

# AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



VP Bern Dounfard  
VP Solomon Quagrainy

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## **Concept Note: High-Level Youth Advisory Committee** *A renewed Presidential Youth Advisory Group that is fit-for-purpose*

### **1. Background**

1.1. The President participated in the High-Level Conference on *Shaping the Future with Africa: Young Entrepreneurship as Key to a Just Transition* in Berlin in November 2023. During the panel session, he expressed interest in setting up a **High-Level Youth Advisory Committee** to spearhead and support youth entrepreneurship on the continent. The Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department (AHHD) has reviewed the request and held various consultative discussions with the PCSC and the Bank's ecosystem. AHHD proposes to renew and rename the Presidential Youth Advisory Group (PYAG) to the High-level Youth Advisory Committee instead of creating a new structure.

1.2. Following the approval of the Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy in May 2016, the Bank established a **Presidential Youth Advisory Group (PYAG)** on the sidelines of the 6th EU-Africa Business Forum in Abidjan in November 2017. PYAG was established primarily as an advisory board, whose main function was to advise on best practices and innovative solutions to accelerate the Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy. The group was expected to support the Bank in creating productive and transformational economic opportunities for Africa's youth. At that time PYAG drew its membership mostly from eight successful young Global and African leaders, who were transforming the continent and the world.

1.3. The mandate of PYAG was specified as:

- Advising the President on innovative solutions to accelerate job creation for Africa's youth;
- Deepening Private Sector engagement to accelerate the implementation of the Jobs for Youth in Africa (JfYA) Strategy (2016-2025) and galvanize its resource mobilization and partnerships efforts;
- Enhancing the Bank's lobbying and advocacy on enabling environment policies;
- Raising awareness of the Bank's Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy; and
- Advocating for inclusion of young people in decision making processes.

1.4. Today, 6 members of PYAG are accessible to the AHHD Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy team for guidance, while 3 members are no longer active due to conflict of interest, time, and other reasons.

### *Original PYAG members and current status of engagement with the Bank*

	Name	Status	Skills Set
1	Ashish Thakkar, CEO, Mara Group, Rwanda (Chair)	Active	Entrepreneurship, Youth employment policies
2	Dr Uzodinma Iweala, CEO, The Africa Center, Nigeria	Active	Outreach and Advocacy
3	Mamadou Touré, Founder / CEO, Africa 2.0 / Ubuntu Capital, Cameroon	Nonactive ✗	Investment, Block chain technology
4	Vanessa Mounkar, former AfDB Director, Gender and Civil Society Department, Chad	Active	Youth engagement, Access to finance, Gender, Creative industries
5	Jeremy Johnson, Co-founder, Andela, USA ✗	Nonactive	Digital Skills, Future of work
6	Clarisse Iribagiza, CEO, Hehe, Rwanda	Active	Digital Skills, Future of work
7	Ada Osakwe, CEO, Agrolay Ventures, Nigeria	Active	Investment, Agriculture value chain
8	Yana Kakar, Global Managing Partner, Dalberg, Canada	Active	Entrepreneurship, Agriculture
9	Monica Musonda, CEO of Java Foods ✗	Nonactive	Agriculture, Food Processing, FMCG

## **2. PYAG Operational Challenges and Lessons for Improvement**

**2.1.** PYAG consisted of high-flying entrepreneurs and leaders whose availability was often limited, and the cost of their first-class ticket travel and accommodation arrangements was high. ✓  
 The group was not fully representative of the young people from across the continent and diaspora, and not balanced in terms of age and gender. All current members are above the age of 35 years. The current PYAG has remained an informal and voluntary reference group and without any form of incentive. PYAG is also not formally part of the Bank structure and as a result the Bank does not have a secretariat or budget for its activities. No individual performance contracts with specific deliverables during the term of office were signed off hence there was no accountability to delivery within a specified term.

**2.2.** AHHD proposes to refresh PYAG with new terms of reference given the strategic direction the Bank is taking with regards to investing in young people. This will entail reconfiguring PYAG in terms of the profiles of current members for i) strategic staffing and adding new members for right sizing, ii) strengthening the complimentary competencies within the committee for it to be fit-for-purpose going forward, and iii) achieving a balance of seasoned and global advisors with adequate youth representation. The name refreshed committee can either be kept as PYAG or renamed to the High-level Youth Advisory Committee as requested. ?

### 3. The mandate of the High-level Youth Advisory Committee (Building on Lessons from PYAG)

- Act as the bridge between African youth and decision-makers at the various levels of engagement within the Bank and among Regional Member Countries (RMCs).
- Advise on design and implementation of key Bank initiatives and efforts on investing in youth, including but not limited to the Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Banks (YEIBs); Boost Africa; Youth ADAPT; ENABLE Youth; Innovation and Information Lab (E-LAB); Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi-donor Trust Fund (YEI MDTF); and the Youth, Jobs, and Skills Marker System (YJSMS).
- Advise the Bank on the implementation of the Ten-Year Strategy (TYS) 2024-2032 and the Africa Development Fund 16<sup>th</sup> Cycle commitments on investing in youth, entrepreneurship, small enterprise development, demand-led skills development, and job creation.
- Advise the Bank on the formulation of the Bank's Youth, Jobs, and Skills Action Plan 2025-2032, in line with the TYS 2024-2032 as well as resource mobilization and partnerships.
- Advise on the design of investment approaches and access to finance streams that benefit youth in entrepreneurship, including, but not limited, the YEIB initiative.
- Provide strategic recommendations on global trends in youth entrepreneurship and financing, and their implications for the Bank's youth entrepreneurship priorities, while offering insights and guidance on enhancing the Bank's effectiveness and alignment with best practices and trends.
- Identify subjects of common interest and new joint and forward-looking research that informs the design of Bank projects targeting young people, for instance job creation in emerging and youth friendly sectors such as the creative industries, climate-smart, digital, tech and Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled businesses.

### 4. Membership Selection and Term of Office

4.1. We propose the Committee to comprise of 15 members listed in Annex 1. The proposed members represent predominantly i) successful and influential entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 – 35 working in Africa or supporting the African entrepreneurship ecosystem and ii) seasoned and exemplary leaders in the financial and non-financial domains of supporting youth-led start-ups and MSMEs. The proposed composition represents good francophone, anglophone balance, good spread of backgrounds and expertise that spans venture capital investment, policy and regulatory, ecosystem builders, advisory/consulting in the innovation and impact space, successful youth entrepreneurs and others at start-up phase; gender expert and creative industries; and experienced fund of fund investors from DFIs; and one person who has worked for AfDB before so understands the elasticity or lack thereof of AfDB appetite for innovation.

- Lusophone  
few

4.2. It is proposed that the Committee shall serve 2.5 years for each term, renewable based on member interest and alignment with Bank priorities.

## 5. Frequency of Meetings and Quorum of the Committee

5.1. The quorum shall be a two-thirds majority of the members and will hold four (4) quarterly ordinary sessions – three (3) being virtual and one (1) in-person at the venue and host country of the Bank's Annual Meetings or at the Bank's Headquarters in Abidjan. In addition, as required, members may accompany the President, Vice Presidents, and Senior Management during strategic high-level meetings.

## 6. Secretariat, Budget, and Appointment of the Committee Chairperson

6.1. The Committee shall establish a Secretariat under the direct supervision of the AHVP Vice Presidency and the joint coordination of the PIVP and AHVP vice presidencies. The Secretariat shall consist of the Chairperson and two officers responsible for the work program and coordination.

6.2. Expenses for the attendance of the physical committee meeting during the Bank Annual Meeting could be financed by the Annual Meetings budget by the Secretary General. Any other expenses regarding committee activities could be financed by the Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund, subject to the approval of the Trust Fund's donors and Senior Management Coordinating Committee (SMCC). Resources from other donors who have prioritized youth entrepreneurship and job creation could also be mobilized, such as the Mastercard Foundation. Below are suggestions on sources to finance expected expenses:

BANK	
1.	YEIB Special Initiative Budget. A budget line can be proposed to cover the expenses of the committee activities
2.	Secretary General's Annual Meetings Budget. This can cover participation of meetings around the Annual Meetings
3.	YEI MDTF and other relevant trust funds. The cost of the activities of the committee can be included in the trust fund work plans, subject to the approval of the Donor Oversight Committees.
4.	SVP adhoc and sponsorship budget
DONORS	
5.	Government of Germany. Following the President's High-Level Conference on Shaping the Future with Africa: Young Entrepreneurship as Key to a Just Transition in Berlin in November 2023
6.	Mastercard Foundation and other like-minded Donors such as the Netherlands. In 2019 Africa Economic Conference, the Mastercard Foundation sponsored young people to dialogue with ministers of youth on what should be done to promote youth economic participation and job creation.

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proposing your actions. Then cannot be tentative.

## 7. Inaugural Launch of Committee

8.1. During the 2024 Annual Meetings' side event by the Alliance for Entrepreneurship in Africa entitled "The Role of Entrepreneurship in Africa's Transformation", the Committee will be launched, and its members presented by the President.



**Annex 1: Proposed List of 15 Seasoned Entrepreneurs and Investors to Form the Committee to Choose 10-12 of them**

	NAMES	ORGANIZATION	BRIEF PROFILE	GENDER	LANGUAGE	BANK REGION	COUNTRY
1	Ahmed El Alfi	Sawari Ventures Partners	Ahmed El Alfi is the Founder and Chairman of Sawari Ventures, recognized by Fast Company as one of the most creative people in the world. With over 30 years of experience as an early-stage and growth investor, El Alfi has a significant track record in funding and nurturing early-stage companies	M	EN	NORTH	EGYPT
2	Takuma Terakubo	Uncovered Fund	Takuma Terakubo is the Founder and CEO of Uncovered Fund, a venture capital firm based in Tokyo that he founded in 2019. Uncovered Fund focuses on investing in early-stage startups in Africa, with investments ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 in seed and Series A stages.	M	EN	NON-REGIONAL	JAPAN
3	Angela Homsy		<p>Angela Homsy is recognized for her expertise in impact investment and her passion for fostering sustainable development across Africa. She is a co-founder of Ignite Power, a leading company in the renewable energy sector that aims to bring affordable solar energy solutions to remote regions of Africa. Her work focuses on innovative financing and technology applications to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life for underserved communities. She is also the Managing Partner of Angaza Capital, which is part of the Ignite Group. Angaza Capital focuses on building bridges between technology and long-term capital hubs, particularly across Africa and the United Arab Emirates, aiming to address significant sustainability and innovation challenge.</p> <p><b>Relationship with the Bank:</b> In 2019, Ignite Investments' Angaza team was awarded a mandate by the Bank and the Government of Rwanda to invest in and support the innovation economy and venture capital activity in Africa. Financed and supported by the African Development Bank, the Rwanda and MEA Innovation Funds (RIF)'s objective is to deploy smart capital in Africa and cross-borders into high-growth businesses solving real needs. RIF invests together with private investors to back amazing entrepreneurs looking to grow their innovative and impactful solutions on an international scale.</p>	F	EN		ISRAEL
4	Bosun Tijani	Government of Nigeria	Bosun Tijani is a Nigerian-British entrepreneur who serves as the Nigerian Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy as of 2023. He played a pivotal role in the African tech ecosystem, particularly through his leadership at Co-Creation Hub (CcHub), where he oversaw the acquisition of Kenya's iHub in 2019 and launched the CcHUB Design Lab in Kigali, Rwanda, in the same year	M	EN	WEST	NIGERIA
5	Melvyn Lubega	Go1	Melvyn Lubega is a visionary entrepreneur who co-founded Go1, an innovative eLearning platform, which, as of 2021, became South Africa's first tech scale-up to be valued at more than \$1 billion. This milestone underscores Go1's significant impact on the educational technology landscape, particularly in empowering small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups with accessible training programs. Through Go1, Lubega has been instrumental in creating opportunities for business education across Africa, demonstrating a profound commitment to leveraging technology to solve significant challenges and foster economic growth. His work exemplifies the critical role of education and skill development in enhancing entrepreneurial capabilities and investment readiness among SMEs.	M	EN	EAST/SOUTH	UGANDA/SOUTH AFRICA
6	Ory Okollo	Verod-Kepple Africa	Ory Okolloh Mwangi is a Kenyan lawyer, activist, and influential figure in technology and innovation, particularly known for co-founding Ushahidi, a platform that leverages crowd-sourced data to aid in crisis response and democratic processes. Beyond Ushahidi, her work has significantly contributed to enhancing government transparency and citizen engagement through technology. Okolloh has also served as a policy manager for Africa at Google, further advancing the use of technology to address societal issues. Her current role as a Partner at Verod-Kepple Africa Ventures sees her supporting African entrepreneurs and startups, emphasizing her commitment to leveraging	F	EN	EAST	KENYA

			entrepreneur, consultant, and senior business manager at Google. Dème has been instrumental in driving investments and strategic support for African startups. His work at Partech Africa underlines a deep commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, boosting investment in technology-driven ventures, and supporting the growth and development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across Africa.				
8	Vanessa Moungar	LVMH	<p>Vanessa Moungar is a distinguished French-Chadian leader with a robust commitment to gender equality, diversity, and social impact. As the Director of Gender, Women and Civil Society at the African Development Bank (AfDB), Moungar played a crucial role in driving initiatives such as AFAWA aimed at empowering women and enhancing civil society's role in development. Her work in this position involved creating policies and programs that support entrepreneurship, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and investment in Africa, focusing on gender equity as a cornerstone for sustainable development. In addition to her role at the AfDB, Moungar has been recognized for her leadership in diversity and inclusion as the Chief Diversity Officer at LVMH, emphasizing her comprehensive approach to fostering inclusive economic growth.</p> <p><b>Relationship with the Bank:</b> <i>Former Director and was a member of PYAG.</i></p>	F	FR	CENTRAL/ NON-REGIONAL	CHAD/FRANCE
9	Monique Ntumngia	Green Girls Organization	<p>Monique Ntumngia is a pioneering social entrepreneur from Cameroon and the founder of Green Girls Organization. Through her leadership, Green Girls educates young African women on the importance of renewable energy, specifically solar power, to promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship. The organization has established 68 Green Girls Clubs, aiming to deepen awareness among girls aged 14-19 about climate change and action, with trained women serving as peer educators. Ntumngia's work exemplifies her commitment to leveraging clean energy as a driver of social impact and women's empowerment, particularly in underserved communities.</p>	FF	FR	CENTRAL	CAMEROON
10	Ashish J. Thakkar	Mara Group and Mara Foundation	<p>Ashish J. Thakkar is a Rwandan-based entrepreneur and founder of the Mara Group and Mara Foundation, as well as a co-founder of Atlas Mara Limited. Born in the United Kingdom, he moved to East Africa as a teenager before establishing Mara Group at the age of 15. Thakkar's business ventures, spanning 22 African countries, reflect his commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, investment, and technological advancement across the continent. His work with Mara Foundation particularly highlights his dedication to supporting young entrepreneurs and SMEs in Africa, providing them with the tools and resources necessary to succeed in the competitive business landscape.</p> <p><b>Relationship with the Bank:</b> <i>Ashish J. Thakkar served as the Chair of PYAG.</i></p>	M	EN	EAST	RWANDA
11	Yana Watson Kakar	Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec	<p>Yana Watson Kakar has held influential roles in global investment and advisory services, focusing on sustainable and responsible investment strategies. As the Managing Director and Head of Americas for CDPQ (Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec), she leads the organization's strategy and operations across the Americas, including the New York, Mexico, and Brazil offices. Kakar is also recognized for her tenure as Global Managing Partner Emeritus of Dalberg Advisors, where she specialized in advising on values-based investing, transforming business models and investment portfolios through sustainable, responsible, and impact-oriented strategies. Her work spans advising institutional investors, asset managers, portfolio companies, governments, non-profits, and philanthropists, aligning closely with themes of entrepreneurship, investment, and support for SMEs through sustainable development practices.</p> <p><b>Relationship with the Bank:</b> <i>Yana Watson Kakar was a member of PYAG.</i></p>	F	EN	NON-REGIONAL	USA
12	Yvette	IRIBA Water	<p>Yvette Ishimwe is an innovative Rwandan entrepreneur known for her significant contribution to environmental sustainability and clean water access through her founding of a water dispenser project in Kigali – she is the founder and CEO of IRIBA Water Group. This initiative, aimed at reducing plastic waste, allows millions of people to access clean water, thereby diminishing the reliance on bottled water, a major source of plastic pollution.</p>	F	FR/EN	EAST	RWANDA

			Janngo and Janngo Capital are dedicated to building, growing, and investing in pan-African 'tech for good' champions with proven business models and inclusive social impact. Janngo is recognized as Africa's largest gender-equal tech fund, backed by top-tier African and international strategic and financial investors. Bâ's vision is to leverage technology to create sustainable and inclusive growth opportunities across Africa, making significant strides in supporting entrepreneurship, SMEs, and innovative startups across the continent.				
14	Aniko Szigetvari	Atlantica Ventures	Aniko Szigetvari is a founding partner of Atlantica Ventures, an Africa-focused impact venture capital fund she co-founded with Ik Kanu in 2019. Atlantica Ventures is dedicated to investing in early-stage startups that are building technology and technology-enabled services with the potential for substantial societal impact across the African continent. With a \$50 million fund, Atlantica Ventures aims to support African tech startups from seed through to Series B stages. Szigetvari brings over 20 years of experience in emerging markets investment, particularly focusing on technology, media, and telecom sectors. Her work through Atlantica Ventures exemplifies a deep commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment in African economies, with a keen focus on creating sustainable and impactful solutions to the continent's most pressing challenges	F	EN		HUNGARY
15	Tiana Harimura Randrianarison			F	FR	SOUTH	MADAGASCAR

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# AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



*see annex at*

## INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: 23 Avril 2024

TO : THE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Beth DUNFORD  
Vice President, AHVP

FROM :

Mr. Solomon Quaynor  
Vice President, PIVP

SUBJECT : Update on the High-level Youth Advisory Committee and its proposed launch during the Alliance for Entrepreneurship in Africa side event during the Bank's Annual Meetings

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### 1. Purpose

1.1. This purpose of this memo is to provide and update and seek your further guidance on the establishment High-level Youth Advisory Committee and its proposed launch during the side event by the Alliance for Entrepreneurship in Africa entitled "The Role of Entrepreneurship in Africa's Transformation "during the Bank's Annual Meetings scheduled in May 2024.

### 2. Background

2.1. As you may recall, you participated in the High-Level Conference on *Shaping the Future with Africa: Young Entrepreneurship as Key to a Just Transition* in Berlin in November 2023. During the panel session, you proposed the setting up of a High-Level Youth Advisory Committee to spearhead and support youth entrepreneurship investments on the continent.

2.2. Technical teams from the Cabinet (PCSC), Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department (AHHD), and Private Sector Development Department (PISD) have held brainstorming sessions to outline the structure and role of the Committee, summarized in the subsequent sections, and for which we are attaching a Concept Note for your review.



### 3. Recommendation

To take this work forward, we recommend that the Bank reforms the existing Presidential Youth Advisory Group (PYAG) into the High-level Youth Advisory Committee. The High-level Youth Advisory Committee will be balanced across gender, language, Bank regions, and expertise. A proposed list of committee members is in Annex 1 of the Concept Note.

-As next steps, we propose that official correspondences are sent to the:

- approved final committee members, ~~inviting them to participate in the 2024 Annual Meetings and the side event by the Alliance for Entrepreneurship in Africa, where the Committee will be launched.~~
- ~~Former PYAG members, who will not be part of the Committee, thanking them for their service.~~

~~-We also seek assistance from Cabinet regarding availing the funds needed for Committee participation in the Annual meetings either from SG Annual Meetings Budget or from SVP adhoc and sponsorship budget.~~

We welcome a chance to discuss the proposed approach with you if your time will allow and to get any further guidance from you.

Thank you