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**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development



**RCE Kano**

Regional Centre of Expertise on  
Education for Sustainable Development



**RAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO**



**CREACC**

CAC/IT/NO.: 54245

United Nations Consultative Status

# SUSTAINABILITY AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

## THEME: BUILDING EFFECTIVE SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP SKILLS AMONG YOUTH AND ESD AMBASSADORS

### INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is aimed towards ‘transforming the world’, targeting the eradication of poverty -‘the greatest global challenge’- in all its forms and dimensions. The Agenda emphatically expresses the commitment by states to take ***bold and transformative steps*** to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path, while ***ensuring that no one is left behind***. Youth inclusivity has therefore factored as an important feature of the SDGs.

Youth make up more than 70 percent of the world population, and indeed more than 70 percent of Nigeria’s over 200 million citizens. Many of these are unemployed, a good percentage unemployable, but more worrisome than this, is the fact that many of the youth are not engaged in any productive venture or enterprise. While the chances for youth to thrive in a challenging environment where poverty, corruption, lack of education and awareness among other vices are prevalent, there are many opportunities for youth to build their skills and improve their chances. Imbibing leadership skills will help youth realize their potentials, improve on their livelihood chances, expose their minds to prospects and possibilities, link them up with essential resources, build their capacities and make them capable for leading the change necessary for the realization of the SDGs. Agenda 2030 is fast coming to a close without some concrete indicators to give much hope for its realization. We believe that Youth can be the drivers of the SDGs and empowering them to take leadership roles in promoting the SDGs is not only desirable but also necessary.

## CONFERENCE AIM

Someone asked the question, ‘if youth are engaged in leadership roles and position, will they be capably, efficiently and responsibly able to undertake the task and discharge it?’, are they competent? Do they have competitive advantage? Although a number of factors may limit the young persons’ exposure, experience and ability to fit into the climate of leadership and responsibility, this is not hopeless, as leader are not all naturally born. Leadership skills and capacities can be built, developed or improved through training and retraining. There is definitely a need to do more to build leadership competencies and capacity among youth to achieve the SDGs. The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) has been implementing the Program on Education for Sustainable Development, through various channels, including through the various Regional Centers of Expertise (RCEs), established around the world. This Conference, organized by RCE Kano, is one of the avenues of pushing the cause of the SDG. The second Digital Youth Forum is focused on leadership, and is designed to complement the first Conference held in October 2020. It aims to achieve the following:

1. Develop personal leadership skills among youth to improve prospects and build confidence.
2. Improving capacity, competence and efficiency among youth in promoting the SDGs.
3. Aiding the skills and capabilities of youth to play a significant role in all aspects of the polity, including leadership, governance and politics.
4. Re-igniting the interest of youth in matters of national development; and dispelling the laid-back, lacklustre attitude in such matters.
5. Increasing youth understanding, awareness and engagement on sustainability and sustainability issues.
6. Avail participants an opportunity to make networks and collaborations that will enhance their relevance as leaders, and serve as change makers.

## TARGET AUDIENCE/BENEFICIARIES

The second digital youth forum is organized for the following beneficiaries:

1. The ESD Ambassadors: These are participants from the First National Youth Conference on Education for Sustainable Development that was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 at

Bayero University Kano, which hosted students from five tertiary institutions (Bayero University Kano; Federal University Dutse; Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano; Kano University of Science and Technology; and the Federal College of Education, Daura) as well as representatives of the six regional centers of expertise.

2. Associates of the ESD Youth Hub including mentors, mentees, staff, as well as members of the sustainability ambassadors' network.
3. Generally, all youth and ESD advocate as well as aspiring youth leaders and advocates.

## PARTNERS:

1. Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development Kano.
2. The ESD Youth Hub, Center for Gender Studies, Bayero University, Kano.
3. Centre for Renewable Energy and Action on Climate Change (CREACC)

## THEME:

Building effective leadership skills among youth and ESD Ambassadors.

## TOPICS

1. Overview and recap on the Digital Youth Forum series  
Presenter: Safiya Ahmad Nuhu
2. Developing personal leadership skills among youth  
Presenter: Dr. Hadiza Hamma
3. Design thinking: How to concretize your ideas through design thinking Ali Bukar Ahmad
4. Leadership in a digital era. How to optimize the use of communication devices and social media platforms for promoting a productive leadership in SDGs and youth climate advocacy presenter: Marie-Claire Graf
5. Youth as movers and 'shapers' of the polity: The imperative of youth engagement and involvement in leadership, governance and politics  
Suggested presenter: Isma'il Buba Ahmed -Senior Special Adviser to the President on Social Investment.
6. Social Entrepreneurship and Global Sustainability: How RCEs can Play a Part Dr Brittany Foutz, RCE Salisbury

7. “A development that leaves no one behind”: why inclusivity matters -projecting issues, developing strategies, advocating for change.

Suggested presenter: Hauwa el-Yaqub

## BRIEF HIGHLIGHT ON THE DIGITAL YOUTH FORUM SERIES

The digital youth forum engages sustainability ambassadors through training and retraining to espouse them to issues that revolve around the SDG, which will promote education for sustainable development and progress the achievement of the SDGs. Although it is principally targeted towards the campus sustainability ambassadors, it is nonetheless open to the general public and others not necessarily part of the network can attend. This leadership conference is a rider upon the first digital youth forum, which held on October 5, 2020 via zoom. The forum brought together experts from Nigeria, US and UK to discuss the issues of climate change, climate responsibility and sustainability issues post Covid 19.

## THE SUSTAINABILITY AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

The sustainability ambassadors program is a program of Bayero University Kano, hosted by the Center for Gender Studies in collaboration with RCE Kano. An ESD Youth Hub has been established with the hope of continuously promoting the ambassadors through series of initiatives, and engagements that center around the SDGs. The program as well aims to extend its reach to involve more institutions across the country.

## PROGAM VENUE

The Forum will be held online via Zoom.

The Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89351316076>

## REGISTRATION FORM

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeC9NuOoEsziEvFm5AOaQb6B1ZwyOhwHG5VuXqFLzHqLYKsaA/viewform>

## QUESTIONS

All relevant questions should be posted via: <https://admin.sli.do/event/rupgviyc/questions>



## DATE AND TIME

This is a two-day conference to hold from November 1, 2020 -November 2, 2020.

## CONTACT

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If you are interested in joining the Sustainability Ambassadors' Network, send your CV, a Motivation Letter and other details to the contacts above.