AFRICAN MONITOR

1st Floor Tokai-on-Main Office Complex 5 Main Road, Tokai 7945, Cape Town Tel: +27 21 713 2802 | Fax: +27 21 712 1082

Email: info@africanmonitor.org
Web: www.africanmonitor.org
Registration No: IT3633/2006

NPO No: 067-760 | PBO No: 930 023 184

Voice Africa's Future is an African Monitor Initiative



THE AFRICA WE WANT:

A YOUTH VISION FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA (draft for discussion)

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- We, members of the Voice Africa's Future campaign, having consulted with 77, 158
- 5 young people in Africa across ten countries, recognise the significance and
- 6 contribution of the Millennium Development Goals and various other development
- 7 programmes in changing the face of development in Africa in the last 15 years. We
- 8 further recognise and appreciate the opportunity presented to us by the global
- 9 development community and African governments, to inform and shape a new
- 10 development agenda to replace the MDG's.
- Our intention is to speak in one voice about the future we want to see as expressed
- during our consultations; taking those perspectives to member states who will
- decide on the post-2015 development compact.
- Our intention is to raise and reflect common concerns, challenges and aspirations of
- 15 young people across Africa. We participated in this campaign coming from Burkina
- 16 Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, Botswana, Malawi
- 17 and Tanzania.
- 18 We engaged in these extensive consultations with our constituencies for one
- 19 purpose only to understand what kind of future youth in Africa want. We are
- 20 motivated by the unshakable belief that our active participation our aspirations
- 21 and vision must shape Africa's development future. We are, after all, the majority
- of African citizens, making up over 60% of the population in Africa.
- 23 We share deep hope for a united Africa. A continent that owns its development
- 24 agenda, determining jointly with citizens, its own terms for political, social, cultural
- 25 and economic advancement. A continent that is proud of its African identity,
- 26 culture and value systems promoting dignity and human rights for all.
- 27 We are resolute in promoting a new African and global development agenda that
- 28 recognises our potential, capacity and commitment to advance development in
- 29 Africa. We are active agents in our own lives, well capable of making positive long-
- 30 term decisions that will promote personal, community and national growth and
- 31 development. We reject the notion that we should be at the mercy of
- 32 governments, businesses, and war-lords in order to secure our survival. We are ready
- 33 to claim the space and capacity for self-improvement and full participation in
- 34 economic, political and social activity. We are the next generation of leaders,
- 35 entrepreneurs and professionals.
- 36 We are excited about the future of Africa. We are excited about the future of Africa
- as we define it a future free from corruption, free from hunger and famine, free
- 38 from war, free from want.

Voice Africa's Future: The Africa We Want



- 39 Our vision for Africa is a self-reliant and independent Africa that prioritises taking
- 40 care of its people. An economically diverse Africa, whose economy creates equal
- 41 access and equal opportunity for all. We dream of an Africa whose people are
- 42 educated; and are able to maximise their potential through innovation and
- 43 enterprise. We envision an Africa that lives in peace and harmony a politically
- stable Africa with democracy being the foundation for governance.
- Our hopes for the post-2015 development agenda are high heightened by the
- 46 knowledge that we cannot go on as we are right now. Change is urgent and
- 47 necessary. Our freedom cannot be fully realised unless we are free from the
- 48 shackles of poverty and conflict. Poverty, economic exclusion, violence, war and
- 49 conflict must end in this generation.
- 50 This is an urgent call to the African Union Members States, the African Union
- 51 Commission, the United Nations and all its various structures working on post-2015,
- 52 global civil society and development partners to note these goals and targets, and
- integrate them into the post-2015 agenda.

1. THE OVER-ARCHING THEME: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

Over-arching Theme: Youth empowerment and participation in development

Our vision:

In 2030, all development stakeholders (African governments, development partners, African and global business, civil society and academia) recognise youth as agents and catalysts for development, enterprise, and progress in the social, economic and political sectors. Stakeholders actively create opportunities for youth to participate in all spheres. Youth are proactively engaging in economic, political and social sectors.

Our call:

Recognising that youth make up over 60% of the African population:

We urge that each goal adopted in the post-2015 development agenda has a youth specific target and related indicators to ensure that youth development is main-streamed in all aspects of the development agenda. Such mainstreamed goals should aim to increase capacity, create opportunity, and increase likelihood of youth to attain a decent life.

In the context of citizen participation for sustainable development:

We urge that the post-2015 development agenda recognise the need for youth participation in social, economic, political sectors, both as catalysts for development, and as critical agents to promote accountability and transparency.

In the context of the ongoing UN inter-governmental negotiation:

We call on African country delegations to the post 2015 inter-governmental process (UNGA 2014 and UNGA 2015) to include country-based youth representatives, whose role will be to ensure that youth development issues are mainstreamed across all goals and targets.

NB: Indicative goals and/or targets towards youth development have been mainstreamed in all themes of this document.



2. THEMES, GOALS AND TARGETS

Theme 1: Economic transformation, gainful employment and access to economic opportunities

Our Vision:

In 2030, African economies are able to provide gainful employment to the majority of Africa's youth; while some are thriving as business innovators and entrepreneurs; and the rest are thriving in the informal economy managing small income generating activities. Opportunities for economic participation have opened up substantially, through the provision of productive infrastructure, services, financing and ICT. African youth are able to access and own productive assets.

Substantial investment in Africa's labour intensive productive sectors, especially agriculture, infrastructure development, extractive sector and industry have led to substantial increases in employment; and have improved productivity, thus boosting Africa's economic growth. Wealth is better distributed between the poor and the wealthy, through transference in ownership of productive assets and through a redistributive taxation system.

Our Call:

We call for an increase in gainful youth employment, and access to economic opportunities as one of the goals of the post 2015 development agenda. Such employment and economic opportunities can only be created through substantial economic transformation; such that investment shifts towards labour intensive productive sectors like agriculture, infrastructure development, extractive sector and industry. National economic investment, donor investment and investment from business should align itself with these goals.

We call for substantive economic development, achieved through inclusive economic growth, industrialisation and technological advancement; infrastructural development; an enabling environment for investment, entrepreneurship and innovation; appropriate institutional settings to enhance development planning and economic management including national resource management.

Goal	Target
	Substantially increase sector productivity, focusing investment on labour intensive sectors
	Provide decent work for all, especially youth
	Ensure that there increased opportunities for
	entrepreneurs, including training, legal
Transform economies to become catalysts	support, financing, etc.
for inclusive growth; ensure gainful employment for youth; promote rural economies through agricultural investment; and increase economic opportunities for all.	Create mechanisms for citizens to own and
	attain access to productive assets, especially
	so for youth and women in rural areas
	Provide focussed support to the informal
	sector
	Improve/strengthen rural food production
	systems and increase productivity
	Ensure universal access to services and
	productive infrastructure (including ICT),
	especially in rural areas



Theme 2: Access to quality education, skills and technology

Our Vision:

In 2030, access to and successful completion of education, starting from early childhood education, through primary, secondary to tertiary education is a dream realised for all youth in Africa. Greater focus in secondary and tertiary education is placed on imparting skills that are relevant to the market and economies in Africa and the world. Vocational and technical education and skills development programmes take up a significant portion of public investment in education. Equitable access to education between boys and girls has been achieved. Governments, through schools and tertiary institutions, are successfully promoting the rise of an ICT generation, where the use of technology is improving educational outcomes and inspiring innovation among Africa's youth.

Our Call:

We call for a goal committing the global development community to 100% access to quality education at primary and secondary levels. Such a goal should, among other things target significant improvements in educational outcomes (numeracy, literacy, and skills). Technology adoption at the schooling and tertiary levels must be accelerated; and investment in vocational education, technical education and skills development should be substantially increased.

Goal	Target
	100% access to early childhood
	development for children under five
	100% access to quality education for children
	and youth in primary and secondary school
	0% dropout rate in primary and secondary
	school
Engure quality advantion and skills	Double enrolment to tertiary education
Ensure quality education and skills development for children and youth to achieve a decent life.	Double improvement in learning outcomes
	100% gender parity achieved
	Double investment in vocational and
	technical education, and skills development
	Foster the culture of entrepreneurship and
	innovation throughout the education system,
	starting at primary level
	Ensure that all youth transition effectively into
	the labour market

Theme 3: Better governance for sustainable development

Our Vision:

We envision democratic states based on a free and fair electoral system; a governance system that is participatory and responsive to the needs of citizens; with transparent and accountable government institutions led by a corruption-free political leadership, and where human rights, integrity and political freedoms are upheld.

Our Call:

Achieving good governance has to be one of the goals in the post-2015 development agenda, not just as an enabler but as an end to itself. In the absence of clear targets on



good governance, the sustainable development agenda stands the risk to be derailed by lack of leadership with integrity, lack of political will, lack of systems for accountability and transparency, and corruption.

We urge that the post-2015 development agenda recognise the need for youth participation as critical agents to promote accountability and transparency.

Goal	Target
Governments, development agencies and companies promote good governance; adopt governance systems that will enable effective implementation of the SDGs; and actively support and enable citizen and youth participation in monitoring delivery of commitments to achieve SDGs.	Democratic rule is achieved through free and fair elections
	Achieve 0% corruption in public service. Effective and autonomous institutions and systems to control corruption are in place
	Adequate domestic and international financing is made available for poverty eradication and other goals within the SDG's
	Commitment towards integrated reporting and measurement of SDGs
	Increase government and donor transparency and accountability
	Governments ensure citizen participation (including youth) in programme delivery and monitoring
	Donors spend at least 5% of all ODA allocations towards citizen participation, including the participation of youth
	Ensure at least 15% of youth representation in governance systems across local and national government, including parliament



Theme 4: Promote equal societies

Our Vision:

In 2030 income inequality, social exclusion and all forms of discrimination towards women, children, youth, aged, disabled, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups have been dramatically reduced in all nations.

Our Call:

The post-2015 development agenda must reflect a commitment to promote equal societies, and end discrimination and marginalisation of minorities and vulnerable groups including women, youth, children, disabled, elderly, migrants and the indigenous people.

Goal	Target
Achieve socio-economic equity, and end all forms of discrimination and marginalisation of vulnerable groups.	Reduce by half economic inequality between households
	Achieve gender parity in economic, social, and political spheres.
	Promote/achieve equity of access to public services, the justice system, political, social and economic participation across all
	groups

Theme 5: Peace and Stability

Our Vision:

By 2030 we envision a peaceful and stable Africa that is free from conflict and war; where fragile states are well on the road to recovery; crime is under control; and there is unity and harmonious co-existence among various social and religious groups. We dream of freedom from all forms of violence, especially violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups.

Our Call:

We call for peace and stability to be included as one of the goals in the post 2015 development agenda, with targets focusing on systemic causes of conflict.

Goal	Target
Promote peace and stability in all regions and countries; and bring an end to violence and conflict.	Support countries in conflict situations and fragile states to address structural challenges leading to conflict and war Strengthen international and regional systems for conflict prevention, management and resolution Prevent and eliminate violence against women and other vulnerable groups Achieve 100% elimination of violence against children and youth Eliminate the use of child soldiers in conflict situations



Theme 6: Access to quality health services

Our Vision:

In 2030 access to primary health care for all population groups and in all spatial areas is guaranteed; with a special focus on child and maternal health (access to reproductive health care and family planning). Health systems are strengthened; and the spread of epidemics (HIV, malaria, and TB) has been controlled.

Our Call:

We call for free access to primary health care as one of the goals of the post 2015 development agenda; and the eradication of Malaria, TB, and zero infection rate of HIV as targets.

Goal	Target
Goal Achieve health and wellbeing for all groups, especially children, youth, and women.	Ensure universal coverage of quality primary healthcare for all groups End the incidence of preventable death by eliminating child mortality, maternal mortality, and death through communicable diseases Eradicate malaria, reduce TB infections, and end the spread of HIV/AIDS Ensure improved access to information and
	services on sexual and reproductive health
	Promote healthy and holistic lifestyles among
	youth

Theme 7: End poverty, improve livelihoods, restore dignity:

Our Vision:

Our vision is a world without poverty; where households have access to sufficient food, clean water, sanitation facilities and housing. It includes efforts towards ensuring food security and food production with a special focus on smallholder agriculture.

Our Call:

We call for a commitment to eradicate poverty and eliminate hunger in one generation.



Goal	Target
End extreme poverty and hunger, improve livelihoods and restore dignity for all.	End extreme poverty (\$1.25) – 0% target on extreme poverty
	End hunger and achieve food security – 0% target on hunger
	80% social security coverage for vulnerable households by 2030
	Advanced response system for countries experiencing food shortages (famine, drought, flooding)
	Eliminate all slum dwellings
	Provide 100% coverage in social service delivery, including water and sanitation

Theme 8: Sustainability and conservation

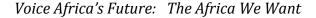
Our Vision:

In 2030 leaders of the world and Africa have agreed on the sustainable use of natural resources including fauna and flora, rivers and water sources, and mineral resources. They have committed to strengthen investment on afforestation, soil and water conversation and preservation of natural habitat. They have increased efforts in climate change mitigation, adopted green technologies and developed green energy sources.

Our Call:

Recognising the critical importance of conservation and the protection of the natural habitat, we call for a post-2015 development agenda whose goals, targets and indicators promote conservation, resource management, climate change mitigation, and adoption of green technologies.

Goal	Target
Bring to an end the disastrous effects of climate change by agreeing on a global system for the management and protection of natural resources; a system for mitigating against current damage; and a process for the adoption of greener approaches to development.	Ensure clean energy and improve energy efficiency Ensure climate change mitigation strategies and financing systems are in place, including rapid response systems Curb and better manage ecosystem
	degradation, insuring that there are penalties for the cost of pollution, cost of mining extractions, and other forms of degradation Ensure sustainable management of other
	natural resources, including land, minerals, water, forestry, and fisheries.





About the campaign:

The Voice Africa's Future campaign is an initiative of African Monitor. Core partners in the campaign are West Africa Youth Network (Burkina Faso), Inter-Faith Action for Peace in Africa (Uganda), GCAP (Zambia), ALDA, Africa Unite (South Africa), Youth Consultative Forum, Organisation for African Youth (Kenya), International Youth Organisation (Kenya), Youth Advocates (Ghana), Northern Youth Network, No One Left Behind (Tanzania), Talent Youth Association (Ethiopia).

The implementation of campaign activities was made possible through funding from UK Aid (DFID). Text To Change (TTC) facilitated all the mobile work.

To reach African Monitor, or to find out more about this campaign, contact:

Mr Yared Tsegay,
Senior Coordinator: Research and Advocacy
Tel: +27 21 713 2802
yared@africanmonitor.org

Mr Freddy Nkosi
Coordinator: Youth Development Programmes
Tel: +27 21 713 2802
freddy@africanmonitor.org



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CAMPAIGN PARTNERS:

























