



THE ALL AFRICA YOUTH CONGRESS 2022



GHANA DECLARATION

Preamble

The All-Africa Youth Congress (AAYC) convened at the Pentecost Convention Centre in Kasoa, Accra, Ghana, from the 31st of October to the 5th of November 2022. The congress brought together 926 young people (52% male & 48% female) from 40 African countries, 20 young people from the diaspora community, and people of African Descent aged between 15-35 years. The AAYC is a historical initiative of the All-Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) to facilitate a continental youth campaign on African patriotism under the slogan “Africa: My Home. My Future.” The slogan is meant to increase awareness of the tremendous potential and opportunities for young people in the continent, thus inspiring them to be patriotic and active citizens of their countries and Africa by utilizing their talents and gifts towards building an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful continent.

The event brought together young people, think tanks, academics, faith-based communities, civil society organizations, media, strategic partners, and governmental representatives to engage constructively, deeply reflect and broadly converse on pertinent issues for Africa’s socio-economic and political transformation. The main objective of the AAYC was to remind the youth of their roles and awaken them to the consciousness of the viable space for connectivity, fraternity, and solidarity toward addressing contemporary issues. The Congress was guided by four thematic areas that offer freshness to the slogan of the campaign, “Africa: My Home. My Future.” The themes are:

- 1. Africa Patriotism:** celebrating African heritage through arts and culture while embracing new technology to create opportunities for young people in Africa.
- 2. African Dignity:** The congress highlighted the need for African-led solutions to problems such as climate change, illegal migration, human trafficking, sexual and reproductive health issues, gender-based violence, and the debt crisis. The youths were encouraged to commit to and engage in fighting against injustices for a well-sustained development that would restore and maintain African dignity.
- 3. Advocating for Justice and Security:** Considering growing inequalities and instability in Africa, Congress highlighted the importance of preserving sovereignty and the rule of law, as well as youth advocacy for justice, security, and equity for economic opportunities.
- 4. Fostering Active Citizenship:** the need to embrace an informed dialogue on influencing policies relating to peace, democracy, elections, governance, human

rights, and the rule of law. The congress reminded the youths of the importance of their active participation and meaningful contribution to democratic processes.

We, the African young people gathered here in Accra, Ghana commit to:

1. Make conscious efforts to contribute to national growth and development positively
2. Engage our country's policies and frameworks to provide critical feedback and reviews necessary to engage duty bearers for accountable governance.
3. Get involved in peacebuilding and conflict transformation initiatives.
4. Promote, protect, and preserve Africa's rich arts, cultures, and history.
5. Use available platforms to advocate for justice, security, and good governance.
6. Campaign against all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.
7. Create a safe space and platforms for children
8. Sensitize and heighten the need for urgent and sustainable climate action to save our mother earth (the ecosystem) for our common good, where big pollutants are compelled to compensate for the destructions they have caused.

We call on the respective stakeholders to:

1. The AACC will continue supporting the youth congress platforms for meaningful youth engagements and participation every two years.
2. Financial institutions should continue expanding access to credit facilities and reducing interest rates for enterprising youth entrepreneurs.
3. The Development Organizations should enhance support for young people and youth organizations in the form of grants and scholarships.
4. The Faith Communities use prophetic voices and play mediation roles considering growing inequalities and instability in Africa.
5. Faith-based communities should use available technocrats and experts, partners, and within the churches to address key issues.
6. Faith-based communities should strengthen psycho-social support services and spaces within the church for young people.
7. The National Governments must commit resources to ending economic challenges and opening civic spaces for the expression of opinions.
8. The African governments should decolonize the education system.
9. African Governments should fulfill their mandates on ratified treaties and agreements to enhance Africa's integration and prosperity.
10. The National Governments prioritize domestic resource mobilization and ensure fair and just taxation systems.
11. The national governments should tackle illicit financial flows.
12. The African Union creates an enabling environment among African Countries through trans-trade and movement of people.

13. The African Union preserves peace, security, justice, the rule of law, and equitable opportunity for all African people.

We further call all the respective stakeholders to:

1. Continue and promote the period of the campaign on “Silencing the Guns” initiatives for lasting peace in Africa.
2. Expedite the robust response of young people’s sexual and reproductive health to ensure unlimited access to information and services.

We, the All-Africa Youth Congress participants, remind you to ensure the implementation of the above actions and calls. We recognize the inclusion of young people in every commitment towards building an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful continent.