

GUINEA 2025

**REGIONAL  
FORUM**  
of Youth Advisory  
Panels (YAPs)

# Conakry Declaration



**Role of youth in  
the sustainable  
development  
process:  
Participation,  
challenges and  
perspectives.**

**July 2025**



**Until we are all equal**



# Preamble

We, young leaders, activists, entrepreneurs, students, professionals and youth representatives from 15 West and Central African countries, gathered within the framework of the **Regional Forum of Youth Advisory Panels (YAPs)** organized by Plan International WACA, exchanged, debated and reflected together on the theme **"Role of youth in the sustainable development process: Participation, challenges and perspectives"**.

Aware of our central role in the transformation of our societies, and deeply attached to the values of social justice, peace, sustainability, intergenerational equity, inclusion and pan-African solidarity,

Driven by a common desire to build a future where every young African, regardless of gender, social

status or mobility, can flourish, undertake, create and participate fully in the life of their community.

Outraged by the persistence of obstacles to our development: poverty, unemployment, political under-representation, insecurity, educational inequalities, gender-based violence, climate crises, etc.

And convinced that sustainable development cannot be achieved without young people, nor against them, but with them and through them,

We are making public this declaration, the result of our collective consultations, and are addressing the following recommendations to governments, international institutions and civil society organizations:

## Axis 01 Security



- ✓ Establish permanent frameworks for dialogue between young people, civilians and defense and security forces, to build mutual trust and shared security;
- ✓ Include education for citizenship, peace and social cohesion in educational programs through compulsory annual modules;
- ✓ Strengthen road and digital safety education to prevent accidents, scams and cybercrime among young people;
- ✓ Give priority support to young people's initiatives promoting peace and social cohesion.

## Axis 02 Governance



- ✓ Establish effective and binding participation of young people in governance by setting the rate of representation of young people in all decision-making bodies, at local, national, and regional levels, to at least 30%;
- ✓ Create and strengthen spaces for dialogue between young people and institutions, and guarantee young people the right to review public policies that concern them.

## Axis 03 Regional integration



- ✓ We call on diplomatic institutions to make their visa policies more flexible for young people taking part in official international youth events, by giving weight to the guarantees provided by the organisations and institutions sponsoring them;
- ✓ Ease customs and border restrictions, particularly within the framework of the AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area), to stimulate cross-border youth entrepreneurship and facilitate economic cooperation between young people from countries in the region.

## Axis 04 Education and training



- ✓ Reform the education system through a regional organic law that adapts teaching and learning content and methods to economic and social realities, in line with the workforce needs required for the development of our continent;
- ✓ Significantly increase national budgets allocated to education and to the ministries responsible for the advancement of women, children and vulnerable persons, while ensuring their equitable and transparent use;
- ✓ Include all social groups, particularly persons with disabilities, in policies for access to schools, universities, and professional infrastructure;
- ✓ Integrate comprehensive sexuality education into primary and secondary school curricula;
- ✓ Strengthen access to vocational and skills training for young people, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas;
- ✓ Integrate entrepreneurship and financial education courses into educational programmes, starting in primary school, to develop a spirit of initiative from an early age.

## Axis 05 Employment and Entrepreneurship



- ✓ Facilitate young people's access to support funds for small and medium-sized enterprises through transparent, decentralized, and flexible mechanisms;
- ✓ Reduce taxes and duties for young local entrepreneurs and simplify the procedures for formalizing their economic activities;
- ✓ Reduce excessive professional experience requirements, particularly for certain positions requiring up to 7 years of experience with a master's degree, in order to facilitate young people's access to employment opportunities.

## Axis 06 Health



- ✓ Exempt menstrual health products from taxes to ensure girls' and women's access to dignified and equitable menstrual health;
- ✓ Popularize information on mental health and set up accessible, youth-friendly support services in schools and community health centers;
- ✓ Take strong measures to ensure the rigorous enforcement of policies and legislation aimed at eliminating female genital mutilation, early marriage, teenage pregnancy and other harmful and degrading cultural practices;
- ✓ Prioritise the country's healthcare system to ensure a healthy life for children, adolescents, pregnant women, young people, persons with disabilities, and all persons living in or visiting the country.

## Axis 07 Environment and sustainable development



- ✓ Include environmental and sustainable development education in official curricula, starting in primary school;
- ✓ Support ecological initiatives led by young people: sustainable agriculture, reforestation, recycling, renewable energies;
- ✓ Encourage the creation of green spaces in urban and rural areas by involving young people in their design, management, and animation;
- ✓ Promote companies that champion recycling and the use of renewable energy and eco-friendly materials.

## Axis 08 Our commitments



We are committed to:

1. Promoting peace, tolerance, and intercultural dialogue in our communities;
2. Actively participate in civic and political life through local and national initiatives;
3. Create and seek funding for entrepreneurial and social innovation projects that benefit populations, especially children, women, and people living with disabilities;
4. Encourage environmentally friendly practices and combat climate change through awareness creation;
5. Defending gender equality, equity, inclusion, and the fundamental rights of all young people through sensitization of social media;
6. Reinforce the good collaborate with governments, international institutions, civil society and the private sector for better inclusion of young people in development policies;
7. Raise awareness on non-violence, on getting civil status documents, and support young people, especially girls in the most remote areas;
8. Take an interest in public actions and policies, and contribute to the scaling up of development actions;
9. To continuously add value to ourselves by pursuing higher education, taking advantage of scholarship opportunities, capacity-building workshops, forums, and mentorship;
10. To popularize the major conclusions from this forum among other young people in our different countries, especially those in rural areas.



# Conclusion

We, the youth of West and Central Africa, reaffirm our determination to be agents of change, peacebuilders, social innovators, and leaders of sustainable development on the continent.

We urgently call on States, regional institutions, the African Union, technical and financial

partners, and civil society to take these recommendations into account and to take concrete action to sustainably integrate young people into decision-making processes and transformational actions.

**Our commitment is total, our voice is strong, our future is now.**

Done in Conakry, May 30, 2025

**Signed:** The youth of West and Central Africa

(List of countries represented in the appendix)

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo

