

7th Annual Timeless Women's Conference in Collaboration with the Global Women's Social Enterprise.

Youth Panel "Driving Africa's Future" Outcomes Report

Among the different workshop sessions that took place during the 7th Annual Timeless Conference, one of them was dedicated to Youth, focusing on how young generations can change and bring Africa's future to grow and innovate. The main topics covered during the discussion ranges from the main role of the new generations in several key sectors like economic productivity, health, and food production, and national development. These main points allowed the discussion to relate to several strategies, their aspirations, and actions by the youth to actively work and innovate these sectors by means of community work, mentorship programs, and the creation of accountability.

Meet our Panelists and Key Youth Contributors



Highlights and outcomes from the discussion

- In order to give space to young generations to stand out and work effectively in their communities with an eye on the global context, Africa needs a change of **mindset**. This process already started but it is not fast enough to support the creation of young figures who could led to growth and change. This kind of change needs to involve and affect all the facets of the social context, starting from the education until the political organization of the continent.
 - ***The solution is to take an honest look at what cultivated the current mindset, change your perspective and then work towards finding a way to correct the things that don't serve Africa's youth and embrace the things that do. Finally, stop waiting for someone else to do for you and start doing!***
- It has been underlined how young generations have a conception of **leadership** in their communities, biased by the firm hierarchic system and the consequent policies that are still implemented nowadays. Africa comprehends the largest number of young people in the world, but the main leadership roles are still covered by people whom average age is higher than 60 years old. The policies currently designed and applied are still very related to former ideas and a strict bureaucracy that often stops and scares youths to move on in this frame.
 - ***The solution the youth need to make their own space and take full accountability for their future.***
- Whit the aim of change and enhance a better future for their continent, youths must take **action**. Looking at what their communities need and working with the means that they have, young women and men can be the key mean of development and productivity for the future years. To do so, youths have to choose their role models, work hard, create and subsequently implement a strategy that better fits with their

ideas and inspirations. Starting to take action locally, working strategically and bringing the outcomes and the results on a global perspective.

- ***The solution, the continent needs young change makers with strong ideas and the commitment and energy to transform them in a clear vision to be implemented. To represent the continent outside of the native context is important to have a clear and impactful vision and a solid approach that could compete in the global market.***
- The young contributors and also the young attendants in the audience underlined their desire for change and to take action, they showed their energy and passion asking to have enough space to express their ideas and show to the world their potential. There is no shortage of engagement and desire of improvement in their words, but on the contrary, the necessity to invest that energy in a **common project** that could lead to a change. In this perspective the key contributors expressed their support and admiration for these noble aspirations, encouraging the youths to work on that with grit and being brave enough to break the barriers that still affect the political, entrepreneurship and educational systems.
 - ***The solution, Engage, Collaborate, work together towards a common goal.***
- As a result of the discussion, one of the main ideas that could be relevant to be implemented is the creation of a **platform** to connect young people around the continent. It would have the aim to help each other without competition, but with the will of work together on for the same goal, driving Africa's future and outstanding locally and globally. To connect and mobilize with a common agenda through a common result would be the fundamental claim for this project, and also the best strategy to do so. Youths need to be engaged and to involve also the older generations in this change, thought a common and fruitful collaboration. In fact, Africa is still perceived as not enough unified and collaborative. The African diaspora showed how African culture and values have reached every part of the world but have also lost their strength in the local context, in the continent, bringing to the lack of a clear vision that could lead the continent to develop its sustainable system and compete in the global context with the finest tools.
 - ***The solution, in this situation the young change makers can be the ones to mobilize and modify this situation, leading to an actual and practical change, not just for them but for all African people inside and outside the continent.***

**All in for
Young Change-Makers**

There's no limit to what we can accomplish together!



If you would like to be part of our Young-Change Makers Program send an email to: mentoring@gwse.org to get more information on the program and how you can join.

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