyramid – it has a “youth bulge” at the base. Almost half of Africa's population is under 25; about %75 is under the age of 35. It is estimated that by 2050, Africa will account for %29 of all people aged 15 to 24. This is about 348 million of the total 1.2 billion persons globally.



# CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

You may be aware that Africa faces a pressing problem of youth unemployment. Steadily worsening over the years, youth unemployment on the continent is now assuming crisis proportions, particularly in the wake of the current global

economic recession. But Africa cannot wait; it has to explore potential options and take action now to respond in the short-term to the impact of the global recession, while also putting in place programs to address the structural causes of the problem.

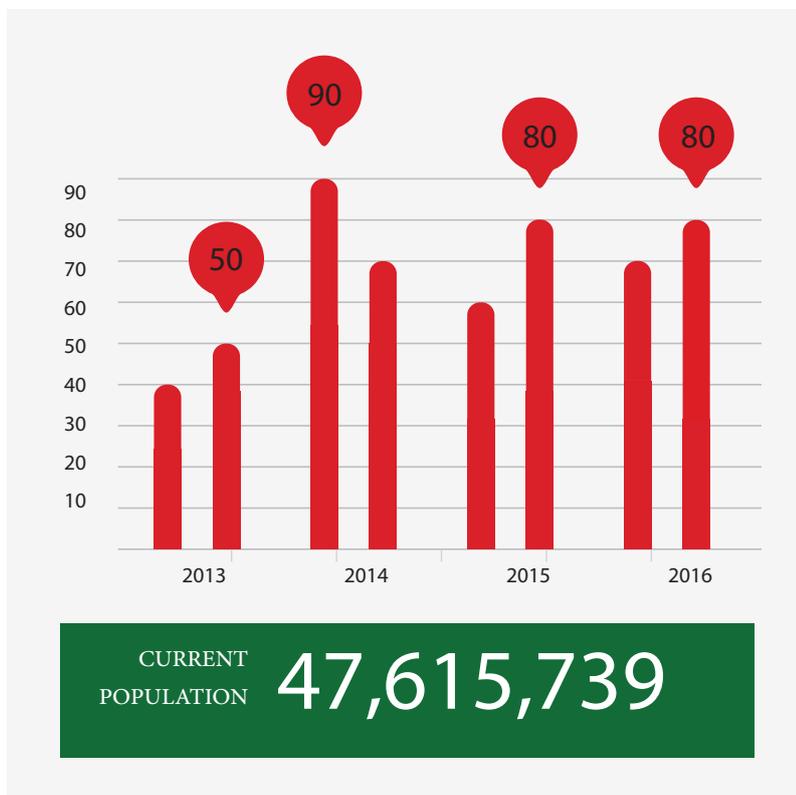
## THE CHALLENGE

For Kenya, this means that economic opportunities driven by a high growth rate must outpace the increase in population currently estimated at around %2.9. Development literature tells us that that to bend the curve of poverty you need growth of above %7 sustained over several years.

## THE SOLUTION

We clearly need an agenda for action to address these challenges and let me propose some of its possible components. First, policy makers have a duty to build capable states with the clear purpose of not only expanding economic opportunities but also effectively and efficiently delivering basic services to citizens. This means every Kenyan shilling spent on education, health and other basic services must deliver commensurate value.

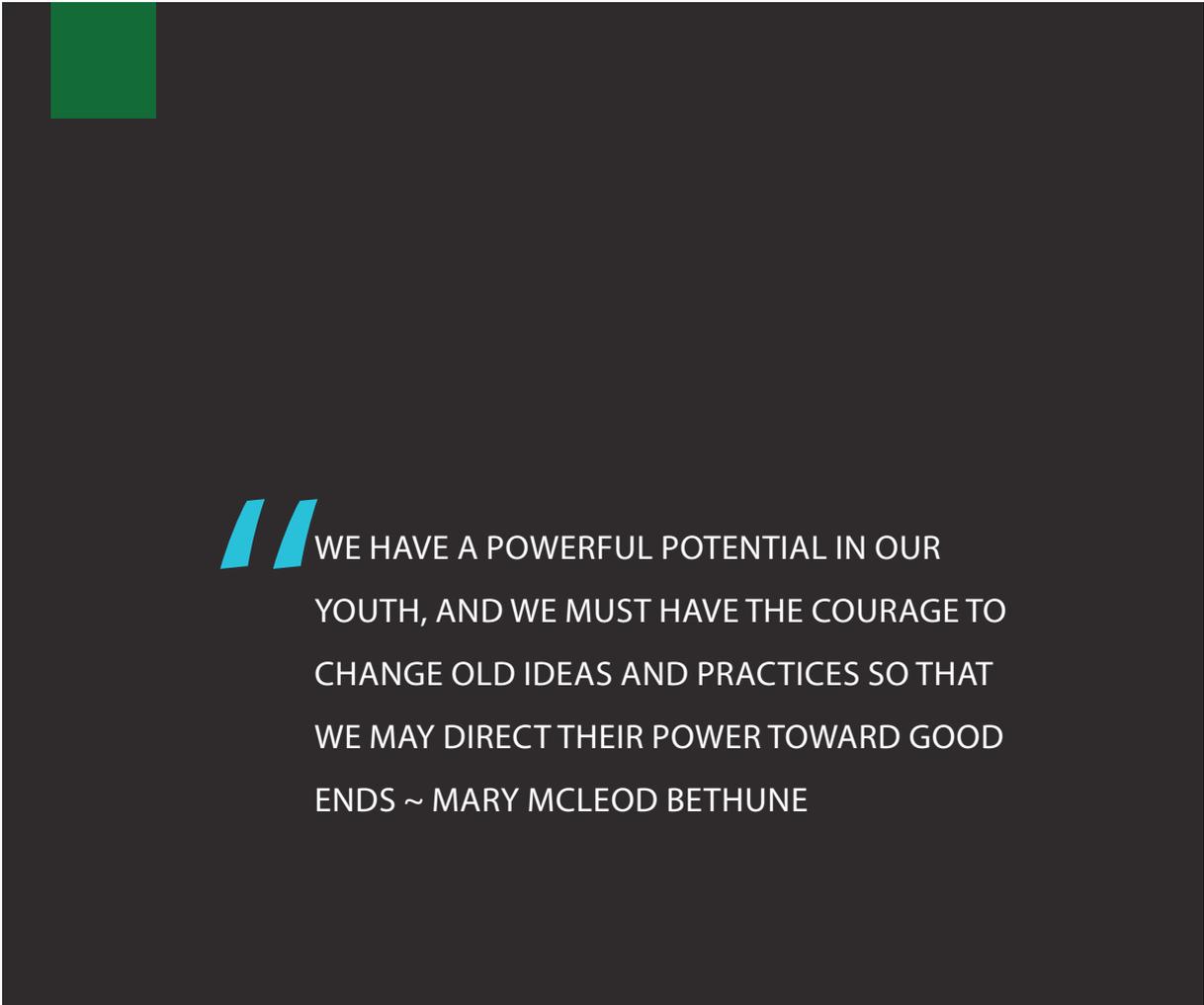
## SOME STATISTICS



## CONCLUSION

There are persistent risks and challenges faced by Kenyan youth and the country's growing youth bulge will only exacerbate that state of affairs. The efforts of engaging the youth in Kenya through empowerment, entrepreneurship education, sports, recreation and employment among others, therefore, cannot be left solely in the hands of the government, but requires synergy and interventions of several key players.

Therefore, all the stakeholders working on youth affairs forge clear synergies with the government's new sustainable development agenda. NYR is committed to ensuring youth policies are inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive, comprehensive, knowledge-based, informed resources management and accountable.



// WE HAVE A POWERFUL POTENTIAL IN OUR  
YOUTH, AND WE MUST HAVE THE COURAGE TO  
CHANGE OLD IDEAS AND PRACTICES SO THAT  
WE MAY DIRECT THEIR POWER TOWARD GOOD  
ENDS ~ MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE





NATIONAL  
YOUTH  
ROUNDTABLE

