

NATIONAL FORUM ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 20 – 22, 2024, JNICC – DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

Theme:

YOUTH TAKING ACTIONS CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF PEACE IN TANZANIA



SUMMARY OF RAISED ISSUES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The International Day of Peace is celebrated all over the world every year on September 21. The day was established in 1981 by resolution 36/67 of the United Nations General Assembly to promote the values of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. In-line with the International Day of Peace 2024, more than 700 young people from various regions of Tanzania Mainland and the Islands, at our discretion, have met at the National Forum on Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, from 20th - 22nd, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Julius Nyerere International Forum Centre – JNICC, Dar es Salaam, under the THEME: "YOUTH TAKING ACTIONS PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE IN TANZANIA." The forum aimed at promoting youth engagement and participation in Tanzania's peace agenda for sustainable development. The themes discussed at the forum are:

- 1. Youth, Peace and Security in the Digital Era;*
- 2. Peaceful Participation of Youth in Leadership and Decision-Making Processes;*
- 3. Youth Economic Empowerment for Peace and Development;*
- 4. Building Youth Resilience to Global Security Challenges.*

The forum was organized under the Joint Committee of Youth4PeaceAgenda hosted by The African Leadership Initiatives for Impact (A.L.I.I) in collaboration with the Centre for Youth Dialogue (CYD), Tanzania Peacekeeping Training Centre (TPTC), GIZ Tanzania, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Save The Children, Women Empowerment Zanzibar (WEZA), WeWorld, Kilimanjaro Dialogue Institute (KDI), Tanzania Scouts Association (TSA), Caliber Media, Youth of United Nations Association of Tanzania (YUNA Tanzania), Ladies Joint Forum (LJF), Youth Partnership Countrywide (YPC), United Nations Association (UNA) and JK Protocol Events. The Joint Committee has worked to organize this forum in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities as well as the Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports of Zanzibar. This historic forum is the culmination of series of pre-activities called Youth4PeaceCaravan conducted by coordination of A.L.I.I. with committee stakeholders, reaching youth in Tanga, Urban-West Region Zanzibar, Pwani and Lindi regions, where more than 10,000 youth have been reached through school educational outreaches, youth4peace dialogues and youth4peace fun runs.

The National Forum on Youth, Peace and Security Agenda has been opened on Sept. 20, 2024 by Hon. Doto Mashaka Biteko (MP) – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy (on behalf of H.E Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania); included a Peace Walk which was on Sept. 21, 2024 led by Hon. Tabia Maulid Mwita – Minister of Information, Youth, Culture and Sport in Zanzibar and finally closed on Sept. 22, 2024 by Hon. Ridhiwani Jakaya Kikwete (MP) - Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Youth Labour, Employment and Persons with Disabilities (on behalf of the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania). This summary contains the raised issues, the recommendations made by the youth as well as the resolutions of the forum

SECTION 2: RAISED ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED

MAIN FOCUS AREA: GENERAL ISSUES OF THE MAIN THEME

No.	Raised Issues	Recommendations Provided	Targeted Actor.
1.	The lack of specific guiding framework coordinating interventions of peace and security for youth of Tanzania undermines and detracts from the proper direction of the efforts of peace and security sector stakeholders in the country.	i. The government should work with various stakeholders to establish a National Action Plan of Youth, Peace and Security Agenda through an inclusive and participatory approach, to facilitate setting of priorities and guiding frameworks of interventions in peace and security.	Prime Minister's Office – YLED Ministry of Home Affairs
2.	The lack of adequate education of young people on the importance of maintaining peace and security, avoiding conflict and maintaining unity and solidarity has led to an increase in youth involvement (influentially) in the most frequently reported crime incidences in the country.	ii. The government should ensure that peacebuilding education is integrated in primary and secondary education curriculums to build the character of peace-loving youth, refrain from acts of violence and take steps to maintain a culture of peace in Tanzania. This includes establishing peace clubs at all levels of education in the country.	Prime Minister's Office – YLED; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Education and Training-Zanzibar
3.	The 1995-2025 development vision did not address the issue of Youth, Peace and Security agenda, something which made the country lack the right strategies to build resilience and capacity for youth to address peacefully the social-economic challenges at national and international levels.	iii. In the National Development Vision 2025-2050, the Youth, Peace and Security agenda should be included, to enable our country to set relevant action strategies, prepare young people against the daily challenges of world peace, while maintaining the unity and solidarity of our nation.	National Planning Commission

THEMATIC AREA 1: YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE DIGITAL ERA

No.	Raised Issues	Recommendations provided	Targeted Actor
4.	The growth of globalization and technology poses a threat of emergence of unfriendly content (especially in television programs and the frequent social media ads) that distort the good Tanzanian culture. This unregulated content is dangerous for young people and children who are major users of technology and the hope of the future of the nation.	iv. The government through its authorities should step up efforts to ensure the content provided to the community, especially through the media, is in line with our Tanzanian culture. In addition, controls should be increased to protect the Tanzanian child from harmful content that is not compatible with Tanzanian culture that is being broadcast on social media or mainstream medias.	Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority - TCRA
5.	There has been an increase in cybercrime incidences including hacking, cyber threats and cyber theft, which contributes to the instability and fear of security for digital applications users in the country.	v. There should be a strong strategy for regular education on the proper use of social media, including how to be safe online against cyber threats such as hacking, so that to protect users.	Tanzania Communications Authority (TCRA); Ministry of Information,

		vi. The Government should see the importance of increasing online safety content in one of the mandatory subjects in the education curriculum so that young people learn safe digital use from early stages of life.	Communications and Information Technology; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.
6.	There has been an increase in misinformation and hate speech online which has a negative impact on society, causing tension, creating hostility towards various groups and leading to potential of violence in the future	vii. Without compromising on freedom of speech and freedom of expression which is constitutionally granted, the Government through its authorities should step up efforts to enforce cybercrime laws to stop the practice of misinformation and hate speech in order to safeguard national peace and unity. viii. Public education should be provided to young people about the proper use of technology and networks, including disseminating information they are sure of, as well as supporting them with methods to verify the accuracy of information online so as avoiding being part of the distortion.	TCRA, Ministry of Home Affairs. TCRA, Civil Societies.
7.	There has been an increase in abuse, sexual harassment and online violence where young men and women are frequent victims.	ix. Education should be provided to social media users about the proper methods and where they can report and be supported when they experience the challenges of harassment and online violence. x. Strict legal action should be taken on reported acts of online violence, harassments or abuse to stop repeated behaviour.	Ministries of Community Development Civil Societies TCRA; Tanzania Police Force

THEMATIC AREA 2: PEACEFUL PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

No.	Raised Issues	Recommendations provided	Targeted Actor
8.	The absence of the National Youth Council in Tanzania (Mainland) has made young people to lack platforms to meet, discuss their challenges, set their priorities and participate in the development of our country.	xi. The government, through the Prime Minister's Office – YLED, should step up efforts to accelerate the formulation of the National Youth Council in accordance with the National Youth Council Act No. 12 of 2015 and the Youth Development Policy of 2007 as indicated in the 2024 Edition.	Prime Minister's Office – YLED
9.	Despite the efforts made by the President of Tanzania and the President of Zanzibar to ensure that young people under the age of 35 participate in our country's leadership positions, the number of young people in	xii. Apart from the goodwill and personal efforts of the President of Tanzania and the President of Zanzibar to put youth at the decision table, there should be a special legal minimum quota, in accordance to the constitution and according	Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

	leadership and decision-making bodies in the country, including councils, The Parliament, House of Representatives, and government institutions, is low compared to the actual proportion of youth in the country according to the 2022 National Population and Housing Census.	to the laws, which will clearly state the number or percentage of under-35s who should be present in all the decision-making bodies in the country at all times. This will help to keep young people sustainably engaged in decision-making; will build a good system of intergenerational information transfer among leaders; and it will build our country a great treasure trove of leaders in the future.	Parliamentary Committee of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee of Constitutional and Legal Affairs of House of Representatives.
10.	There is little motivation for young people to participate in decision-making processes including running, registering and voting. However, awareness is high for young people to participate in campaign events as supporters and followers, while sometimes youth are politically active in acts of violence during elections.	iii. Civic education should be provided to the youth before, during and after the election on the importance of young people coming forward to participate in our country's decision-making processes, not just as partisans, but as voters who decide the future of their society's development and candidates who set a desire to lead their communities. This education should also involve patriotism for our nation, loving peace and avoiding acts of violence during elections.	Independent National Election Commission (INEC) Zanzibar Election Commission (ZEC) Civil Societies
11.	There is a constitutional restriction on youth participation in decision-making processes, whereby, in accordance with the 1977 Constitution of Tanzania, Article 5(1) gives the right of 18-20 year olds to vote to elect leaders of all levels and has deprived them of the right to contest decision-making positions at any level. On the other hand, Article 39(1)b of the Tanzanian constitution does not allow all young people in the country to compete for the highest office of the country without reaching 40 years of age.	iv. In order to ensure that the group of interested and under-35 youth is actively involved in the decision-making processes in our country, when the amendment of the Constitution of Tanzania will be made, young people aged 18, 19 and 20 should be allowed to run for office (so that there is no obstacle), while the age of the presidency should be reduced from 40 years to 35 years, so that young people of that age to have the opportunity to run for the position. This will help young people to be peaceful, leave the perception of being excluded, and will also help give young people an opportunity to prepare in advance to lead their communities knowing that the constitution is not a limit.	Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs. Parliamentary Committee of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee of Constitutional and Legal Affairs of House of Representatives.
12.	There is a lack of formal systems to prepare young people to lead their communities (outside of political party systems), which makes young people, especially those who are not in political parties, to lack leadership skills, accurate information on their country's development, and proper mentorships to live and prepare to lead future social and	xv. The government in partnership with development partners should see the importance of developing leadership programs of national scale in which young people can participate at different ages, receive training, mentorships, capacity building and good guidance, to build a treasury of able, patriotic, knowledgeable and informed youth, and well-	Prime Minister's Office – YLED Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports –SMZ

	economic development efforts of the nation. This challenge is affecting even the few young people who get the opportunity to lead our communities to underperform because they were not well prepared.	prepared to lead their communities in the private sector and public sector at the national and international level.	The African Leadership Initiatives for Impact – A.L.I.I;
THEMATIC AREA 3: YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT			
<i>No.</i>	<i>Raised Issues</i>	<i>Recommendations provided</i>	<i>Targeted Actor</i>
13.	The challenge of youth unemployment facing our country and the world at large is forcing young people to be self-employed. However, access to finance for capital to enable them to start businesses and other income-generating activities is a major obstacle for young people, leading some to engage in violence and illegal means of income generation.	<p>xvi. Government to continue to expand the employment base and while prioritizing youth, to reduce the employment challenge. This includes finding other ways to diversify the economy and create more jobs.</p> <p>xvii. Government to speed up the process of youth loans at council level to ensure young people have access to capital to set up and run entrepreneurial activities.</p> <p>xviii. The government should work with financial institutions to put in place a good mechanism to prioritise access to affordable loans for young people so that they can undertake income-based projects. This includes reducing complicated terms such as having non-movable/fixed bonds that many young people don't have.</p>	<p>Prime Minister's Office – YLED</p> <p>Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports - Zanzibar</p> <p>Ministry of Finance</p>
14.	Many young people are aware of the challenge of unemployment and have the will and the courage to undertake various economic activities. However, they still face the challenge of lacking the skills of entrepreneurship, financial literacy and investment which is holding back their efforts. This is due to the education they receive in learning institutions does not prepare them to be self-employed.	<p>xix. Entrepreneurship, financial literacy and investment skills should be provided at all levels of education to prepare Tanzanian youth to become self-employed once they have completed school.</p> <p>xx. We propose a mandatory volunteering service, professional mentorships, and exchange programs at home and abroad. There should also be a formal system for students from universities and mediums to provide community service while building experience in the professions they studied to gain the skills needed by the labour market.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Science and Technology;</p> <p>Prime Minister's Office – YLED</p> <p>Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports - Zanzibar.</p>
15.	The rapid growth of the betting games business in the country has made young people motivated to use shortcuts means to get income. This is increasing the number of young people who are disengaged, dependent on high results without working and who are involved in crime.	<p>xxi. The Forum recommends that the Government should conduct a comprehensive review of the short-term and long-term impacts of sports betting on a perspective of peace and security, and take immediate actions possible to safeguard the prosperity of the Nation of today and the Nation of tomorrow.</p>	<p>Prime Minister's Office – YLED</p> <p>Ministry of Home Affairs</p>

16.	Young people lack the awareness and knowledge to use their talents to earn income and get rid of poverty, due to the low society emphasis and lack of robust and effective youth talents development plans of the country.	xxii. Governments, the private sector, NGOs should invest in developing the talents and innovations of young people by facilitating, nurturing, and connecting them to investor opportunities so that they can grow and create jobs opportunities.	Prime Ministers Office - YLED Civil Societies
THEMATIC AREA 4: BUILDING YOUTH RESILIENCE TO GLOBAL SECURITY CHALLENGES			
<i>No.</i>	<i>Raised Issues</i>	<i>Recommendations provided</i>	<i>Targeted Actor</i>
17.	Despite its importance, education on the early warning of security threats, the cause and impact of conflicts and global security challenges is not provided to young people, which makes young people a frequent target (especially in urban areas and peripheral regions), to be influenced and recruited by international criminal and violence groups.	<p>iii. To build youth resilience, education on the challenges of world peace, including human trafficking, drug trafficking, extremism and terrorism, should be provided to young people so that they know how to protect themselves and avoid being victims of these challenges while protecting the peace and security of their communities by reporting indicators of violence.</p> <p>xiv. The government should set up a special system to enable young people to verify the legitimacy of international opportunities they receive through social media (work or scholarships or international forums) to eliminate the possibility of those young people finding themselves in the hands of criminal groups.</p>	<p>Prime Minister's Office – YLED</p> <p>Ministry of Home affairs.</p> <p>Prime Minister's Office – YLED</p> <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation. .</p>
18.	There is a poor participation of youth in the processes of mediation, dispute resolution, reconciliation and the handling of national, regional and international peace challenges, which leads to youth lacking experience, lack of information and knowledge to tackle peace and security challenges.	xv. The government should ensure that young people are involved in all processes involving arbitration, dispute resolution and reconciliation from the grassroots to the national and international levels, to build a sufficient repository of young people who recognize the history of such conflicts and how they have been dealt with to avoid doing things that will re-ignite conflict in the future.	<p>Prime Minister's Office – YLED</p> <p>Ministry of Home Affairs</p>
19.	There is a lack of community responsibility and accountability of parenting and upbringing of children and young people, which leads parents and community members to be unaware of what activities are the young people and children involved in and how those activities contribute to the maintenance or breach of peace, before the effects of the destruction. This challenge leads to an increase in children and young people engaging in dangerous activities including alcoholism, drug abuse and crime without their communities' knowledge.	xvi. There should be community sensitization on collective parenting of children and young people to protect values and avoid the possibility of young people engaging in harmful behavior, including engaging to violence groups.	Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups; Ministries of Community Development, Gender, Women and Children (SMZ); Civil Societies

SECTION 3: GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

1. The young people who participated in this forum, we unanimously resolved to congratulate H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Zanzibar for the great work they are doing to maintain the peace and security of our country. We also pledge to continue to provide them with cooperation so that our country can continue to be an island of peace and security and a role model for the world.
2. Young people convened at this forum, will continue to take deliberate steps to maintain a culture of peace in Tanzania, including educating our fellow youth to recognize their role in maintaining peace and development of our country;
3. We will continue to come out in large numbers to participate peacefully in the decision-making processes of our country to ensure we determine the future of the development of our communities and the nation as a whole;
4. Young people are determined that the responsibility for maintaining peace and security of our country is ours and we will participate fully, again with great envy, to ensure that our country is peaceful now and in the future.
5. We have resolved that, due to the importance of this forum in educating young people and bringing national dialogue on peace and security issues to young people, this Forum should be sustainable and the National Youth Peace and Security Agenda Forum should be be evened annually in September to coincide with International Day of Peace.

SECTION 4: CONCLUSIONS

We are grateful to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan and Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council in a unique way to honor this event and send high level government representataion to listen to the views of the youth. In addition, we thank the Prime Minister's Office, Labour, Youth, Employment and the Disability and the Ministry of H abari, Youth, Culture and Sports in Zanzibar for providing us with the excellent support and guidance that has enabled us to effectively convene the forum.

Finally, and most importantly, we express our sincere gratitude to each of us, the authorities and the various stakeholders who will take action to work on the recommendations provided in this forum. God bless Tanzania, God bless Africa.

On behalf of the organizers and youth who participated in the National Forum on Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, this document is signed by:



Joseph Brighton Malekela

Coordinator of Youth4PeaceAgenda, &
Executive Director – The African Leadership
Initiatives for Impact – A.L.I.I

THE AFRICAN LEADERSHIP
INITIATIVES FOR IMPACT (A.L.I.I.)
P.O. BOX 110024
DAR ES SALAAM