



EXECUTIVE REPORT: UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE, NEW YORK, USA, 2024

Preamble

The African Young Leaders Foundation (AYLF) had the privilege, through accreditation by the UN of attending the Summit of the Future (SOFT) in New York, USA. This pivotal event brought together world leaders, diplomats, young leaders, and prominent organizations to shape the future of global cooperation and sustainable development. Our participation provided valuable insights, networking opportunities, and reinforced the urgency of our work in empowering young African leaders. It was an intense four-day event with concurrent sessions ranging from the SOFT Action Days to the closing of the Summit thus, September 20th – 23rd, 2024 at the UN Headquarters.

The Summit served as a springboard to a more sustainable, peaceful and just future for all. It focused on the attention and action on creating a multilateral system that better reflects the geopolitical realities of the 21st century, one that is more just and one that is capable of responding to the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow.

Summit Insights

Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women

The initial day's sessions, "YouthLead: Gender Equality for Adolescent Girls and Young Women" and Inclusive Digital Future for All," were particularly impactful. The gender equality session emphasized the need for inclusive policies, education, and economic empowerment to uplift adolescent girls and young women. Our organization is committed to amplifying the voices of young women and girls, and this session reinforced the urgency of our work. These sessions resonate well with our TPPSP project against teenage and young mothers in Africa.

The AYLF Teenage Pregnancy Prevention and Support Program (AYLF TPPSP) aims in supporting teenage pregnant girls and young mothers in Africa, providing them with access to education, healthcare, and economic empowerment opportunities. The project seeks to reduce the stigma associated with teenage pregnancy, promote gender equality, and improve the overall well-being of young mothers and their children in Africa. The knowledge we gained at the summit directly aligns with the project and will make a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of young women and their children across the continent.



UN Summit of the Future Report



UN Summit of the Future Report

More so, as the world evolves, there is no way we can do away with digital know-how. The digital inclusivity session explored the critical issue of access to technology, promoting digital literacy, and addressing the digital divide which we consider as a very crucial area that is lacking much attending in Africa.

Interactive dialogues were also veered towards a common digital future aimed to strengthen inclusive innovation and cooperation to bridge the digital divides. The dialogues highlighted the importance of collaboration to ensure no one is left behind, especially in developing countries.

Dialogues cantered on “The Future Starts Now: Enhancing the Global System for Current and Future Generations”, focused on enhancing the global system to benefit both current and future generations. Throughout the Summit, world leaders emphasized the need for effective global cooperation, recognition of the immense benefits of digital technologies, and the importance of mitigating risks associated with them.

Multilateral Cooperation and Sustainable Development

The subsequent days' sessions focused on multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow. The "A Sustainable Future for All" session, convened by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), highlighted multi-stakeholder partnerships and key action areas for sustainable development. The "Multilateral Solutions" sessions emphasized global governance, peace, security, and collective action. The plenary sessions focused on multi-stakeholder partnerships and key action areas of sustainable development and financing for development that will deliver on the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and turbocharge progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, building from the SDG Summit.

Valuable Takeaways and Lessons

Our participation in the Summit yielded valuable takeaways which include but not limited to:

1. Amplifying youth voices and promoting inclusive policies are crucial for effective global cooperation.
2. Digital technology has immense potential to bridge gaps and foster global connections.
3. Collaborations and partnerships are essential for driving positive change.
4. Sustainable development and multilateral cooperation require collective action.



Benefits to AYLF and Africa

The Summit's outcomes will greatly benefit AYLF and Africa in several ways thus:

1. Informing program development to address pressing issues affecting young Africans.
2. Networking opportunities with like-minded organizations, governments, and stakeholders.
3. Enhanced global cooperation and recognition of the importance of youth empowerment.

Aftermath of the Summit

AYLF will integrate Summit outcomes into its programs, focusing on:

1. Youth empowerment through inclusive policies and amplifying youth voices.
2. Digital inclusivity initiatives to address the digital divide and promote digital literacy.
3. Supporting multi-stakeholder partnerships and sustainable development initiatives.

Drawing the curtains

The UN Summit of the Future marked a significant step towards a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable future. AYLF is committed to leveraging these outcomes to drive positive change for young African leaders. Our participation reinforced the urgency of our work and provided valuable opportunities for growth, collaboration, and impact.

Exhortation

1. Integrating Summit outcomes into AYLF's strategic plan.
2. Strengthening partnerships with UN agencies, governments, and like-minded organizations.
3. Amplifying youth voices through advocacy and program development.

Issued and approved,
Officials in Attendance,
African Young Leaders Foundation - AYLF