



## 2<sup>nd</sup> AFRICAN YOUTH VIRTUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNU RCEs

Organised by RCE Minna, Nigeria in Collaboration with RCE Grand Rapids,  
Michigan USA

**13<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**

***THEME: A Regional Perspective on the Role of Youths in Achieving Good  
Governance, Leadership and Sustainable Development on the Continent***

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Introduction

*"No one is born a good citizen; No nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from youths servers its lifeline" - Kofi Annan.*

African youths have an integral part to play in bringing about Sustainable Development, Good Governance and sound Leadership on the continent, this is why the Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Minna, Nigeria in collaboration with RCE Grand Rapids, Michigan USA for the second time seek to virtually bring together young people from across Eastern, Western and Southern Africa to discuss ways of addressing the challenge of **Leadership** and **Governance** on the

continent through sound and active youth participation in the decision-making process, advocacy, sensitization, enlightenment and **taking leadership roles** in their various communities, regions and countries.

### Rationale

African countries continue to face humongous economic challenges occasioned by our refusal to break-away from the shackles of colonialism and imperialist tendencies, a huge and dysfunctional leadership backed by elites who operate on the basis of Prebendalism, a long history of dependence on Mono Economy, Corruption and Squandermania, a lack of Transparent and Accountable crop of Leaders, and a docile population. To make matters worse, Youths on the continent continue to take a “back-seat role” in the affairs and destinies of their countries and regions. The best they do now is complain about the woes, what are youths doing to change the narrative? This scenario is perplexing and worrisome, more so as youths are the engine and drivers of development in any society.

### Intent

The 2<sup>nd</sup> African Youth Virtual Conference seek to give youths from the various RCEs of Western, Eastern and Southern African countries a platform to discuss the role young people can play in achieving sustainable development, good governance and leadership in their regions in particular and the continent in general, with a view of charting a course for youths within continent. The outcome of the conference will be presented at the African RCE Continental Meeting coming up in August, 2018 in Malawi.

### Project Concept

On **13<sup>th</sup> September**, 2017 youths and RCE Members across Africa will come together, virtually through teleconference technology, to participate in a youth

conference which will provide a platform for emerging leaders, policy makers and leadership experts to present their thoughts and experiences on Leadership and Good Governance that will translate into Sustainable Development on the continent.

### Project Process

The 2<sup>nd</sup> African RCE Youth Virtual Conference will involve multiple voluntary RCEs who will identify youths in their regions to participate in the project. These participating RCEs will identify administrators/members/youths interested in sharing ideas, issues, problems, experiences and solutions on Governance and Leadership in their community/region. Participating youth groups will apply the theme *“A Regional Perspective on the Role of Youths in Achieving Good Governance, Leadership and Sustainable Development on the Continent”* to make their presentation.

The outcome of their research will be presented to the larger participating RCE community during the 2<sup>nd</sup> African Youth Virtual conference in September, 2017 via virtual teleconference on our state of the art teleconference platform; *The Collaborative Blackboard*. Internet-based presentation on *Collaborative Platform* will be hosted by **RCE Grand Rapids** and administered through invitation and basic user training. Reliable internet connectivity and basic audio/video capability is required for conference participation. Conference will be conducted in English Language.

Interested and committed participants will receive more detailed information regarding the conference and the process for participation upon receipt of their registration form.