



Youth Pre-Event of the 10th Session of Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development

Background

The ARFSD is an annual multi-stakeholder platform organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) and the Host Government in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other entities of the United Nations System. It brings together Ministers, senior officials, experts and practitioners from UN member States, private sector, civil society, academia and UN organizations. The ARFSD, like all the other regional forums on sustainable development, is mandated by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The regional forum is one of the three mechanisms mandated to follow-up, review and catalyze actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by UN member States in September 2015.

At the heart of the Agenda 2030, are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call on action by all countries for a global partnership. Similarly, Agenda 2063, adopted by the African Union in 2013, is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over 50 years, reflecting the aspirations of all African countries for unity, prosperity, and peace.

As the world grapples with multiple and interlinked crises, including climate change, geopolitical conflicts, and Socio- economic instability, the urgency to act on these agendas has never been greater. The compounded effects of these crises have disproportionately impacted the most vulnerable populations, exacerbating poverty levels and undermining decades of development gains. It is within this context that innovative, sustainable, and resilient solutions must be pursued and scaled to achieve the ambitious goals set for 2030 and beyond to 2063.

Justification

The tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-10) will be jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations system organizations under the theme “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”

As we approach the ARFSD-10, it is crucial to ensure that the voices and the perspectives of the youth are central to discussions surrounding the continents; sustainable development agenda. To reinforce the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 by focusing on eradicating poverty through the delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions.

It is under this backdrop that the Pan African Youth Union (PYU) in partnership with the Ministry of Youth of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Africa Youth Commission, Horn of Africa Youth Network, All Africa Students Union, SDG Summit intends to hold a youth RSFD pre-summit that aims to mobilize the youth and other stakeholders across sectors and borders to collaborate on transformative actions that address the root causes of poverty and inequality, particularly in the face of escalating global crises.

The pre RSFD youth summit will provide a platform for the youth and other key stakeholders to monitor and take stock of progress made by the UN and Member states in realizing and implementing the Niamey Declaration such as the request to the United Nations resident coordinators to boost their support for the revitalization of national institutions and development plans that are aimed at transformational initiatives to facilitate the recovery from multiple crises and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Pre-event will be crafted around five Sustainable Development Goals: **No poverty, Zero hunger, climate action, Peace, Justice and strong Institutions, & partnerships for the goals of the agenda 2030 & Agenda 2063.** The pre Summit will further have discussions around 6 thematic areas of focus namely; **Innovative Financing Models, Climate Resilience and Adaptation, Technology and Innovation for Development, Health and Well-being, Education and Capacity Building** as well as **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**

Objectives

1. Hold consultative Dialogue and gather inputs of the African Youth on the frameworks of the summit of the future and the position of African Youth.
2. Build Capacity of National Youth coordinating mechanisms on frameworks of SDGs Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) that extend capacity to youth led organizations in their respective countries.
3. To empower youth and other stakeholders with skills to effectively engage in the summit of the future.
4. To foster collaboration amongst the youth and other stakeholders working toward the realization of the Agenda 2063.

Expected Outcomes

1. A position paper capturing the voices of the African Youth and recommendations to the summit of the future.
2. A comprehensive roadmap of NYCs in country capacity building to conduct VLR and foster Youth actions to accelerate the goals.

3. A strengthened Pan Africanism and collaboration amongst youth and other key stakeholders working together for the Africa We want.

Meeting Format:

1. Focus group discussions, breakout sessions
2. 2 plenaries
3. Panel discussions with Youth perspectives

