

February 25, 2022

**Summary of Side Event:**

**6<sup>th</sup> African Youths & Sustainable Development Roundtable**

**The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-8)**

Official Side Event - Format Virtual – (Zoom)

February 25, 2022

Organizers: Bright Light Projects & the Lady B Bless Humanitarian Foundation

**Theme: Building Forward Better – Localizing the SDGs**

**Partners:** People Empowering People (PEP) Africa, Honeydrops Foundation

**Mission of African Youths and Sustainable Development Roundtable:**

African Youths & Sustainable Development Roundtable is a platform for Young African Entrepreneurs, Social Entrepreneurs to network, share knowledge and opportunities collaborate on key economic and social issues driving local action towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda in sub-Saharan Africa. Started in 2018.

**Some Key Issues Discussed**

- What factors to consider as we attempt at building back after Covid-19 - (economic & social, and environmental factors)
- Youth unemployment, entrepreneurship and innovation
- Difficulty in entrepreneurship Start Ups
- Localizing the SDGs and measuring local results through actionable milestones
- Role of rural women and inequalities
- Information technology and the need for job hubs
- Lack of mentorship amongst the youths
- Women empowerment and climate Change

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### **Key recommendations for Action**

- Gender responsive issues as the core issue for development programs
- Disadvantaged community's especially rural communities must not be left out. We must revert to fair policies and trends in communities are key in the recovery process.
- Shifting youth efforts from seeking conventional jobs to creating marketable opportunities for themselves.
- Integrating entrepreneurship and innovation into our educational system is key. Entrepreneurship should and must be a basic Human Right for all of Africa's youths.
- Government should provide the enabling environment for youth efforts and startups to thrive
- Youth mentorship is key as we build back as the youths need mentors to take their ideas to the next levels. Creating job hubs will provide start up support leveraging the power of technology and innovation making information readily available for young entrepreneurs
- In order to address SDG4 and SDG8, we must ensure education leads to better Opportunities and better outcomes.
- Collaboration and partnership is key as we build back better after Covid-19. Involving local community stakeholders is key in the recovery process. Recovery must be inclusive and collaboration is key in building back better after covid-19.
- Emphasis on reproductive health and contraception will lead to financial independence for women in Sub-Saharan Africa and this will mean less stress on the ecosystem

### **Panelists:**

- Dr. Abigail Wilson – Ghana - Diaspora
- Yetorma Betty Foh – Sierra Leone - Diaspora
- Aaron Lawson – Ghana - Accra
- Sunnex Ita – Nigeria – Lagos

### **Speakers:**

- Dr-Oyinkansola Jinadu - Executive Director Honeydrops Foundation
- Melvine Wajiri -Executive Director - People Empowering People Africa