Youth Empowerment Summit

MANIFESTO FOR THE LIBERATION OF AFRICAN YOUTH POTENTIAL

A Transformative Vision for Africa: Turning 70 Million NEET Youth into 70 Million Agents of Continental Development
This ambition, far from being utopian, is grounded in three core convictions:

First conviction: African youth possess extraordinary creative and innovative potential that simply needs to be revealed and supported.
Second conviction: Solutions already exist on the ground, driven by local actors who hold irreplaceable contextual expertise.
Third conviction: The collective mobilization of stakeholders – civil society, private sector, donors, and public institutions – can create an enabling ecosystem for these solutions to flourish.

We, the African development actors, gathered in Marrakech on June 19-20, 2025 for the first edition of the Youth Empowerment Summit Africa (Y.E.S. Africa), solemnly declare our unwavering commitment to unlocking the potential of NEET youth across the continent.

This manifesto expresses our trust in African actors to identify, reveal, structure, scale, and promote African-led solutions to the challenges of youth empowerment.

We pledge to mobilize within our respective domains to make this vision a reality.

1- African development actors prioritize African solutions, while drawing inspiration from non-African models when relevant.
2- They design inclusive approaches tailored to the diverse categories of youth and the territories concerned.
3- Local, regional, and continental initiatives for social innovation are deployed to unlock NEET youth potential.
4- The Y.E.S. Africa Policy Paper becomes a reference for constructive NGO advocacy.
5- Programs are launched to inspire NEET youth to overcome resignation, engage in projects, and contribute to their communities.
6- Pan-African institutions monitor the evolution of NEET youth and share best practices for unlocking their potential.

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7- mutual recognition system for vocational and higher education degrees has been established between African countries.

8- National youth policies now include a specific NEET-focused pillar aligned with this manifesto's vision.

9- The 54 African states enact laws and mechanisms to support youth empowerment – including apprenticeships, mentorship, and entrepreneurship.

10-National institutions conduct research to better understand the NEET phenomenon and design appropriate solutions.

11- The 54 African States officially recognize young people's informal skills.

12- African NGOs act as ambassadors of hope for youth, while engaging in constructive dialogue with public authorities.

13- NGOs targeting NEET youth benefit from capacity-building programs.

14- NGOs collaborate with professional sector groups to align support programs with industry needs.

15- They develop projects with long-term impact tailored to NEET youth.

16- NGO project funding blends African and international financing sources.

17- African NGOs increase their funding through local and diaspora crowdfunding.

18- NGOs evaluate their impact on NEET youth through measurable indicators.

19- The Y.E.S. Africa Network brings together hundreds of impact actors working with NEET youth, facilitating synergies, partnerships, and knowledge exchange.

20- Strong partnerships are built between international and African donors to support African NGOs.

21- International donors fund more projects designed and led by African NGOs for NEET youth.

22- Donors invest in strengthening the capacities of NGOs working with NEET youth.

23- The African Development Bank (AfDB) develops financial support mechanisms for governments, donors, and NGOs to unleash the potential of NEET youth.

24- operating in Africa offer internships to NEET youth and recognize their informal skills in recruitment.

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