



THE 2nd AFRICAN YOUTH VIRTUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNU RCEs

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

13th September, 2017

Project Guide on:

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

Youths

The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines “those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 as youth without prejudice to other definitions by Member States” In 1995, the world youth population defined by the United Nations as the age cohort 15-24 - is estimated to be 1.03 billion, or 18 per cent of the total world population (United Nations, 1981). Other definitions categorizes the age bracket of 18-35 as youths.

Youth is also best understood “as a period of transition from dependence of childhood to adulthood’s independence and awareness of our interdependence as a community, youths is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group” (UNESCO, 1981).

Good Governance

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific defines governance as the “process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented)”. By this definition one is allowed to infer that “Good Governance” would mean prudence in

management and in decision making while making sure that decisions reached are sustainable. Explaining it further, UNESCAP observed that Good Governance has eight (8) characteristics; it is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. Therefore, any “governance” that exhibits the aforementioned characteristics shows traits of good governance.

Sustainable Development

World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) defined Sustainable Development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Sustainable Development as emerged as the guiding principle for long-term global development, consisting of three pillars; economic development, social development and environmental protection.

That is why in 1992, 2002 and 2012 the international community gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Johannesburg, South Africa to discuss means to operationalize sustainable development. During these Summits, world leaders adopted Agenda 21, with specific action plans to realize sustainable development at national, regional and international levels, until the historic Paris Agreement that ushered in the 17 Goals known as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Region

Location: *Country/Region*: A **brief** background about your region.

Analysis:

Suggested questions for youths to analyze to better understand the areas:

1. What is your region’s/country’s Political Structure i.e. What form of governmental system does your region or country operate?
2. How has your region’s/country’s form of governmental system translated into good leadership, governance and sustainable development?

3. What is the role youths in your region or country play towards achieving good leadership and governance?
4. Are youths actively involved in the governance process in your region?
5. What role is your RCE playing in encouraging youth participation in governance as part of its mandate on youth capacity building and lifelong learning?
6. Currently, what role is your RCE playing in shaping and re-shaping youth's activities towards governance and good leadership in your region?
7. Is there any deliberate and active transition policy (programme) by your region/country's government towards youth's inclusion in governance?
8. How has this Programme fared in encouraging active youth participation in governance?
9. How can your RCE champion good leadership, youth participation and good governance as a means for sustainable development in your region?

Recommendations:

How can these issues be addressed? What are the possible solutions? What are possible obstacles?

- Long term
- Short term

Conclusion:

Summarize the findings of the study, taking into consideration the broader themes of the conference “*A Regional Perspective on the Role of Youths in Achieving Good Governance, Leadership and Sustainable Development on the Continent*” with special focus on *youth capacity building, youth participation in governance and the role RCE's can play* etc...

This summary should be formatted into a MS PowerPoint presentation of *no more than 15 slides in length (7 minutes presentation)*. This presentation

should include interesting images and visuals to be used as a prompt for presenting, rather than extensive verbiage and copy to be read from.

This PowerPoint will be uploaded to the *internet based* session for all users to see as the presenting group advances the slides and presents their information in real time. Questions and answers, as well as dialogue will follow the presentation of the separate slides.

This PowerPoint presentation will be due in the weeks prior to the conference date of **13th September** more information will come following registration.