

# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE



*“Ten Plus Ten: YALI and the United States  
Look Back, and Ahead, Together”*

**YALI 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book**

**YALI 10 Virtual Summit: May 24-28, 2021**

**#YALI4Ag Livestream: August 12, 2021**



In 2021, the U.S. Department of State and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars partnered to host the 10th anniversary of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), the U.S. government's signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders.

This Commemorative book, "Ten Plus Ten: YALI and the United States Look Back, and Ahead, Together," serves as the final report for the YALI 10th Anniversary Program of activities and celebration conducted in May and August 2021. The events were hosted by the U.S. Department of State and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

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**Project name:** "Ten Plus Ten: YALI and United States Look Back, and Ahead, Together"

**Cooperative Agreement number:** S-FR500-20-CA-0046

**Period of performance:** September 30, 2020 - March 30, 2022

**Grantee:** Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (project implementing partner)

**Submitted to:** U.S. Department of State (POC: Ms. Brenda Soya, Director, Africa Regional Services)

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## REFLECTING ON 10 YEARS OF YALI

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) began with a desire to help Africa's greatest resource, its diverse and talented youth, to be agents of positive change on the continent. The simple idea of gathering young people together caught the fascination of others, like a drop of water creating a ripple in a pond. That ripple gained momentum and became a three-day event in Washington, D.C., in 2014. Today, YALI is now a wave that comprises a six-week Fellowship program in the United States, four Regional Leadership Centers located across Africa, and a digital network of more than a half a million people representing the breadth of Africa's dynamism and cultures, unified by a sense of service to their communities.



As friends and supporters of YALI, we are inspired by our interactions with you, whether working on the Advisory Committee for this 10th anniversary program or tackling challenges in your communities together with our U.S. embassies across the continent. The 10-year milestone marks an amazing feat and recognizes that this good idea has grown into something even greater than initially envisioned. The health pandemic, and perhaps the need to celebrate virtually was a gift. This anniversary year we were able to:

- **Develop a livestream that pushed our boundaries of expectations of ourselves.**
- **Bring in new partners to YALI, like the Wilson Center and several guest speakers, who now know of your amazing work and talents.**
- **Provide each participant with new contacts, new ideas and new actions that are authentically theirs to own, to nurture, and to build upon.**

Thinking about ten years together, we are reminded that the United States was also founded on an idea, an idea that grew into something much bigger than many thought possible. At this moment as we look back at what YALI has become, we applaud all of you and remain in awe and deep appreciation of your contributions. As we look forward, we remain inspired and hopeful for what is still to come.

**Sincerely,  
Friends and Supporters of YALI**

An infographic celebrating 10 years of YALI. It features a large group photo of diverse young African leaders in the background. Overlaid on the photo is the text 'Celebrating 10 YEARS of investing in the next generation of African leaders.' Below the photo, a blue banner contains four statistics: '4,400 Mandela Washington Fellowship alumni', '20,000 Regional Leadership Center alumni', '700,000 YALI Network Members', and '49 Sub-Saharan African countries'. A small YALI logo and a map of Africa are also present. At the bottom, there is an American flag icon and the hashtag '#YALI10'.

Celebrating **10 YEARS** of investing in the next generation of African leaders.

 <b>4,400</b> Mandela Washington Fellowship alumni	<b>20,000</b> Regional Leadership Center alumni	<b>700,000</b> YALI Network Members	<b>49</b> Sub-Saharan African countries
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\*\*\* 2010-2020 \*\*\*

USA | #YALI10



YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE

# What is the Young African Leaders Initiative?

YALI is a United States' signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders and celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. Each of the three YALI components creates opportunities for young Africans to enhance their leadership skills and forge meaningful ties with U.S. citizens, organizations, and each other.

## Mandela Washington Fellowship Opportunities in the United States

The Mandela Washington Fellowship empowers young leaders ages 25-35 from Sub-Saharan Africa through academic coursework, leadership training and networking opportunities. The Fellowship includes leadership Institutes at U.S. universities, a networking Summit, professional development experiences, and follow on activities on the continent among other activities.

<b>IN 2021</b> <b>26</b> <small>UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES WILL HOST</small>	<b>700</b> <small>YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS</small>	<small>FOR PROGRAMS IN 3 TRACKS</small> • BUSINESS • CIVIC ENGAGEMENT • PUBLIC MANAGEMENT
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## Regional Leadership Centers Opportunities in Africa

YALI Regional Leadership Centers (RLC), located in higher education institutions in Africa, offer in person and online transformational leadership training to young leaders ages 18-35 from across Sub-Saharan Africa. RLCs work collaboratively with U.S. and African private sector partners to provide experiential leadership training, networking, and professional development opportunities.

<b>OVER</b> <b>20,000</b> <small>YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS</small>	<small>FOR PROGRAMS IN 3 TRACKS</small> • BUSINESS • CIVIC LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC MANAGEMENT	<b>TRAIN AT</b> <b>4 LOCATIONS</b> <small>ACROSS SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA</small>
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## The YALI Network

Online Community with Resources and Training

The YALI Network is a virtual community established to reach beyond the exchange programs and provide tools and resources that will help young African leaders develop the skills and connections they need to become a positive force for change in their communities.

<b>700,000</b> <small>YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS</small>	<small>HAVE ACCESS TO</small> <b>600+</b> <small>EXPERT BLOGS</small> <b>28</b> <small>ONLINE COURSES</small>	<small>AND HAVE EARNED ALMOST</small> <b>700,000</b> <small>ONLINE COURSE CERTIFICATES</small>
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To learn more about all the opportunities provided by the Young African Leaders Initiative, please visit [yali.state.gov](http://yali.state.gov)



U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF YALI

Established in 2010, the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is the U.S. Government's signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders. In 2021, the U.S. government hosted the 10th anniversary celebration of YALI through a series of events and activities, including the YALI 10 Virtual Summit (May 24-28, 2021) and the #YALI4Ag Livestream (August 12, 2021). Co-hosted by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of African Affairs and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the YALI 10th anniversary celebration showcased YALI Network members and alumni achievements, and engaged in solutions-oriented and empowering discussions centered on four major themes:

- **The transformative power, innovation and resilience of the African youth;**
- **Propelling Africa forward through servant leadership;**
- **Strengthening relations between the United States and Africa; and**
- **Setting a vision for YALI for the next 10 years.**

Summit activities offered opportunities for skills development and exposure to new networks of thinkers and leaders in both the United States and Africa, and provided a platform to inform American stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities that Africa presents in the coming decade.

The YALI 10th Anniversary Program consisted of two main components: the YALI 10 Summit under the theme "Ten Plus Ten: YALI and the United States Look Back, and Ahead, Together" held from May 24-28, 2021 and "#YALI4Ag: Youth Innovating for Resilient Agriculture Livestream—An UN International Youth Day event," held on August 12, 2021. Both events centered on and highlighted YALI's three tracks: Business and Entrepreneurship, Civic Engagement, and Public Management.



## CORE COMPONENTS OF YALI 10 CELEBRATIONS

Over **5,000 participants, representing at least 75 countries**, attended the YALI 10 Summit over the course of 5 days. Another **921 participants** representing at least **38 countries** attended the #YALI4Ag Livestream. Discussions were engaging, networking robust, and the cultural content reinforcing of YALI discussions and objectives, while also being entertaining.

### **YALI 10 Summit: "Ten Plus Ten: YALI and the United States Look Back, and Ahead, Together"**

This milestone event celebrated 10 years of YALI and looked ahead to the next 10 years of the initiative. The Summit convened YALI alumni and Network members, U.S. and African policymakers, and subject matter experts and stakeholders to celebrate YALI's accomplishments, discuss many of the most pressing governance, development, and security issues facing Africa, leverage the transformation and opportunities offered by the continent, while strengthening U.S.-Africa relations and the bonds of collaboration among Africa's youth across countries, regions, communities and sectors.

### **Competition: "YALI at 10: My Life, My Community, and My World"**

The "YALI at 10: My Life, My Community, and My World" competition solicited entries for YALI alumni to share how YALI had transformed them and facilitated their journey towards servant leadership. Winning entries were showcased throughout the YALI 10 Summit in May 2021, and the first-place winner, Dr. Chidzani Mbenge, 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, read her winning poem entitled "The Shy Girl Who Refuses to Die Shy" during the Summit.

### **YALI Impact Videos**

To capture the impact of YALI, a diversity of YALI alumni, Network members, U.S. and African officials, YALI stakeholders and partners, and YALI Advisory Committee members recorded short impact statements responding to one of three questions: How has YALI impacted your life, community, and the world? What does YALI mean to U.S.-Africa relations? And what do you envision for the next 10 years of YALI? The impact statements were played throughout the summit.

### **A Vision for the Future of YALI**

The last day of the Summit focused on crafting a vision of the next 10 years of YALI. Participants convened in three breakout sessions: business and entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and public management to discuss "The Next 10 Years of YALI: A Vision for YALI's Future".

### **YALI Expo**

The YALI 10 Summit Expo provided an interactive forum for African and U.S. civil society, public, and private organizations representing a variety of sectors, to engage with Summit participants and foster engagement, partnerships, and actionable connections between the United States and Africa.

### **Networking Mingling Rooms and Lounges**

To facilitate networking and connections among the participants, virtual Networking Rooms and Lounges were open throughout the summit.

### **YALI 10 Cultural Content and Entertainment**

The YALI 10 Summit and #YALI4Ag Livestream events featured vibrant, cultural content from 41 African and U.S. cultural content providers and entertainers, including 23 YALI alumni, who brought the power of the creative arts to add value to the discussions and celebration of YALI.

### **"#YALI4Ag: Youth Innovating for Resilient Agriculture" Livestream**

Agriculture is the backbone of Africa's economic development goals and is central to achieving food security. This YALI 10 event focused on agriculture's pivotal role in meeting Africa's economic development goals and achieving food security for its citizens, and the role of Africa's youth, including YALI, in achieving this goal.

### **YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee**

The YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee (YAC) was established to ensure that YALI alumni had a central voice in the design, planning, and implementation of the YALI 10 program.



# YALI 10TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## YALI REPRESENTATION

YALI Network members and alumni were strongly represented in each core component of the YALI 10th Anniversary Program including:

- 142 YALI Expo vendors
- 49 Summit and Livestream speakers and moderators
- 20+ YALI Impact and Vision video statements
- 20+ Cultural Content and Entertainment contributors
- 13 YALI Alumni 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee members

## YALI 10 Summit: “YALI and the United States Look Back, and Ahead, Together”

- 5,000+ participants
- 75+ countries
- 36+ plenary and discussion sessions
- 100+ speakers/moderators
- 35 impact video statements

## A Vision for the Future of YALI

- 3 breakout sessions with 6 YALI/Department of State co-moderators
- 14+ recommendations
- Featured a key takeaway report-out session

## YALI Expo

- 263 vendors/booths
- 3,415 booth views
- 1,327 leads and 217 meetings

## Networking Rooms and Lounges

- 2,617 connections
- 64 attendees per lounge (average)
- 13 featured lounges

## YALI 10 Competition: “YALI at 10: My Life, My Community, and My World”

- 15 winners
- 185 total entries including:
  - 81 essays/poems
  - 28 videos
  - 11 multimedia
  - 10 photography

## “#YALI4Ag: Youth Innovating for Resilient Agriculture” Livestream

- 921 participants
- 38+ countries
- 10 speakers/moderators
- 3 YALI social innovator video remarks

## YALI 10 Cultural Content, Entertainment, and Video Statements

- 40+ African and U.S. contributors
- 13 cultural and entertainment sessions

## Post-YALI 10 Summit and Livestream YouTube Videos

- 4,566 views and counting!  
(May 28, 2021 - March 16, 2022)



For more information and to access the content from the YALI 10th Anniversary, please visit: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/young-african-leaders-initiative-yali-10th-anniversary>

For more information on YALI, please visit: [yali.state.gov](http://yali.state.gov)





## PARTICIPANTS: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

### YALI 10 Summit

#### Overall Summit Experience:

1. "The biggest take away from the summit is that, Africa is rising, and Africans are taking the lead! I feel a perfect hope for African governance and the ability of the young generation to analyze what they can do with our unique perspectives to strengthen the autonomy of Africa's economy, justice, peace, and governance."
2. "Through this summit, I have come to the conclusion that we can actually be the lead agents of transformation, of the development of the continent, if we—the youth— believe in ourselves to take up the mantle of leadership."
3. "Things are moving in Africa! We have a great sparkling youth, and YALI has contributed a lot on that hope! I'm proud to be African!"
4. "Thank you very much to you all....I have seen and finally understood the vision of YALI for the last 10 years. [It] has been a great success; the teachings have made me engage in developmental issues in my community, Zambia, and the rest of the continent. This platform has made youth like myself in Africa value the importance of sustainable development."
5. "Thank you YALI for proving to the world that indeed 'youth are the leaders of tomorrow'!"
6. "My passion to serve has been reignited by the summit. It was wonderful to reflect on 10 years of YALI."
7. "Young people are ready and willing to seize any opportunity at their disposal to move the continent forward!"
8. "The YALI 10th Anniversary has rejuvenated the strength of Africa's young people and the participants appreciated the outcomes."
9. "Greetings from Uganda, A proud YALI Network Member, the future is today and we are the future. Thank you YALI for such a great opportunity to learn, engage, network and develop our communities."
10. "YALI is all about transformational leadership. Africa's future leadership is being shaped through YALI. And so, YALI is and will remain a great legacy from the 44th POTUS, Barack H. Obama and the American people, as a whole! I am a positive consequence of that change! To date, I am not the one people (youth) must follow, but rather the one they want to. I shared my YALI dollar and have transformed many around me! GREAT TO CELEBRATE THE #YALI10 together!"

#### Extent to which Summit content focused on issues that mattered to Africa's youth and to the continent:

1. "We can't celebrate without talking about how to protect our environment. [I am] very happy to be here."
2. "In Africa, we neglect tackling causes of environmental problems and thus fail to build capacity for tackling the effects when the breaking point comes one day, sooner or later. We need to change the way we do business."
3. "YALI has done a lot in tapping into the new generation of leaders in Africa with focus on creating an enabling environment for all youth."

#### Extent to which Summit content was educational and informative:

1. "Listening to all the speakers, and based on my recent alumni experience, I ... realize even more that this is an ocean of opportunity for a glorious Africa, this YALI initiative - from the Republic of Congo."
2. "I am very happy to be part of YALI's big family. Very fruitful exchanges and sharing of experiences and ideas. Thank you very much for this context of consultation. Happy anniversary YALI."
3. "YALI10 [exceeded] beyond my expectations and highly motivated [me] to make a change in my life with respect to business build-up, perception of being a civil servant, conflict resolution networking, and more aspects. Thank you!"

### **Extent to which Summit facilitated connections and networking among African youth (YALI and beyond):**

1. "Great platform for networking and receiving insightful information. I hope to attend more YALI events in the future."
2. "I am delighted to be a part of this incredible family of Young African Leaders Initiative that are set to transform the future of Africa in a positive way."
3. "The various presentations were good but I loved the networking part the most."
4. "The conference was a great way for us former fellows to reconnect with each other and a fantastic opportunity to see all plans that YALI has in store."

### **Extent to which Summit provided opportunities for professional and skills development:**

1. "YALI has equipped young African leaders by engaging them and exposing them to leadership tools and therefore helping them change the world."
2. "Congratulations to YALI for such a milestone. My understanding of leadership has changed a lot since I joined YALI 5 years ago. I appreciate the networking YALI offers and I hope YALI will continue to inspire young leaders across the continent."
3. "YALI also gave me the clear perspective that in as much as I can train as a lawyer, I [can] also achieve my dream of being an entrepreneur."
4. "YALI has helped me in building my confidence and self-esteem since I joined the network. I want to thank YALI especially and look forward to more events and courses with them."
5. "I am glad to be a YALI alumna. YALI made me see things differently. I am now an independent thinker thus it made me act locally but thinking globally."
6. "YALI makes developers and not consumers."
7. "This is a great job that YALI has done for young African leaders. The benefit of YALI is that it teaches you to create and innovate."
8. "Making tomorrow's leaders, today."
9. "YALI is a platform for raising the next generation [of] leaders. AWESOME."
10. "Making the civilians aware of their power. Relying less on the mind and strength of others. Being reliable is what YALI makes us. Uniting different minds and improving strength. Together we stand, being impacted practically."
11. "Entrepreneurship is key, with capital support and mentorship YALI can produce more entrepreneurs in years to come."
12. "Greetings, dear leaders! I am participating from Maputo, Mozambique.... My congratulations on the 10 years of this impactful YALI program. I am immensely grateful and proud to have been trained by YALI in Civic Leadership matters."
13. "YALI transformed my life and my community. YALI opened the doors of opportunities to me, and I started to look at the world differently thanks to the modules of the courses I had online. The initiative of YALI is very important in the young Congolese life. Happy birthday to you YALI."
14. "We have two Comorian YALI Alumni who become Mayors and more than two who are working in government."
15. "I am proud to be one of the beneficiaries through the YALI Regional Leadership Centre Southern Africa. I was honored as President, together with the Executive Committee members, to lead the YALI Malawi Association in the project that aimed to encourage youth in Malawi to vote in 2019. The target was to reach 1,000 youth, but through the Malawi Votes project we reached 8,000 youth."
16. "My happiness as a young African leader with a global view was brought into reality the day I joined YALI East Africa Regional Leadership Centre. The knowledge was immense which has helped me and my community realize a progressive change of mindset from complaining to the government of the day but of getting involved as a stakeholder in providing solutions to issues affecting our people and Africa at large. Go, go, go YALI10. I must thank Barack Obama for such an innovative initiative for the African future. Yes we can."

### **Extent to which Summit provided opportunity to hear from and connect with U.S. officials:**

1. "I am very happy with the efforts that have been made so far, and I thank every YALI [member] and the U.S. government for their interest in creating an advanced African continent especially in the domain of leadership. I am also thrilled by the involvement of youth in African leadership, and I think with the help of the U.S. government, the African youth will play an essential role in leading Africa to a better future."

2. "Inspired by the initiatives undertaken by the U.S. through its departments that I was not necessarily aware of and probably would not have been if I was not part of YALI."
3. "The summit gave us the reassurance that the Biden-Harris administration is committed to U.S.-Africa relations; that it's pledging to harness Africa's demographic dividend."

#### **Extent to which Summit created a shared vision for the next 10 years of YALI (2020-2030):**

1. "As Dr. Odry says, YALI must invest in the next 10 years so that this program becomes a real partnership between the U.S. and African states. This is a great opportunity for another way to looking at partnerships with Africa. The establishment of a central YALI academy in Africa where alumni can meet to develop their ideas and projects is perhaps a great opportunity to allow a more effective implementation of Regional Leadership Centre trainings."
2. "The visible change that YALI has brought among young leaders and communities is something Africa has long yearned for. We must continue to strengthen the networks and alumni chapters to unify young leaders and their great work!"
3. "To you all addressing us, the hosts - thank you very much, for your leadership training, knowledge and wisdom. Very humbled and will forever be grateful. Continue the brilliant work, to us, YALI. The 10 years means a lot and we have a mission to continue impacting our continent."
4. "Happy 10th anniversary, YALI. It is very fitting that tomorrow, May 25, is Africa Day and I encourage all members to reach out into their local communities and organize events to commemorate this special day. Here's to 10 more years of success, prosperity and solid impact across the continent."
5. "YALI is a transformational movement, in the view of these facts; alumni must mobilize the youth of Africa to transform the social-economic status of the continent rapidly before the end of the decade. Success is not success until it's successive!"

#### **What is your biggest takeaway from the Summit?**

1. "Innovation and that it is possible to network no matter the changes that could interplay like our case with COVID-19."
2. "My biggest takeaway is the continued U.S.-Africa relations. It's my view [that] when this continues, Africa's young people will continue to play significant roles across the globe."
3. "My biggest take away is for things to change we need our collective leadership to bring change in our society. "
4. "Young people in Africa need an organized, easy-to-access platform/gateway/entry to market their services/ products to the rest of the world. I think AGOA is a great start but it still has many limitations."
5. "We have only ONE Africa - together we build it or divided and unconcerned, we will see it fail on the global stage."
6. "There needs to be more sustained harnessing of a continental Fellowship Network engagement."
7. "AFRIKA (Alekebulan) is rising."

### **#YALI4Ag Livestream**

#### **Overall Livestream experience:**

1. "The #YALI4Ag was an amazing experience for me, [the] community, and my team. I can now lead them to valuable ideas and projects to recover the damages caused by the pandemic. I am leading a team as a servant leader in my community."
2. "YALI4Ag has been and hitherto very instrumental in promoting advocacy for radical inclusion of youths in the agricultural sector."
3. "For those that facilitated the event and the organizers—thumbs up, community. I was able to catch up with the recorded version, [and] it felt live because hearing the speakers' every word that flowed was motivation to focus on my journey with more insights on opportunities I can tap into and create models that will offer improved tools on offering alternatives to agricultural practices."

#### **Extent to which Livestream content focused on issues that mattered to Africa is youth and to the continent:**

1. "Yes, educate women farmers about the value of agriculture and see farming as a way to eradicate poverty in Sierra Leone and economic recovery after the pandemic. The opportunities afforded by agribusiness and the role youth can play in growing the local economy."
2. "The event was a wake-up call for youths in Africa on their role towards the promotion of food security."

### **Extent to which the Livestream facilitated connections and networking among African youth (YALI and beyond):**

1. "I've learnt to network more with people within the same space I operate in."
2. "One action that I have taken is to promote local farmers products on social media to connect them to possible clients and to encourage other people that might want to get involved."

### **Extent to which the Livestream content was educational and informative:**

1. "There were many moments of discovery during the livestream which resulted in confession or note taking towards a particular commitment to explore. Nonetheless, it was an eye-opener to the vast opportunities that exist unknown to many youth, including myself. One action I intend to pursue is how well I can participate in small scale irrigation in local communities to add more value to planting by making sure it becomes all year round, most especially for the production of vegetables, roots and tubers; value addition to reduce post-harvest wastes."
2. "The action I realized I want to take during the livestream is to expand and enhance my business and to recruit more youth in my community to reduce rural unemployment."
3. "Agriculture is the backbone of Africa's economic development goals and is central to achieving food security for its citizens. [...] Properly supported, the sector can boost the continent's ability to feed itself, develop continent-wide supply chains, increase Africa's share of global trade, and boost the continent's development. In order to achieve these goals, African countries must rapidly transform their agricultural sectors, ensuring that African youth play a more central role."

### ***YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee***

The YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee (YAC) provided input on key issues such as topics of focus for the YALI 10 Summit and the #YALI4Ag Livestream, speaker recommendations for the sessions, communications strategies for reaching various constituencies in Africa and the United States, cultural content provider and format suggestions, and feedback from the Network on the events. YALI TV was especially essential in curating the creative arts for the YALI 10th anniversary events. Below are a few words of reflection from the YAC on the year's events.

1. "[The] YALI 10th Anniversary brought the synergies of Africa's young people and the spirit of reclaiming the continent for sustainable development came out very clearly. I can say I'm happy being part of that milestone."
2. "The United States and Africa have a shared vision which is more cemented by the opportunity provided by the YALI program."
3. "...the speakers served as a motivational reminder of how relevant we could be in the coming years in our areas of practice. The [YALI 10 Summit] program will serve as a reference for many YALI cohorts and sessions over the years to come to improve the content of the tracks in the African context."
4. "It's my estimation that YALI might not be the most expensive U.S. support [program] to Africa, but the most impactful and worthy."
5. "Working together with a diverse group of young African leaders continues to re-affirm my faith and belief for our continent and commitment by like-minded individuals who have the same goal of seeing Africa advance."
6. "I see YALI as the bedrock holding the aspirations of the African continent. From across the continent, YALI is the most celebrated youth transformative program. With continued U.S.-Africa relations, it will not take too long for the YALI efforts to turn the trajectory of the African continent."
7. "I was able to feel inspired and compelled to take action with a sensation that I am not alone."
8. "I was able to E-meet and work with several leaders. Their experiences and contributions helped improve my understanding and skills in working with others and how it's rewarding to have diversified minds working together."
9. "The U.S. is one of the biggest investors in Africa and has supported the uplifting, improvement, and education of many young Africans who have contributed immensely to the development of Africa. With the continuation of this [YALI] program, Africa and the United States will always be better strategic partners and allies."

The graphics below represent some of the most common words or phrases that participants used to express their feelings about the YALI 10th Anniversary Program and activities:



# SUMMIT WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Monday, May 24, 2021

**Ms. Elizabeth Liu**

**YAC Steering Committee; Special Coordinator for the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America**

My name is Liz Liu, and I am the special coordinator for the Young African Leaders Initiative at the United States Department of State. Welcome to the Young African Leaders Initiative 10th Anniversary Summit, we made it! It is so great to be here with you today. In 2010, 115 young leaders came to Washington for YALI's first program, which was the President's Forum with Young African Leaders. Today, YALI has 24,000 alumni between the Mandela Washington Fellowship exchange program and the Regional Leadership Centers on the continent. Membership in the online YALI network is more than 700,000 strong—that is more than the population of Bujumbura. If Wakanda were a place, it would be filled with "YALIs" no doubt.

Why should we care? You will hear more about the youth bulge from other speakers but the bottom line is: Africa's youth represent Africa's future. For the past decade, YALI has empowered youth to take control of their own future. YALI's programs promote effective public administration; grow networks that connect people; create conditions for peace, prosperity and security across the continent; and investment opportunities for U.S. businesses. YALI alumni have risen to high-ranking leadership positions and have been recognized with international awards. Five alumni have held or currently hold cabinet level positions, YALI alumni were awarded first and second prize respectively in Africa.com's Brilliant African Innovations Against COVID-19 competition in 2020, and a Somali fellowship alumna was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019. You, Africa's young leaders, are what make YALI special. You embody YALI's spirit of service leadership, a philosophy in which the main goal of the leader is to serve—this is YALI's soul.

For instance, the YALI services campaign inspires network members to uphold these principles and give back to their communities each year around Nelson Mandela Day in July. Despite the pandemic, thousands of members still found a way to give back last year. The YALI service campaign, said one YALI network member [has developed me into a leader who is prepared to fight for all social issues in my community. It has also prepared me to be an entrepreneur and a leading form. It has improved both my confidence and my commitment to my community. Also, Nelson Mandela for whom YALI's flagship program the Mandela Washington Fellowship is named after lives on in YALI. In my household, our favorite Mandela quote is: "It always seems impossible until it's done." It's a favorite because I love to use it on my children. I have a six-year-old son and a daughter who turns four this weekend. Whenever they are learning a new skill like riding a bike, reading, counting, or when they complain about cleaning up toys, I remind them that it always seems impossible until it's done. The belief in one's ability to rise up and overcome obstacles is at the core of YALI's ethos and this decades YALI alumni and network members are a generation of leaders who are serving their communities and breaking barriers.

**YALI 10 Virtual Summit**  
**PROGRAM AGENDA**  
Day 1 Monday  
24 May, 2021

## Session 1

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF YALI  
**Welcome and Opening Plenary**

<p><b>Ms. Dana Banks</b> Special Assistant to the President and National Security Council Senior Director for Africa The White House</p>	<p><b>Mr. Matthew Lussenhop</b> Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs U.S. Department of State</p>
<p><b>Congressman Gregory W. Meeks</b> Representative, New York's Fifth Congressional District U.S. House of Representatives</p>	<p><b>Mr. João Vembane</b> YALI Alum; Founder &amp; CEO JAV Consulting, E.I.</p>
<p><b>Congressman Michael McCaul</b> Representative, Texas' 10th Congressional District U.S. House of Representatives</p>	<p><b>Ms. Elizabeth Liu</b> Special Coordinator for the Young African Leaders Initiative, Bureau of African Affairs U.S. Department of State</p>
<p><b>H.E. Hilda Suka-Mafudze</b> African Union (AU) Ambassador to the United States AU Permanent Representative to the United States</p>	<p><b>Dr. Monde Muyangwa</b> Director, Africa Program Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars</p>
<p><b>Ambassador Mark Green</b> President, Director, &amp; CEO The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars</p>	<p>Ten Plus Ten: YALI and United States Look Back, and Ahead, Together</p>

Becoming the youngest minister ever in Botswana's history at the age of 30—impossible? Not for 2011 First Ladies Forum for Young African Leaders alumna Bogolo Kenewendo. Feeding thousands of vulnerable communities across Ghana, an especially important service during the pandemic—impossible? Not for Regional Leadership Center alumnus and founder of the Food for All Africa program Elijah Amoo Addo. Surviving the harsh realities of life in a refugee camp while facing extreme poverty and the dangers of snake bites and rape for 22 years and come out thriving as a women's advocate, soccer coach, and team manager for the Senior and under 20 national women's teams in South Sudan—impossible you say? Not for 2018 Mandela Washington Fellowship alumna Nasera Victoria.

Put together a summit for up to 15,000 young African leaders featuring more than 80 speakers, an exposition with 300 booths, entertainment, and celebrity guests in the middle of a pandemic—impossible? I do not think so. This summit would not have been possible without the incredible support from not only our implementing partner, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, but also of course our YALI alumni who are the reason we are here today, who helped make this week's program happen, the list goes on. YALI's impact is evident as participants rise to leadership positions in business, government, and society. Make no mistake, Africa's youth will determine Africa's future. YALI is the key to U.S. efforts to support these talented youth and as we celebrate the past decade and look ahead to the future one thing is clear, the future of not only Africa but also the world is in good hands.

**Congressman Gregory W. Meeks**  
**Representative, New York's Fifth Congressional District and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee,**  
**U.S. House of Representatives, *United States of America***

Welcome to the 10th year anniversary of the Young African Leaders Initiative where we celebrate the achievements of YALI alumni. First, I would like to thank the U.S. State Department, in partnership with the Africa Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, for this invitation to address you all today. As a longtime supporter of investment in African youth, I am proud to have been an active supporter of and a witness to what America's enduring commitment to African youth has helped YALI Alumni accomplish over the last 10 years.

Since 2010, YALI has provided Africa's youth with the tools required to become agents for change, helping build models of good governance, transparency, economic growth, and peacebuilding. As a result, YALI alumni continue to lead the way in civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Many of our African partners face challenges today, but there are just as many good news stories and promising opportunities all over the continent so we should all be encouraged that YALI, with the support of the United States, promotes the values of democracy and human rights throughout the continent of Africa. These values are the cornerstone of sustainable development and growth.

Thanks to the efforts of the U.S. State Department and USAID, key YALI initiatives are connecting Americans and Africans in the pursuit of professional development and leadership opportunities. I look forward to seeing the Mandela Washington Fellowship resume, connecting hundreds of gifted African youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills at colleges and universities all across the country. Those skills are put to good use in their home countries and represent the promise of strong Africa civil societies, trusted public institutions, and a thriving private sector. The regional leadership centers are an important example of what public-private partnerships can do to mobilize resources and drive regional collaboration in Africa. These initiatives have also helped YALI grow over the last decade to elevate public awareness of important issues such as climate change and green energy, anti-corruption, voting and civic participation along with community health just to name a few.

One of my top priorities is to strengthen partnerships between the United States and Africa, especially when it comes to trade, investment, and economic growth. YALI has proven to be an important part of that process and, as Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I will continue to support the role of Congress in ensuring YALI has the resources it needs to be effective for years to come. So, thank you again for inviting me to share in this celebration of YALI's 10th anniversary with all of you; it is indeed an honor to be part of a collective effort to help YALI have another successful decade ahead. Thank you and enjoy the celebration.

**Congressman Michael McCaul**

**Representative, Texas' 10th Congressional District and Lead Republican of the Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America**

I want to send my sincere congratulations to the Young African Leaders Initiative or YALI for its 10th anniversary. Nearly, one out of every three Africans are between the ages of 10 and 24—they are the future of the African continent. Access to education, vocational training and jobs, just like here in the United States, will be even more critical to support this growing youth population.

Programs like YALI are not just effective diplomacy; they are an investment in future generations of African leaders. Because of YALI, we have welcomed nearly 4,400 young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa to the United States since 2014. These impressive individuals go back to their home countries and they grow their businesses, they work in government, and they become leaders in their communities. So, I am proud the university of Texas at Austin has hosted a cohort of Mandela Washington fellows every summer and I look forward to welcoming many more YALI fellows to experience my home district in the years to come.

**Mr. João Vembane**

**YALI Alum; Founder and CEO, JAV Consulting, E.I., Republic of Mozambique**

*Vote of Appreciation on behalf of YALI Alumni and Network*

As part of the Mandela Washington Fellowship Program, I will try to speak on behalf of the more than 700,000 youth who are doing a good job across Africa implementing and inspiring initiatives, and participating in the a program that is connecting us. In the last 10 years, the YALI program has meant a lot to us youth in Africa. It brought several opportunities. First, it provided training opportunities to improve the work we are already doing, and the most important part of the training related to knowing ourselves better and understanding the value of the different initiatives we are implementing throughout our communities, which helped us to think deeper about the impacts that we are creating.

The different programs that are offered through the YALI Mandela Washington Fellowship Program, the reciprocal exchange program, and access to grants among so many others, have helped us to connect with experts that are resident in the United States and, more importantly, experts who reside in Africa. We are doing a lot of work separately in our different communities, and we face different challenges; but by connecting through this massive platform, we learn from others and we solves problems that we are facing in our communities. We are facing issues that are barriers to the progress of our activities—that one or two other fellows, or even more, have already overcome in their communities.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship in my case meant access to a practical example of implementation of disability-inclusive programs whereby I had access to the Americans with Disability Act community of experts and beneficiaries speaking with their own voice about what this act meant for them. When I came back to Mozambique, this helped me to work together with my mates who have been working to advocate for disability rights in Mozambique. We are one step away from getting a national law approved that is just like the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is just one of the tremendous impacts that the YALI programs had on me and my fellow Mozambicans. I also believe it means a lot to my mates from other African countries within the platform. Together we are connecting and working to promote disability rights throughout Africa, and we have built a community focusing on disability rights, and inclusion. The platform has more than 37 participants for more than 11 countries and continues to grow. So, this is a practical example for what it means to be a part of this huge platform of great experts and what they are doing in their communities.

It also means access to resources including technical resources tools to implement our work, access to experts, and access to the grants program. Through this program, several of youth have accessed scholarships at universities, and they are now pursuing their master's degrees or their Ph.D. degrees. I could not talk about the impact of YALI in just a few words or in one day. It needs more time than that to speak about what it means to be a YALI member. So, I hope that the government of the United States of America, the different governments of Africa, and the community of the youth continue to promote this kind of initiative. I hope we deepen the connection among ourselves, and we can have a platform where we can post our concerns and we can have thousands of dozens of experts within our own community in Africa. I feel honored to be a YALI member and to have access to all of the resources and platforms. Thank you so much.



## **H.E. Hilda Suka-Mafudze**

### **African Union Ambassador to the United States, Republic of Zimbabwe**

Greetings from the African Union. The African Union recognizes the tremendous support the U.S. Government is providing which positively impacts the lives of the youth. As a result of YALI initiatives, Africa is witnessing remarkable fervent young women and men who are engaged in public service and working with local communities. YALI programs have transformed our youth as a result of, trainings, networking opportunities, and professional development. These youths are playing significant roles, such as establishing non-government organizations, starting up business ventures and taking charge on government policy frameworks. I want to acknowledge the United States for this undertaking that has empowered our youths through regional centers established in Ghana, Senegal, Kenya, and South Africa. Most importantly, not to forget The Mandela Washington Fellowship and the YALI Network. I am grateful that the organizers and sponsors of this summit have gathered the beneficiaries to celebrate this noble accomplishment. Again, echoing the unwavering support of the United States Government to African Union Member countries. I cannot forget to mention particularly the support during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has sadly taken millions of people globally and has negatively affected the world's economy. The United States' support is helping to combat this pandemic predominantly in health and humanitarian sectors, which are essential to economic recovery to the recipient countries.

The relationship between United States and Africa has existed for a long time. The role it plays in education, increased enrollments in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) subjects, language, and cultural exchanges are opening the doors for this population to a stage of a global citizenry. The U.S. Government's assistance to strengthen primary education and technical training opportunities for youth to the most African Union Member States is a foundation from which youth development is being built.

Ladies and gentlemen, Africa has instituted measures that guarantee youth engagement which dovetail with YALI programs. One of the key continental measures is the Youth Charter. This Youth Charter was established to serve as a strategic framework to guide actions of each African Union Member country towards youth development and was adopted in 2006. As it is stated by the African Union, "This Charter is a political and legal framework, which serves the purpose of providing a strategic framework and direction for youth empowerment and development activities at continental, regional, and national levels across Africa." The Charter shows Africa's key commitment to the empowerment of this generation by the member states and governments. The African Union has a responsibility to make sure all partakers including regional bodies and civil society move and work in a harmonized way.

Another major commitment to engage youth in Africa and the prudent measure that guides us to ensure inclusion include Agenda 2063. Aspiration 6 of this 50-year development blueprint clearly states, "An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children." Again, this blueprint emphasizes active involvement of the young Africans in decision-making in all aspects of their lives. Agenda 2063 ensures an inclusive continent where no child, woman, or man is left behind or excluded, based on gender, political affiliation, religion, ethnic affiliation, locality, age, or other factors." And of vital significance in this aspiration is full gender equality in all spheres of life. Ladies and gentlemen, engaged and empowered youth, and children all aiming at creating opportunities for Africa's youth to ensure self-realization, access to health, education, jobs, safety, and security of Africa's children, and providing for early childhood development are key to all leaders of our continent. Africa's plan for its youth is harmonized with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN).

Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063, which I just stated, links with SDGs as follows: Aspiration 6—engaged and empowered youth and children. Prioritizing youth empowerment and children's rights. In relationship to this aspiration, the SDGs state insuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. Partnerships with the United States Government, through initiatives like YALI, facilitates this process.

A word of encouragement for you, my sons and daughters, in Zimbabwe we say, Akuruma nzeve ndewako or "The one who gives you advice is on your side." Take advice from your leaders, your mentors, and endeavor to be your best. Our continent has you as a firm foundation.

Let me end on a key point of gratitude, I thank the United States government through the U.S. State Department and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars for their support for African youth through the YALI Program, whose noble contribution to our continent's advancement is being celebrated today. On behalf of the Chairperson of African Union, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat and the entire leadership of the African Union Commission, I appreciate the excellent relationship that exists between United States and the entire continent. I thank you for your kind attention. Go YALI go! I wish you a successful summit.

**Ambassador Mark Green**

**President, Director, & CEO, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, *United States of America***

My friends, I am Ambassador Mark Green, and on behalf of the Wilson Center, I'm proud to welcome all of you to YALI's 10th Anniversary Summit. I am grateful to the U.S. State Department for this opportunity to join them in hosting this historic gathering. Even more, we are excited to join with all of you...young people who represent not only Africa's future, but in so many ways, the future of the world as well. Of course, we all wish we were meeting in person to celebrate, and plan, and rededicate ourselves to YALI's mission...to the cause of Africa helping Africa claim its bright future. We hope and pray that the opportunity to gather in person will come one day soon.

On the other hand, I for one am grateful that we are able to use the tools of technology to bring together friends of Africa like never before. Today's summit has convened leaders from across the U.S. government, from the White House and President Biden, to Congress, to the U.S. State Department and more, and throughout Africa's diplomatic corps. Most importantly, it has brought together YOU, more than 15,000 young people from all across Africa—North and South and East and West. João put it very well when he said this is a massive platform.

In the few moments that I have, I want to share why this summit is a special moment for me personally as well. You see, I began my own work in Africa some 30 years ago, when I served as a teacher in a small Harambee school in East Africa, a school with no electricity for its classroom or glass for its windows. A school where some classes had only one textbook for 10 or so students, a school so poor that the headmaster would send students home if their families fell behind in the school fees that we needed to keep our doors open.

I remember the first time that it happened in a class I was teaching. I remember the headmaster coming around and reading off some names and then students quietly and very sadly standing up and walking out the door. I remember going back to the chalkboard and continuing to write lessons and then I heard a noise and I looked over my shoulder and saw some of those students sneaking back into my classroom.

When I look into your eyes, young leaders of Africa, I think of those students, and their children who are now in school. I think of what you can do for them and, if I must say, what you must do for them and what you owe them. After all, you are the fortunate ones, the ones who have been entrusted with the opportunity to build a much brighter future. A future that is more peaceful, a future that doesn't walk away from challenges like building a greener economy, a future that is more inclusive and respectful of others regardless of their background. A future that harnesses the brainpower of Africa's youth to create new economic opportunities and wondrous new technologies for the whole world around you. A future that lifts up the human condition and reinforces human dignity.

Those students that I taught are counting on you, we are all counting on you. You can do great things. This summit and YALI's mission can help you get there. So enjoy this time together, enjoy the fellowship and take every advantage that you can. This is your moment and we are all cheering you on.

**Mr. Matthew Lussenhop**

**Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, *United States of America***

I am pleased to join you today and congratulate the Young African Leaders Initiative on its 10-year anniversary. Our bureau [Educational and Cultural Affairs] has implemented the Mandela Washington Fellowship, an important component of YALI since 2014, and the program has an immense impact on our participants and on economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa. As Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted last month in his discussion with YALI alumni, "The best way to prepare communities for massive challenges like the pandemic is building resilience, expanding opportunity, and strengthening local voices of rising leaders."

We are proud that the Mandela Washington Fellowship is contributing to these goals through in-person and online learning opportunities. Last year, we created 22 online courses for our alumni and the 2021 cohort. We look forward to seeing how the 2021 fellows continue to grow, adapt, and become more effective servant leaders during their virtual full program this year.

Exchange programs develop networks and provide new opportunities and you will hear later on this week about two 2019 fellowship alumni, Alexandre Nshimiyimana from Rwanda, and Jerry Mang'ena from Tanzania. They connected with a Texas business during their exchange, and they are now exporting seaweed to the United States. I hope their story will inspire you to explore networking opportunities with thousands of summit participants this week. You may find a new partner through the conference platform. You can also share lessons learned with your colleagues following the program to expand YALI's impact. I look forward to learning how this summit impacts young leaders across Africa and we hope that YALI inspires you for many years to come. Happy Birthday, YALI!

**Ms. Dana Banks**

**Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Africa, National Security Council,  
United States of America**

It is such a pleasure to be here with you all today, although virtually, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our extraordinary Young African Leaders Initiative, better known as YALI. First, I would like to thank some of our speakers who you heard from this morning: Congressman Gregory Meeks, the Chair of our House Foreign Affairs Committee; Matthew Lussenhop, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; Ambassador Suka-Mafudze, African Union Ambassador to the United States; and Ambassador Mark Green, President and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars—all of whom are true advocates for our U.S. Africa policy. I want to thank them for their participation.

YALI is one of my favorite presidential initiatives. When I served as public affairs officer [at the U.S. embassy] in Tanzania, I selected the first slate of Tanzanian YALI participants in 2014, and it is amazing see how the YALI network has expanded over the years. And, as you all know, YALI is also one of our most robust and oldest regional youth initiatives.

With a population of 1.3 billion people whose median age is 19 years old, equipping African youth with opportunities to strengthen their potential is at the core of the United States partnership with Africa. Even as Africa continues to confront many challenges, such as the pandemic of COVID-19 and longstanding conflicts, the continent is still on the move, and I am glad technology has made it possible for us to connect today.

By 2050, Africa's population is expected to rise to 2 billion people. With hundreds of millions of mobile phones, digital technology, and surging access to the internet, Africans are beginning to leapfrog old technologies into new prosperity. And, young people like you will be driving so much of the continent's progress because Africa is the youngest continent, in terms of demographics.

By supporting YALI, we intend to work with the public sector, the private sector, and civil society partners across the continent to develop economic opportunities to harness this innovation and energy of Africa's youth. You may recall President Biden's address to the Africa Union Summit earlier this year, his first address to foreign leaders in his administration. In that address, President Biden said, "We must all work together to advance our shared vision of a better future, a future of growing trade and investment that advances prosperity for all our nations, a future that advances lives of peace and security for all our citizens." To achieve this future, the Biden-Harris administration will continue to engage regularly, openly, and as partners in pursuing our shared interests and values. We have much in common and much we want to achieve together, whether it is on security, global health, trade and investment, climate change, human rights, or democracy. It is through exchanges like YALI that the Biden-Harris administration will continue to reinvigorate and restore our partnerships across the continent. We aim to build substantive reciprocal relationships with African governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and with young people like yourselves who are the future and, in some cases, current leaders of these institutions.

So, this summit will highlight and celebrate the achievements of a YALI alumni network and its members while demonstrating United States' enduring commitment to Africa's youth. The summit will also provide new opportunities for skills development, networking, mentoring, and collaboration, as well as an opportunity for YALI alumni to define a collective vision for their future. Over the next five days, you will all celebrate YALI's impact and provide opportunities to connect with notable speakers so I encourage you to enjoy this time, make the most of it, and congratulations on 10 years of YALI. May the next 10 years see exponential growth in the number of YALI fellows living on the continent and leading across the world. We look forward to many more years of engaging Africa's youth. Thank you, and enjoy the summit.

“ I look forward to learning how this summit impacts young leaders across Africa and we hope that YALI inspires you for many years to come. Happy Birthday, YALI!

—Mr. Matthew Lussenhop, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America

*\*Check all remarks against delivery.*

# SUMMIT KEYNOTE ADDRESS SUMMARY

Monday, May 24, 2021

## Mr. Serge Ibaka

**Forward, LA Clippers; Founder, Serge Ibaka Foundation, Republic of the Congo**

The YALI 10 Summit Keynote Address was given by Mr. Serge Ibaka, a Congolese-Spanish professional basketball player for the Los Angeles Clippers of the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the founder of the Serge Ibaka Foundation.

He was interviewed by Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo, YALI Alum and General Manager of YALI TV. A summary of Mr. Ibaka's inspirational keynote interview is below.

**Mr. Asuo:** "How was it growing up in Congo, and transitioning abroad to play NBA in America, and play nationally in Spain?" **Mr. Ibaka** shared that growing up in the Congo was difficult, but he believed that it was his destiny to end up where he is today. He followed his dream, kept working, stayed patient, and never gave up until his dream became a reality.

**Mr. Asuo:** "How did you develop such a great work ethic? Was it inspired by the culture of the environment you are in now, or the lifestyle, or the family background, or it was inspired by where you came from, your origin from Congo?" **Mr. Ibaka** emphasized that the challenges he faced growing up only made him stronger, and made him a mentor for others, so his work ethic came directly out of his challenges.

**Mr. Asuo:** "Can you share a little bit with us about your humanitarian work in Africa, and what are some of the plans you have to impact the life of young Africans when it comes to the leadership? You had Liz tell you we have about 24,000 young Africans who have been trained and ready to impact the continent. What are some of your plans in promoting leadership through your foundation?" **Mr. Ibaka** shared that his foundation has done a lot of work over the past 6 years, focused on the key issues of education and health. His basketball academy in Africa helps give young players the opportunity to study in the United States or in Europe. He emphasized that providing young people with educational opportunities, opportunities that he never had, was more important than the basketball component, as not all young basketball players will be able to play professionally. But, if they are educated, they will be able to better themselves and support their families. His noted that his foundation also works with orphanages by providing them with supplies and education support, as Mr. Ibaka himself spent a portion of his life on the streets.

**Mr. Asuo:** "What would be your message of solidarity to the young African who aspires to great dreams and ambitions like yourself? In the face of challenges or in the face of opportunities." **Mr. Ibaka** emphasized the importance of young Africans sticking together and working together, noting that what he does is not just for himself or his family, but for the entire continent. Mr. Ibaka stressed that no matter where they come from or who they are, young Africans must keep believing, working hard, pursuing their educations, and believing that anything is possible.

**YALI 10 Virtual Summit**  
**PROGRAM AGENDA**  
Day 1 Monday  
24 May, 2021

**Session 2**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF YALI  
**10 Years of YALI**

**Mr. Serge Ibaka**  
NBA Champion | Humanitarian | Fashion Icon  
Los Angeles Clippers

Moderator  
**Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo**  
General Manager  
YALI TV

Wilson Center

Ten Plus Ten: YALI and United States  
Look Back, and Ahead, Together

**Mr. Asuo:** “Over the past years, U.S.-Africa engagements have increased, and we have seen the launch of... the NBA Africa League. You also spoke about building academies across the continent, and many other collaborations, especially, looking at how impactful the YALI program has been. What do you feel is the best way to keep the momentum of U.S.-Africa relations going to impact development on the continent?” **Mr. Ibaka** spoke to the importance of continued U.S.-Africa engagement, through programs such as the NBA Africa League, in motivating and supporting young Africans.

**Mr. Asuo:** “I discovered that you have a love for fashion and music...What inspires you in that direction?”

**Mr. Ibaka** described himself as an artist and a creator, and discussed the role of fashion, music, and cooking as art forms that balance the physical component of basketball with artistic components in his life.

**Mr. Asuo:** “I watched an interview where you spoke three languages back to back. What's your inspiration and what will be your message to the young African leaders out there when it comes to language, and advantages you have gotten by speaking three different international languages?” **Mr. Ibaka** noted that he speaks four languages, and pointed out the importance of language. He encouraged young people to learn new languages whenever they have the opportunity, because they never know where they might end up, just as Mr. Ibaka ended up in the United States and in Spain.

**Mr. Asuo:** “I'll call you Mr. Versatile. The man who speaks four languages. The man who has his origins in three continents. And the one who is into fashion and music, and is a philanthropist. What is the future for you when you retire from active sports?” **Mr. Ibaka** responded that he has many interests and projects, and explained that he does not have one single goal for his future, but hopes to continue trying and finding new things to enjoy.

**Mr. Asuo:** “As we draw the curtains on this interview, I'd love you to give a good will message to all the YALI alumni across the continent who are watching you right now, and to every young African who is watching you today.” **Mr. Ibaka** emphasized that everything begins with a dream. He had a dream, he believed in God, and he believed in his vision. It took sacrifice, hard work, patience, and many ups and downs, but he never gave up. He concluded by encouraging young Africans to work hard, be patient, and keep believing—no matter their situation—and stressed that if he could do it, so can they.

“Let’s keep believing. It does not matter where you come from, what kind of family you have, or how your situation is now. We all can do it. If I’m here today, you can too.”

-Mr. Serge Ibaka

Watch Mr. Serge Ibaka's inspirational video [here](#).

## SUMMIT PROGRAM AGENDA

"TEN PLUSTEN: YALI and the United States Look Back, and Ahead, Together"

### Monday, May 24 – Celebrating 10 Years of YALI

<p><b>Session 1</b> 08:30-09:30 ET</p>	<p><b>Session 1 (Plenary)</b> Welcome, Opening, and YALI Impact Statements: YALI Impact on My Life, Community, and the World</p>			<p><b>Networking and Mingling Rooms</b> <i>Open throughout</i></p>		
<p><b>Session 2</b> 09:30-10:00 ET</p>	<p><b>Session 2 (Plenary)</b> Keynote Address</p>					
<p>10:00-10:10 ET</p>	<p><b>Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment</b></p>					
<p><b>Session 3</b> 10:10-11:10 ET</p>	<p><b>Session 3 (Plenary)</b> 10 Years of YALI</p>					
<p>11:10-11:20 ET</p>	<p><b>Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment</b></p>			<p><b>Expo</b> <i>Open throughout</i></p>		
<p><b>Session 4</b> 11:20-12:30 ET</p>	<p><b>Session 4: Concurrent Breakout Policy Sessions</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 1198 1703 1300"> <tr> <td data-bbox="527 1198 947 1300"> <p><b>Session 4A</b> Leveraging Trade to Advance U.S. and African Business Goals</p> </td> <td data-bbox="951 1198 1325 1300"> <p><b>Session 4B</b> Civil Society's Role in Mitigating Climate Change</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1329 1198 1703 1300"> <p><b>Session 4C</b> Youth, Conflict Management, and Peacebuilding in Africa</p> </td> </tr> </table>				<p><b>Session 4A</b> Leveraging Trade to Advance U.S. and African Business Goals</p>	<p><b>Session 4B</b> Civil Society's Role in Mitigating Climate Change</p>
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## Tuesday, May 25 – Africa Day: A Continent on the Move - The Transformative Power, Innovation, and Resilience of Africa’s Youth

<b>Session 5</b> 08:30-09:20 ET	<b>Session 5 (Plenary)</b> Youth as Drivers of Africa’s Transformation and Development				<b>Networking and Mingling Rooms</b> <i>Open throughout</i>
09:20-09:30 ET	YALI Impact Video Statements: YALI Impact on My Life, Community and the World				
<b>Session 6</b> 09:30-10:30 ET	<b>Session 6: Concurrent Breakout Policy Sessions</b>				
	<b>Session 6A</b> COVID-19 Disruption and Innovation in Africa	<b>Session 6B</b> Building Sustainable Civil Society Organizations	<b>Session 6C</b> Combating Corruption in Africa (Including the Role of Youth)	<b>Session 6D</b> Pitching and Business Communication Skills	
10:30-10:40 ET	Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment				
<b>Session 7</b> 10:40-11:40 ET	<b>Session 7: Concurrent Breakout Professional Development Workshops</b>				
	<b>Session 7A</b> Navigating COVID-19 and Beyond: A Toolkit for Running a Virtual Business	<b>Session 7B</b> Fundraising for Civic Engagement: Theory Meets Practice	<b>Session 7C:</b> Building an Effective and Resilient Public Service in Africa		
11:40-12:30 ET	Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment				<b>Expo</b> <i>Open throughout</i>

## Wednesday, May 26 - Propelling Africa Forward through Servant Leadership

<b>Session 8</b> 08:30-09:20 ET	<b>Session 8 (Plenary)</b> Why Servant Leadership Matters in Africa and How to Get There				<b>Networking and Mingling Rooms</b> <i>Open throughout</i>
09:20-09:30 ET	Break: YALI Cultural Content Video and Entertainment				
<b>Session 9</b> 09:30-10:30 ET	<b>Session 9: Concurrent Breakout Policy Sessions</b>				
	<b>Session 9A</b> Digitizing African Economies and E-Commerce as a Pathway to Africa's Development	<b>Session 9B</b> Accountability and Ethics: The Role of Civil Society in Holding Leaders Accountable	<b>Session 9C</b> Amplifying Citizen Voices in African Development- Challenges and Opportunities	<b>Session 9D</b> The Art of Servant Leadership - Creating and Leading High Performance Teams	
10:30-10:40 ET	Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment				
<b>Session 10</b> 10:40-11:40 ET	<b>Session 10: Concurrent Breakout Professional Development Workshops</b>				
	<b>Session 10A</b> Lessons Learned from Women Business Leaders	<b>Session 10B</b> Storytelling, Podcasting, and Blogging to Highlight Community Voices	<b>Session 10C</b> The Role of Research and Data in Effective Public Management	<b>Session 10D</b> The Art of Servant Leadership – The Power of Emotional Intelligence in Leadership	
11:40-11:50 ET	Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment				
<b>Session 11</b> 11:50-12:20 ET	<b>Session 11 (Plenary)</b> Ignite Talks				
12:00-1:00 ET	Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment				



## Thursday, May 27 - U.S.-Africa Relations: Consolidating and Strengthening Relations

<p><b>Session 12</b> 08:30-09:20 ET</p>	<p><b>Session 12 (Plenary)</b> U.S.-Africa Relations: Consolidating Progress, Addressing Challenges, and Fostering Opportunity</p>	<p><b>Networking and Mingling Rooms</b> <i>Open throughout</i></p>
<p>09:20-09:40 ET</p>	<p>YALI Impact Video Statements: Why YALI Matters to U.S.-Africa Relations and for Africa's Future</p>	
<p>09:40-10:10 ET</p>	<p>Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment</p>	
<p><b>Session 13</b> Remainder of day</p>	<p><b>Session 13: YALI Expo</b></p>	

## Friday, May 28 - Our Vision for the Next 10 Years

<b>Session 14</b> 08:30-09:20 ET	<b>Session 14 (Plenary)</b> Our Vision for the Next 10 Years			<b>Networking and Mingling Rooms</b> <i>Open throughout</i>
09:20-09:30 ET	<b>YALI Impact Video Statements: What do you envision for the next 10 years of YALI?</b>			
<b>Session 15</b> 09:30-10:30 ET	<b>Session 15: Concurrent Breakout Sessions - The Next 10 Years: A Vision for YALI's Future</b>			
	<b>Session 15A</b> Business and Entrepreneurship Track	<b>Session 15B</b> Civic Engagement Track	<b>Session 15C</b> Public Management Track	
10:30-10:40 ET	<b>Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment</b>			
<b>Session 16</b> 10:40-11:10 ET	<b>Session 16 (Plenary)</b> Breakout Session Reports on the Vision for YALI's Future			
<b>Session 17</b> 11:10-12:00 ET	<b>Session 17 (Plenary)</b> Competition Announcement, Recognition of YALI Partners, Key Outcomes, and YALI Vote of Thanks			
<b>Session 18</b> 12:00-12:30 ET	<b>Session 18 (Plenary)</b> Closing Remarks: Next Steps and the Way Forward for YALI			
12:30-1:35 ET	<b>Concluding YALI Cultural Content and YALI Impact Video Statements (full): A Look Back at YALI, YALI's Impact, and the Way Forward</b>			<b>Expo</b> <i>Open throughout</i>

## SUMMIT EVENT SUMMARY

*Monday, May 24 - Friday, May 28, 2021*

The U.S. Department of State, in partnership with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Africa Program, hosted the YALI 10 Summit, an all-virtual event, from May 24-28, 2021. The Summit highlighted and celebrated the achievements of YALI alumni and Network members, demonstrated the United States' enduring commitment to Africa's youth, and shared collective visions from the YALI network for the future of YALI.

Established in 2010, the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is the U.S. Government's signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders. Over the past decade, YALI grew from 115 young leaders to include more than 24,000 alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship exchange program, four Regional Leadership Centers (RLCs) in Africa, and an extensive digital community called the YALI Network with more than 700,000 members. These programs aim to strengthen democratic institutions and good governance, spur economic growth and prosperity, and foster peace and security in Africa.

The Summit celebrated 10 years of YALI and looked ahead to the next 10 years. Through five days of substantive sessions, networking opportunities, entertainment, and an Expo, the Summit convened YALI alumni and Network members, U.S. and African policymakers, and subject-matter experts to discuss many of the most pressing issues and promising opportunities facing Africa and the role that YALI has played, and will continue to play, in shaping Africa's future. Over 5,000 daily participants engaged in fruitful and thought-provoking discussions with more than 100 speakers on a wide range of timely topics and nearly 300 vendors from U.S. and African organizations.

Day 1 showcased the achievements of YALI and the impact it has made in strengthening U.S.-Africa relations and leadership in African over the past decade. During the opening plenary, a variety of luminaries spoke to the impressive and deep-rooted impact of YALI throughout its first 10 years; they included:

- **Congressman Gregory Meeks**, Representative, New York's Fifth Congressional District and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
- **Congressman Michael McCaul**, Representative, Texas' 10th Congressional District, Lead Republican of the Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
- **Ambassador Mark Green**, President, Director, & CEO, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- **H.E. Hilda Suka-Mafudze**, African Union Ambassador to the United States
- **Ms. Dana Banks**, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Africa, National Security Council
- **Mr. Matthew Lussenhop**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- **Mr. João Vembane**, 2016 Mandela Washington Fellow; Founder & CEO, JAV Consulting, E.I.
- **Ms. Elizabeth Liu**, Special Coordinator for the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- **Dr. Monde Muyangwa**, Africa Program Director, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

In addition, the keynote address featured an interview with NBA star and philanthropist **Mr. Serge Ibaka**, and a plenary session reflected on 10 years of YALI, featuring remarks by the Chargé d'Affaires in the U.S. Mission in South Africa, **Ambassador Todd Haskell**, and YALI alumni **Dr. Javnyuy Joybert**, **Dr. Odry Agbessi**, and **Mr. Sem Mandela Utoni** speaking to the impact of YALI on their lives, communities, and country. Breakout sessions assessed U.S.-Africa trade relations and business goals, discussed the role of youth in conflict management and peacebuilding, and evaluated civil society's critical role in addressing climate change.

Day 2 opened with remarks to commemorate Africa Day by USAID's Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, **Mr. Travis Adkins**, followed by the day's keynote address by the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa at the United Nations Development Programme, **Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa**, on youth as the drivers of Africa's transformation and development, which reiterated the commonalities between U.S. and African youth as well as the critical need to invest in youth programs and uplift young African voices. Breakout sessions touched on the social and economic disruptions of COVID-19 in Africa

and the need for long-term sustainable development planning; the importance of communication, partnerships, and continuity for building sustainable civil society organizations; why it is essential for entrepreneurs to be responsive to their audiences in business pitching and communication; the need for anti-corruption efforts to include community and youth voices; the ways in businesses can use technology to adapt to the changing COVID-19 landscape; the need to clearly communicate goals and methods when fundraising for civic engagement projects; and the importance of creating avenues for youth participation in order to build a resilient and effective public service in Africa.

Day 3 began with keynote remarks by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, **Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield**, on the importance of servant leadership. She was later joined in discussion by two YALI alumni, **Mr. Olugbenga Ogunbowale** and **Ms. Elizabeth Kasujja**, on the importance of servant leadership and the need to involve youth in building upon existing examples and expanding it across the continent. Breakout sessions included discussions on e-commerce and digital economies as the future of African development; the importance of civil society and youth engagement in ensuring accountable and ethical leadership; the need to bolster citizen and youth participation at all levels to create inclusive and sustainable development; the value of a service-minded approach in creating and leading high-performance teams; the ways in which women business leaders can empower other women and girls to find their voices and lead the next generation; the value of storytelling, podcasting and blogging as methods to create social change; the need for robust and transparent research and data to underpin public management; and the power of emotional intelligence in leadership to build strong and sustainable organizational cultures.

In Day 4's keynote, Acting Principal Deputy Secretary for the Bureau for African Affairs, **Ms. Elizabeth Fitzsimmons**, USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Africa, **Ms. Maria Price Detherage**, and 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, **Ms. Ogaufi Mampane** highlighted the shared interests and values between Africa and the U.S. and reiterated the commitment to supporting youth leadership in Africa, as participants reflected upon the challenges and opportunities surrounding U.S.-Africa relations and why YALI matters. Participants then joined the live virtual Expo, where they interacted and networked with over 260 U.S. and African organizations and businesses spanning a variety of sectors.

The 5th and final day of the Summit looked toward building a vision for YALI for the next 10 years, beginning with a keynote conversation among Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of African Affairs, **Ms. Belinda Jackson Farrier**, YALI alumni **Ms. Caren Wakoli** and **Ms. Gertrude Darlene Toezay**, and U.S. Department of State Senior Advisor for Africa, **Ms. Safia Mohamoud**, on their hopes for Africa and how programs like YALI help to ensure that youth voices are included in shaping the future of the continent. During breakout sessions, YALI alumni and U.S. government officials engaged with the audience to discuss YALI members' visions for Africa's future in the realms of public management, civic engagement, and business and entrepreneurship, reflecting on the week's previous sessions. Breakout session speakers included the Acting Director for the Bureau of African Affairs' Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, **Mr. Matt Miller**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, **Ms. Akunna Cook**, Senior Advisor in the Bureau for Africa at USAID, **Ms. Macani Toungara**, and YALI alumni **Mr. Henry-Pacifique Mayala**, **Ms. Keke Haina**, and **Mr. Samir Da Cruz Silva**.

The U.S. Department of State then recognized the winners of the "YALI at 10: My Life, My Community, and My World" competition, heard from one of the winners, **Dr. Chidzani Mbenge**, a 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, who read her poem entitled "The Shy Girl Who Refuses to Die Shy," and thanked the key partners of YALI before offering a reflection on the key outcomes of the week. **Ambassador Robert F. Godec**, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs with the Department of State, closed the Summit with remarks on the way ahead for YALI, reflecting on YALI's journey over the last 10 years, highlighting the persistent and transformative energy and commitment of African youth, and looking ahead to the dynamism and growth that lies ahead for YALI and for Africa's youth.

Throughout the week, the Summit included networking opportunities, YALI highlights and testimonies from alumni, U.S. and African officials, and entertainment by YALI, African, and U.S. artists. The Summit's reach and the engagement and enthusiasm of its participants testified to the power and value of YALI. Many participants expressed their gratitude for the first decade of YALI and their anticipation for an even more impactful next ten years.

## SUMMIT SESSIONS AND OBJECTIVES

### *Day 1: Monday, May 24, 2021 - Celebrating 10 Years of YALI*

#### **Session 1 (Plenary): Welcome, Opening, and YALI Impact Statements: YALI Impact on My Life, Community, and the World**

The Welcome and Opening Plenary kicked off this milestone event with words of welcome from senior U.S. and African officials who looked back on 10 years of YALI and why it matters to the United States and Africa. They also affirmed their commitment to Africa's youth and to YALI. This session also featured a YALI alumnus giving words of appreciation on behalf of YALI beneficiaries for the last 10 years of the program.

Speakers:

- Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, Representative, New York's Fifth Congressional District and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America
- Congressman Michael McCaul, Representative, Texas' 10th Congressional District, Lead Republican of the Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America
- Ms. Dana Banks, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Africa, National Security Council, United States of America
- H.E. Hilda Suka-Mafudze, African Union Ambassador to the United States, Republic of Zimbabwe
- Mr. Matthew Lussenhop, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Ambassador Mark Green, President, Director, & CEO, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America
- Mr. João Vembane, YALI Alum; Founder & CEO, JAV Consulting, E.I., Republic of Mozambique

Moderators:

- Ms. Elizabeth Liu, YAC Steering Committee; Special Coordinator for the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Dr. Monde Muyangwa, YAC Steering Committee; Director, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

#### **YALI Impact Statements: YALI Impact on My Life, Community, and the World**

YALI Impact Statement Contributors:

- Mr. Alhasan Bah, YALI Alum; Founder, Balal Public Library; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of the Gambia
- Ms. Leah Molatseli, YALI Alum; Lawyer, Co-Founder and CEO, Lenoma Legal; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of South Africa
- Mr. Jean Felix Mwema Ngandu, YALI Alum; Consultant and Training Facilitator, National Democratic Institute (Kinshasa); Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Mr. Baimba Osman Sheriff, YALI Alum; Principal Founder & Executive Director, Children's Assurance Program; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Sierra Leone
- Ms. Chrissy Zimba, YALI Alum; Program Officer, Disability Rights Fund; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Malawi
- Mr. James Papy Kwabo, Jr., YALI Alum; Founder and CEO, Alternative Youth Radio; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Liberia
- Mr. Ricky Simasiku, YALI Alum; Protocol Officer, Parliament of Namibia; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Namibia
- Ms. Adepeju Jaiyeoba, YALI Alum; Founder, Brown Button Foundation, Colourful Giggles Nutrition, and Mother's Delivery Kit; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Game "Zeus" Bantsi, YALI Alum; Rap Artist, DIY Entertainment; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Botswana
- Ms. Joan Enoh, YALI Alum; Healthcare Consultant; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Cameroon
- Ms. Ineza Umuhoza Grace, YALI Alum; Founder and CEO, The Green Fighter; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Rwanda
- Mr. Charles Munyua, YALI Alum; Clerk Assistant/Legislative Advisor, Parliament of Kenya; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Kenya

- Mr. Ololade Otayemi, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Ms. Kofoworola Oyeleye, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Ovo Otariho, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Ms. Angela Ochu-Baiye, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Oyewole Joledo, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Ms. Mercy Ikuri, YALI Alum, Republic of Kenya

### **Session 2 (Plenary): Keynote Address**

The Summit Keynote Address was given by Mr. Serge Ibaka, Congolese-Spanish professional basketball player for the Los Angeles Clippers of the National Basketball Association (NBA). He was interviewed by YALI Alum a, Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo.

Speaker:

- Mr. Serge Ibaka, Forward, LA Clippers; Founder, Serge Ibaka Foundation, Republic of the Congo

Moderator:

- Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo, YALI Alum; General Manager, YALI TV; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Ghana

### **Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment**

This video featured brief remarks and a musical performance from a YALI alum.

Video Contributor:

- Ms. Grace Jerry, YALI Alum; Executive Director, Inclusive Friends Association, Federal Republic of Nigeria

### **Session 3 (Plenary): 10 Years of YALI**

A key goal of the summit was to highlight the contributions and successes of YALI alumni since the inception of the program. This session featured 3 YALI alumni from various African regions and countries in conversation with a senior U.S. official talking about how YALI has impacted their lives, communities, and countries, and YALI's role in, and impact on, U.S.-Africa relations.

Speakers:

- Dr. Odry Agbessi, YALI Alum; Founder, Via Me Benin, Republic of Benin
- Dr. Javnyuy Joybert, YALI Alum; Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, COSDEF Group Social Innovation Enterprise, Republic of Cameroon
- Mr. Sem Mandela Uutoni, YALI Alum; Chief Executive Officer, One Economy Foundation, Republic of Namibia

Moderators:

- Ambassador Todd P. Haskell, Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Mission in South Africa, U.S. Department of State, United States of America

### **Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment**

This video featured brief remarks and a dance performance from a YALI alum and their dance academy.

Video Contributors:

- Ms. Ndey Fatou Jabang, YALI Alum; CEO, Flex Fuzion Dance Academy, Republic of the Gambia
- Flex Fuzion Dance Academy, Republic of the Gambia

### **Session 4A (Breakout): Leveraging Trade to Advance U.S. and African Business Goals**

This session focused on the potential impact for leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Prosper Africa, and U.S.-state-level economic engagement with Africa to strengthen U.S. and Africa economic relations, including through youth-led entrepreneurship and business development. The session included an overview of current developments related to the African Continental Free Trade Area, information on how trade can be deepened between the U.S. and Africa, and a review of existing challenges, as well as opportunities that trade can provide for young African entrepreneurs.

Speakers:

- Mr. Abdiwahab Mohamed, Regional Trade Manager, Africa, Middle East and India, Minnesota Trade Office, United States of America
- Ms. Toyin Awesu-Uhuegbu, Communications Advisor, Prosper Africa Secretariat, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), United States of America
- Mr. Alexandre Nshimiyimana, YALI Alum; Founder, Sanit Wing, Ltd., Republic of Rwanda

Moderator:

- Dr. Witney Schneidman, Senior Advisor for Africa, Covington & Burling, LLP; Member, Africa Program Advisory Council, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Session 4B (Breakout): Civil Society's Role in Mitigating Climate Change**

Climate Change is a threat to human health and safety, food and water security, and socio-economic development in Africa and globally. This session featured speakers from African and U.S. civil society organizations who provided remarks on the key components of civil society's role in mitigating climate change from both the African and U.S. perspectives. The session provided an overview of the most pressing issues related to climate change in Africa and the role civil society can play in mitigating its impact, and highlighted the opportunities for youth to effectively address the issue of climate change.

Speaker:

- Ms. Sarah Mulwa, YALI Alum; Founder & Trustee, Now for Them, Republic of Botswana

Moderator:

- Ms. Lauren Herzer Risi, Project Director, Environmental Change and Security Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Session 4C (Breakout): Youth, Conflict Management, and Peacebuilding in Africa**

This session featured a conversation with YALI alumni on a youth perspective on the causes and drivers of conflict and insecurity; what is working well and what is not; what youth are doing to mitigate conflict and help build peace in their communities and countries; and what can be done to create more space for youth to contribute, as well as their perspective on what international partners, such as the United States, can do to help add value to conflict management and peacebuilding in Africa.

Speakers:

- Mr. Imrana Alhaji Buba, YALI Alum; Founder & Coordinator, Youth Coalition Against Terrorism, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Lupai Samuel Kenyi Stephen, YALI Alum; Executive Director, I AM PEACE Initiative, Republic of South Sudan
- Ms. Tembi Mavis Yeluma, YALI Alum; Executive Director, Women and Allies for Peace and Security, Republic of Cameroon

Moderator:

- Ambassador Mark Green, President, Director, & CEO, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

## ***Day 2: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 – Africa Day: A Continent on the Move - The Transformative Power, Innovation, and Resilience of Africa's Youth***

### **Session 5 (Plenary): Youth as Drivers of Africa's Transformation and Development**

The Day 2 plenary featured remarks to commemorate Africa Day by Mr. Travis Adkins followed by a keynote address by Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa. The goal of this session was to discuss the role of Africa's youth as change agents and drivers of the continent's transformation and development. The session also discussed the challenges and opportunities—in the social, economic, and governance spheres—that the continent presents to youth, and offered concrete actions that must be taken to address the challenges and amplify opportunities in order that Africa's youth can exercise and bring their full potential to bear on the continent's future.

Speakers:

- Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Travis Adkins, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), United States of America

Moderator:

- Dr. Monde Muyangwa, YAC Steering Committee; Director, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **YALI Impact Statements: YALI Impact on My Life, Community, and the World**

This video featured remarks from YALI alumni from Francophone African countries on the impact of YALI on their lives, their communities, and the world.

Video Contributor(s):

- Mr. Averty Delamizere Ndzozi, YALI Alum; Director and Founder, Espace Opoko, Republic of the Congo
- Mr. Belélé Jérôme William Bationo, YALI Alum; International Editor, Media in Cooperation and Transition (MICT), Republic of Burkina Faso

### **Session 6A (Breakout): COVID-19 Disruption and Innovation in Africa**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound global impact, presenting challenges as well as opportunities for game-changing innovations in both the private and public sectors. This session looked at how COVID has impacted the continent, the challenges it has presented, its impact on youth; and assessed how well Africa has navigated COVID, examining the role of innovation and how Africa can harness this optimism and innovation to propel the continent forward.

Speakers:

- Dr. Zoe Marks, Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University, United States of America
- Mr. Alfred Kankuzi, YALI Alum; Founder & CEO, Status Mindset, Republic of Malawi

Moderator:

- Dr. Raymond Gilpin, Chief Economist, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme, United States of America

### **Session 6B (Breakout): Building Sustainable Civil Society Organizations**

Civil society organizations play an important role in the governance, economic and social well-being of their societies. This session featured subject matter experts and civil society practitioners and leaders who shared their views on the key components and elements that make up a sustainable civil society organization. The session also included concrete recommendations on how to navigate the challenges and identify the opportunities with developing a sustainable civil society organization, beyond the financial aspect.

Speaker:

- Mr. Nigel Savel, YALI Alum; Founding Director, 9Miles Project, Republic of South Africa

Moderator:

- Ms. Merissa Khurma, Director, Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Session 6C (Breakout): Combating Corruption in Africa (Including the Role of Youth)**

This session looked at the state of corruption on the continent, and the measures and actions being taken to address corruption at both the citizen- and state-levels. The session highlighted the successes and challenges related to anti-corruption efforts and offered concrete recommendations for the continent, including and perhaps especially, for how young people can engage in and lead the fight against corruption in their communities and countries.

Speakers:

- Mr. Francis Ben Kaifala, Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone, Republic of Sierra Leone
- Ms. Annie Sanicki, Acting Team Lead for Central, East, and Southern Africa, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Mr. John Githongo, Chief Executive Officer, Inuka Kenya Trust, Republic of Kenya
- Mr. Moussa Kondo, YALI Alum; Country Director, Accountability Lab Mali, Republic of Mali

Moderator:

- Dr. Monde Muyangwa, YAC Steering Committee; Director, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Session 6D (Breakout): Pitching and Business Communication Skills**

This session focused on the development of successful communication and pitching strategies. A distinguished panel of practitioners discussed the power of effective pitching and communications skills, the most critical components of a successful pitch, and shared insights and lessons learned.

Speakers:

- Ms. Linda Roth, Vice President, External Relations, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America
- Ms. Jasmine Snead, Founder & CFO, Aurora Tights, United States of America
- Mr. Sitraka Ratsimba, YALI Alum; Communications Officer, CARE, Republic of Madagascar

Moderator:

- Ms. Jennifer Schneider, Acting Team Lead and Partnerships Specialist, Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), United States of America



### **Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment**

The break featured a video of U.S. musicians and friends of YALI giving shout-outs to YALI, as well as YALI musicians and cultural content providers celebrating YALI's anniversary.

Video Contributors:

- Ms. Teneia Sanders, Singer, American Music Abroad, United States of America
- Mr. Kaweesi Mark, YALI Alum; Breakdancer/B-Boy; Creative Facilitator, Imagination Circle Ltd., Republic of Uganda

### **Session 7A (Breakout): Navigating COVID-19 and Beyond: A Toolkit for Running a Virtual Business**

This session featured African business leaders and entrepreneurs who shared remarks and insights on the impact of COVID-19 on the economic landscape in Africa and globally; the opportunities and challenges that they have faced due to COVID-19; and the lessons learned, strategies, and techniques that they use to build a sustainable virtual business in the era of COVID-19 and beyond.

Speakers:

- Mr. Paul Mugambi, General Manager, Baobab Circle Ltd.; Chairman, Kytabu Company Ltd., Republic of Kenya
- Mr. Adulai Bary, YALI Alum; Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Innovalab GW, Republic of Guinea-Bissau

Moderator:

- Ms. Jaime Oberlander, Education Officer, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), United States of America

### **Session 7B (Breakout): Fundraising for Civic Engagement: Theory Meets Practice**

This session focused on sharing strategies and best practices in fundraising for civic engagement organizations. The session covered the challenges and opportunities related to fundraising and offered concrete recommendations on developing and implementing successful fundraising strategies for civic engagement organizations at all levels.

Speakers:

- Mr. Gary Officer, President & CEO, Center for Workforce Inclusion; Member, Africa Program Advisory Council, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America
- Mr. Pape Samb, Global Vice President and Executive Director for Africa, Ashoka, Republic of Senegal
- Ms. Colisile Tfwala, YALI Alum; Founder & CEO, Colisile Hloniphile Tfwala Foundation, Kingdom of Eswatini

Moderator:

- Dr. Nicholas Ozor, Executive Director, African Technology Policy Studies Network; Member, Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding (Woodrow Wilson Center), Republic of Kenya

### **Session 7C (Breakout): Building an Effective and Resilient Public Service in Africa**

This session focused on building an effective and resilient public service that is responsive to citizen needs. The session highlighted the challenges to a resilient and effective public service, the work being done to help address some of them, and the key mechanisms that have been put in place. The session also provided concrete recommendations for how African youth in general, and YALI in particular, can help build an effective and resilient public service in Africa.

Speakers:

- H.E. Flavia Kalule Nabagabe, YALI Alum; Member of Parliament, Kassanda District, Republic of Uganda
- Dr. Janette Yarwood, Senior Advisor, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Mr. W. Gyude Moore, Senior Policy Fellow, Center for Global Development; Former Minister of Public Works, Republic of Liberia
- Ms. Walaa Isam al-Boushi, YALI Alum; Former Minister of Youth and Sport, Republic of the Sudan

Moderator:

- Dr. Nancy J. Walker, Organizer, Mentor, Speaker; Founding Director, Africa Center for Strategic Studies; Member, Africa Program Advisory Council, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment**

This video featured remarks from African and American representatives, including African officials and YALI alumni, to commemorate Africa Day and celebrate YALI and the role of young Africans in shaping the continent's future.

Video Contributors:

- H.E. Quartey Thomas Kwesi, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission, Republic of Ghana
- Dr. Carl Oshodi, Executive Chairperson, African Youth Union Commission; CEO, African Industrialization Group, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Tony Memmel, Musician, American Music Abroad, United States of America
- Mr. Douglas Ogutu, YALI Alum; Musician; Founder, Dowe Music & Arts, Republic of Kenya
- Mr. John Appiah, YALI Alum, YALI TV, Republic of Ghana
- Ms. Josephine Offei, YALI Alum, YALI TV, Republic of Ghana
- Ms. Enelles Pemba, YALI Alum, Republic of Malawi
- Mr. Patrick Stephenson, YALI Alum, Republic of Ghana
- Ms. Colisile Tfwala, YALI Alum; Founder & CEO, Colisile Hloniphile Tfwala Foundation, Kingdom of Eswatini
- Mr. Emediong Akpabio, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Mubarik Mohamoud Ahmed, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Somalia
- Ms. Aisha Nurideen Ibrahim, YALI Alum, United Republic of Tanzania
- Ms. Samantha Sibanda, YALI Alum; Founder, Signs of Hope Trust, Republic of Zimbabwe
- Ms. Siphwiwe Vilakati, YALI Alum, Kingdom of Eswatini
- Mr. Baimba Osman Sheriff, YALI Alum; Principal Founder & Executive Director, Children's Assurance Program; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Sierra Leone
- Mr. Yuri Fumo, YALI Alum, Republic of Mozambique
- Mr. Jonathan Wendpanga Convolbo, YALI Alum, Republic of Burkina Faso
- Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo, YALI Alum; General Manager, YALI TV; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Ghana

## ***Day 3: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 - Propelling Africa Forward through Servant Leadership***

### **Session 8 (Plenary): Why Servant Leadership Matters in Africa and How to Get There**

The day's keynote address was given by Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield followed by an interactive discussion between her and two YALI alumni. Among the issues covered were the core characteristics of servant leadership, the current state of and challenges to servant leadership, examples of servant leadership, concrete actions that can be taken to encourage servant leadership on the continent, and how youth fit in those efforts.

Speakers:

- Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, United States Mission to the United Nations, United States of America
- Ms. Desirée Cormier Smith, Senior Advisor, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Ms. Elizabeth Kasujja, YALI Alum; CEO and Co-Founder, Clear Yo Mind; Mental Health Collective Consultant, Comic Relief, Republic of Uganda
- Mr. Olugbenga Ogunbowale, YALI Alum; CEO, Epower Group; Co-Founder, The Orphan Empowerment Society, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Moderator:

- Dr. Monde Muyangwa, YAC Steering Committee; Director, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment**

This video featured YALI shout-outs and music from African and American musicians.

Video Contributors:

- Lamboginny (Yinka Lawanson), YALI Alum; Musician; Founder, Say No to Crime Project, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Hunteertones, American Music Abroad, United States of America

### **Session 9A (Breakout): Digitizing African Economies and E-Commerce as a Pathway to Africa's Development**

This session focused on the role of the digital economy and e-commerce in advancing Africa's economic development. The session assessed the key opportunities and challenges related to the digitization of Africa's economy from both the perspectives of the public and private sectors, and offered recommendations for key policy priorities to enhance economic development through the digital economy as well reflections on the role of youth in shaping Africa's digital landscape.

Speakers:

- H.E. Cina Lawson, Minister of Digital Economy and Digital Transformation, Republic of Togo
- Ms. Christine Ntim, Founder, Global Startup Ecosystem (GSE), Haiti/United States of America/Republic of Ghana
- Ms. Viola Llewellyn, President and Co-Founder, Ovamba Solutions, Inc., United States of America
- Mr. Taurai Chinyamakobvu, YALI Alum; Co-Founder, FloCash Zimbabwe; Founder, Pazimba, Republic of Zimbabwe

Moderator:

- Dr. Terence McNamee, Director of Communications and Research, Mary Oppenheimer Daughters; Global Fellow, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Canada

### **Session 9B (Breakout): Accountability and Ethics: The Role of Civil Society in Holding Leaders Accountable**

This session focused on the role of civil society in fostering and assuring government ethics and accountability. Beyond the topic of corruption, the session focused on the role civil society plays in fostering governmental accountability, highlighted key success and challenges related to these efforts, and offered concrete recommendations on how civil society, citizens and especially youth can hold their governments accountable to the principles of good governance in all realms.

Speakers:

- Mr. Oluseun Onigbinde, Co-Founder and Director, BudgIT, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Ms. Cheri-Leigh Erasmus, Global Director of Learning, Accountability Lab Global, United States of America
- Mr. Ibrahima Kalil Gueye, YALI Alum; Chair and Co-Founder, Organization for Positive Change, Republic of Guinea

Moderator:

- Fr. Alain Nzadi-a-Nzadi, Director, Centre d'Etudes pour l'Action Sociale (CEPAS); Editor in Chief, Congo-Afrique Journal; Member, Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding (Woodrow Wilson Center), Democratic Republic of the Congo

### **Session 9C (Breakout): Amplifying Citizen Voices in African Development - Challenges and Opportunities**

This session focused on the role of citizen voices in the development trajectory of the African continent, the challenges related to, and opportunities for, creating inclusive development initiatives; and offered concrete recommendations on how to effectively amplify the voices of African citizens and African youth to give them ownership of the development process.

Speakers:

- Dr. Joseph Asunka, Chief Executive Officer, Afrobarometer, Republic of Ghana
- Mr. Jack Leslie, Chairman of the Board of Directors, U.S. African Development Foundation, United States of America
- Mrs. Patience O. Coleman Beyan, YALI Alum; Lecturer, University of Liberia; Chief Executive Ambassador, Liberia Career Advancement Network, Republic of Liberia
- Ms. Samantha Sibanda, YALI Alum; Founder, Signs of Hope Trust, Republic of Zimbabwe

Moderator:

- Ms. Shamsa Suleiman, Project Management Specialist-Gender and Youth, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), United States of America

### **Session 9D (Breakout): The Art of Servant Leadership - Creating and Leading High Performance Teams**

This session featured a lecture on the role of servant leadership in developing high performing teams.

Speaker:

- Mr. Harvey Floyd, Executive Education Lecturer, Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania; Sr. Executive Coach; Strategic Advisor, United States of America

Moderator:

- Ms. Elizabeth Liu, YAC Steering Committee; Special Coordinator for the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America

### **Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment**

This video featured a performance and shout-out to YALI from an American musician.

Video Contributor:

- Ms. Myrna Clayton, Singer, American Music Abroad, United States of America

### **Session 10A (Breakout): Lessons Learned from Women Business Leaders**

The session provided an opportunity for women business leaders to share their experiences. They addressed the challenges that confront women in business and the measures that are necessary to create an enabling environment. They also shared lessons learned from their own successes, challenges, and failures while offering words of advice and inspiration to the next generation of women business leaders.

Speakers:

- Ms. Rahama Wright, Founder and CEO, Shea Yeelen; Councilmember, The President's Advisory Council for Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA), United States of America
- Dr. Patricia Nzolantima, YALI Alum; Founder & Chairwoman, Bizzoly Holdings, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ms. Ama Duncan, YALI Alum; Founder, The Fabulous Woman Network; CEO and Corporate Trainer, Ama Duncan Consulting, Republic of Ghana

Moderator:

- Ms. Viola Llewellyn, President and Co-Founder, Ovamba Solutions, Inc., United States of America

### **Session 10B (Breakout): Storytelling, Podcasting, and Blogging to Highlight Community Voices**

This session, featuring African and U.S. speakers, focused on the power of storytelling to create change and impact and organize for a specific cause. The session discussed the core elements of a good story, tips, and practical advice on how to effectively use storytelling, blogging and podcasting to drive change.

Speakers:

- Dr. Gcina Mhlophe, Founder, The Gcinamasiko Arts and Heritage Trust and the Zanendaba Institute of Storytelling, Republic of South Africa
- Mr. Kwame Darko, Founder, KwaMedia, United States of America
- Ms. Elizabeth Mwambulukutu, YALI Alum; Co-Founder, Arts and Culture for Development Africa (AC4D), United Republic of Tanzania

Moderator:

- Mr. John Milewski, Director of Digital Programming; Moderator, Wilson Center NOW, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Session 10C (Breakout): The Role of Research and Data in Effective Public Management**

This session focused on the importance of research and data for effective public management. The session discussed challenges and offered recommendations on how organizations and policymakers can foster a culture of decision-making based on and driven by evidence.

Speakers:

- Ms. Diana Warira, Policy Manager, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL); Scholarship Alum, Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding (Woodrow Wilson Center), Republic of Kenya
- Mr. Lontum "Shey" Nchadze, YALI Alum; Statistical Analyst; Doctoral Student, Oregon State University, Republic of Cameroon

Moderator:

- Ms. Meg King, Director, Science and Technology Innovation Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Session 10D (Breakout): The Art of Servant Leadership – The Power of Emotional Intelligence in Leadership**

This session featured a lecture and interactive discussion on the role of emotional intelligence in effective leadership.

Speaker:

- Ms. Joni Rae, Chief Executive Officer, The Mindset Group, United States of America

Moderator:

- Mr. Michael Hayes, YAC Steering Committee; Foreign Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of State, United States of America

### **Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment**

This video featured performances from American and African musicians and dancers.

Video Contributors:

- Ms. Teneia Sanders (ft. 5th Child), American Music Abroad, United States of America
- Flex Fuzion Dance Academy, Republic of the Gambia

### **Session 11 (Plenary): Ignite Talks**

This session featured a series of 5-minute ignite talks by YALI alumni followed by Q&A with the speakers. The talks were organized along the following themes and YALI tracks:

- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Civic Engagement/Civic Leadership
- Public Management
- The Transformative Power, Innovation, and Resilience of Africa's Youth
- Propelling Africa Forward through Servant Leadership

Speakers:

- Mr. Rodrigue Kafui Akolly, YALI Alum; Executive Director, l'AV-Jeunes; Director, Startup eCentre Convivial, Republic of Togo
- Dr. Mawien M. Arik, YALI Alum; Medical Doctor and Founder, Akougook Initiative, Republic of South Sudan
- Ms. Marie-Josée Paula Houenou, YALI Alum; C40 City Adviser, District Autonome of Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Mr. Nicolau Miguel, YALI Alum; Program Assistant, African Union Commission, Republic of Angola
- Ms. Djemillah Mourade Peerbux, YALI Alum; Social Innovator and Founder, Wavemakers Hub, The Strawz, and The Ripple Project, Republic of Mauritius

Moderator:

- Ms. Hannah Beckett Akuiyibo, Program Associate, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment**

This video featured performances from YALI alumni creatives and entertainers.

Video Contributors:

- Lamboginny (Yinka Lawanson), YALI Alum; Musician; Founder, Say No to Crime Project, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Douglas Ogutu, YALI Alum; Musician; Founder, Dowe Music & Arts, Republic of Kenya
- Mr. Kaweesi Mark, YALI Alum; Breakdancer/B-Boy; Creative Facilitator, Imagination Circle Ltd., Republic of Uganda

## ***Day 4: Thursday, May 27, 2021 - U.S.-Africa Relations: Consolidating and Strengthening Relations***

### **Session 12 (Plenary): U.S.-Africa Relations: Consolidating Progress, Addressing Challenges, and Fostering Opportunity**

This session featured remarks from U.S. and African officials, highlighting the core pillars and elements of the United States' engagement strategies towards Africa and the power of initiatives such as YALI to position youth at the forefront of developing a positive and mutually beneficial future for U.S.-Africa relations.

Speakers:

- Ms. Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Ms. Maria Price Detherage, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), United States of America
- Ms. Ogaufi Mampane, YALI Alumnus; Consul, Consulate General of South Africa in New York, Republic of South Africa

Moderator:

- Dr. Monde Muyangwa, YAC Steering Committee; Director, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

## **YALI Impact Statements: Why YALI Matters to U.S.-Africa Relations and for Africa's Future**

Video Contributors:

- Senator Christopher Coons, Senator from Delaware and Chair of the Senate Ethics Committee, U.S. Senate, United States of America
- Congressman Michael McCaul, Representative, Texas' 10th Congressional District and Republican Leader of the Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America
- Congressmember Karen Bass, Representative, California's 37th Congressional District and Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Global Human Rights, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America
- H.E. Hilda Suka-Mafudze, African Union Ambassador to the United States, Republic of Zimbabwe
- Ambassador Tibor Nagy, former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Ambassador Tulinabo Mushingi, U.S. Ambassador to Senegal, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Ambassador Bruce Wharton, former U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Professor Paul Wainaina, Vice Chancellor, Kenyatta University, Republic of Kenya
- Mr. Melvin Foote, President and CEO, Constituency for Africa, United States of America
- Ms. Nancy Hopkins, Director of Programs, The Presidential Precinct, United States of America
- Ms. Gail Prenskey, Mandela Washington Fellowship Alum (Reciprocal Exchange), United States of America
- Mr. Scott Massey, Co-Founder and CEO, Heliponix, United States of America
- Ms. Kelly Bedeian, Assistant Director, Institute for International Business, University of Iowa, United States of America

### **Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment**

This video featured remarks and performances from African creatives, including YALI alumni.

Video Contributors:

- B'Flow (Brian Bwembya), YALI Alum; Hip-hop/Dancehall Artist; Founder/Owner, Music for Change, Republic of Zambia
- Leshie Lovesong, Singer/Poet, Republic of Botswana

### **Session 13: Introduction and YALI Expo**

The YALI 10 Summit Expo provided an interactive forum for African and U.S. organizations and businesses to showcase their work engage with the Summit participants from across the African continent, and foster partnerships and actionable connections between the United States and Africa.

Speaker:

- Ms. Adepeju Jaiyeoba, YALI Alum; Founder, Brown Button Foundation, Colourful Giggles Nutrition, and Mother's Delivery Kit; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Federal Republic of Nigeria

## ***Day 5: Friday, May 28, 2021 - Our Vision for the Next 10 Years***

### **Session 14 (Plenary): Our Vision for the Next 10 Years**

This session featured a conversation between YALI alumni and U.S. officials on a vision for YALI and Africa's youth for the next decade. This session included remarks by U.S. and African leaders on their vision for the future of Africa and the role of African youth. The session also included insights into how African nations, the United States, youth, and the public/private sectors can collaborate to realize a brighter future for the African continent.

Speakers:

- Ms. Belinda Jackson Farrier, Director, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Ms. Caren Wakoli, YALI Alum; Founder and Executive Director, Emerging Leaders Foundation Africa, Republic of Kenya
- Ms. Gertrude Darlene Toezay, YALI Alum; Founder, Lend a Helping Hand Initiative; Disbursement Administrator, PREVAIL/FHI Clinical Inc., Republic of Liberia

Moderator:

- Ms. Safia Mohamoud, Senior Advisor, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America

## **YALI Impact Statements: What do you envision for the next 10 years of YALI?**

Video Contributors:

- Ms. Marjory Schleicher, Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Cameroon, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo, YALI Alum; General Manager, YALI TV; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Ghana
- Mr. Ricky Simasiku, YALI Alum; Protocol Officer, Parliament of Namibia; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Namibia
- Mr. Charles Munyua, YALI Alum; Clerk Assistant/Legislative Advisor, Parliament of Kenya; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Kenya
- Ms. Ineza Umuhoza Grace, YALI Alum; Founder and CEO, The Green Fighter; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Rwanda
- Ms. Joan Enoh, YALI Alum; Healthcare Consultant; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Cameroon

### **Session 15A (Breakout): The Next 10 Years: A Vision for YALI's Future (Business and Entrepreneurship Track)**

This session featured a discussion, co-moderated by one U.S. official and one YALI alum, on the vision for YALI for the next 10 years under the Business and Entrepreneurship track.

Speakers/Co-Moderators:

- Ms. Akunna Cook, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Mr. Samir Da Cruz Silva, YALI Alum; Executive Director, Maio Business Center, Republic of Cabo Verde

### **Session 15B (Breakout): The Next 10 Years: A Vision for YALI's Future (Civic Engagement Track)**

This session featured a discussion, co-moderated by one U.S. official and one YALI alum, on the vision for YALI for the next 10 years under the Civic Engagement track.

Speakers/Co-Moderators:

- Mr. Matt Miller, Acting Director, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Ms. Keke Haina, YALI Alum; Co-Founder and President, IMARA (I'M A Rad African), Union of the Comoros

### **Session 15C (Breakout): The Next 10 Years: A Vision for YALI's Future (Public Management Track)**

This session featured a discussion, co-moderated by one U.S. official and one YALI alum, on the vision for YALI for the next 10 years under the Public Management track.

Speakers/Co-Moderators:

- Ms. Macani Toungara, Senior Advisor, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), United States of America
- Mr. Henry-Pacifique Mayala, YALI Alum; Information Manager, International NGO Safety Organisation, Democratic Republic of the Congo

### **Break: YALI Cultural Content and Entertainment**

This video featured shout-outs from young Americans to young Africans, and YALI in particular.

Video Contributors:

- Ms. Hannah Beckett Akuiyibo, Program Associate, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America
- Ms. Gamuchirai Mhute, Program Assistant (Director's Office), Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America
- Ms. Shahrazad Hired, Program Assistant (Communications), Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America
- Ms. Catharine Helmers, Program Assistant, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America
- Mr. Marc Carr, Project Coordinator (Contractor), Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America
- Ms. Keara Mangan, Communications Assistant (Contractor), Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Session 16 (Plenary): Breakout Session Reports on the Vision for YALI's Future**

In this session, the co-moderators from the breakout sessions on “The Next 10 Years: A Vision for YALI's Future” provided a short report on the key points to emerge from their breakout group regarding the vision for YALI for the next 10 years.

Speakers:

- Mr. Matt Miller, Acting Director, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Ms. Macani Toungara, Senior Advisor, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), United States of America
- Mr. Samir Da Cruz Silva, YALI Alum; Executive Director, Maio Business Center, Republic of Cabo Verde
- Ms. Keke Haina, YALI Alum; Co-Founder and President, IMARA (I'M A Rad African), Union of the Comoros
- Mr. Henry-Pacifique Mayala, YALI Alum; Information Manager, International NGO Safety Organisation, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Moderator:

- Ms. Elizabeth Liu, YAC Steering Committee; Special Coordinator for the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America

### **Session 17 (Plenary): Competition Announcement, Recognition of YALI Partners, Key Outcomes, and YALI Vote of Thanks**

This session recognized the 15 winners of the “YALI at 10: My Life, My Community, and My World” competition; remarks from the first-place winner of the competition, a vote of thanks from a member of the YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, recognition and thank you to YALI’s partners. The session closed with a reflection on the key outcomes of the week.

Speakers:

- Dr. Chidzani Mbenge, YALI Alum; Medical Doctor; Poet, Republic of Botswana
- Mr. Alhasan Bah, YALI Alum; Founder, Balal Public Library; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of the Gambia

Moderators:

- Ms. Elizabeth Liu, YAC Steering Committee; Special Coordinator for the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Dr. Monde Muyangwa, YAC Steering Committee; Director, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America

### **Session 18 (Plenary): Closing Remarks: Next Steps and the Way Forward for YALI**

This session featured closing remarks from a senior U.S. official, who reaffirmed the importance of U.S.-Africa relations and of YALI’s key role in those relations, highlighted the vision for the next decade of YALI.

Speaker:

- Ambassador Robert F. Godec, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America

Moderator:

- Ms. Elizabeth Liu, YAC Steering Committee; Special Coordinator for the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America

### **YALI Cultural Content and YALI Impact Statements: A Look Back at YALI, YALI’s Impact, and the Way Forward**

This closing video featured shout-outs and performances from African and YALI creatives; remarks by YALI alum on the impact YALI has had on their lives, their communities, and the world and what they envision for the next 10 years of YALI; and remarks by U.S. and African officials and representatives on what YALI means to U.S.-Africa relations.

#### **YALI Cultural Content Contributors:**

- Burna Boy (Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu), Singer/Rapper, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo, YALI Alum; General Manager, YALI TV; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Ghana
- B’Flow (Brian Bwembya), YALI Alum; Hip-hop/Dancehall Artist; Founder/Owner, Music for Change, Republic of Zambia
- Lamboginny (Yinka Lawanson), YALI Alum; Musician; Founder, Say No to Crime Project, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Douglas Ogutu, YALI Alum; Musician; Founder, Dowe Music & Arts, Republic of Kenya



- Ms. Grace Jerry, YALI Alum; Executive Director, Inclusive Friends Association, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Kaweesi Mark, YALI Alum; Breakdancer/B-Boy; Creative Facilitator, Imagination Circle Ltd., Republic of Uganda
- Ms. Ndey Fatou Jabang, YALI Alum; CEO, Flex Fuzion Dance Academy, Republic of the Gambia
- Flex Fuzion Dance Academy, Republic of the Gambia
- YALI TV, Republic of Ghana

#### **YALI Impact Statement Contributors:**

- Senator Christopher Coons, Senator from Delaware and Chair of the Senate Ethics Committee, U.S. Senate, United States of America
- Congressman Michael McCaul, Representative, Texas' 10th Congressional District and Lead Republican of the Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America
- Congressmember Karen Bass, Representative, California's 37th Congressional District and Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Global Human Rights, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America
- H.E. Hilda Suka-Mafudze, African Union Ambassador to the United States, Republic of Zimbabwe
- Ambassador Tibor Nagy, former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Ambassador Tulinabo Mushingi, U.S. Ambassador to Senegal, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Ambassador Bruce Wharton, former U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Professor Paul Wainaina, Vice Chancellor, Kenyatta University, Republic of Kenya
- Ms. Marjory Schleicher, Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Cameroon, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
- Mr. Melvin Foote, President and CEO, Constituency for Africa, United States of America
- Ms. Nancy Hopkins, Director of Programs, The Presidential Precinct, United States of America
- Ms. Gail Prensky, Mandela Washington Fellowship Alum (Reciprocal Exchange), United States of America
- Mr. Scott Massey, Co-Founder and CEO, Heliponix, United States of America
- Ms. Kelly Bedeian, Assistant Director, Institute for International Business, University of Iowa, United States of America
- Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo, YALI Alum; General Manager, YALI TV; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Ghana
- Mr. Alhasan Bah, YALI Alum; Founder, Balal Public Library; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of the Gambia
- Ms. Leah Molatseli, YALI Alum; Lawyer, Co-Founder and CEO, Lenoma Legal; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of South Africa
- Mr. Jean Felix Mwema Ngandu, YALI Alum; Consultant and Training Facilitator, National Democratic Institute (Kinshasa); Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Mr. Baimba Osman Sheriff, YALI Alum; Principal Founder & Executive Director, Children's Assurance Program; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Sierra Leone
- Ms. Chrissy Zimba, YALI Alum; Program Officer, Disability Rights Fund; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Malawi
- Mr. James Papy Kwabo, Jr., YALI Alum; Founder and CEO, Alternative Youth Radio; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Liberia
- Mr. Ricky Simasiku, YALI Alum; Protocol Officer, Parliament of Namibia; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Namibia
- Ms. Adepeju Jaiyeoba, YALI Alum; Founder, Brown Button Foundation, Colourful Giggles Nutrition, and Mother's Delivery Kit; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Game "Zeus" Bantsi, YALI Alum; Rap Artist, DIY Entertainment; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Botswana
- Ms. Joan Enoch, YALI Alum; Healthcare Consultant; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Cameroon
- Ms. Ineza Umuhoza Grace, YALI Alum; Founder and CEO, The Green Fighter; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Rwanda
- Mr. Charles Munyua, YALI Alum; Clerk Assistant/Legislative Advisor, Parliament of Kenya; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Republic of Kenya

- Mr. Ololade Otayemi, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Ms. Kofoworola Oyeleye, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Ovo Otariho, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Ms. Angela Ochu-Baiye, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Oyewole Joledo, YALI Alum, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Ms. Mercy Ikuri, YALI Alum, Republic of Kenya
- Mr. Averty Delamizere Ndzoyi, YALI Alum; Director and Founder, Espace Opoko, Republic of the Congo
- Mr. Belélé Jérôme William Bationo, YALI Alum; International Editor, Media in Cooperation and Transition (MICT), Republic of Burkina Faso

### **Day 1-Day 5: YALI 10 Summit Networking Rooms and Lounges and Expo Booths**

The YALI 10 Summit offered networking lounges and YALI Expo booths throughout the 5-day event. These activities created opportunities for participants to engage and form connections among themselves and with African and U.S. businesses and organizations representing a broad range of sectors.

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*YALI is the key to U.S. efforts to support these talented youth and as we celebrate the past decade and look ahead to the future one thing is clear, the future of not only Africa but also the world is in good hands.*

*-Ms. Elizabeth Liu, Special Coordinator for the Young Leaders Initiative, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America*

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## SUMMIT DAILY KEYNOTES

### Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - Africa Day: A Continent on the Move - The Transformative Power, Innovation, and Resilience of Africa's Youth

Each day of the summit started with a daily keynote to frame the key theme for the day, highlight key issues for discussion, and inspire Africa's youth. Presented below are the daily keynote addresses.

Day 2 of the Summit began with remarks by Mr. Travis Adkins, commemorating Africa Day, followed by the day's keynote from Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa.

#### Mr. Travis Adkins, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), United States of America

Yes, good morning. And good afternoon to everyone. Thank you so much for that wonderful introduction Dr. Muyangwa. And let me thank, first, our organizers, the Wilson Center, the U.S. State Department, and all of the staff of USAID who have made this week's events a success.

I can't go on, of course, also without thanking all of the YALI alumni and staff, all of the folks in the regional leadership centers for YALI. In addition to our U.S. State Department staff, as I mentioned earlier, the staff of the Mandela Washington Institute and partners.

Also the staff of IREX, who's played a key role in making the YALI initiative a success over the course of the past 10 years. And so I would just want to share with everyone first that it is my great honor to be here as a representative of the U.S. government, as a representative of USAID to you all this morning, but I also join us something else that I'm very proud of. And that is one of the sons and daughters of Africa who call America our home.

And just to share from the bottom of my heart, my belief that we are people of linked faiths across oceans, across time, across history. But still so much we share in common with one another in terms of culture, in terms of how we show up in the world, and of course, in terms of the struggles that we face. I can't help but to think about the irony of the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd being on Africa day one year ago today. And to think about the role that youth in America and youth across Africa have played in not only protests and advocacy in speaking out around his life and the loss of it, but also for the protection of their own lives.

And as we know, Africa day is a celebration and commemoration of Africa's liberation, of Africa's freedom from colonial oppression and apartheid. But also I think one of the challenges we have is that we tend to think of those things and speak of them in the past tense, the Civil rights era, the decolonization period. And even though we've moved beyond those struggles in terms of European colonization, we still see so many challenges that citizens face, that you face across the continent and that so many youth have pushed back against successfully.

One of the things I wanted to highlight is USAID's commitment to the youth of Africa, especially around key priorities related to poverty reduction and democracy and governance of which youth are such important drivers. When you look at the African continent, of course, 70% of its population is below the age of 30.

**YALI 10 Virtual Summit**  
**PROGRAM AGENDA**  
Day 2 Tuesday  
25 May, 2021  
**Session 5**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF YALI  
**Youth as Drivers of Africa's Transformation and Development**

**Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa**  
UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa  
United Nations Development Programme

**Mr. Travis Adkins**  
Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa  
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

**Moderator**  
**Dr. Monde Muyangwa**  
Director, Africa Program  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

United States | United Nations | IREX | Wilson Center  
Ten Plus Ten: YALI and United States Look Back, and Ahead, Together

And when you get to 70% you're not talking about a special interest group, you're not talking about a kind of marginalized constituency, you are in fact, talking about the people who make up the lifeblood, the dynamism, the ingenuity, and the creativity of the African continent today and in the future.

And while so many young people face challenges throughout their lives, leadership programs like YALI tend to recognize the brilliance in African youth, tend to recognize the importance and criticality of engaging youth in their present and in their futures.

I think that so much of the conversations around youth often end up being future oriented when in fact youth are here now, present now and in many ways ready to lead contribute and be listened to now. USAID experience, of course, demonstrates that educated, healthy, employed, and civically engaged youth drive economic growth, democracy and governance, security, and prosperity.

However, when we fail to effectively engage youth and address our unique needs, it can lead to violence, instability, unrest, and issues of migration. We've seen this challenge increase given the global youth bulge, the rise of violent extremism and the high global youth unemployment.

This is why investment in programs such as YALI is so critical. YALI engages youth as key partners and nurtures them, excuse me, as leaders for today and tomorrow. This approach we hope leads to confident educated young people and better development outcomes.

And I will just share that from the USAID perspective, and from the U.S. perspective and its engagement with Africa, we do not see this as a sideshow. We see engagement with the continent and its youth as the main event.

By working in partnership with the private sector national governments youth and civil society, YALI has trained mentored and collaborated with 24,000 young leaders across the continent to foster community, regional stability, and stimulate economic growth and development in their countries.

What does this look like in practice? Well, USAID is committed to examining ways to expand YALI beyond its current parameters. We're planning for the next phase of our investment, which includes expanding leadership activities, amplifying alumni led impacts, and strengthening the work of regional leadership centers.

We want to help citizens and leaders drive and build their own futures based on transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness for all. We want to provide opportunities for the next generation, including all of you here today to take on leadership roles at national, regional, and local levels which you're already doing. And we want to help you to amplify.

Together, all of you will build a foundation and are building a foundation for strong and resilient societies. We have seen how empowered leaders can make a difference. Young leaders like Flavia Kalule in Uganda who was recently elected as a member of parliament for the Kassanda district. She isn't alone.

Patience Massawa, 22 years old, was recently elected as the youngest member of parliamentary research and Advisory Committee for the ruling party in Namibia. But it's not just individual leaders who will make a difference. It's the collective pan-African power of the vast YALI alumni network. Together you have the ability to be a force for change.

With over 24,000 alumni, you are becoming a movement of catalytic young leaders working together for an inclusive, prosperous, and resilient Africa. I, along with my colleagues at USAID celebrate YALI, celebrate Africa day, celebrate the freedom, resilience, and independence of African people across the continent and across the world.

We look forward to jointly collaborating with you on the vision for the next 10 years of YALI. And cannot wait to see your ideas and ventures come to fruition. Now I'd like to hand it over to our keynote speaker for today, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa. Thank you.

**Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa**

**UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

I would like to start by thanking the government of the U.S. for this programme and this initiative. I am humbled for this invitation to be the keynote speaker as it is a topic close to my heart. Yes, it is Africa Day and we celebrate it. But I would like to identify with what Mr. Adkins said earlier about. I believe it is the recipe for Africa's transformation.

So I join you in celebrating this great milestone and I challenge you to look ahead through the lens of promise. YALI – The Young Africa Leaders Initiative – Happy Africa Day! And congratulations on 10 years. Your 10th Anniversary Virtual Summit is more than validation – that the need remains – and that you have zoned in on Africa's most precious resource – its young people. Understanding, mobilizing, and responding to the needs of Africa's young people is a passion that drives me – for I truly believe it is the recipe for the continent's transformation.

There is not one thing we can do successfully, if it be of impact – without Africa's youth. And so, I join you in celebrating this great milestone – and in challenging us all to look ahead – with promise, to the next 10 – years in which we will see a crystallization of the new Africa – driven by its digital natives – its young and determined architects – teeming with potential – and ready to lead.

Special thanks to the Government of the United States for the invitation – and for pulling together the initiative.

We often speak of the youth as the leaders of tomorrow. I see you as today's leaders. Everything in the reality of now tells us that Africa's young people are breaking the ceiling and insisting – their time is now!

Role of youth in driving Africa's development: Youth are the spine of Africa's development. Let us dream for a second: What does the future of the world look like? By 2030, that is, 9 years ahead, young Africans will make up 42% of the world's youth and account for 75% those under the age of 35 years in Africa.

Africa is in a unique and enviable situation with this asset of immeasurable promise. If harnessed for its full potential to come through, Africa's youth will be the cohort that broke the commodity curse; the cycles of poverty; and the strong man of inequality. Africa's youth will deliver Africa's promise.

This is not a far – fetched prospect. We are dealing with an African youth that is empowered, connected and definitely deeply engaged.

We are dealing with a youth corps that is pressing for representation – not only as voices in parliament, but as citizens aspiring for leadership – at the very top; pushing for reforms; and bringing democratic transitions about. We saw the Sudan revolution; we are Mali; and many more examples are coming through...

Africa's youth are leading the fourth industrial revolution. From EduTech; to HealthTech; to Fintech: it is the young people that are creating home -grown solutions for the continent's unique challenges. For example, thanks to innovation of Kenya's youth - we now have financial inclusion. We struggled with this in the development world, we could not break through. Now we can say we have social inclusion, advanced at a scale we never thought possible, across Africa. With M Pesa, as long as one has a mobile phone, they are that much closer to being banked – can transact; pay bills, and even build up a credit score.

It was Africa's youth that led the COVID-19 response. It is a story that is not being told really – with youth innovating with tools allowing self – diagnosis and triage – to reduce pressure on weak health systems: creating wooden hand washing machines in villages, oxygen cylinders, robot traffic cops to manage movement amidst the pandemic, and more. UNDP has profiled these stories in our inaugural Africa Innovates Magazine – which I would urge you to have a look at it as you will gauge the promise I was talking about. UNDP is also supporting the creating of new solutions through our 35 Accelerator labs spread across Africa. There is certainly a story of success.

But there is also one less rosy. A story of betrayed potential – failing dreams – and protracted inequality. There is a part of Africa's youth that fall within the 600 million Africans that do not have access to electricity.

As a critical enabler to leveraging digitalization, access to energy becomes a foundational question – for youth empowerment. And as the UNCTAD Digital Economy Report 2019 revealed - only 1 in 5 in sub-Saharan Africa has access to the internet.

And there is that gender question – that Africa’s young girls are even worse off, disproportionately affected – even when a seemingly neutral catastrophe like the COVID-19 pandemic results in school closures. We know, for example, that the pandemic may force an additional 11 million girls out of school; many will not return, with snowball effects on their lives for years. And as we look at the future leadership of the continent, it must be with the young women coming along.

There are also those youth in conflict-affected regions – for whom the promise of self-actualization is a distant prospect.

It is up to all of us to change these realities.

How can the public sector harness the power of youth to transform Africa?

This is why, at UNDP – we have made a decision: that development programming that has no youth spine will not be rolled out by us. This is the Next Gen UNDP.

We are listening – and we are ensuring that the listening posts transform to action catalysts. Any development programming that is not attuned to the needs of Africa’s youth – that is not youth informed – that is not youth relevant – is not relevant

This is not an ideological issue – it is one of ultimate necessity.

Especially because the structure of Africa’s economy is not endowed with natural invitations for youth engagement. Young people in Africa are usually not listened to. You have to wait until you grow up. The economies – relatively small if taken individually – have not been designed with the magnet of drawing in young people – into agriculture, into industry, or into services.

And so, it will take doing what the youth are very good at: disrupting the status quo: pushing the door ajar – bringing your chair with you – and sitting at the table of solutions.

Public policy approaches must to three things:

- One: accept that with youth, and with their core areas of forte, we do not have all of the answers – but that such state of being is not necessarily bad. We must let them innovate, while learning what the appropriate regulatory approach is. These regulatory sandboxes are critical – to ensure we are facilitating and not penalizing innovation.
- Two: we must make engagement in productive sectors cool! For Africa to overcome its structural impediments, we must get agricultural productivity up. We must add value to Africa’s commodity and mineral wealth; we must create industries to meet the demand of Africa’s 1.2 billion people. We must create environments for Africa’s services sector to be competitive: offering diverse portfolios of products and expertise for the One African Market. Doing this successfully means drawing in young people!
- This means, and this is my third point - that we must look beyond the gig economy – maximizing digitalization as a tool to facilitate and expand production in Africa.

Africa’s youth must be facilitated to build the continent’s food industry. Its clothing industry. Its medical industry.

It is not a luxury. As COVID-19 demonstrated to us – the risk of off shoring the continent’s basic supplies has survival implications.

It is also not impossible. Africa’s human capital is at its highest. We are now in a market with some of the most educated people in the world - thanks to long term investment in public education.

There will be need for technology – and perhaps for sharpening vocational skills – and this is where partnerships with advanced economies, like the U.S., under the YALI programme, can be particularly helpful.

What are two opportunities I see?: There is an opportunity to reduce the scale of forced migration – by enhancing opportunities to fulfill dreams on the continent – in Africa.

A recent UNDP report – Scaling Fences – Voices of Irregular Migrants to Europe confirms that Africa's young people are leaving in droves – not because of lack of jobs – but because their ambitions and aspirations have outpaced what is possible at home. They are therefore scaling metaphorical fences - including dangerous seas, to get to the idea of a better life, ashore.

We also know that most of this movement is within the continent of Africa – and so this makes it even more urgent to ensure that a continent-wide approach is taken – to create opportunities in Africa.

Critics argue that not everyone can be an entrepreneur. At UNDP, we believe entrepreneurship is an important part of the solutions mix for youth empowerment. We are working – with African philanthropists – like the Tony Elumelu Foundation – to support youth in advancing, and scaling up their businesses. So far, over 5000 youth have been trained with over half receiving financing. In regions like the Sahel, we are particularly proud to be part of a movement offering an alternative value proposition against the temptation of being lured into joining terrorist groups.

Maximizing opportunities in intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area is a new, unmatched opportunity. By 2050, Africa's population will have doubled – to 2.5 billion people, with a 7 trillion combined GDP. This is your opportunity. To make in Africa. To be the architects of those "Made in Africa" products that the market is about. UNDP is working hard in support for the AfCFTA – under a strategic partnership with the Secretariat, and at the country level. I invite you to help us shape the youth component of our AfCFTA offer. Part of this exchange is a Fireside Chat on the AfCFTA that I will be inviting you to join – so that we are responsive to your needs – and to your lead.

Final reflections to inspire the next generation: You are as powerful. This power is way beyond the sum of your parts.

And so you must remain Connected. With digitalization, it is even easier. As digital natives, and building on the YALI network, I invite you to join the YouthConnectAfrica initiative – which UNDP coordinates – together with the African Union Commission. In this space, ideas interact; deals are made, and connections are sustained. On occasion, the forum has attracted 10,000 youth in one gathering – coming together to engage on solutions; create jobs; and build networks. This initiative is available in 20 African countries – and is expanding.

From our side at UNDP. You can count on us to push the boundaries in working for better governance, promoting enabling environments; and on investing in youth empowerment.

Thank you for your attention – and again – congratulations to YALI at 10!

## Daily Keynote Address - Wednesday, May 26, 2021 Propelling Africa Forward through Servant Leadership

Day 3's keynote address was given by Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield followed by an interactive discussion between her and two YALI alumni on a vision for how to encourage servant leadership on the continent.

### Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield

**United States Ambassador to the United Nations, United States Mission to the United Nations, United States of America**

Thank you, Desiree. That was a very kind introduction. And let me tell you how thrilled I am to be here with you today, and to be joined by the outstanding Dr. Muyangwa, and to hear from and speak to so many YALI alumni and participants! I have two questions as we start. Why am I only being invited the last day? I didn't realize that this was a three-day event. And second, to Tania: How did you know what I was going to be wearing today? And you post a picture with me with the same suit jacket that I had on five years ago! So, it means I need a new wardrobe! And then, I want to say hello to Washington from Liberia. So, as Desiree was introducing, I was reading all of the notes that were being sent through in the chat room.

I'm just so excited about being here with you. It just amazes me that we're celebrating ten years – ten whole years – of YALI. Ten years of outstanding partnership, ten years of progress, ten years of leadership. I remember when YALI was born in 2011 – and we were sending off the first group from Liberia, where I was the Ambassador. And I was so proud of my little group from Liberia, and I've been supporting the initiative since then. And you might sometimes hear people refer to me as the mother of YALI, sometimes as the grandmother of YALI. Whatever you call me, I'm happy to be associated with YALI.

I spoke at the first YALI summit in D.C. and have participated in various programs over the years. And like a good mother and a good grandmother, whenever I talk about all of you it just fills me with so much pride to be associated with you. There's nothing that makes me prouder than when I hear of the great things that you're doing. I'm like a proud mother when you make your various accomplishments. And I know every time I see some of the things you've accomplished, I'm reminded that you are the future. As many of you know, most experts agree that if the current trajectory holds, Africa's population will double by 2050 – to 2.5 billion people, potentially a quarter of the world's population. Twenty fifty – guys and gals – is just 29 years from now, when most of you will be close to my age, and the success of the world's next generation will be on your shoulders, so I happily pass over that leadership mantle to you, and I'm confident that you're ready to take it on.

So not only do you represent Africa's future, you represent the future of the world. That's so important at a moment when so many global challenges – like COVID-19 and climate change – demonstrate at once how interconnected we are and how important our partnerships are. Last week, in fact, I discussed some of the challenges facing the African continent shared by so many of us after this past year – and this was in the Security Council. And I made it clear that the United States is committed to being a partner to Africa as you confront the economic fallout of COVID-19, as you confront the challenges of climate change, and other threats that you face every single day.

**YALI 10 Virtual Summit**  
**PROGRAM AGENDA**  
Day 3 Wednesday  
26 May, 2021  
**Session 9**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF YALI  
**Why Servant Leadership Matters in Africa and How to Get There**

**Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield**  
United States Ambassador to the United Nations  
United States Mission to the United Nations

**Ms. Elizabeth Kasujja**  
YALI Alum; CEO and Co-Founder; Mental Health Collective Consultant  
Clear Yo Mind; Comic Relief

**Mr. Olugbenga Ogunbowale**  
YALI Alum; CEO; Co-Founder  
Epower Group; The Orphan Empowerment Society

**Moderator**  
**Dr. Monde Muyangwa**  
Director, Africa Program  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

United States | United Nations | Wilson Center

Ten Plus Ten: YALI and United States  
Look Back, and Ahead, Together



And that we believe that the best and the strongest partnerships are built on a foundation of trust, transparency, accountability, and areas of mutual opportunity.

Programs that build people-to-people relationships – like YALI – are the heart to our approach to Africa. Because the truth is, while Africa is a continent rich in resources, you and the next generation are Africa’s greatest resource of all. I’ve lived and traveled all across Africa, and wherever I go I see young people like yourselves – including Mandela Fellows and members of the YALI Network – who are engaged, who are active, who are ambitious, who see the potential and the promise of the continent and their countries.

Before the pandemic, Africa’s economies were the fastest growing in the world. And that’s largely thanks to young people, like you, who are ready and willing to contribute to their country’s future and success, and excited to innovate and bring a fresh approach to old problems. So, you represent not just a new generation, but new ways of thinking, new approaches. And when the current generation of leaders leave power, it will be up to you, and to the rest of the young people of the continent, to stand up and to take leadership skills to the next level and to bring a new approach to the table. Which brings me to today’s topic: servant leadership. Because we have to flip this idea that people are meant to serve the leader. Leaders should serve the people and organizations they lead – not the other way around.

What does that mean in practice? It means being a leader for others no matter your position – whether you’re starting a business, supporting a family, working with a nonprofit, or holding a government to account. It means leading with integrity. It means leading with values first. And more importantly for me, it means leading with compassion. It means always putting the good of the people first and foremost. And more broadly, it means community and it means democracy. Because the best way to prevent conflict is to give people a voice and give people a vote.

I just came back just yesterday from Ecuador, and the Ecuadorians elected a wonderful president. He was kind of not expected to win the election, but he won because he was putting out a message of democracy, a message about people, a message that talked about anti-corruption, ethics, and politics. I told him when I met with him that what he was saying was music to all of our ears.

It also, as people express their voices and their votes, it also means building inclusive communities, it means building systems, it means building governments, it means building institutions that empower all people, but institutions that also empower women and girls. Time and time again, we see that gender equality reduces poverty, increases access to education, improves health access, fosters democracy, and boosts economic growth.

And finally, it means placing more importance on the institution than the individual. It’s time to replace strongmen with strong institutions. Institutions that will protect the powerless, stand up for human rights, and serve the people.

Every citizen – every single citizen – can and should have an active role in building their countries. And I know all of you will take that active role as servant leaders. And I can promise that the United States will do our part to be a partner along the way. But ultimately, ultimately you have to own this. You have to own this, you have to want it, and you will need to build it with your own hands.

The challenges Africa faces are great. But Africa’s promise – thanks to young people like you – is far greater. For our part, the United States is committed to doing what we can to help propel that promise forward. But you’re going to be in the driver’s seat. I’m going to sit in the passenger seat and just watch you take over. And I look forward to seeing what you accomplish.

Thank you very much, and let’s get this discussion moving forward.

Following the keynote address, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield engaged in an interactive discussion with two YALI alumni on a vision for how to encourage servant leadership on the continent. Issues covered included the core characteristics of servant leadership, the current state of and challenges to servant leadership, examples of servant leadership, concrete actions that can be taken to encourage servant leadership on the continent, and how youth fit in. The YALI alumni speakers were **Ms. Elizabeth Kasujja**, YALI Alum; CEO and Co-Founder, Clear Yo Mind; Mental Health Collective Consultant, Comic Relief and **Mr. Olugbenga Ogunbowale**, YALI Alum; CEO, Epower Group; Co-Founder, The Orphan Empowerment Society.

**Daily Keynote Address - Thursday, May 27, 2021**  
**U.S.-Africa Relations: Consolidating and Strengthening Relations**

Day 4's keynote featured remarks from U.S. and African officials, highlighting the core pillars and elements of the United States' engagement strategies towards Africa and the power of initiatives such as YALI to position youth at the forefront of developing a positive and mutually beneficial future for U.S.-Africa relations.

**Ms. Elizabeth Fitzsimmons**

**Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State,  
United States of America**

Thank you so much, Dr. Monde, for that wonderful introduction. I am delighted to be here with all of you. And I think it's a real testament to YALI the energy that you can feel even in a virtual event. I know we're all looking forward to getting back together in person, but I really thank the Wilson Center, our partner and my fellow panelists. And I want to just note here we talk a lot about "man-els" these days and panels that are exclusively men. I think it's pretty amazing that we have a panel of exclusively women, and except for me, all women of color.

So I think that says something really powerful about the connections and the energy around YALI that we're able to attract this kind of talent to be involved, and of course, to have Maria and Ogaufi here as my colleagues it's just really exciting. I'm looking forward to hearing from them, and I know you will be too. I really can't think of two better people to help examine the opportunities and the challenges for U.S. engagement with Africa or a better audience.

YALI is the future. YALI are some of the truly most impressive young people in the world, and I'm honored whenever I get the chance to connect with you. You've heard from others throughout this event that Africa is a priority for the Biden Harris administration. So if you take nothing else away from what I say today, please know that Africa and U.S.-Africa relations are a priority for the Biden Harris administration. As we seek to expand the U.S.-Africa relationship, we're already starting from a strong foundation. And the fact that we have this event with all of you here and 10 years of YALI already behind us that's a testament to that strong foundation.

America has a longstanding, unwavering commitment to the continent and no country in the world can match the depth or the breadth of America's long engagement with the people of Africa. Our relationship has evolved over the decades to become one of cooperation, mutual respect and transparency, and it's guided by the following core principles.

First, we work with our African partners to strengthen democracy, foster good governance, and support human rights. Second, we seek to promote trade and business ties between the United States and the countries of Africa developing partnerships that create dynamic opportunities for the people of both regions. Third, we look to harness the potential of Africa's youth population of all of you to drive its economic growth and to create real lasting prosperity. Fourth, we work to advance peace and security across the continent because without peace it is impossible to have sustained economic development. And fifth, we invest in people and institutions like all of you and like YALI through funding for health, education, humanitarian assistance, and the development of a robust and active civil society. And it goes without saying that after more than a year of confronting the COVID-19 pandemic globally that we now face real and increased challenges in pursuing those five goals.

We're all mourning the loss of friends and of loved ones, of lives upended and livelihoods destroyed. There's no doubt that COVID-19 has dealt the globe and particularly sub-Saharan Africa a very tough blow with the region entering a recession for the first time in 25 years in 2020 is the result of the pandemic. That's why we're committed to working with African governments, with your governments, with the U.S. private sector and international financial institutions to help return African economies as they were prior to the pandemic to some of the fastest growing in the world.

I would also be remiss if I didn't raise the other pressing crisis facing our planet, and you all know that better than I do, climate change. As President Biden has emphasized since he took office, every nation has a responsibility and every nation is at risk. We must take global action on an unprecedented scale to confront this global challenge. The United States has a shared interest in Africa's sustainable development, and we want to be partners in creating climate friendly trade that secures good livelihoods for both African and American workers. It's clear that as we look to Africa's future, your future, it's political, economic, and social landscape will be shaped by its young people by all of you participating in this summit.

As I always remind audiences who know less about sub-Saharan Africa, it is the continent of the future. With a population of 1.3 billion people whose median age is 19 years old, African youth are one of the continents and the planet's most powerful resources to drive and foster prosperity and ingenuity. Your generation is as plugged in as your counterparts anywhere in the world. And of course, the impact of Africa's youth tsunami will only increase as we see Africa double its population by 2050. So this presents tremendous opportunities and huge challenges. Your generation is going to look to your governments to respect democracy and human rights while also creating jobs and opportunity.

As you know, YALI is the U.S. government's signature initiative to engage the next generation of leaders across sub-Saharan Africa and it is and will remain a key element of the Biden Harris administration's efforts to harness the potential of Africa's youth. For the past decade, YALI has promoted leadership, effective public administration, and strengthened civil society by facilitating lasting connections between participants and between their peers in the United States and Africa.

What is clear to me whenever I have the privilege and the honor to sit down and speak with YALI alumni is that you represent a diverse and a truly remarkable group. Your CEOs, your entrepreneurs creating jobs, your civil servants guiding organizations, your journalists defending freedom of speech, and your doctors and scientists promoting health and well-being, and driving scientific breakthroughs that will prevent future pandemics.

I've seen deep dedication in the YALI alumni that I've met. You want to build your countries and you want to turn the challenges of demographics into opportunities for your countries. Dollar for dollar, the past 10 years have proven that YALI is one of the best programs we have ever devised to build capacity and build emerging leadership in Africa, and I'm truly excited to see what the next 10 years will bring. My dream is that when we sit down for YALI 20 which I hope we'll be able to do in person, that we will be talking about a brand with the kind of global recognition that the Fulbright brand has today throughout the world. The future is limitless, and I am really excited to walk into it hand-in-hand with all of you. And with that, I'm going to pass the microphone to my colleague Maria, and I really look forward to our discussion today. Thank you for joining us.

**Ms. Maria Price Detherage**  
**Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID),**  
**United States of America**

Thanks so much. Good morning and good afternoon. It is really, really an honor and a pleasure to join you this morning and this afternoon. And it's a pleasure to just have the opportunity to share with you today. To the host of this event, the U.S. State Department and the Wilson Center, thank you for inviting me to engage in this very important dialogue around the U.S. Africa relationship. I'm excited to be a part of this YALI 10 year anniversary celebration, and I look forward to sharing some of the perspectives from the United States lead development agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development also known as USAID.

A big thank you also to USAID and the U.S. State Department staff for their hard work in supporting YALI and supporting this event. And finally, thanks goes out to our African university host institutions and staff who implement YALI regional leadership centers as well as IREX staff and the staff of the Mandela Washington Fellows partner institutes who implement YALI. And to my fellow panelists and YALI alum who you'll hear from next, Ogaufi, welcome. And finally, a very special greetings to our online community, the thousands of alumni and YALI network members listening in and to all assembled welcome.

I echo Elizabeth's comments, and I affirm that the United States is committed to a prosperous, peaceful, and democratic Africa. At USAID, we partner with African countries in pursuit of shared interests and values from security, and global health, and climate change to freedom and democracy to prosperity for everyone, and this includes populations that have been historically marginalized. But we want to put youth at the forefront of these priorities to drive change throughout the continent. Later today, you'll hear from YALI alumni Flavia Kalule Nabagabe who was a strong proponent of democracy in Uganda and who advocated for fair and peaceful elections.

At the Mandela Washington Fellows conference in 2019, Flavia announced her YALI legacy would be serving someday as a woman member of parliament. And yes, earlier this year she accomplished that goal and was elected as a member of Uganda's parliament. She's also the leader of the Women's League for the National Unity Platform. And she has just demonstrated tremendous successes as a result of her engagement in the YALI

and her ability to network and use her skills. Leaders like Flavia used youth activism to address long-standing issues. She called on her peers and other young leaders to use their voices to address democratic concerns and propose solutions.

The U.S. Government sees global health as a priority in Africa. And USAID is the leading partner in countries response to pandemics and infectious disease outbreaks such as COVID-19, Ebola, and HIV/AIDS. We support programs to end preventable child and maternal deaths, to provide humanitarian lifesaving assistance such as emergency food, safe drinking water, shelter, basic education, and protection for millions of people. Our partners in these efforts are African youth who respond to health crises like what we saw during the COVID-19 epidemic. For example, YALI alumni in Guinea came together under the Alumni Association to develop hand-washing kits for distribution to essential workers, which effectively reduce the risk of infection for over 9,000 people.

In another effort, YALI alumnus Bonte Kuru of the DRC made a video in French sign language to teach the public about the symptoms and prevention measures of COVID-19. So we need people who can envision and design solutions that are greater than all of us. And this is true also for climate change. This generation of youth will be disproportionately affected by climate change for decades to come. But all of you can and are making a difference to improve your environment. YALI alumni Ineza Grace from Uganda started a networking platform for youth working on environment issues. And she now helps people, young people organize local community projects to address pressing climate matters.

We also need partners like Adejoke Lasisi in Nigeria who's addressing waste management by converting textiles and plastic waste into eco-friendly products. And this is why investing in programs like YALI is so important. Through YALI, we have seen firsthand how the entrepreneurial spirit of young leaders across the continent can create jobs and opportunities for others. According to a recent survey from our YALI Regional Leadership Center in East Africa, an estimated 60% of their alumni report owning a business following their YALI training.

Each of these businesses generates an average of almost three jobs, and among the just women alumni, this statistic is even higher. Confident, engaged young people bring fresh ideas and innovative solutions to challenges. And you all help to create a more employable workforce with greater buying power. You help to stabilize and advance your communities with transparent public management practices and a vibrant civil society, and you help to address global challenges such as climate change, securing access to education, and health crises.

So I'll end here by just simply saying thank you. Thank you for your energy, thank you for your dedication, and thank you for your commitment. Back over to you, Monde.

**Ms. Ogaufi Mampane**

**YALI Alum; Consul, Consulate General of South Africa in New York, Republic of South Africa**

It is very fitting that we are here today to commemorate 10 years of The YALI initiative, exactly 1 year after the commencement of the UN Decade of Action, a period that calls for transformative solutions in economics, social and environmental issues. The Young African Leaders Initiative is an investment in and an evident recognition of the next generation of African Leaders, which serves as a suitable platform and network to utilize for achieving the SDGs.

As we draw close to 2030, there is no time like the present for us to come together as a collective, to support and promote intergenerational dialogue, as a building block to addressing the complex global issues we are faced with, and those that we as young people will have to contend with. Now more than ever, we need to advance global leadership, ramp up cumulative efforts that will draw on the experience and expertise of governments, the private sector, civil society and of course the brilliance and deftness of young people.... both in the U.S. and on the African continent.

2030 can certainly be a very monumental year for the world and especially for Africa. It is the year where Africa's youth population is expected to make up 42% of the world's population, making it the youngest continent in the world.

It is therefore imperative that we ensure, this youth bulge is effectively harnessed to create or rather generate dividends for the continent and ultimately the world. To achieve this, we need to amplify and recognize the importance of agile governance, education, skills development, economic prosperity or development, gender disparities/equality, youth leadership, youth employment opportunities, innovation for social impact, international market access, equal access to opportunities, food security, peace, and security along with of course the value and role of global partnerships.

There are indeed major challenges we need to interrogate honestly and sincerely:

- Ensuring active participation and inclusion of Africa, in all discussions related to its future, opportunities and challenges. Dialogues and ideas should be led by Africans, and should always include the voice of young people, who are often at grassroots levels, working hard to solve for these.
- Real partnerships- if we are to forge a meaningful relationship, we ought to ensure that the concerns of continent are treated as equally important, not only in our bilateral relations but also at global level. Recognizing that the challenges of climate change, water scarcity, health, food, and energy crisis, will have far reaching implications for Africa. And of course, the support of the US to waive vaccine patent rights is one such example.
- Global resources- How are we applying and allocate global resources. We need to ensure that every child irrespective of their place of birth has an equal chance to opportunity and success.

What are the opportunities you may ask?

- While the onus does not rest with the US, at least not alone, it is an opportunity for the United States, which has already laid a foundation it can build on, to take the lead and show what role developed countries can play in making sure Africa is not intentionally or by design left behind.
- There are opportunities for us to collectively create shared value, ecosystems that optimize business value chains and help scale social impact initiatives, to reach as many people as possible and drive the change we want to see.
- There is an opportunity to help Africa leapfrog in the 4th industrial revolution, by ensuring our active participation in international markets through tailored trade relations that are favorable to us.

Particularly in relation to currency fluctuations on operational overheads, which impact the stability and sustainability of small-medium enterprises. Deliberate efforts in addressing these challenges, will subsequently improve the continents exports, market access, and present a huge trade partner for the U.S.

Needless to say, the 2019 Africa Continental Free Trade Area, the world's largest free trade area, will be an essential component of Africa's economic development and competitiveness. The support, recognition and acknowledgment of the trade instrument is very key in US-Africa relations. Which in turn, as Professor Landry Signé has testified, will offer unique opportunities of an extensive market for goods and services from the US and its businesses to expand.

Trade remains a very critical and sustainable economic development and growth plan for Africa.

Therefore, we ought to remember the cornerstone of YALI and its flagship program the Mandela Washington Fellowship, to harness the skills of young Africans who have already shown leadership in the spaces they occupy. Sustaining their participation through active involvement, creating spaces and allowing them to pull up chairs at decision-making tables is thus a critical contribution to the development of future continental and global leaders.

I thank you.

## Daily Keynote Address - Friday, May 28, 2021 Our Vision for the Next 10 Years

The final day's keynote featured a conversation between YALI alumni and U.S. officials on a vision for YALI and Africa's youth for the next decade.

### Ms. Belinda Jackson Farrier

**Director, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America**

Thank you very much. And first, I'd like to say, good morning and good afternoon to everyone who's participating, and welcome to day five. I think it's going to be very exciting. We have an opportunity here to have a really engaging conversation. Thank you to the organizers for this entire week of amazing speakers and activities. I know that we've heard from a range of people throughout the week, who hopefully, have given us the ideas and the building blocks that we need to kind of think about what the vision is, and where YALI goes from here. And so I'm really excited to hear from all of you today about that.

I think we should take a moment to congratulate ourselves on the achievement of having made it this far. 10 years of YALI, it's really exceptional. I think we've made an incredible difference and had an incredible impact. And so I hope that you take a moment to acknowledge that. You know, I have worked with YALI participants 10 years ago in Togo, and most recently in Rwanda. And every time I have an opportunity to engage with YALI, I'm blown away at what our alumni are doing, and what they're achieving, and the difference that they're making across sectors, and throughout the policy sphere. So I thank you for that, and I'm really encouraged by that.

You know, at my alma mater, which is Spelman College, a historically black college here in the United States, we like to say that you have a choice to change the world. And when I think about YALI, I think about that choice, and the choice that you've made to have an impact. So I want to thank you in advance for the things that we're about to share and the conversation that we are about to have.

I want to remind you that you have ownership of this program, and that we need your voice and your input, in order to continue to make it a special and unique program that it is. Something that the United States Government has attempted to replicate in other parts of the world. That's how amazing YALI is.

What makes YALI particularly special is all of you. And so please do engage with us today, send us your comments, send us your questions. We really do want to take that input to build and think about what's going to happen going forward. So thank you very much. I'm very excited to join you today. And I look forward to a very engaging conversation.

**YALI 10 Virtual Summit**  
**PROGRAM AGENDA**  
Day 5 Friday  
28 May, 2021

## Session 15

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF YALI  
**Our Vision for the Next 10 Years**

**Ms. Elizabeth Fitzsimmons**  
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

**Ms. Caren Wakoli**  
YALI Alum; Founder and Executive Director  
Emerging Leaders Foundation Africa

**Ms. Gertrude Toezey**  
YALI Alum; Founder; Disbursement Administrator  
Lend a Helping Hand Initiative;  
PREVAIL/FHI Clinical Inc.

Wilson Center

Ten Plus Ten: YALI and United States  
Look Back, and Ahead, Together

**Ms. Caren Wakoli**

**YALI Alum; Founder and Executive Director, Emerging Leaders Foundation Africa, Republic of Kenya**

Thank you so much, Sophia. I am so excited to be here. And just the mention of the word— the term YALI, Young African Leaders Initiative, takes me back many years ago when I was in the inaugural cohort for YALI East Africa. And let me tell you something, I learnt a lot. YALI shaped my journey, shaped my life in such a big way. And just in terms of looking forward at the Africa I want to see, the YALI I want to see in the next 10 years, I want to see many things. I have already— that YALI alumni are accomplishing in Kenya, in East Africa, West Africa, South Africa, Central Africa, North Africa, like the whole continent. This is like a great, great movement. And I'm looking forward to that time when the network will be so strong that we get to influence the leadership of our nations, we get to set the agenda for our nations.

Let me just give an example. Next year, Kenya will be going into general elections, and a few other countries within the continent. We all know what happens around election time with young people, the politics, the instability, the vulnerabilities that come with that. I dream of a time when the influence of YALI will be so strong to the extent that we will influence for there to be peace around election time and throughout the period. Because peace has an impact in so many things, in terms of job creation, investor relations, leadership engagement, rule of law, democracy, participation, inclusion, and all those things. So that is one thing that I look forward to.

The other bit is about the dignity of Africans, and especially the dignity of the young Africans, the young men and women that we get to see, and meet, and work with. They have dreams and aspirations. But is the environment enabling enough for them to thrive and be happy, and pursue their dreams, and innovate, and make a change on the continent? In some areas, yes, in some areas, no. So I look forward to a time when part of the work each and every one of us is doing, and as a network, we will be able to work together to create a society that is dignified, a society where people live in dignity, that mothers can have a meal, children can go to school and access good quality education. That we will be proud to be Africans. Because let me tell you something, I think it's so beautiful to be African. And what just makes us African is not the fact that we are born in Africa, but it's our uniqueness, our culture, our value system, our togetherness. And in that, we can actually be able to thrive.

And the whole question about good governance and accountable leadership. I look forward to having an Africa that has leadership that is accountable, a leadership that cares for the people. And I guess that is part of the reason why YALI is all about developing and growing leaders, and developing the next generation of values based leaders. Like that is so critical.

And one final thing that I look forward to is a society where we have secure livelihoods, and especially for young people. Looking at the continent right now, Africa is the youngest continent. Over 73% of the population is of individuals who are below 35 years of age, yet at the same time, the cases of unemployment are quite high. And that limits the ability of young people to engage in the economic life, in the political life, and to participate in decision making processes and in policy processes. So secure livelihoods are really, really, really important.

And so how do we, as individuals, then hold our leaders and our governments to account to then make sure that all of us can participate in the political space, in the economic space, in every sector of society, without fear, intimidation, favor, or any such thing? So I look forward to such a great Africa. I have so many dreams. Sophia, I can go on and on and on about the dreams I have for Africa. And they are beautiful, they are amazing. And just looking at the rich network of the YALI family, it's just amazing.

And personally, I have been able to have collaborations across countries, not just within my country, Kenya, across countries with YALI alumni, those in my cohort, those outside of my cohort. We engage, we share opportunities, we collaborate. And it's such a beautiful story. So I'm just seeing beautiful things for the next 10 years for Africa. Thank you.

**Ms. Gertrude Darlene Toezay, YALI Alum; Founder, Lend a Helping Hand Initiative; Disbursement Administrator, PREVAIL/FHI Clinical Inc., Republic of Liberia**

Good morning, good afternoon. I'm grateful to be speaking today and thanks to the U.S. Department of State and the voicing center for this opportunity. I'm honored. I'm looking forward. For me, YALI changed my life for good, and I want that for the rest of other Africans that will come to be a part of the program. That somebody else will say, you know, the Africa that we look forward to a lot more is a spirit of young people. Well, how can we be— how can we sit at this table if we are not prepared? We got to be prepared. And YALI has offered us that opportunity to be prepared to take on leadership roles, to take on roles in different spheres of life. I'm so excited today to be on this panel that will discuss YALI for the next vision— the next 10 years vision for YALI. Thank you.

## YALI IMPACT VIDEO STATEMENTS

YALI alumni, Network members, U.S. and African officials, YALI stakeholders and partners, and YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee members were asked: how has YALI impacted your life, community, and the world; what does YALI mean to U.S.-Africa relations; and what do you envision for the next 10 years of YALI?

### *How has YALI impacted your life, community, and the world?*

#### **Mr. Alhasan Bah**

##### **YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2016 Mandela Washington Fellow, Republic of the Gambia**

*"YALI has impacted my life in so many ways. During my fellowship, I was able to learn how to network with people, and this has been of so much use to me. For example, when I came back in 2017, I was able to organize local farming with funding help of those I meet in the United States and people from all over the world. I was also able to learn how to write a grant submission, and I was able to win grants from the U.S. embassy and other institutions. The U.S. embassy grant was for organizing the first female basketball league in my region. I was also able to win a grant to organize a campaign during the COVID-19 pandemic which has impacted so many lives. Furthermore, I was also able to attend and meet people at a conference who work in different countries such as India and Japan, where I was able to share my story."*

#### **Ms. Leah Molatseli**

##### **YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, Republic of South Africa**

*"How YALI has shaped me really has been through instilling the principles of servant leadership and impacting more than just my life. What I appreciate really the most is how it has shifted my thinking toward building and living for more than just me but for a bigger purpose. I will forever be grateful because my time at the University of Notre Dame truly helped shape Lenoma Legal, our thinking, and our strategy. After the fellowship, I managed to go and do amazing things including writing a book and winning international awards, and I do not think some of those things would have been possible had I not been exposed to the type of training that we did."*

#### **Mr. Jean Felix Mwema Ngandu**

##### **YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2015 Mandela Washington Fellow, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

*"YALI has impacted my life by giving me the knowledge, tools, exposure, and network to be able to impact my community and my country. I am forever grateful for this opportunity."*

#### **Mr. Baimba Osman Sheriff**

##### **YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2017 Regional Leadership Center, Republic of Sierra Leone**

*"YALI has impacted my life and my community by enabling me with the skills to lead my team in establishing a self-funded community library and resource center, supporting access to education for children, skill-training programs for women in the council, town testing, and grafting communities in the western districts."*

#### **Ms. Chrissy Zimba**

##### **YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, Republic of Malawi**

*"As a young woman with a physical disability and who advocated for disability rights, YALI has impacted my life, my community, and my country by helping me understand how to effectively engage with organizations on physical disability issues and the government to address the challenges people with disabilities are facing. I have effectively contributed to advocacy for policy change in education and social protection among others to include the needs of people with disabilities. These changes will definitely go a long way helping people with disabilities in Malawi."*

#### **Mr. James Papy Kwabo, Jr.,**

##### **YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, Republic of Liberia**

*"YALI has exposed me to connections I believe I would have never experienced in my lifetime. It has been able to help me with the skills needed to upgrade my 20 view radio project initiative that I started before joining the YALI program. Today that station has been upgraded with the leadership skills and has been able to reach out to over 300,000 listeners in rural Liberia. I have also been able to have three Americans to join my board of directors at the alternative youth radio."*



**Mr. Ricky Simasiku**

**YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, Republic of Namibia**

*"YALI has helped me in such a way that it has helped my networking skills and has also given me opportunities to collaborate with other youth on the African continent."*

**Mr. Ololade Otayemi, 2017 Mandela Washington Fellow, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Ms. Kofoworola Oyeleye, 2018 Mandela Washington Fellow, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Mr. Ovo Otarigho, 2017 Regional Leadership Center, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Ms. Angela Ochu-Baive, 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Mr. Oyewole Joledo, 2018 Mandela Washington Fellow, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

*"Since its inception, the YALI Network has grown in strength to over 200,000 young Nigerians including 3,000 alumni of the regional leadership program and 400 Mandela Washington fellows. Through the YALI initiative, we have advocated for disability rights campaigned for peaceful and credible elections and promoted our shared values. Thanks to YALI, we are able to make positive change to support growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security in Nigeria. We look forward to sharing with you even greater achievements and stronger ties between Nigeria and the United States in the years ahead."*

*Congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the YALI network and see you at the 20th."*

**Ms. Jaiyeoba Adepeju**

**YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2014 Mandela Washington Fellow, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

*"YALI impacted my life in so many ways. I remember getting on the YALI program in 2014 without any kind of business experience. I was looking to build sustainability in my enterprise and YALI showed me the way. I learned business and entrepreneurship from the University of Texas. I was able to get my work experience at the United Nations Foundation from where I got seed funding from USDA to kick start my business. YALI moved me from a 30 kids producing company to a more than 500,000 kids producing company—effectively impacting more than a million mothers and their babies. Today we have expanded and set up businesses to support our work with mothers and their babies. We currently have qualifications that provide nutrition and meals for children under the age of four. All this would not have been possible without the background support, the mentoring, and funding provided by YALI. With YALI, I know that it never truly ends. The program continues to give and give and give."*

**Mr. Game "Zeus" Bantsi**

**YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2016 Mandela Washington Fellow, Republic of Botswana**

*"You know, we tend to shy away from political leadership in our different spaces be it entrepreneurship, be it creative industries like mine. Doing the Mandela Washington Fellowship taught me how to look for that kind of sense of responsibility in myself. To not just be complaining about problems on social media but to actually step up and fill those boardroom tables so that our voices are heard."*

**Ms. Mercy Ikuri**

**2015 Mandela Washington Fellow, Republic of Kenya**

*"It is said that one can go without food for about 40 days but without water for about 3 days and without air for about eight minutes—but only for one second without hope. This is why I think that one of the greatest gifts of the Young African Leaders Initiative is the fact that it is reigniting hope in the future leadership of our continent, countries, and communities: climbing the canvas of the future of Africa with hope is what I call it. By bringing together young promising leaders from all across Africa and cultivating various values such as integrity and accountability in them, the initiative is investing in one of the most valuable but often overlooked resource on the African continent—its people."*

*I doubt the world is ready for what this palette of talented leaders has to offer. For those who've gone through the initiatives various programs, we've gained so much that it all seems surreal that it could have come from a mere month or so of learning and serving besides other inspiring dreamers, doers, and thinkers. In my case, I not only made countless friends owing to my love for learning languages, I also gained a mentor that I absolutely love and look up to.*

*I then witnessed the power of networking when the following year I got to serve as an international conservation and restoration volunteer for seven months with an environmental NGO in Seattle, Washington that a fellow*

participant had once worked with. As you can see, the world of possibilities that a single opportunity like the Mandela Washington Fellowship can unveil is simply astounding. Like those who brought the program into being, I pray that the lessons we learned will bear wonderful fruit in the future. Most of all, I hope that we will remember that we are leaders not because we deserve the titles and roles; but because we are ready to serve. As the little Swahili rhyme I wrote in my diary goes (SPEAKS SWAHILI). I would usually translate that as saying, "Leadership is not a point to sit on; rather it is more like planting a tree in whose shade others will see."

**Mr. Averty Delamizere Ndzoyi, 2015 Mandela Washington Fellow, Director and Founder, Espace Opoko, Republic of the Congo**

"Before YALI, I was rather reactive waiting for a problem to arise before tackling it. YALI helped me to discover the "Design Thinking," a methodology that requires a comprehensive understanding of the issue before attempting specific solutions. Today, I use this methodology to analyze and come up with solutions. As a rural participant, YALI brought about three key issues for me. I was not computer-literate, my English was at an intermediary level, and it was the very first time that I was leaving my country for an Anglophone one. These obstacles notwithstanding, I was selected. I then realized what defying these odds meant for my abilities to go far.

Before YALI, I am used to working alone with no success story to show for. After YALI, I now have a network of close friends and a set of leadership tools that allow me to better manage human relations. For instance, the training on community foundation helped me to sharpen my leadership skills in that I now consult with my staff and colleagues, and the indigenous populations I work for before any meaningful decision. Before YALI no child of my indigenous community was able to attend high school. After YALI and thanks to programs I put in place, we have the very first eight (8) high school students of our community. Moreover, our indigenous community had the very first three (3) university students, two (2) high school graduates currently in training to join civil service for the first time in history.

Based on these results, I would like to remind new generations of leaders that change requires hard work and patience. Faced with challenges, we should always persevere and inspire others. We may not see the results right away, but history may remember us as pioneers of a worthy cause. I thank you."

**Mr. Belélé Jérôme William Bationo, 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, International Editor, Media in Cooperation and Transition (MICT), Republic of Burkina Faso**

"Before attending YALI civic leadership program, I have been a journalist for 6 years. In my daily routine, I write on current events with a special focus on the arts, culture and science. I was lucky to participate in YALI in 2018, and it further sparked my interest in journalism. Following the training that I received and truly appreciated, I started searching for ways to better orient my profession so that I can not only assist my community but also contribute to solutions to problems my country, Burkina Faso, is facing. At the time, I was living in Germany. During one of my trips home, I heard about the launch of a media program designed to help young professionals engage in peace and share best civic practices. This appealed to me, and I spent the next ten (10) months in my country to participate in the activities for the launch of this project, which, to me, epitomizes what YALI taught me.

After my stay in Burkina Faso, I returned to Germany where I now focus both my training and job search on peace and civic engagement. Hardly three months after, I landed a job with a German NGO seeking someone to coordinate media works in Burkina Faso, my country. Once again, I am working for Burkinabe at Monde Rural by the Airport. Currently, I am the international dignitary of the project and coordinate a 12-journalist team for media content with a civic focus for the agricultural community.

This project reaches a huge percentage of populations in Western Burkina Faso and my training at YALI helps me tremendously to better manage my teams and to bring about efficient solutions. I meet and consult regularly with members of my community, and that corresponds to my deep aspirations that YALI helped unearth.

Ultimately, this program helped me to band together my passion and my professional development to impact my community. Thank you."

## What does YALI mean for U.S.-Africa relations?

### **Senator Christopher Coons**

#### **Senator, Delaware and Chair of the Senate Ethics Committee, U.S. Senate, United States of America**

*"I am so proud to join the State Department and the Wilson Center to celebrate a decade of YALI, the Young African Leaders Initiative. Since its launch back in 2010, this important program has been harnessing the power and the potential of thousands of young leaders from across the African continent, who are working tirelessly to improve their communities. I have met with scores of YALI fellows in Washington, at the University of Delaware during their 6-week fellowship, and in my travels to countries across Africa. In fact, I just returned from Sudan where I meet with several YALI fellows who contributed to the peaceful revolution and have taken that country on a path from authoritarian rule to democracy after 30 years of isolation. I am always moved by the encouragement, passion, and dedication in each of their stories. As we look to the future, I am determined to find ways to deepen U.S. partnership with this community of leaders and to expand our reach to bring more young people to into the fold. I am grateful to everyone in the room for 10 years of this important work together and I look forward to what's ahead. Thank you!"*

### **Congressman Michael McCaul**

#### **Representative, Texas' 10th Congressional District and Lead Republican of the Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America**

*"I want to send my sincere congratulations to the Young African Leaders Initiative or YALI for its 10th anniversary. Nearly, one out of every three Africans are between the ages of 10 and 24—they are the future of the African continent. Access to education, vocational training and jobs, just like here in the United States, will be even more critical to support this growing youth population. Programs like YALI are not just effective diplomacy; they are an investment in future generations of African leaders. Because of YALI, we have welcomed nearly 4,400 young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa to the United States since 2014. These impressive individuals go back to their home countries and they grow their businesses, they work in government, and they become leaders in their communities. So, I am proud the university of Texas at Austin has hosted a cohort of Mandela Washington fellows every summer and I look forward to welcoming many more YALI fellows to experience my home district in the years to come."*

### **Congressmember Karen Bass**

#### **Representative, California's 37th Congressional District and Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Global Human Rights, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America**

*"I am one of the biggest supporters of the Young African Leaders Initiative on the Hill. I have been involved with the program from its inception. I have watched it grow, and I have watched the impact that it has had—one in the United States and two on the continent of Africa. I think it is an opportunity for Americans to interact with African leaders. Every time I walk into a room, greet, and interact with a group of YALI participants, I imagine every one of them going home and one day leading their countries. Whether their leading their countries in business, in the nonprofit arena, or in government, I know that the Young African Leaders Initiative is grooming the next leaders on the continent of Africa. I think one of the greatest accomplishments of YALI is that it brings together Africa's young people from many different countries who would have never had an opportunity to meet each other and when they leave the program, they stay in contact. I believe that is going to have a tremendous impact on the continent and now, I want to see the program not just continue but also be expanded. Thank you very much for opportunity to salute the Young African Leaders Initiative."*

### **Ambassador Hilda Suka-Mafudze**

#### **African Union Ambassador to the United States, Republic of Zimbabwe**

*"The African Union appreciates the United States for this remarkable initiative. My statement is about the significance of you, the African youth the measures instituted to nurture this population. My sons and daughters, you are the future of our continent and you have demonstrated such courageous characteristics time and again. We see you, we hear you, and we appreciate you. An Africa proverb states, "It is the youth, young trees, that make up the forest." I am speaking to you as a mother, a representative of the African Union to the U.S.A., and as an African citizen. Africa and the Africa Union knows you and values your contribution to the society. Let me restate what the Chairperson of the African Union His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat said in his vision for his second term from 2021 to 2024, "African youth long for change, innovation, and creation. Our duty is to do everything to meet these legitimate aspirations. The action of organization of nations should consider these essential demands of freedom, modernity, emancipation, change, education, health, employment, and physical moral intellectual development. Partnerships like YALI and homegrown solutions such as the both the Constitutive Act and Agenda 26 of the African Union prominently lay down the plan you're your fair treatment and equal participation to meet your legitimate aspirations." I am sure this statement is a promise and it is your job to hold us accountable but you will also do your part. This way we will achieve our desired result to build the Africa we want. I thank you and wish you a successful summit!"*

**Ambassador Tibor Nagy**

**Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America**

*"I am one of YALI's biggest fans. I believe YALI is absolutely fundamental to U.S.-Africa relations. With Africa doubling its population by 2050, it is in my view the best program for cultivating Africa's future leaders and these will be the leaders that will take Africa to its proper place as a global leader in the 21st century. It is another indication how the United States invests in Africa's most valuable resource, young Africans—its young people. Happy 10th birthday YALI and many more, God bless you."*

**Ambassador Tulinabo Mushingi**

**U.S. Ambassador to Senegal, U.S. Department of State, United States of America**

*"YALI is making a difference and transforming the way young Africans see their potential. The program nurtures the desire to be self-reliant and chart your own destiny. YALI demonstrates the United States interest in and support for African youth as Africa's future leaders. We have 156 alumni from Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, and I am proud that our talented young leaders are making change in their communities. For example, one alumna, Maimouna Faye, is the first woman CEO of media company in Senegal with over 100 employees—50 percent of them women. After participating in YALI, alumnus Adulai Berry created InnoLab, the only center in Guinea-Bissau providing training and start-up support for entrepreneurs. These are just two of the many successful YALI alumni. The opportunities to develop here in Africa are endless. It is up to you to imagine big and preserve. Keep up the good work (SPEAKS WOLOF)."*

**Ambassador Bruce Wharton**

**Former U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe, U.S. Department of State, United States of America**

*"In 2010, President Obama wanted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the wave of African Independence by connecting with and celebrating young African leaders, and I am extremely pleased with the growth of the YALI program since then. YALI matters to America because the future of Africa matters to America. We need African leadership to work with us to build justice, health, and prosperity. Africa's young leaders are the key to the future and not just in Africa, but also in the United States and across our planet. So, it is clearly in America's interest to connect with young African leaders and that's just what the YALI program thrives to do. "*

**Professor Paul Wainaina**

**Vice Chancellor, Kenyatta University, Republic of Kenya**

*"On behalf of Kenyatta University, I wish to offer my warmest congratulations to the Young African Leaders Initiative, YALI, on the occasion of the global YALI at 10 celebrations. Kenyatta University is extremely proud to be the host of the YALI Regional Center East Africa. I celebrate with pride and great admiration at the many great young African leaders who have been mentored through the YALI Center at Kenyatta University over the last decade, who are changing the face of Africa. KU is humbled and proud to be a call in the will and journey to grow the next generation of strong and resource oriented leaders across Africa."*

**Mr. Melvin Foote**

**President and CEO, Constituency for Africa, United States of America**

*"On behalf of the Constituency for Africa, I am extremely proud to salute the thousands of young Africans leaders who have participated in the YALI program over the first 10 years. I am especially pleased and heartened that when I was asked in 2009 by one of President Obama's senior staffers about what the President might do ensure Africa and of his interest in the continent while he worked to strengthen the U.S. economy. I suggested that he do not spend his time catching intransigent African leaders but instead focus on the next generation the coming up and President Obama being a young President himself—with that idea YALI was born. I can say that in the years since the inception of YALI, I have met thousands of YALI participants and have yet to find one that I was not impressed with. I applaud the State Department for managing the diversity in the selection process, which has been excellent. I certainly would encourage the Biden Administration to continue with the YALI program. It is low budget and high impact. It will certainly have a lot to say about U.S.-Africa relations. The global pandemic has certainly hindered the ability to carry out the YALI program as it has been done in years past and I would encourage the Administration to maximize the use of technology to develop the program in dynamic new ways. I also strongly encourage the Biden Administration to scale up the interaction between YALI participants both alumni and current with U.S. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and with the African Diaspora in the United States. The absolute potential to grow this program is dynamic. The Constituency for Africa is ready to assist in any way possible. Again, congratulations to YALI and the thousands of participants from across the African continent, you are indeed the future."*

**Ms. Nancy Hopkins**

**Director of Programs, The Presidential Precinct, United States of America**

*“YALI matters because it has served as an incredibly effective leadership accelerator for thousands of young professionals across the African continent. It has helped them build their skills, gain different perspectives, and perhaps most importantly develop a strong peer support network. We see YALI leaders collaborating on projects, supporting each other in times of need, and encouraging each other to dream big. After 10 years, this program now counts some of the continent’s most dynamic nonprofit leaders, entrepreneurs, public officials, and innovators as part of the YALI family. YALI alumni are a tremendous force for good, and they are at the forefront of positive change in Africa. There is really no limit to what they can accomplish.”*

**Ms. Gail Prensky**

**2019 Mandela Washington Fellow (Reciprocal Exchange), United States of America**

*“YALI matters to United States and Africa relations because it supports valuable exchanges which are a significant part of people to people diplomacy. YALI gave 2018 Mandela Washington fellows and alumnus, Jok Abraham Thon, the chance to travel from South Sudan to America in the summer of 2018. I met Jok at the fellowship summit where we established a strong bond and launched the Bullets to Books Initiative, which encourages peace and unity through education and cultural exchange. The young leaders in South Sudan are brave, resilient, and determined to build a stable sustainable and unified country despite surviving a brutal civil war, tribal and political conflict, hunger, literacy, displacement, and poverty. Our collaboration encourages scale building, sharing resources, and building the conditions for development, education, cultural expressions, and most importantly hope.”*

**Mr. Scott Massey**

**Co-Founder and CEO, Heliponix, United States of America**

*“We are an agricultural technology firm and just created the growth pod you see behind me. This allows consumers to grow vegetables in the convenience of their own home here in the United States and we are expanding internationally. YALI matters between America and African relations because hunger knows no borders. Although Heliponix is being widely applied in sophisticated automated facilities not too different from what is show behind me, in the same way that this concept is sustainable to decentralize agriculture. It is making an impact in Africa where food security has never been in a more jeopardized situation as a result of the ongoing pandemic. YALI will facilitate skills training needed to spread these technologies and increase food security globally.”*

**Ms. Kelly Bedeian**

**Assistant Director, Institute for International Business, University of Iowa, United States of America**

*“YALI matters because it creates opportunities for communities like mine to engage with young African leaders, smashing stereotypes, and creating opportunities for engagement that last well beyond initial program activities.”*



## What do you envision for the next 10 years of YALI?

**Ms. Joan Enoch**

**YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2015 Mandela Washington Fellow, Republic of Cameroon**

*"What I envision for YALI in the next 10 years is that alumni of the program will be in the position to influence and power across the continent. It will be a delight to see the businesses and ventures of the alumni have run become or big and profitable such that they are able to show the impact of the program."*

**Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo**

**YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2016 Regional Leadership Center, Republic of Ghana**

*"Africa is the youngest continent in the world and in the next decade, young Africans will play a critical role in the social and economic development of the continent. It is therefore important we develop the right skills whilst accruing and accessing the right information. As we celebrate our 10-year anniversary, it is important we rethink the type of skills that are necessary and needed for young Africans to compete and compliment the rest of the world. By 2030, I envision YALI alumni leading the front in documenting, harnessing, and telling their impact stories of young Africans across the continent to impact the next generation using the latest technology and communications innovations."*

**Mr. Ricky Simasiku**

**YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2019 Regional Leadership Center, Republic of Namibia**

*"I look forward to the continuation of YALI to improve and increase capacity in collaboration and sharing of skills among the African youth."*

**Ms. Ineza Umuhoza Grace**

**YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2019 Regional Leadership Center, Republic of Rwanda**

*"For the next 10 years of YALI, I envision an Africa with leaders embedded with the global citizenry attitude—serving the African community and the world."*

**Ms. Marjory Schleicher**

**YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Cameroon, U.S. Department of State, United States of America**

*"Since 2014, I have been privileged to oversee the YALI program at two African posts. From day one, I was struck by the young people we interviewed. They were doing remarkable work to strengthen their communities sometimes at great personal risks and sacrifice. No matter what their field was, they all shared a vision for a stronger, more prosperous Africa. The YALI program is an investment in making that vision a reality. The first 10 years have been foundational and the next 10 years will be an opportunity to expand the network and further leverage the program's impact across the continent."*

**Mr. Charles Munyua**

**YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee, 2016 Regional Leadership Center, Republic of Kenya**

*"For the next 10 years of YALI, I envision a movement of thousands of young African leaders empowered with the mindset, tools, and networks to create the Africa that we want. I envision young leaders in the public service driven by the passion to do good, to deliver the services and results that citizens deserve. I envision young entrepreneurs building sustainable value driven business, creating jobs, and uplifting the living of communities. I envision young civic leaders who are not afraid holding governments accountable and who empower communities to have their voices heard in decision-making. I envision a YALI that is owned and driven by its alumni, a YALI that makes us proud to belong and drives us forward and unleashes Africa's potential. Will you join me in making it happen?"*

“

*May the next 10 years see exponential growth in the number of YALI fellows living on the continent and leading across the world. We look forward to many more years of engaging Africa's youth.*

*-Ms. Dana Banks, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Africa, National Security Council, United States of America*

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## SUMMIT SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

*In alphabetical order by last name.*

**Mr. Travis Adkins**

**Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)  
*United States of America***

**Dr. Odry Agbessi**

**YALI Alum; Founder, Via Me Benin  
*Republic of Benin***

**Mr. Rodrigue Kafui Akolly**

**YALI Alum; Executive Director, l'AV-Jeunes; Director, Startup eCentre Convivial  
*Republic of Togo***

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**Program Associate, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
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**Ms. Walaa Isam al-Boushi**

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**YALI Alum; Medical Doctor and Founder, Akougook Initiative  
*Republic of South Sudan***

**Dr. Joseph Asunka**

**Chief Executive Officer, Afrobarometer  
*Republic of Ghana***

**Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo**

**YALI Alum; General Manager, YALI TV; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee  
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**Ms. Toyin Awesu-Uhuegbu**

**Communications Advisor, Prosper Africa Secretariat, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)  
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**YALI Alum; Founder, Balal Public Library; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee  
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*Republic of Guinea-Bissau***

**Mr. Imrana Alhaji Buba**

**YALI Alum; Founder & Coordinator, Youth Coalition Against Terrorism  
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**Mrs. Patience O. Coleman Beyan**  
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**Ms. Elizabeth Fitzsimmons**  
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Executive Education Lecturer, Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania; Sr. Executive Coach;  
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YALI Alum; Executive Director, I AM PEACE Initiative  
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**H.E. Hilda Suka-Mafudze**  
African Union Ambassador to the United States  
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Project Management Specialist-Gender and Youth, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)  
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**Ms. Colisile Tfwala**  
YALI Alum; Founder & CEO, Colisile Hloniphile Tfwala Foundation  
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**Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield**  
United States Ambassador to the United Nations, United States Mission to the United Nations  
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**Ms. Gertrude Darlene Toezay**  
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**Ms. Macani Toungara**  
Senior Advisor, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)  
*United States of America*

**Ms. Ineza Umuhoza Grace**  
YALI Alum; Founder and CEO, The Green Fighter; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee  
*Republic of Rwanda*

**Mr. Sem Mandela Uutoni**  
YALI Alum; Chief Executive Officer, One Economy Foundation  
*Republic of Namibia*

**Mr. João Vembane**  
YALI Alum; Founder and CEO, JAV Consulting, E.I.  
*Republic of Mozambique*

**Ms. Caren Wakoli**  
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**Dr. Nancy J. Walker**  
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Member, Africa Program Advisory Council, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
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**Ms. Diana Warira**  
Policy Manager, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL); Scholarship Alum,  
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**Ms. Rahama Wright**  
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**Ms. Tembi Mavis Yeluma**  
YALI Alum; Executive Director, Women and Allies for Peace and Security  
*Republic of Cameroon*

“ You can do great things. This summit and YALI's mission can help you get there. So enjoy this time together, enjoy the fellowship and take every advantage that you can. This is your moment and we are all cheering you on.

*-Ambassador Mark Green, President, Director, & CEO, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America*

”

## YALI 10 CULTURAL CONTENT, ENTERTAINMENT AND IMPACT STATEMENT CONTRIBUTORS

Throughout YALI 10, YALI creatives addressed issues including health, justice, sexual and gender-based violence, education, children's rights, and youth empowerment. They also advocated for good governance and transparency and used their skills and talents to inspire YALI and other African youth.

*In alphabetical order by last name.*

**Mr. Mubarik Mohamoud Ahmed**  
YALI Alum  
*Federal Republic of Somalia*

**Mr. Emediong Akpabio**  
YALI Alum  
*Federal Republic of Nigeria*

**Mr. John Appiah**  
YALI Alum; YALI TV  
*Republic of Ghana*

**American Music Abroad**  
*United States of America*

**Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo**  
YALI Alum; General Manager, YALI TV; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee  
*Republic of Ghana*

**B'Flow (Brian Bwembya)**  
YALI Alum; Hip-hop/Dancehall Artist; Founder/Owner, Music for Change  
*Republic of Zambia*

**Ms. Myrna Clayton**  
Singer, American Music Abroad  
*United States of America*

**Mr. Jonathan Wendpanga Convolbo**  
YALI Alum  
*Republic of Burkina Faso*

**Mr. Yuri Fumo**  
YALI Alum  
*Republic of Mozambique*

**Flex Fuzion Dance Academy**  
*Republic of the Gambia*

**Huntertones**  
American Music Abroad  
*United States of America*

**Ms. Aisha Nurideen Ibrahim**  
YALI Alum  
*United Republic of Tanzania*

**YALI 2021 VIRTUAL SUMMIT**  
Ten Plus Ten: YALI and United States Look Back, and Ahead, Together

**Featuring**

- B Flow 2015 MWF Zambia
- Douglas Ogutu YALI RLC & 2021 MWF Fellow Kenya
- Grace Alache Jerry 2015 MWF Nigeria
- Mark Kaweesi 2016 MWF Uganda
- Ndey Fatou Jabang 2019 MWF The Gambia
- Lamboginny YALI RLC West Africa Nigeria/ USA

**PRESENTS**  
**YALI Creatives Entertainment Session**  
Friday 28th May 2021  
Time: 4:00pm GMT



Register now: <https://bit.ly/2RyAE0V>

**Ms. Ndey Fatou Jabang**  
YALI Alum; CEO, Flex Fuzion Dance Academy  
*Republic of the Gambia*

**Ms. Grace Jerry**  
YALI Alum; Executive Director, Inclusive Friends Association  
*Federal Republic of Nigeria*

**H.E. Quartey Thomas Kwesi**  
Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission  
*Republic of Ghana*

**Lamboginny (Yinka Lawanson)**  
YALI Alum; Musician; Founder, Say No to Crime Project  
*Federal Republic of Nigeria*

**Leshie Lovesong**  
Singer/Poet  
*Republic of Botswana*

**Dr. Chidzani Catherine Mbenge**  
YALI Alum; Medical Doctor; Poet  
*Republic of Botswana*

**Mr. Tony Memmel**  
Musician, American Music Abroad  
*United States of America*

**Mr. Kaweesi Mark**  
YALI Alum; Breakdancer/B-Boy; Creative Facilitator, Imagination Circle Ltd.,  
*Republic of Uganda*

**Mr. Jamal Moore**  
Singer  
*United States of America*

**Ms. Josephine Offei**  
YALI Alum; YALI TV  
*Republic of Ghana*

**Ms. Mojisola Ojebode**  
YALI Alum; Biochemist  
*Federal Republic of Nigeria*

**Burna Boy (Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu)**  
Singer/Rapper  
*Federal Republic of Nigeria*

**Dr. Carl Oshodi**  
Executive Chairperson, African Youth Union Commission; CEO, African Industrialization Group  
*Federal Republic of Nigeria*

**Ms. Enelles Pemba**  
YALI Alum  
*Republic of Malawi*

**Ms. Teneia Sanders**  
American Music Abroad  
*United States of America*



**Mr. Baimba Osman Sheriff**  
YALI Alum; Principal Founder & Executive Director, Children's Assurance Program; Member, YALI 10th Anniversary Advisory Committee  
*Republic of Sierra Leone*

**Mr. Patrick Stephenson**  
YALI Alum  
*Republic of Ghana*

**Ms. Samantha Sibanda**  
YALI Alum; Founder, Signs of Hope Trust  
*Republic of Zimbabwe*

**Ms. Colisile Tfwala**  
YALI Alum; Founder & CEO, Colisile Hloniphile Tfwala Foundation  
*Kingdom of Eswatini*

**Ms. Siphwe Vilakati**  
YALI Alum  
*Kingdom of Eswatini*

**Wordsmith and DJ Invisible**  
*United States of America*

*Young American shout-outs to YALI and young Africans*

**Ms. Hannah Beckett Akuiyibo**  
Program Associate, Africa Program  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
*United States of America*

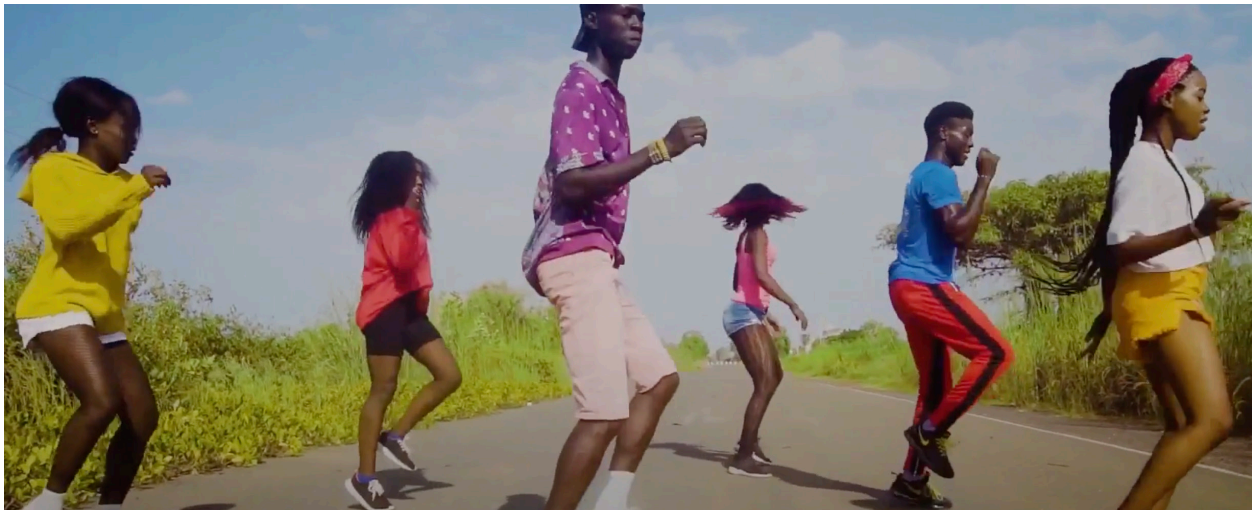
**Ms. Shahrazad Hired**  
Communications Program Assistant, Africa Program  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
*United States of America*

**Mr. Marc Carr**  
Project Coordinator (Contractor)  
Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
*United States of America*

**Ms. Keara Mangan**  
Communications Assistant (Contractor)  
Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
*United States of America*

**Ms. Catharine Helmers**  
Program Assistant, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
*United States of America*

**Ms. Gamuchirai Mhute**  
Program Assistant (Director's Office), Africa Program  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
*United States of America*



*Flex Fuzion Dance Academy (Republic of the Gambia)*

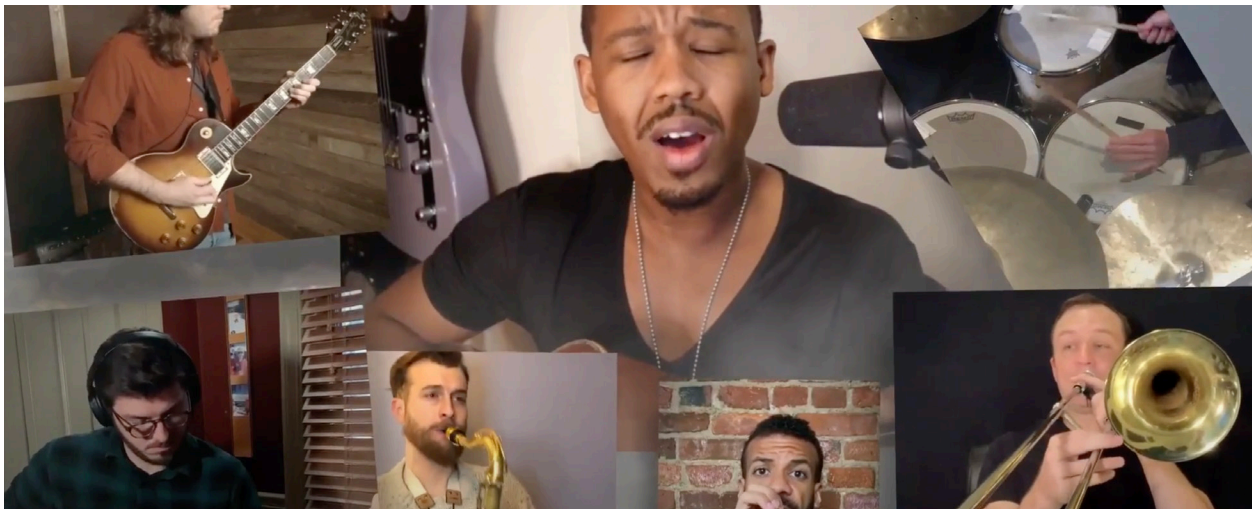


So let the star shine let the rain fall  
*Grace Jerry (Federal Republic of Nigeria) - "Change the World"*



**The Myrna Clayton Experience**  
Atlanta Ga, USA

*Myrna Clayton (United States of America) - "Feeling Good"*



*Huntertones (United States of America) - "Love's in Need of Love Today"*

## COMPETITION: "YALI AT 10: MY LIFE, MY COMMUNITY, AND MY WORLD"

### *Young African leaders' stories of transformation and servant leadership*

To celebrate a decade of YALI change-makers and their achievements, YALI alumni and active Network members who have demonstrated a commitment to leadership in their communities were encouraged to participate in the competition by submitting entries (in written, video, audio, or multimedia format) that described or demonstrated how YALI has impacted their personal and professional development, and how they have made a difference in their communities and around the world. The competition was open to individuals or alumni groups, and entries were required to correspond to one of YALI's three curriculum tracks (or across multiple tracks for group submissions).

**Competition Winners:** A total of **185 entries from 38 countries** were received, including 81 essays/poems, 28 videos, 11 multimedia entries, and 10 photography submissions. A committee reviewed the entries and selected 15 winners who were announced and showcased at the YALI 10th anniversary summit. The third-place winner was 2015 Mandela Washington Fellow **Ms. Hyasintha Ntuyeko**, and the second-place winner was 2018 Mandela Washington Fellow **Mr. Uche Kenneth Udekwe. Dr. Chidzani Mbenge**, a 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, was selected as the competition's first-place winner for her poem featured below.

### **The Shy Girl Who Refuses to Die Shy**

Despite the palpitations, the stomach knots  
I brace through leadership, For I am a YALI Alumni,  
That discovered that I am a leader on my own right, I do not have to pretend to be someone else  
I can be the best version of myself

Shy and reserved I was born,  
But we cannot judge a fish for its flying capabilities, When its strength is swimming  
Harmony, Responsibility, Analytical, Consistency, Developer  
Are the Gallup Clifton Strengths that I capitalize in  
Empathy, Equality, Health, Integrity, Humility Are the core values that I live by  
I am a Public Health Specialist in the making  
I speak health system strengthening and management I speak evidenced based policies and interventions  
Best Practices from YALI Leadership in Public Management  
Best Practices from Atlanta – home of the biggest Public Health Institute The inspiring and mesmerizing visit to CDC Atlanta  
I dream of the birth of Botswana Public Health Institute, of "CDC Botswana".  
COVID-19 Pandemic,  
What a blessing in disguise- Putting Public Health Theory into Practice Responding to a Crisis - the practical module!  
Overseeing contact tracing across the country- Leadership! Guidelines formation, trainings, field work, community engagement  
Teamwork, partnerships, networking-  
Cutting down chains of transmission of COVID-19 in Botswana Altruistic Servant Leadership in the face of the Pandemic  
The Martin Luther King Jr. type of selflessness

It takes a village to raise a child in Africa  
Mathangwane village raised me and it is my turn to give back I lead Mathangwane Train Organization  
Advocating for community developments  
Party with a Purpose in Atlanta, raising funds for a Non-Profit  
Emulated by Family fun days in Mathangwane- fundraising through entertainment The power of collaborations-  
Collaborating with DARE to Dream Organization  
Eight Mathangwane village students flew in an aeroplane for the first time On a FLY for STEAME experience- inspiring STEM careers.

Despite the butterflies in my stomach, I lead Despite the anxiety, I knock on doors  
I am 'The shy girl who refuses to die shy!' I am a Young African Leader.

## "YALI AT 10: MY LIFE, MY COMMUNITY, AND MY WORLD" Competition Winners

*Presented in alphabetical order by last name.*

NAME	COUNTRY	TITLE	TYPE
Mr. Folahanmi Aina	Federal Republic of Nigeria	Youth and Community Empowerment through Transformational Leadership	Essay
Ms. Manka'ah Che	Republic of Cameroon	My YALI Give Back Journey	Video
Mr. Koumtebaye Elysée	Republic of Chad	Volunteerism- Blood Drive to Raise Awareness about the Importance of Humanitarianism	Photography
Mr. Isaac Fenyi	Republic of Ghana	Volunteerism - An Antidote to a World in Flux	Essay
Ms. Ineza Umuhoza Grace	Republic of Rwanda	My Life, My Community, My World	Video
Mr. Sunnie Antonio Marcar Jr. Ms. Gertrude Darlene Toezay Mr. Emmett "K-Max" Paye	Republic of Liberia	#YALI at 10	Multimedia
Dr. Chidzani Mbenge	Republic of Botswana	The Shy Girl Who Refuses to Die Shy	Poem
Ms. Susan Mukaabya	Republic of Uganda	The African Youth	Poem
Mr. Albert Timothy Mwangeka	Republic of Kenya	YALI: My True North	Poem
Ms. Hyasinthia Bartholomew Ntuyeko	United Republic of Tanzania	Her Period Doesn't Measure Her Potential	Essay
Ms. Linda Kushinga Sibanyoni	Republic of Zimbabwe	Purple Hearts Never Fail	Essay
Mr. Uche Kenneth Udekwe	Federal Republic of Nigeria	How YALI has Impacted My Community and My Country	Video
Ms. N'zani Kassim Zani	Republic of Kenya	YALIFIED!	Essay
Mr. John Zimba	Republic of Zambia	My Life, My Community, and My World as a MW Fellow	Video
Mr. Chifwanti Zulu	Republic of Zambia	Writing Our Own Story	Poem

### Young African Leaders Initiative Competition Call for Submissions!

"YALI at 10: My Life, My Community, and My World"  
*Young African leaders' stories of  
transformation and servant leadership*

- Call for competition submissions of videos, short essays, poems, songs, spoken word, and sketches.
- Submissions due by February 28, 2021

**For details and eligibility visit:**

**[wilsoncenter.org/yali-10-call-for-submissions](http://wilsoncenter.org/yali-10-call-for-submissions)**



#YALI10  
yali.state.gov

**Mr. Uche Kenneth Udekwe**  
**2018 Mandela Washington Fellow**  
**Federal Republic of Nigeria**

***How YALI has Impacted My Community  
and My Country (Video Screenshot) - 2nd Place Winner***



**Ms. Hyacintha Bartholomew Ntuyeko**  
**2015 Mandela Washington Fellow**  
**United Republic of Tanzania**

***Her Period Doesn't Measure  
Her Potential - 3rd Place Winner***

My name is Hyacintha Ntuyeko, a social entrepreneur and a Mandela Washington Fellow 2015, undertook Business and Entrepreneurship at Dartmouth College. For the past 6 years since my participation to the fellowship; am so very proud that I was able to scale up my business as well as menstrual programs to the degree that is really impactful. My first funding for menstrual programs came from the US Embassy in Tanzania (\$10,000); and there after we have been trusted and managed to receive up to \$70,000 per single menstrual program from other partners. The leadership skills and practice gained through fellowship helped me to run and grow my team and secure local and international partnerships something which really increased our revenue up to 10 times.

The fellowship doubled my ability of solving problem and therefore I significantly contributed to the following SDG goals:

Weight of the impact	Indicator
Primary impact	300,000 packets of Glory pads sold since 2013 10,000 women and 15,000 girls reached via Menstrual Health and Hygiene Programs since 2015
Secondary impact	3% increase of participation of girls in school activities such as sports and remedial classes since 2017 25 Menstrual Health Education programs since 2017 and 70 learning resources developed for girls with disabilities since 2018
Primary impact	5000 women and girls accessing Glory pads 2502 girls accessing Glory pads at a subsidy cost in
	6 school shops since 2020 5000 boys and men educated on their roles to support Menstrual Health and Hygiene Agenda since 2015
Primary impact	300 households living within 10km of the Glory pads access 15 improved Sanitation in schools due to our awareness program with school committees
Primary impact	5 permanent employment Kasole Secrets has created 1 International business partner selling our Glory pads 30% of cooperate Tax submitted to Tanzania Government
Secondary impact	2 social enterprises trained on how to produce reusable sanitary pads

*Presented in alphabetical order by last name.*

**Mr. Folahanmi Aina**  
**2016 Mandela Washington Fellow**  
**Federal Republic of Nigeria**

***Youth and Community Empowerment  
through Transformational Leadership***

A year after obtaining transformational leadership skills, knowledge on public management, training and exposure from YALI, I was inspired and emboldened to found Triola Aina Foundation (TAF) a youth-led, non-profit, focused on youth advocacy by promoting access to quality education and leadership development in 2017. Through TAF, I have successfully mentored over 8,000 young Nigerians in leadership development, in addition to directly impacting the lives of over 1,000 school children by promoting access to quality education in my local community.

Through TAF, I have also successfully renovated 3 primary schools in my local community in Nigeria which has helped to promote access to quality education for over 800 school children. Furthermore, I have funded sustainable entrepreneurial ventures that have empowered over 100 young people across Nigeria. These would have been impossible without my leadership transformation journey which has its roots from my YALI experience.

As a transformative platform that helps to bridge divides through leadership development, YALI enabled me foster bold partnerships with other alumni around creative solutions. These have birthed positive and sustainable change, thereby transforming the lives of other youth in my local community and in other parts of Nigeria through shared responsibility, thereby making it possible for me to scale up the impact of my work.

Professionally my career as an international development policy expert attained greater heights due to YALI's impact on me. In 2019, I was invited as a speaker and a Next Generation Delegate at the Global Food Security Symposium organised by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, USA.

For so long, the African youth have been told that they are leaders of tomorrow. YALI changed this for me. I have since come to realise that the African youth are not just leaders of tomorrow rather, they are today's leaders and partners in nation building and national development. This truth has come alive and remained clearly evident in how YALI has impacted my personal and professional development, which has resulted in a multiplier effect across my local community and country Nigeria as a whole.

**Ms. Manka'ah Che**  
**2019 Mandela Washington Fellow**  
**Republic of Cameroon**

***My YALI Give Back Journey (Video Sceenshot)***



**Mr. Koumtebaye Elysée**  
**2016 Mandela Washington Fellow**  
**Republic of Chad**

***Volunteerism - Blood Drive to Raise Awareness about the Importance of Humanitarianism***



**Mr. Isaac Fenyi**  
**Regional Leadership Center**  
**Republic of Ghana**

***Volunteerism - An Antidote to A World in Flux***

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I was enrolled in the Civic Engagement Track. This track was oriented to those who were or aspired to be civically engaged and serve the public through non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, or volunteerism, I was very glad to have found myself there.

Two (2) years after my graduation, I joined Mzuzuh Africa, a local non-governmental organization, that provides a collaborative platform that supports changemakers adopt practical tools to addressing socio-economic challenges in communities. As the Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator in community outreach, I realized that most needy children were often left out in charity projects. To better appreciate the situation, I conducted a needs assessment to identify the most vulnerable orphanage homes. I went a step ahead to convince leadership to put three orphanage homes namely Echoing Hills, Potter's Village, and Rising Star on a priority list. Through my exceptional leadership abilities, I was given the mandate to lead the May 2019, outreach program. Having recruited 53 volunteers via social media and training them, 450 abandoned children were served in 3 highly needy orphanage homes in Ghana. I believe, the value of our life is how much love people receive from us each day. This experience made me appreciate that interventions informed by accepting and contributing my quota to challenging but fulfilling societal problems.

My inspiration has always been God first and foremost, my family, church (Christ Assembly Worldwide), Miranna Darr (Program Manager, YALI) and Dr. Kristin M. Lord (President and CEO of IREX). My encounter with these people has brought me this far. Notwithstanding, the two people often read about, Martin Luther King Jr., a scholar, and minister who led the civil rights movement, and Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, a selfless servant leader for country and humanity. The Network's free online resources always provides me with the information I need.

Finally, I am on a journey not just preparing myself to become a local leader but a global leader. I will therefore entreat every young person to embrace the power of volunteerism, teamwork, innovation, and networking. Young people should also be ready to learn from others.

The spirit of YALI has also enabled me to help combat misinformation amongst the youth in my community by visiting some Senior High Schools to create awareness about it and the need to see it as a collective responsibility #YALIChecks. Last two years, on 16th July, I had the opportunity to educate about 90 young girls on Career Guidance and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in one Islamic community in Ghana #YALIServes.

**Ms. Ineza Umuhoza Grace**  
2019 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Republic of Rwanda*

*My Life, My Community, My World (Video Screenshot)*

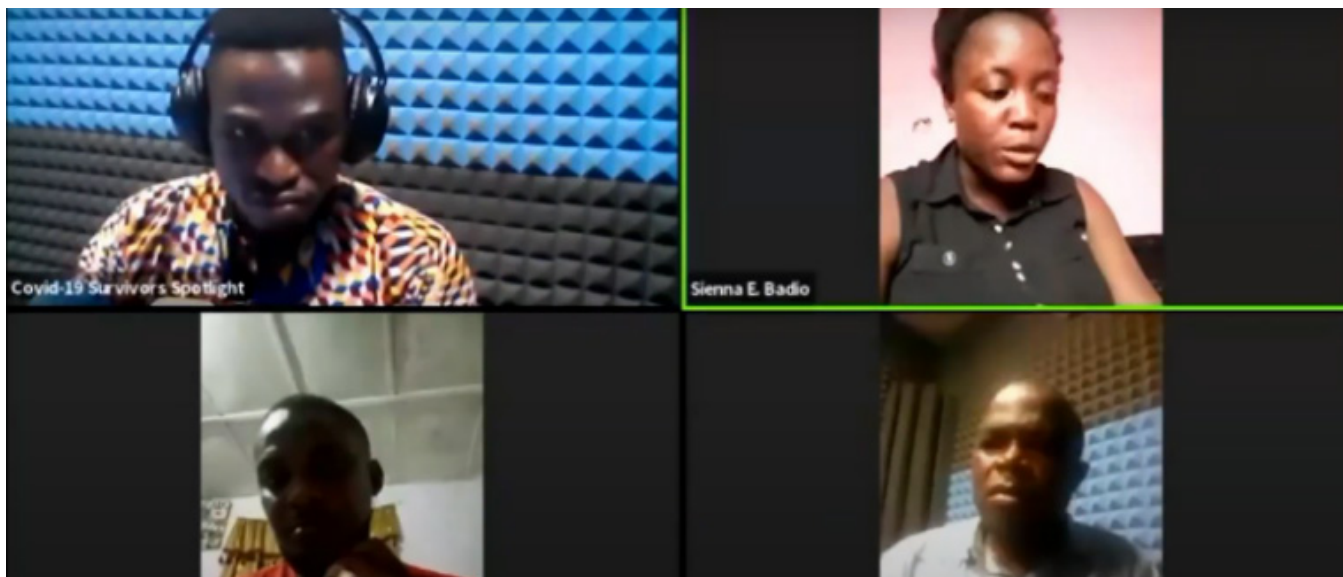


**Mr. Sunnie Antonio Marcar Jr.**  
2018 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Republic of Liberia*

**Ms. Gertrude Darlene Toezay**  
2019 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Republic of Liberia*

**Mr. Emmett "K-Max" Paye**  
2018 Regional Leadership Center  
*Republic of Liberia*

*#YALLat10 (Video Screenshot)*



*Pictured: Mr. Emmett "K-Max" Paye (upper left)*



### ***The African Youth***

The African youth struggles, when making right decisions, yet public evaluation embraced must be a continuous process.

The estimation of leaders,  
has an important hand and role  
in its peaceful formation and nature, and a provision of a chance to thrive.

Its roots are unbiased, acceptable, unprejudiced discussions, and arguments among people  
are intellectual, not emotional.

The youth understand their customs to enlighten their social life  
from childhood forming habits  
and following them with ought an out cry

The surrounding environment encompassed forms their social heritage and home, customs bequeaths from  
ancestors and norms to follow and live by.

An individual rarely opposes them the so called customs and taboos he thinks they are not harmful  
and no need the theory of change.

YALI has acted as the center for mind change aiming at developing a group intellect, teaching how to maintain them,  
and help them to view the future

The three groups carefully formed  
have some pursuing a recognizable work motivating others into action  
and increasing their output.

There is need for establishment of a  
Health or Educational service provision center, to support the work of mentoring the youth  
especially the teen mothers and the under privileged

The biggest challenge faced at the moment  
is finding an authentic partner with the same passion to reach the youth through tangible support in Health,  
Education, and Development

Formal expert judgment President, Nelson Mandela, man of the people he out poured his life to the nation  
Though still caught up, but an NGO is in process to stand as a mentor for the youth.

Groups need an out-of-tower  
To be lead by objective not emotion and Develop capability of competition  
To increase their output.

**Mr. Albert Timothy Mwangeka**  
**2019 Regional Leadership Center**  
**Republic of Kenya**

***YALI: My True North***

YALI Dear,

I wanted you to teach me to unshackle the chains imprisoning the people Acquaint me with suit and tie  
Address the nation in eloquent rhetoric Like Luther  
And Angelou

Viva YALI

sought you You rejected me

Was I not good enough

I questioned, in the torturing environs of solitude I desired to part the Red Sea

March my peoples to freedom unmatched Viva YALI

I dispatched another requisitions to you Got accepted in the 35th cohort Civic Leadership Track

My High Deity gave me nods I trudged on YALI grounds

Viva YALI

Met like-minded leaders Networked

Brunched Supped Fought Laughed Threw banter Got drunk

In knowledge

From the rainbow of instructors I learned how to design think

Appreciated the 7 Habits

Myriads of cultures from 14 East African nations A star was born

On Commencement Day I received an accolade for boosting the #YALI brand Every nanosecond led to this big moment

Viva YALI

Sent forth into wilderness to become a fully-fledged warrior I was drawn to my rustic home county of Taita Taveta  
To impact to my people by working pro bono A peoples renowned for their beauty

As a Public Relations Specialist, at the County Government of Taita Taveta I pushed the Sustainable Development Goal SDG agenda

Saw a gap in handling climate change

Reached to the executive in charge of Environment

Presented communication strategies to include the community and experts aligning with SDG13 which calls for climate action where donors help by tackling climate change through helping communities build resilience and develop climate adaptation plans

Taita has erratic weather Drought that causes food scarcity

Human-wildlife conflict as both are competing for scarce resources My efforts birthed a draft policy document

The final draft proceeds to cabinet for adoption thereafter to County Assembly for approval I received promotion  
Executing strategies for the county's Governor

Managed to get county's SDG projects published in 2 major dailies Impact is our linguistic

Viva YALI

What is the source of your wisdom They ask

I say

YALI, my true North

Viva YALI

21 Gun Salute!

**Ms. Linda Kushinga Sibanyoni**  
**2019 Mandela Washington Fellow**  
**Republic of Zimbabwe**

***Purple Hearts Never Fail***

“People matter. Relationships matter.” - Dr. Mary Hale Tolar

The words above have profoundly impacted my leadership journey. When Dr. Tolar said them during a class on ‘Ethical Dimensions of Leadership’ at Kansas State University, a sense of somewhat profound clarity engulfed me. Her words gave me the validation that the value I place on my family, friends and community is important; and equally so, is behaving ethically and upholding integrity in all situations.

In 2019, I applied for the Mandela Washington Fellowship after losing an election for public office in Zimbabwe in 2018. Through it, I hoped to gain and enhance my technical skills in leadership as a young woman in order to maximize my impact in the Zimbabwean predominantly male political arena.

Coincidentally, the Fellowship was exactly a whole year later towards my final six weeks of election campaigning in July- August 2018. I realised that I had heart-mind matters that I hadn’t dealt with regarding my election loss. My time at K-State provided me a safe and supportive environment to unpack my election loss. The support and guidance from the faculty staff and the K- State Mandela Fellows (2019) ensured that I began a new journey-a journey to heal and understand myself anew.

Although I was intentionally focused on gaining technical leadership skills, the Fellowship was the gift that changed my life and my leadership trajectory. People Matter-Relationships Matter is the hallmark of good leadership for it encompasses compassion, empathy, healing and self-awareness. I strive to treat everyone around me with dignity and respect even when disagreeing or disappointed by their actions. I strive to behave with integrity to the best of my ability as I don’t want my name to be associated with anything unscrupulous even when the political field in Zimbabwe is marred with lack of integrity and unethical behaviour as benchmark entry points. Further, I am inspired and have a deep desire to constantly exercise ethical fitness in all my decisions; bringing me into awareness that being ethical should be second nature to us all.

**Ms. N'zani Kassim Zani**  
**2019 Mandela Washington Fellow**  
**Republic of Kenya**

***YALIfied***

My name is N'zani Kassim Zani, from Kwale County, Kenya. I am the Founder and President of The Hijabi Mentorship Program -a young women led registered Community Based Organization that champions for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), addresses Gender Based Violence (GBV) and promotes Human Capital Development amongst vulnerable young people, particularly women in Kwale. I am a 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow- Indiana University (Leadership in Civic Engagement) and a YALI RLC East African Fellow (Leadership in Public Management) Cohort 39 (2020). I am also a YALI Online member since 2016.

YALI has played a major role in my Professional Development and servant leadership. I have utilized my world class education in civic engagement and public management, knowledge and networks to take my work and organization to the next level and fully fight for the rights, well- being and equality for women and girls in my community. The learning that I acquired during these programs empowered me with skills and knowledge that helped strengthen my organization, our mission and our vision.

Most importantly, as an Alumni of the most prestigious YALI (leadership programs), I have built a strong network, partnership and formidable relationship with outstanding young leaders in Sub- Saharan Africa, including Scholars, Business and Government leaders from USA. As a member of this dynamic community, I have access to resources and professional development opportunities to spur growth, prosperity & strengthen communities across Kenya. I forged new alliances that cut across the globe which have become invaluable to the success of our organization's mission and vision.

For instance, through the guidance of my roommate from Nigeria in Indiana University (Helen Nonso) Founder at Centre for Women's Health and Adolescent Development, we developed the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights curriculum that we are currently utilizing in my organization. I have access to a platform to engage with and learn from activists who are also working with grassroots communities. I plan to exploit my global network more to innovate solutions for challenges in my community and in Kenya. How YALIfied are you? I am 100% YALIfied.

**Mr. John Zimba**  
**2018 Mandela Washington Fellow**  
**Republic of Zambia**

***My Life, My Community, and My World as  
a MW Fellow (Video Screenshot)***



**Mr. Chifwanti Zulu**  
**Regional Leadership Center**  
**Republic of Zambia**

### ***Writing Our Own Story***

From Cairo Road, Cha Cha Cha, Freedom Way to Lumumba Road and every adjacent street from Ben Bella on the South End right to the North End, these names are no coincidence, these streets and their people ooze life. This rectangle that is Lusaka CBD is dotted with banks, restaurants, boutiques, hotels, bureaus, pharmacies, internet cafes and shops of all sorts. But the aforementioned names carry more meaning now when I remember the struggle songs of Azania we'd sing in Midrand every morning after breakfast "From Cape to Cairo, from Morocco to Madagascar".

Ubuntu... I am because you are - the very first lesson I learnt in crosscutting week so much so that when Ethiopian Airways flight 302 crashed on 19th March 2019 I felt for the 157 souls lost on board, more so for the 57 Africans among them Pius Adesamni, a prolific poet. Yet out of that tragedy came courage in the form of Wreaths for a Wayfarer, an anthology of poems written in his memory. I along with 200 other African writers contributed to this concerted effort to honor in word one of our own.

We come from different ends of the continent, we're a cornucopia of hues, tongues and shapes, each with a distinct history, texture and a radiant story. YALI is a unique platform, a stage to learn and share experiences and techniques with other African characters and to tell our own amazing story to the world audience from our perspective in order to change the narrative of our beloved motherland.

YALI is a portrait of the continent I love, an abundance of colors, a fusion of sounds, a symphony of languages, each lesson a brushstroke in the mural that is my life and the next brushwork is to put all my experiences in a comprehensive poetry book. That courage stems from the challenge before us; to change the status quo, to make a change in one's own immediate environment, to metaphorically and practically write a new African history, to sound the drum and make a clarion call for a budding generation of a Bright Continent.

**\*The YALI 10 Competition Book comprising all written entries is also available as a separate publication.**

**“** *As a longtime supporter of investment in African youth, I am proud to have been an active supporter of and a witness to what America's enduring commitment to African youth has helped YALI Alumni accomplish over the last 10 years.*

*-Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, Representative, New York's Fifth Congressional District and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America*

**”**

**“** *Programs like YALI are not just effective diplomacy; they are an investment in future generations of African leaders.*

*-Congressman Michael McCaul, Representative, Texas' 10th Congressional District and Lead Republican of the Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, United States of America*

**”**

## YALI EXPO

The YALI 10 Summit Expo provided an interactive forum for African and U.S. organizations/businesses to engage with Summit participants and foster engagement, partnerships, and actionable connections between the United States and Africa. The Expo featured **263 booths** representing a wide spectrum of organizations and businesses from at least **26 countries** and **18 different sectors**. YALI alumni and Network members set the standard in attendance, accounting for the majority of the exhibitors. The Expo generated at least **1,328 leads** and **217 meetings**. YALI Expo exhibitors are listed below.

- +256 Youth Platform
- Aayo Empowerment Agency
- Abanunu Mechanical Engineering Services
- ABC Initiative
- Acayo Olympia Fashion and Design
- Achiever Foods Limited
- Africa on the Move
- Africa Tourism and Environment Initiatives
- African Backing for Life Enhancement (ABLE)
- African Diaspora Network
- African Economic Development Solutions
- African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)
- African Union
- African Youth and Adolescent Network
- AgriBros Group Ltd.
- Agribusiness Hub Uganda
- Agromush-Uganda
- aiproduction
- Amatheon Agri Uganda LTD
- Amma4Africa
- Asha Strategies
- Ashleys
- Association des Jeunes pour le Développement Durable de Bangoi-Kouni
- At Hause
- Athena Entertainment Network
- Bamboo Labs
- B-Dynamix Interiors
- Bedigen Foundation
- Bee Mada
- BelloTech Corp
- Benjamin Mkapa Foundation
- Benjamin Spartos SMC LTD
- Blue Pearls Co. Limited
- BlueCrest University College
- Bongomin & Larsen Memorial Farm
- Brac Uganda Bank Limited

**YALI 10 Virtual Summit**  
**PROGRAM AGENDA**

Day 4 Thursday  
27 May, 2021

**Session 14**  
Ten Plus Ten: YALI and United States  
Look Back, and Ahead, Together

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF YALI  
**YALI Expo**

DEVELOPING RADIO PARTNERS  
ACHIEVER FOODS LIMITED  
AFIDEP African Institute for Development Policy  
ARS  
BlueCrest  
EMERGING PUBLIC LEADERS  
Hands of Hope  
MedTours Africa  
Nouveaux horizons  
PROSPER AFRICA  
WANE  
Elimu  
YOUTHLEAD  
HIP AFRICA  
THE BOOKMARKET  
DoweMusic & Arts  
CMDPS

*And many more exhibitors!*

- Brand 360 Limited
- Brand K Integrated Marketing and Communications Ltd
- Bright Future Initiative Organization
- Bukendi Action for Integrated Development Initiative (BAFIDI)
- Bulamu
- Carol Atuhirwe Cancer Foundation
- Casements Africa
- Casey Foundation
- Center for Media, Democracy, Peace and Security
- Chakubuta Entrepreneurship
- Child and Elderly Support Initiatives
- CNRJ-RDC
- Communication for Health Uganda (C4HU)
- Community Action Platform On Environment and Development
- Community Development Shield Uganda
- Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD)
- Constituency for Africa (CFA)
- Dalbo Technology
- DefendDefenders
- Deliverance Church Kira
- Developing Radio Partners
- Diaspora Lawyers

- Digital Technology Solutions (DIGITS)
- Diocese of Northern Uganda
- Do It Yourself Entertainment
- Dowe Music & Arts
- DUSH
- Earth Action Hub
- Edmark International
- EFC UGANDA Ltd
- EldoHub
- Elite Agrodealers Co Ltd
- Emerging Public Leaders of Ghana (EPL Ghana)
- Emmanuel Foundation Africa (EFA)
- Empowerment Initiative for Women and Youth Uganda
- Endigyito
- Etraq Ltd
- Flona Commodities Limited
- Focus Youth Forum
- Fort Garlic Farm
- Fossa Energie
- Fregan Business Consultants Ltd
- Gateway Research Centre
- Geotech ICT Consulting - Uganda
- Giordano International Limited
- Global Startup Ecosystem
- Golden Age Travellers
- Grace Children and Women Shelter
- Grace High School (Uganda)
- Grant Master
- Green Water Logistics Ltd
- Gwenyth Organic Group
- Habitation for Empowerment Network (Haven Foundation)
- Hands of Giving
- Hands of Hope
- Happy Women with Vision
- Hip Africa
- Humanists in Northern Uganda
- Hvp Gatagara
- Information Management Center
- Initiative of the Resurgence for the Movement Abolitionist in Mauritania
- Inspire Youth for Development
- Institute for Security Studies
- International University of East Africa
- iPLUS
- Islamic University in Uganda
- Jabulani Youths for Transformation
- Jamii Consultancy
- JAV Consulting, E.I
- Jopeg Investment Uganda
- Jozil Nursery
- Justice Is a Right (JIAR UGANDA)
- Kabale University

- Kagiri Community Development Youth Project- KCDP
- KAJITA Foundation
- Kampala Audiology and Speech Centre
- Kasese Secondary School
- Katende Business Entity
- Keep My Dream Alive
- Kisima Junior School
- Kiwenda Orphanage Center
- KlugCode Technology Ltd
- Koboko Women with Disabilities Union
- Kosmotive
- La Borne Missionary Center | Kampala
- Living Smiles Organization
- Luo FM 92.4
- Lyantonde District Farmers Association
- M. Kamanzi & co Advocates
- MAC Dental Clinic
- Makerere University
- Makerere University Joint Program (MJAP)
- Mamaland Mushroom Farms
- Maranatha Health Uganda
- Matlive Business Incubation Centre
- MCF Radio /Business Focus
- Medtours Africa
- mElimu Edutech Pvt Ltd
- Mindset Coders
- Ministry of Education and Sports in Uganda
- Ministry of General Education
- Ministry of Water and Environment
- M-KOPA
- Mmaponye Global Energy
- Montana Bottling Company
- Mott MacDonald
- Mountain Movers Youth Group
- Muramba CDC
- Mutanik Technologies Limited
- Muwanga Development Association
- MyMitoo
- myRunner
- National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)
- National Forestry Authority (NFA)
- National Youth Council
- Netplan Solutions Africa
- New East International C.Ltd/Peace Fracture and Orthopedic Hospital
- Ngabo Youth Friendly Services Centre
- NGEX
- Nile University
- Nouveaux Horizons / Africa Regional Services
- Odembo Group & Sage Workspace
- Office of Alumni Affairs (U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs)
- Oneday health

- Operation Wealth Creation
- Ourroots Africa
- Oy design
- Pearl Entrepreneurs Academy Limited
- Pearl Rhythm Foundation
- Peer to Peer Uganda
- Pic a Place Tours
- Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation Uganda
- Pinnacle Medical Services
- Pocket Education- Uganda
- Poetavango Spoken Word Poetry NGO
- PostBank Uganda Limited
- Prosper Africa
- Qanvry Consult
- RAN Technology Solutions
- Razafindrabe Collections
- Recreation for Development and Peace Uganda
- Robran Holdings LTD
- Rog Devine Rose Ltd
- Runimi Breeders Ltd
- Sabuka Projekt Limited
- Sapma
- Save Humanity Africa SHA
- Save the Children South Sudan
- Save Young Lives Foundation Uganda
- SCD (U) Ltd
- Seeds of Hope, Namayingo
- SEWN Africa
- Shalom Women's Developmental Network (SWODN) Limited
- Shelter of Hope Foundation
- Shines Children's Foundation
- ShopAfrica
- Sierra Leone Consumer Protection Council
- Signature African Safaris Ltd
- Signs of Hope Trust
- Situkamedia Company
- Skye Bank SL LTD
- Social Empowerment Facility
- Sokoni Africa Ltd
- SolarNow
- Sole Hope Inc.
- SprinJene
- Stanfield Commodities Exchange Limited
- Steelhut Designs and Fabrications
- STEMi Makers Africa
- Stormsoft
- Stress Free and Serene Events Limited
- Student Hub Limited
- Supportive Activists Foundation
- Swart Koppies Booiz
- TechBuzz Hub
- Technugget Uganda Limited

- Teenedge
- Temele Investment
- Teso Women's Empowerment Initiative
- The Boardroom Call
- The BookMarket NG
- The Clicking Generation
- The Uganda Wheelchair Rugby Foundation
- The Vlage
- The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania
- The Youth Café
- The Youth Dream Up Initiative
- Threeways Shipping Services
- Today Post Communication
- Tokens of Life Uganda
- Tooro Gallery
- Trampo Technologies
- Tree Uganda Academy (TUA)
- Tugende Limited
- U.S. Bilateral African Chamber of Commerce
- Uganda Christian University Mukono
- Uganda National Bureau of Standards
- Uganda Revenue Authority
- Uganda Unites
- Umoja Foundation
- United Mentoring and Self Help Youth Project
- University of Hradec Kralove
- University Volunteer for the development of Africa (UVDA)
- Urban Snail Farm Ltd
- UZURI K&Y
- Vijana Corps
- Voice of Voiceless Children
- Volcano Coffee Limited
- Water Front Holdings Limited
- Weezy Media Concepts
- West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)
- West Africa Youth Network
- Western Silk Road Ltd
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Africa Program
- Women and Allies for Peace and Security
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- World Vision Uganda
- Yaseen IT Services
- Yelab Trading
- YLEC Uganda
- Young Stars Foundation
- Youth Against Slavery Movement
- Youth For Our Planet
- Youth Initiative Programs Uganda
- Youth Organization for Building African Community -YOBAC
- YouthConnekt Liberia
- YouthLead



## A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF YALI

The YALI 10th anniversary events celebrated its accomplishments and looked to the road ahead. The last day of the YALI 10 Summit focused on **“The Next 10 Years: A Vision for YALI’s Future.”** The session concentrated on a vision for YALI’s future under each of its three tracks: business and entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and public management. Each group addressed the following questions:

- I. *What are the core elements of Africa you envision 20-30 years from now?*
- II. *What are the core challenges to that vision and what concrete actions will be required to realize that vision, particularly in the realm of civic engagement/public management/business and entrepreneurship?*
- III. *How does YALI fit into the vision, and what will YALI look like in 10 years?*

After the three sessions, participants gathered in plenary for: “Breakout Session Reports on the Vision for YALI’s Future.” The main recommendations are highlighted below.

### Business and Entrepreneurship Track Recommendations

This session was co-moderated by **Ms. Akunna E. Cook**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, United States Department of State (United States), and **Mr. Samir Da Cruz Silva**, YALI Alum and Executive Director, Maio Business Center (Cape Verde).

1. *YALI should offer annual virtual meetups for alumni in the Business and Entrepreneurship track, which will provide them with an opportunity to network and share knowledge amongst each other.*
2. *Since the U.S. African Diaspora is key to the future of U.S.-Africa relations, YALI could benefit from engaging the African Diaspora and connecting them with the YALI network. Virtual meetups are one option but also holding a summit similar to this one, bringing together U.S. African Diaspora entrepreneurs with YALI entrepreneurs, would have a bigger impact. This would be beneficial to economic development on the continent and to create a space for entrepreneurs on both sides to build partnerships as well as share ideas.*
3. *Vocational and technical training is key to building a middle class, as we have seen in the United States. It will also be key to Africa’s economic development. Finding a way to incorporate more vocational and technical training for business owners and entrepreneurs in the YALI track is crucial.*
4. *Africa is currently experiencing a digital transformation and a new age in the creative space in terms of film, TV, radio, and art. YALI would benefit from incorporating programming related to this in the business track or perhaps creating a new track to focus on these areas, as they are key to Africa’s future.*

### Civic Engagement Track Recommendations

The discussion was co-moderated by **Mr. Matt Miller**, Acting Director, Bureau of African Affairs’ Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, United States Department of State (United States), and **Ms. Keke Haïna**, YALI Alum and Co-Founder and President, IMARA (I’m A Rad African) (Comoros).

1. *YALI should offer more opportunities and platforms for YALI alumni and other young people to meet directly with leaders, lawmakers, and government officials, as access to these stakeholders remains a challenge.*
2. *Access to the digital space remains a challenge for many young Africans, and the YALI program should work to enhance its digital communications with alumni and young Africans while working to improve access to such networks.*
3. *YALI programs should be expanded into more countries, states, and districts in Africa (especially outside of capital cities), in order to reach more young Africans who may currently be on the margins of society.*
4. *YALI should host more frequent, local workshops on youth leadership, as well as annual conferences on the continent, in collaboration with local NGOs, in order to facilitate deeper engagement at grassroots levels and train those who will then train their communities (“training trainers”).*
5. *YALI in 10 years should serve as a key stabilizing and anti-fragility force on the continent, and contribute to mutually beneficial growth and development between the United States and Africa.*

## Public Management Track Recommendations

The session was co-moderated by **Ms. Macani Toungara**, Senior Advisor, Africa Bureau, United States Agency for International Development (United States), and **Mr. Henry-Pacifique Mayala**, YALI Alum and Information Manager, International NGO Safety Organisation (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

1. *The current model of democracy in Africa has proven its limitations over the past few decades. Africa's future, 20-30 years from now, would include a model of democracy that is uniquely African and responsive to the needs of Africans—especially the youth.*
2. *Africa's ideal future would include a self-sustained, autonomous, accountable African Union led by African leaders—including YALI alumni—that has a seat at international decision-making tables such as the United Nations Security Council.*
3. *Some of the core challenges to Africa's future are a lack of public services, corruption, and a failure to enable private sector development. Young Africans must actively participate in the planning, budgeting, and management of public services, and work to reduce corruption within African political systems.*
4. *The YALI program addresses Africa's challenges by ensuring that young Africans shape Africa's future by building their capacity. YALI should expand upon this work over the next 10 years by improving partnership and collaboration among YALI networks across the entire continent.*
5. *YALI alumni should play a key role in building the Africa they want to see by serving in political leadership and decision-making positions, and fostering pan-African cooperation—applying what they have learned through YALI to an African context.*

## Report-Out Session Recommendations

This session reported out on takeaways from the three breakout sessions that discussed the vision for YALI for the next 10 years under each of the three tracks: business and entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and public management. The discussion was moderated by **Ms. Elizabeth Liu**, Special Coordinator for the Young African Leaders Initiative, Bureau of African Affairs, United States Department of State (United States), and brought together representatives from the three discussions sessions: **Mr. Samir Da Cruz Silva**, **Mr. Matt Miller**, **Ms. Keke Haina**, **Ms. Macani Toungara**, and **Mr. Henry-Pacifique Mayala**, to report on the key points and recommendations from their group.

1. *The YALI program should focus on strengthening alumni networks, both within individual countries, and across the continent – especially outside of capital cities, to improve inclusivity and broaden engagement. YALI should also collaborate and connect with other youth leadership programs in Africa.*
2. *The United States embassies across Africa should work to increase the avenues available for YALI alumni and network members to engage with them, including by utilizing and improving access to the digital space.*
3. *A couple suggestions for mottos for YALI's next 10 years were "Expanding the YALI Network to All the Nooks and Crannies of African States," "Hope for an Africa by Africans," and "Creating the Africa We Want."*
4. *It is important for YALI to facilitate deeper and longer-lasting engagement between YALI alumni and the African diaspora, between YALI alumni across the three sector tracks, and between YALI alumni across different countries.*
5. *YALI alumni and network members are Africa's current and will become Africa's future leaders, and should apply and adapt what they have learned through YALI to their unique African contexts to foster genuine, agile, African-led development.*
6. *Young Africans' vision for the next 10 years includes the following key goals:*
  - a. *Advancing democracy through innovative transparency and accountability models;*
  - b. *Building economic and business empowerment (including by unifying markets through the African Continental Free Trade Area);*
  - c. *Facilitating African youth-led development;*
  - d. *Promoting peace and security;*
  - e. *Countering fragility across sectors;*
  - f. *Addressing health and environmental challenges;*
  - g. *Adapting education systems to encourage youth innovation;*
  - h. *Increasing Africa's digitization and digital literacy; and*
  - i. *Engaging African youth to become agents of change.*

## SUMMIT NETWORKING ROOMS AND LOUNGES

Over the course of the 5-day summit **2,617 connections** were made through the networking rooms and lounges with an average of **64 attendees** per lounge.

Lounges were hosted the following topics and groups:

- **Regional Leadership Center East Africa**
- **Regional Leadership Center Southern Africa**
- **Regional Leadership Center West Africa Accra**
- **Regional Leadership Center West Africa Dakar**
- **Mandela Washington Fellows Alumni Group**
- **Francophone Countries**
- **Lusophone Countries**
- **Business and Entrepreneurship**
- **Civic Engagement**
- **Public Management**
- **YALI Alumni in Media**
- **YALI Creatives**
- **Intellectual Property Rights as a Driver of Socioeconomic Growth in Africa**

“ I hope we deepen the connection among ourselves, and we can have a platform where we can post our concerns and we can have thousands of dozens of experts within our own community in Africa.

-Mr. João Vembane, YALI Alum; Founder and CEO, JAV Consulting, E.I., Republic of Mozambique

“ As a result of YALI initiatives, Africa is witnessing remarkable fervent young women and men who are engaged in public service and working with local communities. YALI programs have transformed our youth as a result of, trainings, networking opportunities, and professional development.

-H.E. Hilda Suka-Mafudze, African Union Ambassador to the United States, Republic of Zimbabwe

## SUMMIT CLOSING REMARKS

*Friday, May 28, 2021*

**Ambassador Robert F. Godec, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs,  
U.S. Department of State, United States of America**

Thank you all for having me here today. It is an honor to be a part of this celebration that highlights the immense talent embodied in the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI).

I am deeply inspired by the energy and commitment to African youth we have seen at this Summit. I want to thank the Department of States' co-hosts at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, as well as the esteemed members of the YALI Advisory Committee who also helped shape and implement this event. Dr. Monde Muyangwa, Director of the Wilson Center's Africa Program, her team, and the Advisory Committee did an outstanding job to create this dynamic virtual opportunity to celebrate 10 years of YALI.

I also want to recognize the numerous YALI supporters that have partnered with the U.S. Government over the years to support African young leaders.

They include: IREX and our Leadership Institute partners, who support the Mandela Washington Fellowship program; the U.S. African Development Foundation; USAID's partners at the MasterCard Foundation, Dow Chemical, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, Citi, the Trevor Noah Foundation, and Power Africa; and of course, our four partner institutions who support and implement YALI and the Regional Leadership Centers on the continent.

Because of your many years of partnership, YALI is a success and continues to grow.

Speaking to audiences like you, at events like this one, is my favorite part of this job. Throughout my career I have developed a deep and abiding love and affinity for the peoples and countries of Africa.

As I speak to you today, I am in some ways coming full circle. During my time as Ambassador to Kenya, I remember seeing the Nairobi Regional Leadership Center's first cohort walk into the Center and the eager faces of 78 young African leaders from across the region, ready to embark on a journey to sharpen their leadership skills. Here we are, today, with more than 24,000 Mandela Washington Fellowship and Regional Leadership Center alumni, and more than 700,000 Network members!

What an incredible week. I am inspired as I reflect on the many conversations and opportunities to engage over the past several days.

We **started the week** by recognizing the growth of YALI over the past ten years. This movement began in 2010 with a vision for an enduring partnership between the U.S. and Africa through engaging and supporting young African leaders. The seeds of that vision have grown deep roots and risen as a vibrant tree reaching far beyond what we had hoped possible.

Hearing from U.S. leaders and congressional representatives underscores the deep bi-partisan support that continues for YALI within the United States. The Biden-Harris Administration is honored and deeply committed to advancing and scaling YALI to the next level of its potential and impact.



On **Tuesday**, USAID's Travis Adkins and Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa at the United Nations Development Program, addressed the transformative power, innovation, and resilience of Africa's youth. As young people face many challenges in their quest to grow and thrive, leadership programs like YALI create new opportunities, open dialogues, and offer safe spaces for young people to prosper. Young Africans are tackling tough problems with new and cutting-edge solutions. I firmly believe youth are one of Africa's strongest assets and they deserve our investment.

**Wednesday's** discussions on servant leadership with Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield; Benga Ogunbowale, a 2018 Regional Leadership Center alumnus, 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, and an award-winning social entrepreneur in Nigeria; and Elizabeth Kasujja, a 2017 Mandela Washington Fellow and mental health advocate from Uganda, reminded us how YALI has become a movement for positive change and inclusive leadership grounded in service.

We know that empowering people is critical, because stable, democratic nations depend on committed, informed, and capable citizens. Young citizens like you, who take on leadership roles at the national, regional, and local levels where servant leadership forms a foundation for strong, resilient societies. Young leaders like you, who creatively tackle critical issues, demand government accountability, and ask tough questions. YALI alumni are dedicated leaders and the continent's changemakers.

The importance of U.S.-Africa relations was underscored in **Thursday's** sessions, where the United States' commitment to a prosperous, peaceful, and democratic Africa was reaffirmed. The United States partners with African countries in pursuit of our shared interests and values: from security, global health, access to education, and climate change; to freedom and democracy; and to shared prosperity, including those individuals historically marginalized. We continue to put youth at the forefront of these priorities to drive change across the continent.

**Throughout the week** you also participated in a variety of breakout sessions to address some of the most timely and relevant topics for Africa today. These topics included how to leverage trade to advance U.S. and African business goals; ways to mitigate climate change; ideas to address COVID-19; efforts to build sustainable civil society organizations; and the power of citizen voices in African development. Your efforts and conversations on these topics are helping to facilitate growth and prosperity – not just your communities, but across African nations and the global stage. We must work together to harness the talent and creativity of all African youth, and I ask you to channel your collective strength and continue these conversations long after this important Summit.

That brings us to **today**, as we look to the future and imagine an expanded vision and potential of what YALI can become in the years ahead. The U.S. government is committed to working with you on designing that future. To that end, we welcomed the ideas presented by Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Jackson Farrier and the YALI alumni speakers.

I took note of your ideas on how YALI can continue catalyzing a transformational youth movement in the furthest corners of the continent.

Looking ahead, the United States will continue to harness the power of the YALI movement to deepen and grow youth leadership and professional development. YALI's Mandela Washington Fellowship exchange program, Regional Leadership Centers, and the digital YALI Network community will continue to provide leadership training and online resources, and the Department of State will expand opportunities to YALI alumni.

As Secretary Blinken noted during his virtual YALI engagement last month, YALI is "the perfect demonstration that we're not just talking about leaders of tomorrow, we are talking about leaders of today. And what each of you is doing in your lives, with your lives is leadership and it's inspiring to people in ways you can't even imagine. It is that kind of example, that kind of inspiration and that kind of engagement that is what progress is all about."

Collectively, you – Africa's youth – have made YALI into the huge success it is today with your passion and commitment to helping others follow in your footsteps.

I look forward to a thriving future of the Young African Leaders Initiative, to the growth and dynamism of African nations, and to supporting you as the leaders and role models for all of us.

Thank you.

## KEY MESSAGES FROM YALI CULTURAL CONTENT AND ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTORS

The last day of the Summit concluded with performances from the following:

**B'Flow (Brian Bwembya)**

**YALI Alum; Hip-hop/Dancehall Artist; Founder/Owner, Music for Change, Republic of Zambia**

**Mr. Douglas Ogutu**

**YALI Alum; Musician; Founder, Dowe Music & Arts, Republic of Kenya**

**Ms. Grace Jerry**

**YALI Alum; Executive Director, Inclusive Friends Association, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Mr. Kaweesi Mark**

**YALI Alum; Breakdancer/B-Boy; Creative Facilitator, Imagination Circle Ltd., Republic of Uganda**

**Ms. Ndey Fatou Jabang**

**YALI Alum; CEO, Flex Fuzion Dance Academy, Republic of the Gambia**

**Lamboginny (Yinka Lawanson)**

**YALI Alum; Musician; Founder, Say No to Crime Project, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

Below are but a few of the many powerful messages from some of the YALI creatives.

“Pambazuka. Pambazuka. Pambazuka. It's a new dawn. Sons and daughters of our land, shining with joy for the new season. Transparency has won, a new breed is home. Integrity welcome. Denouncing corruption. Equality has won. No discrimination . . . The young people have been equipped to take up the mantle for the continent. Some leadership with the help of God. We are grateful for the lessons learned. Standing together, we can never be defeated. We are not afraid. We are not ashamed. Africa is rising again. The globe is eyeing her emblem. An epitome of tranquility may she reign. Pambazuka. Pambazuka. Pambazuka. It's a new dawn.”

**-Mr. Douglas Ogutu**

“YALI Nation. My name is B'Flow, representing Zambia. 2015 Mandela Washington Fellow with a very important message to all the perpetrators of violence against women and girls. You will not get away with it. You know what I mean? . . . In good and in bad times, in pain and in sickness, till death do us part. Those were your many promises. Why you turn around from sweet to beat her? Why you turn around beating a woman? Why you turn around perpetrating violence?”

**-B'Flow**

“We celebrate the young African leaders. We are crowned with greatness as a tribute to our nation. Let the star shine. Let the rain fall. Let the stars and the moon dazzle in glory. Let the birds fly in harmony, oceans roar in uproar, as we celebrate YALI at 10. From nation to nation, change makers have gathered from the continent of Africa to the world. Changing the narratives beyond borders, rebranding the Africa of our dreams in politics, technology, governance, entertainment. Celebrating our achievements throughout this decade as we celebrate YALI at 10. Listen to the voice of Mandela and the golden voice of Obama, the philosophies of our forefathers, as we celebrate, as we celebrate . . . We celebrate our achievements. We celebrate YALI. YALI, YALI, YALI at 10.”

**-Ms. Grace Jerry**

“I believe in Africa. I believe in you. Africa will rise again like the stars gonna shine again. We may cry but we'll smile again. Africa will rise again. Yes, I can, yes, I will, fight my way through this time. Yes, I can, yes, I will, with the children of the future. Yes, I can. Yes, I will. It's your time to take control. Take control. What are you waiting for? I believe in Africa. I believe in Africa. I believe in Africa. I believe in you. YALI, YALI, YALI . . . YALI, YALI, YALI.”

**-Lamboginny**

“This is Burna Boy saying congratulations to all YALI who have invested in their community. I salute you. Africa's youths are the key to not just Africa's future, but the whole world. Keep up the good work, YALIs. Hey, it's not the time to stop, you know? Keep believing, keep pushing, and the best is yet to come. Hear me. Communities will not fail. Blessings. Love.”

**-Burna Boy (Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu)**

*Watch Burna Boy's inspirational video [here](#).*

## #YALI4AG LIVESTREAM AND UN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Agriculture is the backbone of Africa's economic development goals and is central to achieving food security. This goal will not be achieved without Africa's youth. The YALI 10 Program sought to celebrate the recognition of agriculture's pivotal role in meeting Africa's economic development goals and achieving food security for its citizens; therefore, in celebration of the United Nations International Youth Day theme of "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health," the Wilson Center and U.S. Department of State were proud to host the #YALI4Ag: Youth Innovating for Resilient Agriculture Livestream on August 12, 2021. #YALI4Ag served as a bridge from YALI 10 to YALI 11, demonstrating the United States' ongoing commitment to

### Specifically, the #YALI4Ag event:

- Explored challenges, opportunities, and best practices for transforming Africa's agricultural sector and food systems, including anticipating and building inclusive agricultural and food systems resilient to climate change and addressing the barriers that prevent African youth from engaging in agriculture and agribusiness;
- Highlighted YALI innovations and achievements in the agricultural sector and broader food system; and
- Provided practical ideas and recommendations for boosting Africa's agricultural sector to achieve food security and youth engagement in the face of climate change.

African youth. The event was attended by **921 participants**, including YALI alumni, U.S., and African practitioners, experts, and other YALI stakeholders. In addition to a plenary and two panel discussions, the videos featuring YALI social innovators working in the agricultural sector, and cultural content and entertainment from across Africa and the United States contributed to the success of this event.

Time	Session	Speakers
08:30-08:35 ET	Welcome and Opening Remarks	<b>Ms. Brenda Soya</b> U.S. Department of State
08:35-09:20 ET	#YALI4Ag for Resilient Agriculture Keynote	<b>Mr. Thione Niang</b>
09:20-10:40 ET	<b>Panel 1:</b> #YALI4Ag for Resilient Agriculture: Policy Perspectives	<b>Moderator: Dr. Monde Muyangwa</b> Woodrow Wilson Center <b>Mr. Benjamin Danso</b> <b>Mr. Jacob Hamutenya</b> <b>Dr. Peace Musonge</b>
10:40-10:50 ET	Break	
10:50-12:10 ET	<b>Panel 2: #YALI4Ag for Resilient Agriculture:</b> Practitioners' Perspectives	<b>Moderator: Mr. Mike Bittrick</b> U.S. Department of State <b>Mr. Sahr Torto</b> <b>Ms. Atim Mbah</b> <b>Ms. Mercy Chatyoka</b>
12:10-12:15 ET	Closing Remarks	<b>Dr. Monde Muyangwa</b> Woodrow Wilson Center
12:15-12:30 ET	YALI Cultural Content Presentation	



## #YALI4AG LIVESTREAM OPENING REMARKS

**Ms. Brenda Soya**

**YAC Steering Committee; Director, Africa Regional Services, U.S. Department of State,  
United States of America**

Good morning, good afternoon, bonjour, bom dia, tenastelin, sawubona and salaam alaikum. I wish I could greet you in all of your languages but I am sorry today I am limited with English. But it was so good to see the chat active and so many faces filling up my screen today. And I am honored to be the first one to welcome you to #YALI4Ag!

Today we have our “Youth Innovation for Resilient Agriculture Livestream.” My name is Brenda Soya, I am the Director of Africa Regional Services, which is part of the Africa Bureau of the Department of State. I am a Foreign Service Officer and I have spent much of my career working on and with issues on the continent, and I am honored to be the one to welcome you today.

I am starting with a few details. Please make sure that you have clicked the interpretation globe on the menu at the bottom of your screen to choose English, French, or Portuguese. We will also be live-tweeting today’s event and taking questions on social media. So make sure you are tweeting #YALI4Ag, #NextGenYALI and #InternationalYouthDay. To send your questions, please tag the Wilson Center Africa Program on @AfricaUpClose or send an email to Africa@WilsonCenter.org. I know all of those hashtags and those emails will be appearing in the chat very soon.

We have several wonderful segments to make up today’s program, because we know that one rainstorm alone does not make enough crops to grow for harvest. That was one of my favorite proverbs working in Togo. So online today, we have our keynote speaker, Mr. Thione Niang, who arrived from Senegal to the United States with \$20 in his pocket. He became a farmer, social entrepreneur, political strategist, and author. He will sow the seeds for the following panel discussions that tie agribusiness and agriculture, with youth, and their opportunity to transform the continent’s development. We all look forward to the closing video that will conclude our celebration of 10 years of YALI and bring us into its 11th year and beyond.

You know, I have said “YALI” a few times –The Young African Leaders Initiative. You know, it is one of those momentous memories that even U,S, State Department people say “where were you when YALI begun? For myself it began as an important event of finding 3 Togolese to attend the first YALI in the U.S. And it has grown beyond our wildest dreams and expectations now. YALI grew from 115 young leaders to include more than 25,000 alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship Exchange Program, 4 Regional Leadership Centers, and an extensive digital community called the YALI Network with more than 700,000 members. It is like mango season in West Africa when the trees just keep giving and giving more fruit.

All of these programs aim to strengthen democratic institutions and good governance, they spur economic growth and prosperity, and they foster peace and development in Africa. And each one of these goals depends on agriculture. And that is why we are here today—to exchange ideas.

The United States is very concerned about the negative trends in Africa with food security and malnutrition over the past two years. Years of progress addressing famine and advancing agriculture-led growth has been subverted by conflict, COVID-19 pandemic, and climate.

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**AUGUST 12, 2021**  
08:30-12:30 ET 14:30-18:30 CAT/SAF  
12:30-16:30 GMT 15:30-19:30 EAT  
13:30-17:30 WAT

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Logos for the United States, the Wilson Center, and the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI).

The United States seeks to address these problems in a comprehensive way: One, looking to resolve conflict; two, to mitigate climate-induced famine; and three, to Build Back Better following this COVID-19 pandemic impact on food and food systems. Some of these transformative ideas are going to be shared today as we celebrate the theme of Global Youth Day - Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health.

So let's get started! #YALI4AG! And remember, we are looking for your comments and questions at [Africa@WilsonCenter.org](mailto:Africa@WilsonCenter.org). And don't forget to tweet as well.

We are extremely pleased to be working with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars to explore these challenges, opportunities, and actual innovations for transforming Africa's agriculture to create resilient food systems. We will address the barriers that prevent youth from engaging in agriculture and agribusiness, and the discussions will offer practical ideas and recommendations for Africa's agricultural sector to achieve food security and youth engagement in the face of all the climate challenges.

I would be amiss without saying thank you to our rainmakers that brought this event together. I want to thank the Wilson Center Africa team for all their behind-the-scenes work. I want to thank Dr. Monde Muyangwa for all the coordination we have had. And especially Ms. Liz Liu from the Department of State and the Africa Bureau. Liz has spearheaded this program over a year and her tour of duty ends today. So we are sending her out with a bang. And I also want to thank the YALI Advisory Council (YAC) members. I see a few out there. You have worked so hard in advising us and helping us make this program yours with such important voices. So thank you to the YACs.

There has been tremendous work going into this program. And I know you will enjoy as we watch the maize or corn grow. It has been an honor to be with all of you. And I look forward to listening to your wonderful ideas. And now, Dr. Monde of the Wilson Center. You are an engine dedicated to bringing together thought leaders to tackle the some of the continent's biggest challenges. I look forward to working again with you and I pass the mic.

Thank you all, merci, obrigado!

## #YALI4AG LIVESTREAM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### Mr. Thione Niang

#### Founder, JeufZone Farm, Republic of Senegal

Thank you very much, Monde. Thank you for the kind introduction.

I wanted to take a moment to thank the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Government, President Obama's vision that we have witnessed from the beginning of YALI. And today it turns 10 years. It's amazing the milestone that the U.S. State Department has been able to deliver here in Africa.

I want to thank the new administration, President Biden, and the Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and the entire staff, for continuing this legacy. This legacy of partnership and this legacy of building not only the young leaders of Africa, giving them the tools and the capacity-building, so they can continue to be a better partner of the United States so we can create a more just world. And peace is something huge for us, not only Africans, but us in the diaspora who came back home here to deliver the same kind of work you're doing here, at a smaller level.

Thank you to the Wilson Center for the unprecedented work, and the entire staff, for working through the hurdles of technology to make this a reality today. I am privileged to have been given the opportunity and this platform to speak to my young brothers and sisters across the continent of Africa, from Nairobi, to Dakar Senegal, where I'm at right now, to share my small experience here, since I've returned back home.

After more than 18 years in the United States, I decided to come back home because there is something that struck me a few years ago, after we launched Akon Lighting Africa. Akon and I came home to visit and to go through the continent to bring solar energies to many villages on the continent. One day we came to Senegal. During the lunch that we had, here in Dakar in my home, something struck me. I looked at the thieboudienne, our rice, the real jollof rice, from my Nigerian and Ghanaian friends that are claiming the jollof rice. So in the jollof rice, I identified right away that the rice we're eating—most of it is coming all the way from Indonesia and Malaysia. The oil in the rice is coming from Ukraine—very far away from home. And most of the vegetables from Morocco and other countries around us.

This was a wakeup call for me. In a country that is 365 days a year, the youngest population in the world is in Africa. We have more than 200 million young Africans living here under 25 years old today—more than 60% of our population are under 25. We have the highest arable land in the world. In Senegal, for example, here where I'm at, we have flat land. You can do agriculture anywhere you go on the continent.

To me, we should be feeding the world. It shouldn't be the other way around. I cannot understand and I cannot accept that Spain or France, or other countries in Europe that are giving us food—6 months out of the year they are in the cold. When I have sun throughout the year. And they only farm 4 to 5 months, and they are feeding themselves and feeding me for the rest of the year. This is a very personal thing for me. I cannot accept that we sit in our generation; you and I, to wait for somebody else to continue feed us.

In my travels, I personally took a trip to understand more of what's happening, and I went to Bali in Indonesia. In those mountains of Bali, I wanted to see where the rice that we are eating here so much in Senegal, is coming from. There I met all of the people from 80 years old to 90, in the mountains of Bali, farming rice, shipping it, and sending it to us to eat. In those difficulties of lack of water, the difficulties of climate change, but also in those mountains they climb every day, to make that a reality for us.

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**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Mr. Thione Niang**  
Founder, JeufZone Farm

**AUGUST 12, 2021**  
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This is the reason why I started JeufZone Farm. To me, the best way to respond, the best way to show frustration, to me the best way to create change, is through Jeuf. “Jeuf” in Wolof is a word that means “taking actions.” This is why I call it JeufZone. It is a zone where we take actions. So when I started farming here, at I bought farms, with no experience whatsoever, but I wanted to respond to the daring issue of our time. Which is to be able to feed our continent, and create jobs through agriculture and build wealth for the continent.

Of course it was difficult. Of course it was a lot of challenges. Of course we have lost a lot of money. Of course, since 2014, we’ve come into a lot of challenges—challenges such as being able to have electricity to come into our farms. I had to install solar to be able to farm because it’s very expensive for farmers here to have access to energy. It was very difficult to be able to cope with the regular workers, to have quality of labor in those farms. It was difficult to have access to markets. Many times we found, back in those days, we do tomatoes or potatoes, and thousands of kilos of it going bad because we didn’t have access to the right market. Or the prices were so low. And many farmers—millions of them around the continent—are dealing with all of these kinds of issues. It was difficult, it was challenging, but through those difficulties, we hung on. We fought. We kept innovating and staying on the course.

Today, the farms around the JeufZone are doing very well. And around that we are able now to launch the JeufZone Institute for Leadership and Agriculture. Teaching young Africans, not only in Senegal, but throughout the continent, are coming to our farms. We are teaching them the fundamentals of agriculture. So we can create a new movement of young Africans coming back home, here on this continent, to go back to the land, go back to those villages, and have full control of what we eat. Not only having full control of what we eat, but creating decent jobs, decent quality of life for our people, especially our people in rural Africa.

This is my challenge. This is something very personal that I took on, that I told you earlier. But it also should make you question the role that all of us should play in what is now the challenge of your time. Of your generation. Because every generation has to take on something they will call their fight, or something they will have to solve. Our founding fathers, they had to deal with some very difficult issues to get us to independence. We have our founding fathers as Nkrumah, as Nyerere, as Sékou Touré, etc. They all fought to make sure that our generation—your generation—is liberated. Today you have that opportunity. We have independence—for more than 60 years, we are independent. But today, as Nelson Mandela’s widow, Mama Graça, told me, “your generation’s should be the fight for economic development on the continent.” We have to create a decent quality of life for our people. And there is no one else who will come to fix it for us.

As much as I love the United States, and as much as they are a great partner, it will not be their role to come and change Africa. It will be your role—you and I. To make sure we drive the change we want to see in this continent. And this comes with sacrifices. This comes with, sometimes, failure. This comes with not being in comfort. But we have to pave the way like those founding fathers paved the way for us today. It is our role to create the way for the next generation to have access to everything that young people have access to in the U.S., in Singapore, in Europe.

This platform we are looking at today, is an example of why you and I should be questioning ourselves—of where we want our continent to be. I couldn’t imagine a president in Kenya or a president in Benin or in Senegal, gathering young people in Minnesota, young Americans in Washington, young Americans in California, young Americans in Indiana and Ohio, my home state, investing in them, teaching them about the future of what America should look like. I couldn’t imagine any president here investing the hard-earned dollars of our country to go educate and invest in the betterment of the future of the United States. I cannot imagine China going to the United States, investing in young Americans about leadership, about farming, about healthcare, about education. I can’t imagine it in France either.

It is only us today until now, we are still waiting for aid. We are waiting for opportunities. And our governments are showing us failed leadership for our partners to fill in the gap. To be able to give these amazing tools that America is giving you today, so you can have what you need to be able to compete globally. Some of you traveled from Senegal or Benin, etc., paid by the U.S. Government to go and have access to trainings—high-level trainings.

But this should make you question. That, is this what we want also for our children? Do we want our children tomorrow to wait for other countries to feed them? Do you want for your children tomorrow to wait for other countries to come and invest in their natural resources for them to be able to sustain themselves? Do you want for your children tomorrow to be like the kids that I see in Dakar here, more than a thousand young children walking

around the streets of Dakar with no shoes, not going to school? We call them “talibé” here, but begging for what to eat each day, and everyone looking away. Do you want for your children tomorrow, or your mothers, or your aunts—the future of the continent, to be in those villages in far Nairobi, in far capital of Senegal, where at night you have no access to electricity? 600 million of Africans today have no energy, and will be in the dark if you don’t do anything. And those [inaudible], in healthcare, women delivering babies dying every day because they do not see a doctor. They don’t have just a light.

This is not the Africa you want. I know you don’t want that. And I know this is the reason why you were picked, that you’re here. And this is why I’m frustrated, and this is why I am back home. Because I have learned long enough from the streets of Iowa, campaigning for President Obama, that if you want change, you have to stop waiting for anyone and start being the change that you want to see, from the bottom up.

And I know we can count on you. That this continent can count on the new generation—yourselves—to deliver the change that we desperately need.

I am really tired of all of the poverty that I’ve seen on this continent since I came back. I grew up through poverty. For days in our home, sometimes, we didn’t have electricity. We didn’t have food. My grandfather’s house, where I grew up, we had no electricity growing up. So I can see and feel exactly the same thing as what my people are feeling since I came back. I grew up on that. But I don’t want our children to continue to be on this.

This is also why, recently, I decided to launch, after the JeufZone farm, the Give1 Project Digital Skills Academy. Can you imagine what’s going on around the world, in China, in the United States? In the digital world today, on cybersecurity. In the digital world today, on artificial intelligence. Where most of the work in America today is being done by robots. Recently, since I landed in the U.S. last month, I didn’t have to give my passport. I just had to look at the camera and pass, and all of my data was with the officer. That’s what they call facial recognition. Everything that’s being done today in technology around the world, can you imagine how far already behind we are as Africans, to catch up in the digital world? And if this revolution of digital—this digital revolution—if we miss it, this will be something our children will never be able to catch up on. That’s why the Give1 Project Academy is training today, here in Senegal, young people on cybersecurity, coding, artificial intelligence, etc.

Not only for the farming, but we have to look at where we can bring change and move all of our energies around that to make sure that we create the Africa that we want to see, not only today, but tomorrow.

Thank you, I see that you are showing me the time is up, for questions. I thank you for the invitation, it’s a privilege. And I will be open for questions. God bless you all for listening, wherever you are in the continent.

Thank you.

## #YALI4AG LIVESTREAM SUMMARY

### Panel 1: “#YALI4Ag for Resilient Agriculture: Policy Perspectives”

The first panel, “#YALI4Ag for Resilient Agriculture: Policy Perspectives,” explored the policy perspectives and challenges, opportunities, and best practices for transforming Africa’s agricultural and food systems.

**Dr. Monde Muyangwa**, Director, Africa Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars moderated the session that featured three YALI alumni:

**Dr. Benjamin Aboagye Danso**, Director of Research and Training Projects, Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture (KITA), (Republic of Ghana); **Dr. Peace Musonge**, Founder, Bakatoa (The Republic of Uganda); and **Mr. Jacob Hamutenya**, Regional Manager: Ongwediva FPBH, Agro-Marketing & Trade Agency (Republic of Namibia).

**Dr. Muyangwa** welcomed the participants, introduced the speakers, and shared the goals and objectives of the session: to assess the state of the continent's agricultural and agribusiness sector, and to highlight policies that can be developed to best address the barriers of entry that confront youth wishing to engage in the sector.

**Dr. Danso** offered remarks on the challenges, opportunities, and recommendations related to the current state of Africa’s agricultural sector and youth inclusion. The key challenges highlighted included the impact of climate change on the region, the lack of skilled labor, insufficient educational and policy vision to propel capacity building for the sector, weak regional institutions, poor access to technology, the lack of research that is informed by local data sources, and the lack of farmers insurance. Regarding opportunities, Dr. Danso mentioned the commitment made by some African governments to modernize their country’s food systems, the implementation of industry-wide quality standards across the continent, and the potential to leverage the agribusiness value chain for economic development. He also highlighted the importance of focusing on technology and innovation in order to make the sector less dependent on external partners. Dr. Danso offered several recommendations for advancing the transformation of the agricultural sector including: investing in agricultural capacity building; development of agricultural policies that are intentionally inclusive of women and young people; and a bottom-up approach that includes stakeholders at the grassroots level in agriculture-related policy development by regional and local governments. For international partners, he urged more attention toward supporting and developing youth to take advantage of opportunities in the agriculture sector.

**Dr. Musonge** spoke to the strengths of Africa’s agricultural sector based on the continent’s diverse agricultural ecosystem, including its fishing sector; the recent investments in science and research by African governments due to COVID-19; the African Union’s efforts to build sustainable food systems across the continent, and the recent launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). She noted the need for more robust data collection with a focus on data originating from within the African context as well as good governance to foster transparency and stability. Dr. Musonge recommended a hybrid approach to farming that incorporates both traditional and modern methods, an increase in opportunities for access to land ownership for women, and the commercialization of research through tax credits and the development of research centers through public-private partnerships for the development of a sustainable agricultural sector that is resilient to climate change. She also recommended embedding Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and entrepreneurship skills to provide a pathway for youth to enter the scientific field.

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PANEL 1  
Policy Perspectives

AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE

MODERATOR  
**Dr. Monde Muyangwa**  
Director of the Africa at the  
Woodrow Wilson International  
Center for Scholars

**Dr. Peace Musonge**  
Scientist and Entrepreneur

**Mr. Benjamin Danso**  
Director of Research and Training  
Projects at Kumasi Institute of  
Tropical Agriculture (KITA), Ghana

**Mr. Jacob Hamutenya**  
Regional Manager at Agro-  
Marketing and Trade Agency

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**Mr. Hamutenya** spoke of the opportunities related to the increased interest of youth in the agricultural sector in southern Africa and the potential for economic development through the AfCFTA. He stressed the importance of leveraging financial technologies such as cryptocurrency and blockchain to transfer money and capital. The challenges related to youth inclusion included the barriers to market access is due to a lack of capital and capacity. Mr. Hamutenya recommended that African governments enable youth entrepreneurship through incentivizing private investment and fostering peace and stability through good governance, developing the infrastructure for digitization, while ensuring sector efficiency and the reduction of waste. He also recommended that African governments work to modernize infrastructure, provide tax incentives and guarantees to allow local farmers to support public institutions while ensuring market access. Finally, Mr. Hamutenya urged African governments to focus on the development and application of policies that facilitate more inclusive value chains.

The speakers engaged in audience question-and-answer session with the audience during which they addressed questions on the role of women in the development of the sector, how to make the sector more efficient, how to create value for smallholder farmers, how to build capacity through enhancing skills for problem-solving and innovation, and how the creative sector might help reshape the narrative of Africa's agricultural sector to drive youth inclusion.

The panel concluded with words of encouragement and inspiration for Africa's youth from each of the speakers. **Mr. Hamutenya** encouraged young Africans to invest their time and energy into the issues that matter most to them and to utilize their skills and talents to work together toward change; Dr. Danso pushed young Africans to view challenges as opportunities to create innovative enterprises, to build skills in emerging sectors, and to change the narrative around agriculture; Dr. Musonge encouraged African youth to invest in their own professional development and to utilize their energy to gain technological and communication skills that can transform the agricultural sector.

The first panel was followed by a break featuring a video compilation of YALI social innovators working in the agricultural sector. **Ms. Hope Mapheto**, Executive Director at My Tomorrow Academy, shared how her love of community inspired her to engage the local rural population through employment and capacity-building opportunities to make a difference in their lives. **Mr. Dymus Kisilu**, the founder of Solar Freeze, a Kenya-based technology company that uses renewable energy to help rural smallholder farmers reduce postharvest losses, illustrated the power of leveraging technology to address the challenges faced by smallholder farmers in Africa. **Ms. Mojisola Ojebode** shared how she leveraged her educational background in biochemistry to develop effective and environment-friendly plant-based pesticides for rural African farmers. Ms. Ojebode's innovation exemplifies the power of a single idea to change the agricultural sector and the world.

## Panel 2: “#YALI4Ag for Resilient Agriculture: Practitioners’ Perspectives”

The second panel, “#YALI4Ag for Resilient Agriculture: Practitioners' Perspectives,” explored the contribution of YALI alumni in the agriculture sector from a practitioner perspective.

The session provided concrete ideas, lessons learned, and recommendations for boosting Africa’s agricultural sector and developing more inclusive, healthier, and climate-friendly food systems in the African context. **Mr. Michael Bittrick**, Senior Advisor, Global Food Security, U.S. Department of State moderated the session featuring three YALI alumni: **Ms. Atim Mbah**, Founder and Project Coordinator, Green Farmlands (Republic of Cameroon); **Mr. Mathin Sahr Torto**, Founder, Compost-Tech Liberia; CEO, Gbezohn Food Snack (The Republic of Liberia); and **Ms. Mercy Chatyoka**, Business Development & Innovation Executive, Armllead Private Limited (Republic of Zimbabwe).

**Mr. Bittrick** welcomed the participants, introduced the speakers, and framed the goals and objectives of the session: explore challenges, opportunities, and best practices for transforming Africa’s agricultural sector, including anticipating and building agricultural and food systems resilient to climate change and addressing the barriers that prevent African youth from engaging in agriculture and agribusiness. Mr. Bittrick underlined the deep commitment of the United States government to address food insecurity in Africa, caused in part by climate change and conflict, while building more sustainable food systems with the support of the United Nations and the African Union.

**Ms. Mbah’s** remarks focused on the need to identify the opportunities, not just the challenges. One opportunity that was highlighted included scaling up adoption of principles of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (the Malabo Declaration), spearheaded by the African Union in 2014 to provide a blueprint to transform the agricultural sector in Africa for the period 2015-2025. She also highlighted the opportunities for the African agriculture sector provided by Africa’s growing population and income trends, advising sector stakeholders to develop innovative approaches to foster sustainability and address the challenges related to climate change. She highlighted her practical experiences working with smallholder farmers on food security by providing nutrition programs for children in light of the challenges due to conflict in the region. She noted the impact of conflict on prohibiting her from working closely with the targeted communities, thus minimizing the on-the-ground impact of her organization. She also spoke to the challenges and opportunities related to the overall perception of the sector, specifically the perception that the sector is for the elderly. Ms. Mbah recommended that practitioners share the stories of their successes to encourage youth participation in the agricultural sector while seeking opportunities to partner with institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to implement capacity-building programs aimed at youth to drive interest. Finally, the speaker spoke of the need for a collective effort from all sector stakeholders to collaborate on improving value and supply chains and encouraged the broader YALI community to lead these efforts.

**Mr. Torto** provided remarks on the challenges in investing in youth farmers and the need to form public-private partnerships to create sustainability and the use of technology to support the development of the value chains. Mr. Torto shared insights on the need for more capacity building programs to provide farmers with the data and information to address climate change and food insecurity in practice and the need for greater internet accessibility. To address these challenges, Mr. Torto proposed investment by African governments in capacity building technology to support product storage and preservation. He highlighted the need for youth-led farming cooperatives to foster the development of sustainable farms. Finally, he noted that to build on the potential of Africa’s growing population and market size there is a need to focus on seed quality and market access for economic development, and that international partners can play a role in developing policies to foster a collaborative effort to drive solutions for capacity building on the continent.

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**PANEL 2  
Practitioners' Perspectives**

**AFRICAN LEADERS IN INNOVATION**

**MODERATOR**  
**Mr. Michael Bittrick**  
Senior Advisor, Global Food Security, U.S. Department of State

**Mr. Sahr Torto**  
USAID Food and Enterprise Development (FED) trained soil laboratory technician

**Ms. Atim Mbah**  
Founder of Green Farmlands

**Ms. Mercy Chatyoka**  
Food Technologist | Farmer Agroment | Women in STEM enthusiast

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**Ms. Chatyoka** shared her perspective on the challenges related to the development of the African agricultural sector, highlighting a lack of institutional support through industry standards and gender disparities in accessing land and financing. She also remarked on the opportunities related to the fact that Africa contains 60 percent of the world's arable land but remains a net exporter of food products. Ms. Chatyoka offered recommendations to address the challenges including providing agripreneurs with access to land, financing, and institutional support through the development of industry-wide standards across the continent to promote food safety and the improvement of community harvests. She also recommended production hubs to increase access to markets, particularly for youth and women farmers. Other recommendations included telling stories that highlight youth participation in the sector and provided the example of the Minister of Agriculture in Zimbabwe, who is one of the youngest on the continent and has created mechanisms within his department to foster youth inclusion. She mentioned the role of international partners in providing capacity development for governments related to effective policy development and financial support to the sector at large. She also urged the adoption of advanced and climate-resilient technologies to harness the energy of youth, use of learning platforms to bridge the capacity gap, and a push to provide innovative and flexible finance options while also ensuring that youth were part of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The speakers then engaged in a question-and-answer session with the audience during which they addressed questions on topics including how to use technology to foster youth participation, and how government support and education might unlock more financing for the agricultural sector.

Mr. Bittrick summarized the discussion by highlighting the lucrative opportunities that exist in the agricultural sector as compared to other sectors and encouraging both public and private global investment in the sector. He also highlighted the point that age should not be a barrier to entering the agricultural sector and stressed the importance of providing youth with resources and financing to participate in the sector. He emphasized the need for agriculture to be a part of public education so that African youth can build the necessary skills for agricultural transformation in specific areas such as water scarcity. He noted that Internet-friendly agricultural extension programs through U.S. land grant universities could yield returns on investments. He also noted that Africa's agricultural and food systems are ready for both public and private financing which would allow the continent and its people to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, including ending hunger, improving health, alleviating poverty, and reducing greenhouse gas and the environmental footprint.

The session ended with words of inspiration and encouragement from each speaker. **Ms. Mbah** spoke to the importance of focusing on Africa's opportunities and not only its challenges; **Mr. Torto** stressed the many opportunities that the agricultural sector holds for youth to engage in what interests them in order to create change; and **Ms. Chatyoka** encouraged young people to become part of the agricultural revolution by getting involved in resilient and inclusive food systems, to tap into the potential of women, and to change the narrative around agriculture.

The event concluded with a video showcasing cultural content from artists across Africa and the United States. International recording artists, **Wordsmith** and **D.J. Invisible**, narrated the segment and introduced the artist. **Ms. Grace Jerry**, a 2015 Washington Mandela Fellow, was lauded for her work as a disability advocate and composer of the YALI anthem; the segment featured a rendition of the anthem. **Mr. Douglass Ogutu**, a 2021 Washington Mandela Fellow, works to support artists living in low-income communities through the YALI transformation fund, was also featured. He leads an effort to foster collaboration among artists, and his song, Pambazuko, was highlighted during the segment. The segment also included **Mr. Kaweesi Mark** (Washington Mandela Fellow 2016), who empowers youth through artistic expressions. The video featured the annual cultural festival organized by Mr. Mark called Breakfast Jam. **Ms. Catharine Mbenge** (Washington Mandela Fellow 2019) rendered her prize-winning poem "The Shy Girl Who Refuses to Die Shy." Lastly, the segment featured **Lamboginny**, the co-convener of the Say No to Crime movement and the advocate of S.A.L.T (Saving All Lives Together), a prison reform program. Lamboginny closed out the event with a rendition of his song, "I Believe in Africa."

## #YALI4AG LIVESTREAM SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

*In alphabetical order by last name.*

**Mr. Michael Bittrick**  
Senior Advisor, Office of Global Food Security, U.S. Department of State  
*United States of America*

**Ms. Mercy Chatyoka**  
YALI Alum; Business Development and Innovation Executive, Armlead Private Limited  
*Republic of Zimbabwe*

**Dr. Benjamin Danso**  
YALI Alum; Director of Research and Training Projects, Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture  
*Republic of Ghana*

**Mr. Jacob Hamutenya**  
YALI Alum; Manager, National Fresh Produce Business Hub, Agro-marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA)  
*Republic of Namibia*

**Ms. Atim Mbah**  
YALI Alum; Founder, Green Farmlands  
*Republic of Cameroon*

**Dr. Peace Musonge**  
YALI Alum; Founder, Bakatoa  
*Republic of Uganda*

**Dr. Monde Muyangwa**  
YAC Steering Committee; Director, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
*United States of America*

**Mr. Thione Niang**  
Founder, JeufZone Farm  
*Republic of Senegal*

**Ms. Brenda Soya**  
YAC Steering Committee; Director, Africa Regional Services, U.S. Department of State  
*United States of America*

**Mr. Sahr Torto**  
YALI Alum; Founder, Compost-Tech  
*Republic of Liberia*

### *#YALI4Ag Livestream Videos from Social Innovators*

**Mr. Dysmus Kisilu**  
YALI Alum; Founder, Solar Freeze  
*Republic of Kenya*

**Ms. Hope Mapheto**  
Executive Director, My Tomorrow Academy  
*Republic of South Africa*

**Mr. Douglas Ogutu**  
YALI Alum; Musician; Founder, Dowe Music & Arts  
*Republic of Kenya*

## YALI 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The YALI Advisory Committee (YAC) consisted of alumni from across the various YALI programs, cohorts, and tracks including the Mandela Washington Fellowship, the Regional Leadership Centers, and the YALI Network, and featured representatives from different countries, regions, and sectors.

### YALI Alumni Members

*In alphabetical order by last name.*



**Mr. Stephen Selasie Asuo**  
2016 Regional Leadership Center  
*Republic of Ghana*



**Mr. Charles Munyua**  
2016 Regional Leadership Center  
*Republic of Kenya*



**Mr. Alhasan Bah**  
2016 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Republic of The Gambia*



**Ms. Leah Molatseli**  
2019 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Republic of South Africa*



**Mr. Game "Zeus" Bantsi**  
2016 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Republic of Botswana*



**Mr. Jean Felix Mwema Ngandu**  
2015 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Democratic Republic of the Congo*



**Ms. Joan Enoh**  
2019 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Republic of Cameroon*



**Mr. Baimba Osman Sheriff**  
2017 Regional Leadership Center  
*Republic of Sierra Leone*



**Ms. Ineza Umuhoza Grace**  
2016 Regional Leadership Center  
*Republic of Rwanda*



**Mr. Ricky Simasiku**  
2019 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Republic of Namibia*



**Ms. Adepeju Jaiyeoba**  
2014 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Federal Republic of Nigeria*



**Ms. Chrissy Zimba**  
2019 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Republic of Malawi*



**Mr. James Papy Kwabo Jr.**  
2019 Mandela Washington Fellow  
*Republic of Liberia*

## U.S. Department of State and USAID Members



**Ms. Elizabeth Liu**  
YAC Steering Committee  
Bureau of African Affairs  
Special Coordinator for the  
Young African Leaders Initiative  
U.S. Department of State



**Mr. Michael Hayes**  
YAC Steering Committee  
Bureau of African Affairs  
Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Department of State



**Ms. Marjory Schleicher**  
Professional Associate  
U.S. Embassy in Cameroon



**Ms. Brenda Soya**  
YAC Steering Committee  
Director  
Africa Regional Services  
U.S. Department of State



**Ms. Katrina Johnston**  
YAC Steering Committee  
Program Analyst (Communications)  
U.S. Agency for International  
Development (USAID)

## Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

### YALI 10th Anniversary Organizing and Implementing Partner

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Africa Program served as the Planning and Implementation Secretariat for the YALI 10 Program. The Africa Program helped establish and organize the YALI Advisory Committee. Additionally, the Africa Program anchored all YALI 10 anniversary activities, administered the YALI 10 Competition, and conducted outreach and strategic communication.



**Dr. Monde Muyangwa**  
YAC Steering Committee  
Director



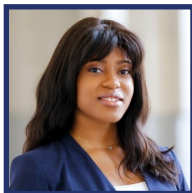
**Ms. Sharazad Hired**  
Program Assistant (Communications)



**Ms. Hannah Beckett Akuiyibo**  
Program Associate



**Ms. Cherodie Ayers**  
Program Assistant (Communications)



**Ms. Gamuchirai Pamela Mhute**  
Program Assistant (Director's Office)



**Ms. Keara Mangan**  
Communications Assistant (Contractor)



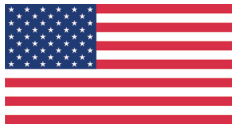
**Ms. Catharine Helmers**  
Program Assistant



**Mr. Marc Carr**  
Project Coordinator (Contractor)

## YALI 10 PARTNERS

Thinking about ten years together, we are reminded that the United States was also founded on an idea, an idea that grew into something much bigger than many thought possible. At this moment as we look back at what YALI has become, we applaud all of our partners and remain in awe and deep appreciation of your contributions. As we look forward, we remain inspired and hopeful for what is still to come.



MANDELA WASHINGTON  
FELLOWSHIP  
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

## YALI 10 ONLINE

The YALI 10 Summit and #YALI4Ag Livestream event videos and publications are available to access online. It is the YALI10 Program's hope to commemorate and memorialize both events for future reference, inspiration, and reflection. Additionally, the entire YALI 10 Summit is captioned in English, with 18 videos in French and Portuguese. The #YALI4Ag Livestream has audio in English, French, and Portuguese.



For more information and to access the content from the YALI 10th Anniversary, please visit <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/young-african-leaders-initiative-yali-10th-anniversary>

### YALI 10 Summit

The YALI 10 Virtual Summit playlist is available on YouTube below:

[YALI Network YouTube](#) [Wilson Center YouTube](#)\* \*includes French and Portuguese captioning

### #YALI4Ag Livestream

The #YALI4Ag Livestream is available on Wilson Center's YouTube below:

[English](#) [Français](#) [Português](#)

**Thank you for your participation and contributions  
to the YALI 10th Anniversary Program!**

**We look forward to working with you to create an even more impactful YALI  
for the next 10 years.**

**Let's Go!  
#YALI2020**








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**For more information on the Young African Leaders Initiative:  
[yali.state.gov](http://yali.state.gov)**







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