



**AFRICAN YOUTH 4 DEMOCRACY PODCAST.**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**VENUE: THE YOUTH CAFE OFFICE, NAIROBI**

**DATE: 27th MARCH, 2023.**

## A. INTRODUCTION.

The Youth Cafe' will host a podcast on Youth and women's political and civic engagement in Africa. The podcast will be interactive, and it will take the format of a panel. TYC participated in the pre-summit Global Coalition Forum in Brussels, Belgium, by giving significant input in developing *The Menu Of Possible Commitments* to help prioritize, facilitate and enhance youth civic and political participation. The podcast will be informed by the Summit for Democracy Global Coalition Forum 2023 and as a means of putting into action the 33 actionable and specific commitments and recommendations set by The Youth Democracy Cohort. In the podcast, ways to prioritize youth voice in governance, support youth in government, support youth freedom of expression, promote a culture of youth political participation, and promote a culture of human rights amongst the youth will be discussed. The podcast will provide an opportunity to advocate and reflect on how young people and women can actualize the recommendations as policy options for participating in political and civic engagements in their specific country contexts.

## B. JUSTIFICATION

Over the past decade, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of encouraging young men and women's political participation in African countries to achieve gender equality in youth political and civic participation. As the African continent is home to some of the world's youngest and fastest-growing populations, it is important that the continent's young women and men are given the opportunity to participate in the political and civic processes that will shape the future of Africa. Hence it is essential to establish mechanisms, strategies, tools and systems to address inequalities and increase the political voice of young people, especially young women, such as; awareness initiatives, leadership training, legal and policies frameworks, quotas, youth-led targeted campaigns, mentorship programmes and campaigns finance regulations among others in Africa.

By 2030, young Africans under the age of 35 are expected to account for 75% of Africa's population. However, young people are conspicuously absent from political institutions and decision-making bodies. It is, therefore, essential to work towards improving their engagement because the future of political and civic engagement depends on them.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, there are **26 per cent** of women legislators, followed by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia with 22 per cent, Oceania with 20 per cent, Central and Southern Asia with 19 per cent and Northern Africa and Western Asia with 18 per cent

of women Members of Parliament. The percentage of women legislators is quite far from the average which is 50 per cent. A study by [UN Women](#) in 136 countries shows that women constitute nearly 3 million (34 per cent) of elected members in local deliberative bodies. Only two countries have reached 50 per cent, and an additional 20 countries have more than 40 per cent of women in local government.

### **C. OBJECTIVES.**

- To raise more awareness of the [Youth Democracy Cohort](#) and the [Summit for Democracy](#)
- To raise awareness of The Menu of possible commitment meant to help prioritize, facilitate and enhance youth civic and political participation.
- To educate the youth on ways they can get more involved in political and civic processes in their nations.
- To influence policy around youth civic and political participation by providing recommendations for activities to carry out to achieve the commitments by policy actors like governments, civic organizations, and youth organizations, among others.

### **D. EXPECTED IMPACTS.**

#### **REACH**

- **500,000 +** young people across Africa reached by the podcast.
- **5,000 +** podcast downloads from Google, Apple, and Anchor Podcasts where The Youth Cafe Podcast is listed.
- **900,000+** User engagement through our social channels.

#### **IMPACT:**

- **60%** of the youth will increase their awareness of civic and political processes.
- **20%** increase in youth representation and inclusion in African governments and their agencies.
- **25%** increase in the number of youth vying for elective positions in African countries.

#### **SYSTEMIC CHANGES:**

- The Youth Cafe podcast aims to increase advocacy for political stability and effective governance to ensure a transparent, democratic and accountable environment.
- The Youth Cafe podcast aims to address challenges hindering African Youth from participating in civic and political processes.
- .The Youth Cafe's podcast intends to build capacity and influence policies around youth and women's political and civic participation by engaging with key policy actors.
- The Youth Cafe podcast is keen to deepen innovative ways to strengthen and create an enabling environment for African Youth to participate in civic and political processes.

#### **E. TOPICAL AREAS FOR DISCUSSION.**

- The situation of youth participation in political and civic processes in Africa
- The Summit for Democracy and its objectives
- Importance of youth participation in political and civic processes important
- Why The Youth Cafe is participating in the Summit for Democracy
- The thematic focus areas of The Menu of Possible Commitments
- The Youth Cafe's work in improving African Youth participation in political and civic processes.
- Recommendations to governments, civil organizations, youth organizations and other stakeholders to achieve the commitments.

#### **F. METHODOLOGY AND SET-UP**

The Youth Cafe's podcast on African youth participation in civic and political processes will utilize an interactive and participatory method based on the principles of mutual learning and exchange of experiences. The podcast will take the format of a panel. It will be held physically in our Regional office in Nairobi, Kenya. It will bring together experienced guests from various sectors of Youth political and civic engagement. There will be a comprehensive discussion for **one hour**.

#### **G. PARTICIPANTS**

1) Faith Nyanjui- Media and Community engagement officer ( The Youth Cafe )

Faith Nyanjui is a media and community engagement officer at The Youth Café. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies from The Catholic University of Eastern Africa. Prior to joining The Youth Cafe, she worked with Fair Trade Organization's Committee on Gender Equality. Her interests are in Policy, Governance, Gender equality, Youth empowerment, Peace and Security and Human Rights. Faith is passionate about helping people in need and has led initiatives to mobilize resources to

help needy students attain education in Muranga county, Kenya. She is able to relate well with diverse groups of people from different cultural backgrounds, age groups and ethnic backgrounds. She is a results-oriented and organized individual with excellent interpersonal skills and effective communication skills.

## II) Oliver Mshilla -Policy and Governance expert ( The Youth Cafe )

Oliver Mshilla is a Programmes coordinator at The Youth Café. He holds a Master's degree in International Studies from the University of Nairobi and a Bachelor's Degree in International studies with a major in International Security and Diplomacy from the same institution. He has completed various Peace Support Operations courses, including the Protection of Civilians, Human Rights and Peacekeeping, Protection of Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees, Mediation and Conflict Management, Monitoring, and Monitoring and Evaluation Course. He is a published author of the book: Enhancing Protection of Civilians in Peace Support Operations: Case of AMISOM. Prior to joining The Youth Café, he worked with: the International Center for Peace Human Rights and Development in Africa (IPHRD Africa) under the Young Peacemakers Programme, the International Peace Support Training Center (IPSTC) under the Peace and Security Research department, Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and the Ministry of Interior and Coordination and National Government under the Refugee Affairs Secretariat.

He's an expert in various subject matters. His interests are Youth Affairs, Leadership, Policy, Empowerment, Refugees and IDPs, Governance, Youth Peace and Security, Peacebuilding, Mediation, Resilience, Livelihoods, International Development and Human Rights and Conflict in Africa. He strongly understands international development, community development, and Youth Affairs. He has a passion for building capacity and increasing meaningful participation in the development of young women and men in Africa. Oliver is a highly organized and detail-oriented individual with excellent interpersonal skills, an effective communicator, and a natural leader committed to helping youth in need.

## III) Elizabeth Waweru - Political Activist ( The Youth Cafe )

Elizabeth Waweru is a development practitioner and an ardent political activist who works to bring about social and political changes in society. Her primary responsibilities include empowering women and youth to take up their space and amplify their voices in the political and civic spheres. She has over 5 years of experience in the social and political development profession, with remarkable trends in engaging young women and encouraging their participation in local politics and civic engagement.

Elizabeth graduated with a Master's degree in Development Studies from the University of Nairobi. She enrolled on a Growing Leaders Program, where she was awarded a certificate of excellence in Leadership Development and Mentorship. When she is not working or engaging young women and youth for political or civic engagements, she actively participates in out adventures-like hiking and charitable community work.

#### **H. DATE AND TIME**

27th March 2023 - 12:00 PM EAT