



MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

Creating the Africa We Want: A Message from Young African Leaders

Preamble: With the passion and commitment to transform our communities, the Mandela Washington Fellows, 500 young African leaders representing youth from throughout the African continent, recognize this moment as a historic opportunity to invest in Africa's future. As young leaders and professionals who love and want to serve our communities, we recommend that collectively African leaders, U.S. leaders, and youth:

Investing in the Future

- Commit to reducing unemployment in Africa through supporting entrepreneurship education, funding business start-ups in Africa, and providing incentives for the growth and development of African enterprises.
- De-stigmatize and incorporate entrepreneurial skills development as a core component of vocational education.
- Commit 2% of country GDP to create employment opportunities and to provide private sector incentives for youth employment.
- Set up and effectively implement systems to partner with youth and youth-oriented organisations and projects to facilitate increased skill-building, informal, formal, and special needs education.
- Promote entrepreneurship and job creation amongst youth through innovation hubs.
- Engage youth and provide access to funding, opportunity, and mobility as well as to invest in infrastructure, telecommunication, ITC, and human capital to encourage an environment for a positive development to thrive.

Peace and Regional Security Issues

- Prioritize education for all and economic growth programs in Africa as a way to reduce political upheaval, social unrest, and conflict.

- Invest political will in the collaborative implementation of agreements and mechanisms on peace and regional security. We further recommend that the African Union hold African States accountable to their upholding of peace and regional security.
- Address the root causes of separatism and insurgencies which include inequitable distribution of wealth, high rates of youth unemployment and illicit flow of conflict minerals and guns in order to promote self-determination and non-violent means of expressing grievances.
- Improve the enforcement of existing measures, standards, and protocols for the management of mineral resources and draft an African Convention on ethical business and government practices in the extraction and processing of mineral resources on the African continent.
- Treat idleness and unemployment amongst the youth as a crisis that needs to be urgently addressed in order to ensure peace and regional security in Africa, and improve the continental business environment by revising policies to support trade.
- Make it a priority to be united in purpose; engage youth to participate in the African States' pre-established commitments to institutions and policies that address terrorism, injustice, and border insecurity across the continent.
- Address growing inequalities; support the elimination of political and economic exclusion of young people and minority groups on the continent by working with these groups in proactively addressing conflict.

Governance and Citizen Participation Issues

- Commit to, invest in, and account for proactive inclusion of youth in key leadership positions across all levels of governance.
- Be transparent and accountable to the people by creating a conducive environment for civic engagement, developing and enforcing laws on corruption, and respecting executive term limits.
- Adopt policies that ensure youth inclusion in governance and business, employ transparency at all levels of government procurement processes, and invest in modern technology that will provide access to information and opportunities for youth.
- Adopt more collaborative governance structures that allow participation of civil society organisations in policy making, and create a Youth Department within the AU to promote transparency and youth participation in decision making.
- Lead by example and work with high levels of efficacy to promote the reorientation of existing ethics and value systems to meet the desire for growth and development within the entire African community.

- Improve transparency and accountability through civic education and partnerships with the media and community based organisations to enable citizen participation in governance.
- Effect mechanisms and tools that actively engage the youth in decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, by fast domestic implementation of the African Youth Charter. We further recommend that all parties collaborate with stakeholders to ensure implementation tracking, monitoring, and meaningful participation of youth in governance.