

REPORT  
2022

# Continental Bootcamp

Youth inclusion in Social-Economic  
Development and Policy Formulation  
in Africa - focus on the AfCFTA



**MS TCDC**  
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**Danida Fellowship Centre**  
Sustaining development through research and learning

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



With financial support from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) and MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC) have entered a strategic partnership entitled “Together for Impact - Refresh and Expand.”

Together, through this partnership, the two institutions will jointly develop and host innovative and effective methodologies for transformative learning and to develop and implement a selected number of learning interventions aimed at securing the strongest possible impact. The collaboration will initially consist of three main pillars: 1) Learning for Change, 2) Youth Leadership for Change, and 3) Enablers for Change.

DFC offers a youth leadership training course that focuses on youth involvement in economic and political life. MS TCDC, through its Youth Leadership Program (YouLead) has a strong focus on youth leadership capacity development for increased participation of African youth in both the economic and democratic processes.

Against this background, DFC and MS TCDC organized the first Youth Leadership for Change Learning activity - "Youth inclusion in Social-Economic Development and Policy Formulation in Africa - focus on the AfCFTA."

Other technical partners for this continental bootcamp included AfCFTA Secretariat, the APRM Secretariat, the East African Community Secretariat, the East African Business Council and the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) which sponsored additional Tanzanian participants.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With more than 60% of its population between the ages of 15 and 35, Africa's youth population is possibly the greatest in the world (ILO,2020). These young people with great potential have become victims of the escalating instability and fragile economies on the Continent and are regrettably involved in damaging and unproductive activities. Nonetheless, a workable model to advance the cause of sustainable development in Africa would be if the huge potential of young people on the continent is properly capacitated and fully harnessed.

Youth, with their largest demographic, play a pivotal role in the development of Africa which is recognized by the Aspirations 1 and 6 of the Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU) that attempts to realize prosperity for the African people. The AU agenda 2063 envisions sustainable growth and a people's driven development characterized by youth and women-led interventions at the heart of programming.

Whereas the AU agenda emphasizes largely on the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the African Youth Charter on the other hand is a vital instrument founded to anchor the basic idea that Africa's greatest capital or resource lies in its youthful demographic which is an insurmountable workforce capable of overcoming the challenges that lie ahead in the economic and policy-making spaces.

The Pre-YouLead Africa Summit 2022 Continental Bootcamp on "Youth Inclusion and Socio-economic Development in Policy Formulation in Africa" was held between 5th - 9th December 2022, and it provided a window of opportunity for 45 young leaders and policy makers from around the continent to grasp and deepen their understanding of policy formulation processes, innovations in the future of work, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) , and mapping out spheres of influence for young people to lead.

The bootcamp was an intensive five day program to facilitate relevant policy makers to learn and discuss with young leaders on key issues that affect them, and how best to accelerate youth involvement.

Participants engaged in interactive activities to remap leadership for millennials, and the new tendencies affecting youth organisation and mobilisation. The discussions also delved into identifying scenarios of spaces where youth have power and influence, interventions within a democratic setting while underscoring the future of work and growth of enterprises under the African Continental Free Trade Area.

During the policy-making deliberation sessions, the participants were tasked to assess and evaluate the African Youth Charter on its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities as well as identifying the threats that have the potential of hindering the implementation of the charter so as to offer plausible recommendations to State Parties. In the closing sessions of the bootcamp, the facilitators guided the participants to draw action plans as part of their post-bootcamp agenda in their respective countries. At the heart of their post-bootcamp agenda, they proposed that AfCFTA and African Youth Charter would be brought to the public's attention through digital media, local radio and TV Stations. The bootcampers were equally committed to organise National Youth Conferences at Universities and youth-led spaces as well as establishment of women's desks in banks to provide financial support to youth organisations and young women.



# 19 COUNTRIES ATTENDING

## EAST AFRICA REGION

- Tanzania
- DRC
- Uganda
- South Sudan
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- Burundi

## WEST AFRICA REGION

- Ghana
- Cameroon
- Nigeria
- Burkina Faso
- Liberia
- Benin
- Gambia

## SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION

- Botswana
- South Africa
- Namibia
- Malawi
- Zambia

## Our Audience

**YOUTH:** On one hand equip youth with the knowledge of the AfCFTA and the tools they require to engage in AfCFTA and better their readiness to tap into the opportunities. Youth leaders will gain awareness and general understanding of the AfCFTA, how they stand to benefit from it, and how to best prepare themselves for maximum benefit. Youth will have the opportunity to network and interact with policy makers and fellow youth leaders.

**POLICY MAKERS:** On the other hand, policy makers will be equipped with tools and techniques on how to best work with youth in supporting their empowerment as well as supporting efforts in promoting an enabling environment for youth to influence, participate, and lead economic development processes in their respective countries. Policy makers will also jointly learn and discuss with youth leaders the key youth-related issues to be considered in the development and implementation of the AfCFTA, especially the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade that is currently being prepared for negotiation in 2023.

## The main objectives:

- 1** Strengthen the capacity of young people on effective engagement in socio-economic development and policymaking processes in their individual nations while giving them a chance to reflect on their own strengths and areas of improvement as Leaders
- 2** Facilitate relevant policy makers to learn and discuss with young leaders key issues and how to best increase youth involvement and promote an enabling environment for youth participation (special reference to the AfCFTA processes)
- 3** Make physical and online youth intercontinental spaces for knowledge and experience exchange

# Participant Expectations: Culture of Co-creation

- Strategically get involved in the public policy formulation process and ensure youth centred developments are integrated into the National Development Plans.
- *Experience other cultures, learn how other young leaders are working in their respective countries and also to work alongside policy makers.*
- *To learn more about youth involvement in policy making and how one can increase youth engagement in policy making and advocacy*
- *To have youth voices enlisted on the final submissions and report;*
- *To be able to come back to the bootcamp in the future and be a contributor*

- *To leave the program after the 5 days with a sense of achievement.*
- *To gain skills that drive and influence social and economic development in my industry*
- *To leave with an in-depth understanding of existing policies and/or future policies by the AfCFTA and their impact on cross border exchange of services within our continent.*

- *Insightful knowledge on business innovation ideas in relation to the Fourth Industrial revolution.*
- *To learn from different regional economic communities on how they are differently functioning in matters of cross border trade.*

**45 DELEGATES**  
**19 COUNTRIES**

**CO-CREATING YOUTH SPACES OF  
INFLUENCE**

# Meet our Young Leaders and Policy Makers

# YOUTH DELEGATES





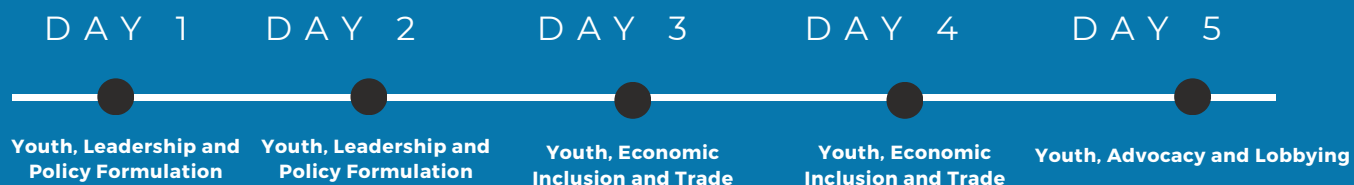
Meet our Young Leaders and Policy Makers

YOUTH DELEGATES



# CURRICULUM

The bootcamp brought together a diverse representation of forty-five (45) Young Leaders that lead in different areas in their own capacity including young business entrepreneurs running their own businesses and Policy Makers in different sectors from nineteen (19) African countries. The bootcamp was graced to have facilitators from different parts of the continent for inclusivity. The five day intense programme intended to achieve these following objectives.



**Goal:** Youth involvement and participation in the socio-economic development and policy formulation processes

**Session 1:** Exploring, Evaluating and Remapping leadership for millennials.

**Session 2:** Principles of Democratic youth organisation and New tendencies in youth mobilisation (gender and intersectional lens)

**Goal:** Youth involvement and participation in the socio-economic development and policy formulation processes

**Session 3:** The role of Youth involvement in Democratic processes, Political governance and Leading SDGs - (Re)establishing trust and a social contract between youth and public institutions

**Session 4:** Re-inventing leadership for Millennials

**Goal:** Youth, enterprise development and participation in AfCFTA

**Session 4:** The nature and future of work (how youth can prepare for new economic opportunities, in the fourth industrial revolution)

**Session 5:** The AfCFTA (Understand the objectives and principles underpinning the enactment of the AfCFTA, lend their voices to advocacy issues within the negotiations.)

**Goal:** Youth, enterprise development and participation in AfCFTA

**Session 6:** The AfCFTA Continued (Build upon the imperative of free trade and the benefits of intercontinental trade, appreciate the place and role of Africa's young citizens in the AfCFTA process, acquaint learners with the essence of Regional Economic Communities, exposure to opportunities for the private sector, entrepreneurs, and other players)

**Session 7:** The AfCFTA Continued (Highlight the role of Member/Partner States in ensuring successful implementation of the AfCFTA., examine benefit of regional integration to enhance foreign direct investment, trade facilitation)

**Goal:** Advocacy and Influencing - Mapping spheres and avenues for influencing policy making

**Session 8:** Advocacy and Influencing - Mapping spheres and avenues for youth influencing the AfCFTA, and the future of work.

**Session 9:** Advocacy and Influencing - Mapping spheres and avenues for youth leadership, and influencing policy making.

# Meet the Bootcamp faculty

## Cecilie Holdt Rude

Capacity Development  
Advisor, Danida Fellowship  
Centre



## Ivan Atuyambe

Head of Leadership and  
Governance Academy - MS TCDC



## Diana Ninsiima

Digital, Gender and  
Innovation Expert,  
Bootcamp Faculty Lead



## Stella Agata

Governance and Youth  
Development Specialist  
MS TCDC



## Gonaya Monei Sethora

Gender and Youth in Trade  
Expert, Africa Continental Free  
Trade Area (AfCFTA)  
Secretariat



## Alfred Opio

Entrepreneurship, and  
Design Thinking Expert.  
CEO, Kaino Africa



## Leah Nduati

*Pan-African Business and  
Innovation expert*



## Lennon Monyae

Continental Liaison Officer,  
Youth Participation in the  
African Union Peer Review  
Mechanism (APRM)



## Flavia Busingye

Customs Director, East Africa  
Community Secretariat



# Meet the Bootcamp youth-led team that co-created the report

## Mabile James Madiit

South Sudan



## Rebecca Meki

Kenya



## Braimah Ismail

Ghana



## Ragnimwend'e Eldaa KOAMA

Burkina Faso



## Josphat Njobvu

Zambia



## Youth, Leadership and Policy Formulation

The first and second day was centred on youth leadership and policy formulation process. The facilitators took the team through exploring, evaluating and remapping leadership for millennials, the principles of democratic youth organisations and the new tendencies in youth mobilisation while concentrating on gender and intersectional lens. The discussions revolved around identification of spaces of power for the youth while thematically focusing on democratic, political, economic and corporate governance and socio-economic development.

The youth undertook a privilege activity that sought to help in self identification and appreciate their spaces of power. Youth mapped the spaces where they have power and are able to exercise it more liberally - in these spaces they don't need to seek permission to exercise power. They also identified the spaces of power but no leadership, and spaces of no power and how they can break the existing barriers and maximize on the enablers.

The bootcampers got to define their Ideal leader and come up with traits they want to develop: **A visionary leader** who sets strategic goals, is proactive and adaptive to new challenges; **An innovative leader** who is a risk taker and problem solves using relevant context; **An empathetic leader**, inclusive in encouraging diversity and contributions in collative decision making; **A solution-oriented leader**, democratic, resilient, mobilizer and organizer.

## Youth, Economic Inclusion and Trade

The third and fourth day discussions revolved around the future of work, enterprise development and participation in Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA, is Africa's largest free trade area bringing together the 55 countries of the African Union (AU) and eight (8) Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The overall mandate of the AfCFTA, which is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, is to create a single continental market with a population of about 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP of approximately US\$ 3.4 trillion. It offers a biggest market to young business owners who were to access only local markets.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), will accelerate and liberate youth and women on the continent from their economic hardship and political struggles.

In a global environment marked by a rapid growth of use and the need for technological innovations in trading of goods and services, the future of work is likely to be impacted as well. The Smart Work of tomorrow will require inclusiveness of innovations and smart technologies such as Big data analytics, automation, industrial internet of things, cybersecurity, cloud computing, additive manufacturing, augmented reality. They are pillars of the fourth industrial revolution which offers new approaches to remote work leading to diverse and international job opportunities, new opened virtual markets for Entrepreneurs and widened networks around the world.

Going through the methodologies of Design Thinking, Mind Mapping and Business Modeling, trainers engaged the Bootcampers to come up with five (5) groups' Business ideas solving Africa's biggest problems. They had to be inclusive of the SDGs, AfCFTA scope of market and innovations propelled by the fourth industrial revolution, and using technology as an enabler and accelerator. Innovations that were created cut across sectors, including: Clean Water accessibility, Food Insecurity and Complexity of diverse platforms for Financial Transactions. These solutions were to be built on Scalable Business models to promote expansion and take advantage of the benefits offered by the AfCFTA and the African Youth Charter, enabling young people to start businesses, and use their networks to expand them.



MAPPING  
SPACES OF  
YOUTH  
INFLUENCING



*African youth make about 65% of the continent's population. However, there are also contexts in which young people are influential but not in charge. Population numbers, information availability, and National Youth Councils are a few of these.*

*They have control over ICT, the digital space, the creative arts, sports, and music industries. The participants were urged to take action, exercise their authority frequently, welcome other members of the youth to the course, and organise urgently and with agency in order to keep their power. In addition to having the obligation, millennials also have the right to recognize these positions of power and to align themselves accordingly. The following spaces are blueprints discussed to ensure that the youth are adequately guided on issues on leadership, policy making and socio-economic development.*

## MAPPING SPACES OF INFLUENCE

The bootcampers got to interact with the African Youth Charter that is guided by the constitutive act of the African Union and the state parties. The adoption of the (AYC) by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly held in Banjul, on 2nd July, 2006, ushered in a new era in the continent where the issues and problems of the youth are to take preeminence in our everyday discussion. The interactions with the Charter had the youth conversing on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Charter, how they can advocate for the agreement's recommendations to be incorporated into their own national plans and encourage drafting and implementation of their own national youth policies;

### Youth SWOT Analysis on the Youth Charter

## SPACE 1:

# AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER

#### Strengths

- Article (10) of the AYC promises and assures protection of everyone's socio-economical, cultural and political rights.
- In line with the realisation of SDGs and Agenda 2063, AYC article 14 and 15 promises poverty eradication & socio-economic integration of youth sustainable livelihood & gainful youth employment.

#### Weaknesses

- Article 21 is however not specific on what methods can be used to promote and protect youths in diaspora.
- The charter itself is Non-Mandatory in nature and also poses challenges of monitoring the implementation of the same charter

#### Opportunities

- The charter acts like a guiding framework for youth development policies. Potential to facilitate the harmonisation of resources and policies related to youth development, rights, and welfare.
- The charter promotes access to sports, cultural, educational and artistic opportunities for young people in (Article 22(1)(a) and advocates for investment in infrastructure specifically geared towards youth development.

#### Threats

- The youths identified the fact that youth sectors are always under funded and dependent on external funding as a threat to full implementation of the charter.

## After the youth interacted with the charter, they had an opportunity to propose a set of recommendations to make the charter more accommodative.

- The RECs Legislative Assemblies should provide specific leadership slots for the youth as per Article 11 on youth participation and guarantee the participation of the youth in parliament and other decision making bodies.
- Enact the adopted Political Confederation as a transitional model of EA Political federation
- Based on the Non Discrimination clause in Article 2 which provides that youths should not be discriminated against, the practice still exists in most African countries, the young leaders calls and recommends full implementation of the charter in all member states.
- The charter should be inclusive in addressing matters related to youth , women and persons who are differently abled.
- Based on the non-mandatory nature of the AYC there is a need to strengthen the reporting mechanism to help monitor implementation of the charter.





## MAPPING SPACES OF INFLUENCE

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Regarding the implementation of the AfCFTA, African youth have brought forward concerns related to unequal and uneven inclusion in the much broader mechanisms that are on the pipeline of realisation. While trade-related policies intend to increase trade among African countries to drive transformation and increase African prosperity, the inclusion of young people and women throughout Africa's fifty-four countries must be at the heart of the conversation. Additionally, youth are inquiring about hope, especially considering the current crises facing African development: unemployment, service mobility, and the digital divide.

There are further key reforms and concerns which youth foresee for a better implementation of the AfCFTA. These are anchored in issues related to peace and security, governance, and the role of political leadership in championing the success of the AfCFTA, and last but not least, youth's role in driving the implementation of the agreement.

Currently, African youth and women confront particular difficulties in intra-African and regional trade such as; Disproportionate ratio of male to female staffing at the immigration border points. Language barrier in trade protocols; exploitation related to gender; Limited access to finance and proper infrastructure.

## SPACE 2:

# AFRICA CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

However if awareness is increased on implementation, integration would increase incomes, create jobs, stimulate investment, and support the development of regional supply networks. Hence, Africa could see FDI increase under the AfCFTA.

The delegates were motivated to push and advocate for awareness of and implementation of the AfCFTA in their respective countries as a result of some of the challenges;



## MAPPING SPACES OF INFLUENCE

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The sessions were designed to promote social innovation in the continent by supporting young people to create solutions to address social problems within our African communities. The bootcampers were taken through proven business development concepts that combine global learning tools and practical knowledge sharing spaces to help them improve their ideas/solution to become market fit and meet the needs of the intended users.

Participants were equipped with hands-on training on how to design human centric solutions by using a human centered design approach all through the phase of creating a solution. The participants went through inspiration, brainstorming about the problem they are trying to solve, then utilized mind mapping and design questions to generate different possible solutions, of which they chose the best solution by adopting a synthesis process. Five business ideas were generated, and pitched during the graduation and completion of the bootcamp.

## SPACE 3:

# YOUTH SOCIAL INNOVATION



## 5 Business Ideas Generated

1

Ke-BRUMNS AGRO focuses on using AI-powered app to collect data from satellites in order to detect optimal time for planting and harvest and making the information available to farmers in their local languages. The easy-to-use ProdApp would enable farmers to correctly predict optimal times to plant, harvest and plan for unfavourable weather, thereby improving their productivity and increasing income.

2

MKULIMA SMART TECH which is an app to help farmers improve their agricultural practices and connect them to the market to avoid post harvest losses. The app has 2 profiles; one for the farmer to get guidance on soil testing and nutritional maps of results, irrigation requirements for various crops, crop disease and pest management and a link to vendors whereas the second profile is for vendors to be connected to farmers by searching for the required crops, the quantity and prices and the app also links vendors to various logistics options that would allow them to easily receive the ordered crops.

3

SMART WATER, a machine learning powered water testing solution to enable people to test their water to ensure it is safe for drinking. Poor sanitation and unclean drinking water over the past 100 years have claimed more lives than any other cause. About 3.5m people die of water related issues every year. This solution utilises the fourth industrial revolution's machine learning application and water test kits to inform water consumers if the water is safe to drink or not. The solution also aligns with the SDG 6 which is Clean Water and Sanitation.

4

AFRO CRYPTO, a solution that intends to solve the problem of high transactional charges caused by intermediaries thereby increasing the cost of doing business which hindered many youths from engaging in businesses that would improve their quality of life hence high poverty levels among youths and women in Africa. The innovation proposes to reduce the high cost of doing business by cutting Intermediary financial institutions and reduce delays in processing. This would be done by introducing a crypto coin also called ONE AFRICA, ONE KOIN. The crypto coin would be accessible to all Africans and payments faster & cheaper.

5

AGROMARK offers field-level data capture solutions for environmental assessments, inspection records and corrective actions. It proposes to build a data analytics system that can identify the areas of highest risk for pathogens such as listeria. The company also helps standardize safety programs across different physical locations with the intention to solve the problem of increased antimicrobial resistance within the food value chain, the excessive & improper use of chemicals and Pesticides in farm inputs.

# YOUTH COMMITMENTS:

## Here are the participants responses on the engagement in AfCFTA before and after the bootcamp

**73%** of youth said they have not been involved in any AfCFTA activities in their countries

**100%** of participants said they are interested in engaging their country (government, community and peers) in the fulfilment of youth inclusion the future of work, Trade, Innovation, ICTs and AfCFTA.



"I'll hold a youth forum in Nairobi to sensitise youth on the Africa Youth Charter. I will have an inclusive podcast conversation with some members from the bootcamp in a 5-part series - Diversity With Diana Podcast"

"I am part of the organizing committee of the National Youth Conference in The Gambia. It's a week long event where young people take part in different areas of development. This would be an avenue for me to engage young people with regards to the activities of this Bootcamp and the AfCFTA"

Working at TradeMark Africa, I will support my organization in championing appropriate national-level policies that allow access to regional supply chains, trade facilitation, financing as well as business and skills development for young entrepreneurs and youth-led Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in EAC. The skill-set is key for my career growth towards becoming an outstanding youth agent for TradeMark East Africa in the implementation of the East Africa Community (EAC) Integration and youth agenda.

Creating awareness among youth on the AfCFTA, support youth in producing competitive products , connect youth entrepreneurs TCCIA in support of acquiring the certificates of origin for those interested in exporting

# YOUTH COMMITMENTS:

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Organize events in my community to raise awareness about the importance of youth inclusion in the future of work. Connect with organizations that promote youth inclusion in the future of work. Promote education and skills development. Starting a business mentorship program, a co-working space and a venture capital fund to support young entrepreneurs.

I will start by meeting with the head of the National Youth Council and use that network to facilitate the flow of these policies and create considerable advertisement. My goal is to make every member of the youth council aware of these policies and go forward to implement it and demand for better youth inclusiveness in my country.

I am planning on undertaking awareness on the AFCFTA to policy makers in my country by simplifying it. My desired outcome is that policy makers will take it into account and streamline all policies with it.

I will work with ActionAid Liberia, AFCFTA, Federation of Liberian Youth, Liberian Student Union and the Mano River Youth Parliament - Liberia Chapter, in facilitating the enhanced use of ICT to support youth led social entrepreneurship in 5 communities in two rural counties in Liberia. From this Action, 20 young people will have access to a six months mentorship program that will enable them to advance that social enterprise.

I am very committed to training my fellow Youth about the African Youth Charter, AfCFTA and the way they can improve their leadership traits. I will start with University student leaders where I commit to train at least one University leader per month, with the aim of having at least 60% of the Rwandan Youth will be aware of the AYC & AfCFTA at the end of 2023.

# YOUTH, AND THEIR IDEAL ONE AFRICA:



The whole bootcamp was consummated by a graduation ceremony where the bootcampers gave a creative performance under the theme “The Africa We Want”. The play depicted various areas of concern that need interventions by African leaders ranging from harmonization of socio-cultural practises, realization of the 5th Agenda 2063 flagship project through monitoring progress of establishment and operationalisation of an African Human Security Index, the common African passport and free movement of people by removing restrictions on Africans ability to travel, work and live within their own continent.

The play portrayed the urge on implementation of the established African Free Trade area, realization of the Sustainable Development Goals as a continent by actualization of quality education, and affordable healthcare. The play also depicted other challenges that Africa is faced within the area of job creation, destitution and high unemployment levels. In spite of the fact that very few students graduate from universities they are not all absorbed in the job market, hence the need to change innovative education systems that teaches job creation as opposed to training for job placement education system reforms that are in tandem with an ever changing world of technology to deal with the skill mismatch.

The play further alluded to the fact that there was a need to break the colonial boundaries and make Africa one.

# OUTCOMES

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## **1 Youth equipped as ambassadors with a broad understanding of the AfCFTA and AYC**

The bootcampers vowed to create awareness in their areas of influence on the opportunities offered by the AfCFTA, and AYC, and agreed to maximise on the opportunities.

## **2 Action plans were developed for all the 19 African countries represented**

Delegates from all the African countries represented drew up actions to be taken post bootcamp in their respective countries for the purposes of popularisation of the AfCFTA and youth leadership spaces. The delegates were made to appreciate the policy engagement and formulation processes, and harness the same into their day to day activities in their respective countries.

## **3 Five new business ideas and innovations were created**

A cross section of bootcampers were treated to an intense learning experience that inspired tech innovation and solution oriented leadership and participation in social-economic activities within their communities. As a result bootcampers came up with practical tech innovation as a solution to the many socio-economic challenges most of the Africa countries are faced with.

## **4 Creation of regional youth spaces**

The bootcamp inspired the creation of youth spaces that would spur advocacy engagement and lobbying for the AFRICA-WE-WANT campaigns. The bootcampers were made to appreciate diversity and exchange of knowledge, experience and culture from the various region on the African continent for the purpose of economic collaboration and improved quality of life for the African youths

# RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a need to organise regional bootcamps to incorporate the aspect of local priorities, before yearly continental bootcamps.

To achieve full representation during the policy-formation process, the national constitutions should include clauses promoting youth inclusion and involvement in the legislative and executive branches.

Extend invitation to the Local government representatives and policy implementers to the bootcamp.

The bootcamp secretariat received a large number of applications (over 700) but only a few could be accommodated. A hybrid format of interaction to the bootcamp could reach more youth as well as increase the period of the bootcamp training.

Monitoring the delegates' compliance with the agreed-upon action plans will cement impact created throughout the year.







# CONCLUSION

It is a fact that the youth are not well represented in leadership and decision making processes for socio-economic development in Africa. The AYC and the AfCFTA are blueprints intended to provide necessary guidance for removal of barriers and inform the African youth on issues affecting age bias in leadership roles and trade protocols around African borders. Though there has been some progress on awareness creation on these two documents, it is imperative to acknowledge the information gap that requires much work to be done.

It is a shared responsibility to ensure that the policies enshrined in AYC and AfCFTA are properly disseminated to all of Africa's youth and to ensure that the youth are well represented in leadership and policy formulations. Stakeholders such as the Local governments, National Youth Councils, African Peer Review Mechanism, Regional Economic Communities, AfCFTA and youth influencers in the media spaces would be relevant to the realisation of these action plans.

The 4th Industrial Revolution is a tool that should be used to change the narrative on how we transact business and develop economic activities in Africa.

To ensure that the action plans are SMART, we need to be committed to putting in the work to ensure that by the next bootcamp we have measurable results. The end goal is thus to see a well represented African youth in leadership and policy making for socio economic development in Africa.



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