**Organization of African Youth- Kenya.**

# Report of the African Survey on Post-2015 Agenda

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# *"I want an Africa that respects women's rights, young people's views and promotes tolerance and diversity,"* **a respondent of the survey.**

## Introduction

As a preparatory initiative towards the upcoming African Youth Conference on Post-2015 Development Agenda, to be held from 18th-20th December 2012 at the UN Gigiri, Nairobi, the Organization of African Youth- Kenya conducted an online youth survey to gather the youth views in regards to the achievement of MDGs in the region and engaging them in planning for Post-2015 Agenda.

With the main expected outcome of the conference been the release of the African Youth Declaration on Post-2015 Agenda, the survey purpose was to gather youth input in order to draft a declaration which is based on young people's experiences of and ideas for, the future of the region they live in. This is aimed at stimulating an inclusive, bottom-up youth debate on the post-2015 development agenda.

The Survey asked for response to the following questions:

1. **Which MDG has been most successfully achieved in your country?**
2. **Which MDG has been least achieved in your country?**
3. **What do you think have been the most pressing challenges towards achieving the MDGs in your country?**
4. **What Actions do you think can be taken towards achieving the MDGs in your country by 2015?**
5. **Are you well informed about the of the Post-2015 Agenda process? If yes, how are you been engaged?**
6. **Which are your top 3 priority areas in the Post-2015 Agenda?**
7. **In each of the 3 priority areas you have listed above, what**

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specific **Actions can be taken to addressing them?**

8. **In one word or sentence what kind Future do you Want for Africa?**

The online survey run for two weeks and received 153 respondents from more than 30 African Countries and representing different organizations. This report will be presented to the delegates of the African Youth Conference on Post-2015 Development Agenda as input in drafting the youth declaration.

**The 8 Millennium Development Goals are:**

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
Goal 5: Improve maternal health
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.

**Acknowledgements**

This report was prepared by the OAYouth- Kenya team lead by George Ndungu, the Chairperson and coordinator of the African Youth Working Group on Post-2015 Agenda. The team included Haron Oichoe, Margaret Sirrengo, Michael Asudi, Cynthia Asafi, Joachim Makori and Herman Kwoba.

**Contact for Feedback:**
George Ndungu,
OAYouth-Kenya Chairperson,
Email: georgemndungu@gmail.com.

We also appreciate our partners for supporting the convening of the African Youth Conference on Post-2015 Development Agenda. They include UNDP, UN-Habitat, PACJA, FEMNET, VSO Jitolee and Faces of Peace Kenya.

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## Most successfully achieved MDG in the region:

## Goal 2: Achieving universal primary education.

**Successfully achieved MDG in sample countries:**

- Nigeria- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
- Kenya- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.
- Senegal- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

- Uganda- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Zimbabwe- Goal2: Achieve universal primary education.
- Liberia- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Ghana: Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.

## Least Achieved MDG in the Region:

## Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

**"Many people are still unaware of the millennium goals. There is no way you can perform and achieve what you do not know,"** a respondent of the survey.

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## Most pressing challenges towards achieving the MDGs in the region:

- ❖ Lack of political goodwill and dedication towards achievement of MDGs.
- ❖ Lack or participation of the citizens towards attainment of the MDGs"
- ❖ Poor governance and skewed resource allocation
- ❖ Lack of equitable resource distribution among the population.
- ❖ Youth are continuously used by politicians to push their political agenda.
- ❖ The MDGs, targeted at 2015 is relatively unknown to the target audience, NGOs, Youths, etc, this to a great extent, throws a doubt at its survival and achievement.
- ❖ Lack of safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene facilities. Linkages between WASH and the Achievement of the MDGs:
- ❖ Lack of educations on the objectives of the MDGs
- ❖ Lack of government support.
- ❖ Poor policy implementation.
- ❖ High illiteracy rates among the rural population.
- ❖ High poverty levels.
- ❖ Unemployment of the majority of the population and especially the youth.
- ❖ Scarcity of resources has been a challenge in implementing MDG.
- ❖ Lack of political will
- ❖ Lack of funds for the Local NGOS
- ❖ Lack of youth participation in the whole program
- ❖ Ignorance is the chief and root of all other challenges.
- ❖ Lack of proper planning and engagement by the government.
- ❖ Misuse of public funds.
- ❖ Lack of information, to the public
- ❖ Political volatility and lack of political goodwill towards the MDGs
- ❖ Negative Ethnicity
- ❖ Failure to implement policies that are related in achieving MDGs by policy makers, due to lack of political will and lack of resources
- ❖ Poor governance and corruption
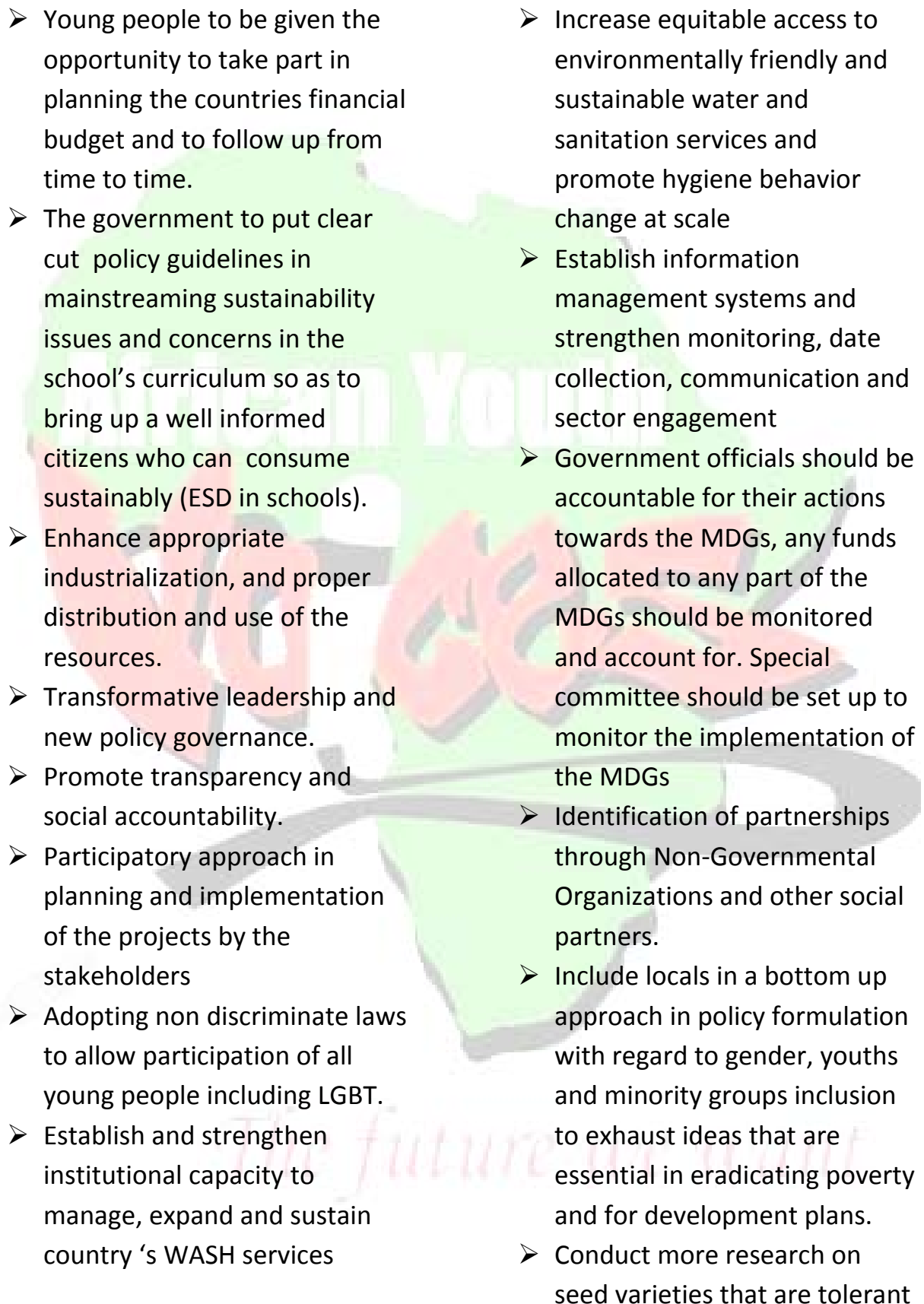- ❖ The global economic crisis

- Post election violence which led to an increase in internally displaced persons
- The entrepreneurship environment is not very conducive especially for the financially challenged but highly talented young people"
- Lack of checks and balances from the donors which makes it easy for the people who are responsible for effecting the MDGs to plunder the money. Problem with the donors is that they turn a blind eye to what's happening as long as they feel they have gotten the media attention of being the caring ones.
- Incoherency in global environmental governance.
- Insecurity, political instability and civil war
- Government and development partners do not see CSOs as key partners in the implementation of the MDGs especially taking the goals to ordinary citizens that will create platform citizens engagement.
- Government strategies don't take into account the MDGs

- The long-term risk that climate change poses, this leads to underdevelopment and achieving some of the goals.
- The high cost of living contributes as a challenge in the development of MDGS. The recent rise in food prices is putting great pressure on African economies and is threatening to unravel hard-won progress in fighting hunger and malnutrition child mortality has been in the rise.
- Ignorance of the people mostly in rural areas.
- Increasing unemployment and income inequality
- Nepotism by those in power has led to either poor policies or poor implementation due to unqualified individuals who occupy crucial offices.
- Discrimination of sustain population in participating in productive projects. Homophobic tendencies has greatly left some sections like LGBT young people are excluded due to prosecuting laws that perpetuate homophobia.

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# Actions to be taken towards accelerating the achievement MDGs by 2015 in Africa:

## 1)     By our Government:

- Commitment to achieve the goals by the government and to honor its pledges.
- The government should be at the forefront in formulation of policies and regulation on waste management followed by the formation and adequate funding of institutional frameworks for implementation purposes.
- The government should allocate adequate funds to the education sector, for primary education to be equally attained among all the children within the country.
- Civic education should be undertaken seriously
- Reduce the high rate of youth unemployment.
- Kick out of corrupt leaders or implementers and eliminate rampant corruption
- Make MDGS known to the local people and mobilize them to actively participate.

- Strengthening institutions to fight against corruption and empowering the judiciary.
- More funding opportunities for youth scholarships to support the needy youth who need to pursue higher education
- Plan and implement sustainable and impactful poverty eradication program that will reach the high segment of the youth. This can be done funding or generating a high impact entrepreneurship program that could reach tens of millions of the people. Entrepreneurship is panacea to unemployment and a direct fighter of hunger and poverty.
- Provide enough resources to children, youth and women related ministries. Youth and women should be empowered with loans to start small scale business as well as providing high positions of offices in the government.

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- Young people to be given the opportunity to take part in planning the countries financial budget and to follow up from time to time.
- The government to put clear cut policy guidelines in mainstreaming sustainability issues and concerns in the school's curriculum so as to bring up a well informed citizens who can consume sustainably (ESD in schools).
- Enhance appropriate industrialization, and proper distribution and use of the resources.
- Transformative leadership and new policy governance.
- Promote transparency and social accountability.
- Participatory approach in planning and implementation of the projects by the stakeholders
- Adopting non discriminate laws to allow participation of all young people including LGBT.
- Establish and strengthen institutional capacity to manage, expand and sustain country 's WASH services

- Increase equitable access to environmentally friendly and sustainable water and sanitation services and promote hygiene behavior change at scale
- Establish information management systems and strengthen monitoring, date collection, communication and sector engagement
- Government officials should be accountable for their actions towards the MDGs, any funds allocated to any part of the MDGs should be monitored and account for. Special committee should be set up to monitor the implementation of the MDGs
- Identification of partnerships through Non-Governmental Organizations and other social partners.
- Include locals in a bottom up approach in policy formulation with regard to gender, youths and minority groups inclusion to exhaust ideas that are essential in eradicating poverty and for development plans.
- Conduct more research on seed varieties that are tolerant

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to the current climate by tapping knowledge from both experts and other stakeholders who may have little but vital knowledge to ensure constant food supply.
- ➢ Shift to renewable sources of energy and limit use of non-renewable sources of energy.
- ➢ Universal and free access to reproductive health services including emergency obstetrical care, skilled birth attendants and family planning;
- ➢ Create an enabling environment attract more Foreign Direct Investment
- ➢ Invest more in agriculture and better infrastructure.

**EXPERIENCE--GROW--CONTRIBUTE.**

**<<<Let our Continent Shine>>>**

## 2)    By Development Partners and UN Agencies:

- ➢ Support projects that are geared towards mitigating the impacts of climate change and encouraging sustainable consumption.
- ➢ The UN should be on the lookout and pressurize to see that there is realization of the goals.
- ➢ Give funding to local NGOs who are into environment to carry out awareness creation on climate change.
- ➢ Young people must be included in the development and implementation of policies and programs around the MDGs if these interventions are expected to be sustainable.
- ➢ Strong financial support to grassroots.
- ➢ Support CSOs in their work towards increasing the acceleration of MDGs as well as raising awareness
- ➢ Creation of a global governance system that is

accountable, transparent and also holds countries responsible in regard to environmental issues. This will go a long way in combating desertification, climate change and ecosystem destruction/ degradation.

- ➢ Hold government and civil society accountable especially on funds
- ➢ Support more people on development centered initiatives
- ➢ Listen to the people at the grassroots on solutions to challenges
- ➢ Make aid work

## "Why should women and children die due to the lack of health facilities and trained nurses, doctors, midwives? " a question phrased by a respondent.

## 3) By the Civil Society Organizations:

- ➢ To mobilize the local communities through community based projects targeting the rural poor who should change their mindset about sustainability.
- ➢ Promote gender equality and women empowerment.
- ➢ Awareness creation about environmental problems to the wider community

- ➢ Community Participation & Networking
- ➢ They should encourage innovations by supporting innovators to realize their visions through sponsorships and award schemes to encourage and spur creativity in ways of enhancing life.
- ➢ Empowerment the youth so that they can speak with a collective voice and demand

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their rights and hold the government accountable for the provision of these rights."

➤ Promote youth entreprenuership programs and skills development in all sectors.
➤ Engage communities to understand the causes of poverty and help them understand the problem. After which they come up with suggestions on how to address the challenges.
➤ Engage communities to come up with sustainable means to

conserve the environment and avoid charcoal burning and unnecessary cutting down of trees for sale due to poverty."

➤ be more accountable to the people they speak for - the public
➤ Be more genuine in their work - their work should be results and impact based
➤ Do what they do because they are passionate about it, not just because of funds availability

**"There should be opportunities for the youth to come up with initiatives that will empower the other youths and get support for this,"** a respondent of the survey.

## 4)     By the Young people:

➤ The youths have a critical role to play in the realization of country's vision as majority of them have embraced ICT and sustainability issues and success stories of can be

shared through social media both print and electronic.
➤ For environmental sustainability to be attained, the youths are well able to lead in waste management via behavior and attitude change
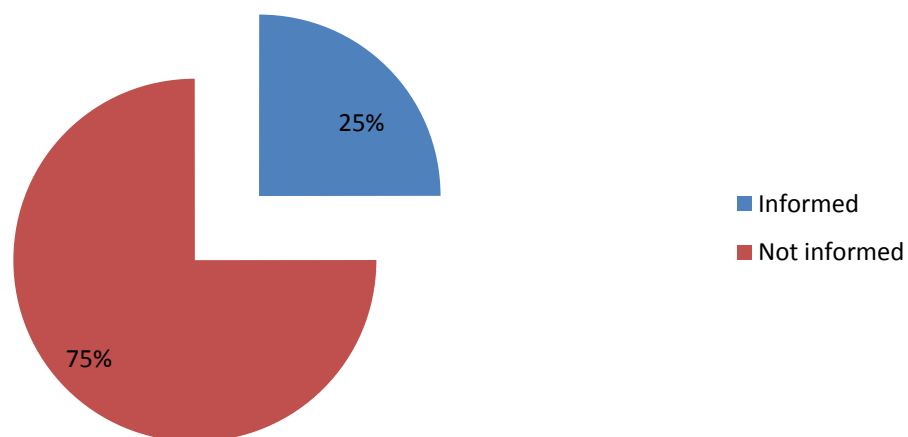
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as a majority of us are responsible for poor waste handling hence the escalating rates of pollution from solid waste.

➤ Say NO to tribalism.
➤ Youth advocacy and holding the government accountable.

➤ Synergize more with other like-minded young people
➤ Support each other and be open to learn
➤ Learn from the strategies of the old guard and salvage your generation
➤ Invest in their talent

## "The voices of the people must be well captured with the inclusion of key stakeholders to make the implementation possible" a respondent of the survey.

### Percentage of African youth informed and not informed about the Post-2015 Agenda Process.

25%

75%

■ Informed
■ Not informed

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**Top 5 priority areas of African youth in the Post-2015 Agenda:**

1. **Poverty and Hunger.**
2. **Health- emphasis on child and maternal health.**
3. **Education- emphasis on affordable and quality primary and secondary school education.**
4. **Environment and Climate Change.**
5. **Youth employment.**

**Other priority areas:**

6. Governance and corruption
7. Gender equality
8. Peace
9. Global partnership for development.

*"I want an Africa that considers young people as Agents of Development,"* **a respondent of the survey.**

*"I Want an Africa free of ignorance, poverty, hunger and diseases,"* **a respondent of the survey.**

## No Solution for Us Without Us

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# Actions to be undertaken in addressing the priority areas:

## 1. Poverty and Hunger:

- Promotion of indigenous farming on drought resistant crops should be a key catalyst towards the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. Runoff collection by constructed pans will as well be vital in waters storage for irrigation and domestic chores in drought prone areas.
- Proper planning should be done at the national and grassroots level. Also the decision makers should look at new avenues of job creation especially to the youths who are mostly affected.
- Adopt modern farming methods
- Creation of county pools of resources to ensure opportunities are equally distributed in all the counties, and not centralized in one region.
- The government as well as International agencies to support the provision of micro credit to women and also life supporting skills to the women and youths for them to be self employed.
- Nations to feed themselves without any aid. This can be done by providing education on getting the best out of crop fertilization.
- Help locals in best agricultural practices to enable them to farm sustainable and nutritional foods that can be traded globally and throughout Africa.
- Productive use through irrigation and planting of orphaned crops like millet, and sorghum. Agribusiness can also help in realizing food security in the unproductive land Bee keeping and cattle ranching can be viable enterprises in the dry areas.
- Finance research and technologies aimed at sustainable food production to combat hunger
- Zone areas for agriculture and government to provide support throughout the production process

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## 2. Health:

- Provision of free medicare and better health facilities
- Improving the status of women and promoting their rights are also critical.
- Ensuring access to reproductive health and family planning services for all could help avert up to 35% of maternal deaths. Includes advocacy at global and country levels – as well as work to address sociology-economic barriers to help overcome the prohibitive costs of safe delivery for the poor.
- More awareness and education on HIV/AIDS should be given out
- Reduction of child mortality by funding hospitals in rural areas.
- Establish health post in rural areas that will enable the community people to get quick and affordable health services. Also carrying campaigns to the health facilities to sensitize the people about safe motherhood and mother to child transmission.
- Use of social media to educate youth against bad health practices
- Training more health specialists and sending them out to rural areas
- Streamlining the health policies.
- Increased funding for health care activities
- Hospital insurance fund should be extended to every citizen
- Encourage research through financing and more knowledge of risk and disaster management to control emerging diseases before they spread widely which makes it hard to combat.
- Strengthening health systems and phasing in of child survival interventions to achieve a two-thirds reduction in child mortality rates;
- Set up HIV/AIDs youth centers to carter and address issues on HIV/Aids among the youth by providing free HIV testing and treatment, counseling services among other

## 3. Education:

- Adequate primary education is attainable through the upgrading of the existent academic facilities and provision of adequate teaching staff.
- Improved education systems that are affordable to youth, including the vulnerable youth.
- Providing knowledge and skills, encouraging new behavior and increasing individual and collective empowerment.
- Educational incentives that promote higher enrollment and passing, for example, through Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Education should be accessible to every child

- Teaching the parents the importance of allowing their child education, and the benefits it can provide for them
- More funding and prompt implementation and supervision of education concerns.
- Ensuring modern and technical educational institutions are built with emphasis placed on languages that can be easily understood in different communities.
- The education should be action oriented and the curriculum should allow learners to be all rounded citizen

## 4. Environment and Climate Change:

- Facilitation and promotion of environmental and awareness among the primary, secondary and tertiary institutions of learning. This should be followed by adequate training on Green Entrepreneurship

with the key aim of cultivating sustainable project ideas that work towards pollution reduction.
- Implement the Rio+20 Future We Want Outcome Document.

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- The regional governments to fully integrate climate change issues into social- economic planning, environmental conservation and management for sustainable development at both national and regional levels by reflecting in Poverty Reduction Strategies or their equivalents, and national budgets.
- Governments and Development partners to increase funding for scholarships for young people to study on climate change and related fields; so as to broaden awareness for greater participation in international meetings for climate change and development;
- Encourage the participation of rural communities in the management and protection of the environment
- Environmental awareness by organizing tree planting campaign by planting trees, a green day to sensitize people on the need to keep their environment clean and green, use of bikes to reduce the emission of carbon monoxide and noise pollution from cars. Also sensitizing the community about eating the local food rather than exporting canned food to reduce the using big machinery and reducing air pollution.
- Institute national awards scheme to reward hardworking youth on environmental sustainability.
- Reformulation of laws to safeguard the environment
- Promote bio-fuels and work with rural areas by encouraging the cultivation of indigenous crops such as castor beans.
- Capacity building among organizations in environmental field.
- Increased international cooperation in environmental governance.
- Multi-Stakeholder involvement in natural resources management.
- Promotion of environmental culture in schools and universities.

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## 5. Youth Employment:

- There should be introduction of entrepreneurial courses to be offered in schools compulsorily and after which funds can be given to support their starting up.
- Create new jobs and focus on entrepreneurship education.
- Monitoring and evaluation to ensure focus on all the initiative taken.
- Youth empowerment and resource availability for youth equitably.
- To empower youths through targeted skill development, ICT training, certification, entrepreneurial development, vocational skills and together with other life skills which can make impact into the life hood of human life.
- More self help projects for the large number of unskilled and uneducated young people.
- Vocational and technical trainings should be given out to young people
- Create an Entrepreneurship Fund/Grant for youth to access to commence business or employment opportunities"
- Involving young people in employment policy formulation and implementation
- Technical entrepreneurship trainings for the youth in rural as well as urban areas
- Develop an African Agenda for Youth Employment with political to implement the recommendations

## 6. Governance and Corruption:

- In combating corruption, let a separate agency apart from the government be handling the matter with a separate account so as to track the amount recovered for the year
- Citizens' participation in every process of decision making.
- Continuous sensitization of people on all programs
- Strict policies to ensure public participation

- Sensitize people and push governance to take a new policy in the action to reduce the harsh consequences
- Equity in resource/ budgetary allocation.
- Youth & Women Participation
- Building governance structures, and building the capacity of youth to demand their right, monitor government budgets, and hold duty bearers to account.
- Making leaders accountable to their citizens and also ensure

all treaties signed by governments adhered to.
- Train the Youth on the use of Civil Society Monitoring (CSM) through Score Card to identify gaps and come up with issues for engagement with Policy Makers for their action.
- Ensure proper civic education is done at the grass root level
- Educate the public and increase their awareness level on their roles, rights and responsibilities as citizens

## 7. Gender Equality:
- Shunning harmful traditional practices
- Increasing funding to decentralize the implementation of policies related to gender equality
- To create contact talks, forums, public lectures, symposiums and workshops to change mindsets and to allow diversity in talents.

- Mentor younger counterparts in readiness for generational transitions
- Laws should be enacted which conform to gender equality penal codes should be amended to include laws against all kinds of discrimination and punishments for violation specified

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### 8. Peace and security:

- Promoting people's engagement in peace processes, through dialogue and supporting institutions responsible for maintaining peace and order"
- Disaster Risk Reduction through public awareness, mitigation and prevention measures
- Peace campaigns
- ensure equity in access to opportunities and equitable distribution of resources
- Strengthening institutions to address peace building issues
- More peace keeping missions to be put in place"

### 9. Global partnership:

- Joining together with the rest of the world to ensure that our problems are solved and the cooperation is enhanced. All are important irrespective of where you come from and have to play!
- Governments support implementation of MDG globally.
- Private and public sector partnerships in areas of social and economic development

## The Future I want for Africa:

- A just, equitable and free Africa.
- Solidarity of people working together for the development of the continent.
- A United States of Africa
- Peaceful and prosperous.
- Free-of-Aid
- Free from corruption where people are free from social injustices
- Continental GREATNESS which is not an option but a must
- An Africa united for a better and prosperous future
- A Green Africa.

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## Conclusion:

With the UN commitment to an open, transparent and participatory Post-2015, young people are waiting to see at what extent they will be engaged. Not only should young people be involved in framing the future development agenda, their voices should provide the needed illumination for development policy trajectories. The African Youth have expressed their views and provided concrete actions in this survey, but will their input be put into consideration and included in drafting the Country and Regional Positions on Post-2015 Agenda?

**To join and participate in the African Youth Working Group on Post-2015 Agenda, send us an email: africanyouth2015@gmail.com**

# Useful Resources:

UN Thematic consultations: **http://www.worldwewant2015.org/**

Beyond 2015: **http://www.beyond2015.org/**

Beyond 2015 Children and Youth Working Group, contact: **victoria@restlessdevelopment.org**

My World Survey**: http://www.myworld2015.org/**

Post MDG youth consultation toolkit: **http://www.restlessdevelopment.org/file/post-mdg-youth-consultation-toolkit-pdf**

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# List of Organizations that participated in the survey:

1. FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA
2. AYICC
3. Egerton University
4. Catholic Youth Organisation of Nigeria
5. Youth United for Social Mobilization
6. Mombasa Youth for Peace and Development
7. Youth Employment Service
8. A Better Community For All (ABC4All)
9. MISSION UGANDA YOUTH CLUB
10. UJDAN
11. OAYouth
12. Africa Youth Coalition Against Hunger Sierra Leone
13. Destiny Africa
14. NITED YOUTH FRONT INTERNATIONAL
15. VSO
16. Abiodun Adebayo Welfare Foundation
17. Youth and Disabled WASH Network of Liberia
18. Asunafo North Municipal Assembly
19. Pastoralist Youth Network Group
20. Conseil National de la Jeunesse du Sénégal
21. Young Professionnals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD)
22. Seed Institute
23. South African Council of Churches Youth Forum
24. OAYOUTH-TANZANIA
25. Right to Read
26. Strategic Youth Network for Development
27. Y's Youth Kenya District
28. Soyden
29. CUAB
30. WISDOM SPEAKS INITIATIVE
31. Global Young Greens
32. Kenya Young Greens-Kiambu County Chapter
33. FEMNET
34. YMCA
35. Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (YECE)
36. Eastleigh Reserach Network and Youth for social Mobilization
37. Youth Impact Organization of Nigeria

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38. BUSIA AMATEURS YOUTH GROUP
39. Tapera Industries
40. CLIMATE EMERGENCY INSTITUTE
41. Network for Youth Advocacy Kenya
42. Youth for Community Academic and DEvelopment Services (YOCADS)
43. EMERGING LEADERS FOUNDATION.
44. Association des Volontaires pour le developpement durable
45. Tipindule Community Youth Organisation
46. COMMUNITY AND FAMILY AID FOUNDATION-GHANA
47. Change Catalyst Initiatives
48. NYGCA and PAK-KENYA UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI CHAPTER
49. Ogun Youth Forum
50. Women in Alternative Action Cameroon
51. WSWM Youth Advocacy Network
52. West African Youth Center
53. Somaliland Youth community Association (SOYCA)
54. Arba Minch University
55. Kenya News Agency
56. Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights for Youths (SHARRY)
57. University of Gondar
58. Nkumba university
59. Entrepreneurship Initiative for African Youth (EIFAY)
60. Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society
61. Mazingira LTD
62. Malawi Human Rights Youth Network
63. EQUAL LIFE FOR AN INADVERTENT ENIRONMENT
64. Bright Generation Community Foundation

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