

## **Executive Summary of the Pan African Youth Diplomats Forum in conjunction with Global Youth Mental Health Awareness Virtual Summit held on the 4th of September, 2020.**

**Theme:** Unlocking Youth Potential to Contained the Impact of covid-19 in Africa.

**Sub-theme:** Young African's mind in solidarity to fight COVID-19.

**Time:** 08:00pm-11:10 PM AEST.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

- Christian Jibo: Host, Founder and President of Pan African Youth Diplomats Forum.
- Prof. Jude Ediae: GYMHA Founder (Co-host organization) and Chief Executive Officer, Trained Mental Health Practitioner, Business and Education Specialist.
- Dr Onochie Lawrence: HR Consultant/Author/Project Manager
- Dr Ann John Mampilli: Project Manager, Public Health Professional, Health Educator, Researcher and Dentist.
- Mr. Augustine Igweshi:
- Miss Aicha Dabo: Guinea Conakry Embassy.
- Chigozie Ubanaju: CEO Chiwane Global Strategy Limited.
- Dr. Bibiane Manga: Health Researcher, UK.
- Mr. Francis Shinsai: Human Right Advocate International Committee of the Red Cross.
- Gabriel Mugaruka Maimona: Executive Director of Human Rights Defenders Solidarity Network, Uganda.
- Rugiatou Sowe: PAYDF Student Ambassador.
- Glory Udom: Medical Doctor, NYSC.

- David Naboare: National President at Ghana University Association of Community Mental Health Officers.
- Edith Wanyoni: Counseling Psychologist/Community Development Worker.
- Mr. Deng William Alaak: The Founder of South Sudan Youth Fight Against Covid19 (SSYFAC), The Founder of World Peace Campaign, Country Director at International Youth Society, Country Director at Global Peace Chain, International Youth Ambassador, Global Peace Ambassador, Global Goodwill Ambassador.
- Mushongole Maganuzi: Founder/ Executive Director of YAREN, the young Africans Refugees Entrepreneurs Network.

### **SUMMIT OBJECTIVES**

- To propose solutions that give innovative solution to contained the impacts of corona-virus.
- To share basic protective measures online and campaign against misinformation that resort to panic and loss of livelihood.
- To encourage the participation of institutions and youth-led NGOs to build up their own capacity that will inform policies decisions in managing the impacts of corona-virus.
- To encourage government and the private sector to form an alliance that will leverage on young people effort in addressing unprecedented challenge.

### **EVENT SUMMARY.**

The summit commenced at exactly 08:00pm Melbourne, AEST with a formal introduction and welcome address of the participants by the Moderator, Mrs. Mahmooda Lowe, New Hope Foundation Chairperson, Zimbabwe. Mr. Samuel Joshua Jibrin presented the welcome speech on behalf of the Host organization, Pan African Youth Diplomats Forum, after which the moderator introduced the guest speakers. There were about 60 participants present.

The first speaker, Prof. Jude Ediae, GYMHA Founder/CEO, Co-host organization welcomed everyone and discussed on the importance of the role of youth in the

fight against Covid-19. He said that according to latest statistics, the worldwide cases of Covid-19 is 28million total cases, 17.1million recovered, 895 thousand death cases. It has affected about 47 countries, 1,056,448 cumulative cases, 22,150 deaths and severely affected people and all aspects of their lives.

He also related that about 60% of Africans population is between age 25 and below making Africa the world's youngest continent in 2019 and this number of about 1.3 billion may double in the year 2050. He explained how the crisis affected the youths in terms of education, mental health, and disposable income. He further emphasized that to unlock the youth potential contained in impact of Covid-19, intervention on the mental health of young people is imperative as regards understanding anger management, communicating in self-confidence, understanding mood and anxiety, sleeping well, nutrition and general well being. He encouraged the need for unity and kindness among people and youth should be included at the centre of recovery plan.

He said the purposes of youth empowerment skills include;

- Improving cooperation and peace between youth positive approach to others.
- Enhance positive opportunity to the future.
- Build self-esteem and moral sense of belonging bro empower young people to certainly explore life to making good decision.
- Improve urge control in relation to hostile behavior and/or risk taking attitude noticed on the child's action.
- Enhance responsiveness and ability to secure oneself and peers.
- Youths have the ability to participate without discrimination, they have the right to speak and be heard.

The next speaker Mr. Christian Jibo, Host, Founder and President of PAYDF, welcomed the participants before proceeding with his discussion. He discussed about how crucial multilateral institution are to collective health prosperity and security. He talked on the need for more and enhanced interaction, co-operation and worldwide solidarity in the fight against the global crisis. The pandemic indeed is a wake up call for multilateralism as countries and communities are grapple with

the human and socio-economic costs of COVID-19. According to him, the key to overcoming COVID-19 involves international co-operation with science at its core, building bridges between science and policy and between countries and youth, also leveraging on the skills of young people to share experience and communicate issues using electronic media to convey messages and translate scientific texts to the public which will help break down the issue of misinformation. Youth should also realize that they have a responsibility to pass their knowledge and expertise skills in scientific research, creativity, innovation and medical research to solve problems of today and tomorrow.

He further discussed how the virus having exposed the gaps in many African countries requires urgent action to address the healthcare deficiency in order to meet up with the demands of the pandemic and the ongoing needs of the African population. He urges all African member states to ensure everyone has the right to health in line with their domestic policies which can be achieved by empowering and supporting the generation of leaders which play a critical role in unlocking youth potential to contain the impact of COVID-19 including unexpected challenges.

Finally, he concluded by talking on how important it is for Africa to reposition herself for the future challenges such as disasters, climate change, migration, inequalities of opportunities and therefore requires functional multilateral institutions and collective action.

The next speaker, Dr Ann John Mampilli discussed on how the youths can come forward to participate in solving problems in their nation. She outlined three major ways in which this can be achieved. The first is Knowledge. About 80% of youths rely on social media for their information but don't know how credible such information is. To what large extent has the pandemic affected humanity and how much knowledge does the youth know about this to make them want to help out. The second is Trust. How well does the government listen to the youths and hear their views on policy and decision making in order to form trust, which could help out in curbing the pandemic. The third point was Self-sufficient. She emphasized on the need for provision of proper sanitation and amenities, empowerment and volunteering as self-determinants and participation are the bedrock of human well-being. She further discussed on how to strengthen partnerships between institutions

and communities. This involves mobilization, developed effective plans, coordination and unity.

The next speaker, Dr Lawrence Onochie discussed on the Impact of covid-19 in Africa with disruption on the educational system. He said that the covid-19 crisis affected individuals greatly especially young children and has led to the emergence of child labour and exploitation. He further discussed on the role of the youth in such situations which includes; Forming advocate groups that would provide advisory opinions to parents on the risk of involved in allowing their children on the streets through campaigns or social media platforms. He also talked about why the youths should be engaged in this projects. According to the statistics he gave, in sub-Saharan Africa, close to 90% of children do not have access to household computers and 82% do not get online. School has left over 330 million learners of all levels and over 8.5 million teachers unable to learn or teach from home. While mobile phones can support young learners, about 56 million live in areas that are not served by mobile networks, in other areas, there is unreliable power supply and poor internet connection coupled with financial costs, all these undermine the impact of such investments. What then is youth potential in the face of covid-19? Youths can disseminate reliable information to help contain the spread of the virus, they can provide educational assistances amongst themselves, peer-to-peer mental health advice and providing support to the elderly and other groups at risk of becoming infected to help combat stigma and discrimination.

The next speaker Mr. Igweshi Augustine discussed on how the pandemic crises affected every sphere of our lives especially education, source of income and what can be done to remedy the situation.

The next speaker, Miss Aicha Dabo talked on how covid-19 affected Africa's economy. She emphasized on empowering the youths with the right information and training needed in times like this. She encouraged that the youth should inculcate the mindset of trying to make impact in their society however they can.

The next speaker, Mr Chigozie Ubanagu discussed about the need for young people to be supported and encouraged especially young entrepreneurs in terms of technological advancement as this can help cushion the negative aspects of covid-19.

The next Speaker, Dr Bibiane Manga talked on the topic, " Sustaining the current response to covid-19: Capitalize on Africa's youths." According to the statistics she gave, there have been 1,014,834 total cases, 20,787 total deaths, 43% confirmed covid-19 cases, 2.6% deaths reported worldwide. She recommended that National authority should identify what has been done so far, what is needed to be done and taking measures necessary to curb the pandemic situation.

The next speaker, Me Gabriel Mugaruka Maimona, talked about the impact of covid-19 on the Refugees in Uganda. He explained how it had handicapped youths refugees, resulted to domestic violence, child marriage, early pregnancies and family misunderstanding as a result of low food supply, lack of disposable income or employment.

The next speaker, Miss Rugiatou Sowe talked on how the crisis has affected the educational sector by relating her personal experiences. She encouraged that education should be given a higher priority in this times.

The next speaker, Dr. Glory Udom, spoke about how the pandemic situation has affected the activities of Youth Corps members in Nigeria due to the lockdown. She further explained the negative mental effect on the youths and what can be done to remedy the situation.

The next speaker, Mr. David Naboare spoke about the importance of training the youths with ICT skills that will make them useful in the society and the world at large.

The next speaker Mrs. Edith Wanyoni discussed about youths as a nation's greatest resources if effectively utilized. She explained how the crisis has made a lot of youths, unemployed, underemployed and even led to depression. She encouraged that training them with skills should help the youths, connecting them to global opportunities, mobilize every sector for active participation.

The next speaker Mr. William Deng discussed about the importance of social media platforms in raising our concerns in favour of equitable healthcare, equality for all minority groups, and accountability of leaders. He further added how the pandemic has taught people the importance of claiming their power, agency and rights. He concluded by saying that skills like empathy, personal resilience, the

ability to communicate effectively, cultural intelligence, and decision-making are all critical to thriving in a complex future – and in creating more equitable, prosperous urban communities where every young person can reach their full potential and that the youth needs to be supported with an enabling environment to bring out the best in them.

The next speaker, Mushongole Muganuzi discussed about how the pandemic affected individuals badly and the need for empowerment. He further emphasized on the importance of positive mindset, mentoring and active participation in making impact in the society.

The next session was the question and answer segment. Questions were asked and answered by the guest speakers. The closing remark was given by the host organization, Pan African Youth Diplomats Forum appreciating everyone present and encouraging us to work together to bring about the changes we would like to see in our communities, cities, countries and the world at large. The summit ended at about 11:10pm Melbourne time by the moderator.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To unlock the youth potential contained in impact of Covid-19, intervention on the mental health of young people is imperative as regards to understanding anger management, communicating in self-confidence, understanding mood and anxiety, sleeping well, nutrition and general well being.
- Need for unity and kindness among people and youth should be included at the center of recovery plan.
- Enhance responsiveness and ability to secure oneself and peers.
- The key to overcoming covid-19 involves international co-operation with science at it's core, building bridges between science and policy and between countries and youth, also leveraging on the skills of young people to sharing experience and communicate issues using electronic media to convey message and translate scientific texts by the public which will help break down the issue of misinformation.

- All African member states should ensure that everyone has the right to health in line with their domestic policies, which can be achieved by empowering and supporting the young generation of leaders.
- Form advocate groups that would provide advisory opinions to parents on the risk of involved in allowing their children on the streets through campaigns or social media platforms.
- Young entrepreneurs should be assisted in terms of technological advancement as this can help cushion the negative aspects of covid-19.
- Education should be given high priority in these difficult times.
- Youth should be trained with ICT skills that will make them useful in the society and the world at large.

#### **COLLABORATING PARTNERS:**

Global Youth Mental Awareness, Centre for Peace Advocacy and Sustainable Development, Talent Youth Organization, Human Rights Defenders Solidarity Network Uganda.







## GUEST SPEAKERS FOR COVID-19 CONFERENCE



**Amik Igweshi Augustine**  
Executive Director/President  
At CEPAS Africa,  
African Continent  
coordinator PRG.



**Mr. Christian Jibo**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Nigeria Host



**Prof Jude Ediso -Australia**  
Co-host and Founder CEO at GYMHA,  
Certify Mental Health Practitioner,  
and International Speaker.



**Nkandu Boltz**  
Facilitator,  
Managing Director at  
Boltz Mining, Australia.



**Dr Maxwell Chaka,**  
B.A, B.Phil, PGD,LT, MSc LT,  
M.Dive, PhD - Australia  
Founder At Genuine Love and Family  
Forum Inc.



**Dr. Glory Udum**  
National Youth Services Corps  
Member Nigeria



**Mr. Francis' Simel**  
Human Right Advocate



**Dr. Bilitene Mang**  
University of Birmingham,  
United Kingdom



**Mr. Chigozie Ubanagu**  
Invest Africa Media



**Ms. Dabo Aicha**  
Guinea Conakry



**Dr. Davida Lawrence**  
Project Management  
and HR Consultant



**Mahmooda Lowe**  
Chairperson at New Hope  
Foundation - Zimbabwe



**Dr. Jonathan Odame - Ghana**  
Psychologist, University of  
Ghana, Scholar,  
International Speaker/Presenter.



**Ms. Rungelina Zene,**  
PAYOF student Ambassador,  
University of The Gambia



**Mr. Adigun Terribayo Nigeria**  
President/Cofounder of  
Wheels of Hope Rising  
Foundation



**David Ndabire Obere**  
National President at Ghana  
National Association of  
Community Mental  
Health Officers (SNACMHO)



**Dr. Marjolaine Gomes MSc D**  
Executive Business Coach (UCT),  
Metaphysician,  
Leadership Mentor,  
Medical Dietitian, Private Healer  
South Africa.



**Edith Wanyonyi**  
Counseling, Psychologist,  
Community Development  
Worker Kenya



**Deng William Aliah**  
International Youth Ambassador,  
Global Peace Ambassador,  
Global Gender Ambassador and ISP  
ambassador at Global Peace Index,  
South Sudan



**Dr. Ann John Mampili - India**  
Project Manager, Public Health  
Professional,  
Health Educator, Dentist



**Collins Nwachigwe**  
Founder of Cyber Future  
Academy,  
Social Entrepreneur,  
Empowering Speaker,  
Nigeria.



**Moshongole Mugaruzi**  
Founder Executive Director  
of YAREN Uganda



**Dr Shola Janghadi**  
Chief Consultant  
Anaesthetist and Critical  
Care Physician Nigeria.



**Mr. Doroko Ayedon,**  
Second Counselor at  
Togolese Republic Embassy



**Junisa Precious Obereh Sahu Nation**  
Ambassador, CEO/Founder/Owner of  
Junisha Investments  
Company Limited

Booking at: <https://pan-african-young-diplomats-forum.eventbrite.com.au>

For any enquiries, kindly contact @+2348026507758 or Inbox [jude@gymha.org](mailto:jude@gymha.org)  
or [christopeace@live.com](mailto:christopeace@live.com)



**Pan African**  
Young Diplomats Forum

