



REPORT

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

BRUSSELS, JUNE 23 2015



www.iday.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD
2. CONFERENCE AT FONDATION UNIVERSITAIRE
3. IDAY YOUTH AMBASSADORS
4. SPEAKERS, PANELISTS & MODERATORS
5. MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE
 - a. Keynote address by James Kofi Annan
 - b. Session One (Youth Ambassadors)
 - c. Session Two (Panelists)
 - d. Recommendations by IDAY Chairman
6. POST-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

— DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2015 —



In memory of the 1976 Soweto Youth uprising, the members of the IDAY network celebrate each year the Day of the African Child all together to call upon the authorities to take the appropriate measures to enforce the right of every child and youngster to a quality basic education. The reports on each of the commemorations by African members of the network are available in IDAY's Annual Activity Report.

The theme for this year's edition in Europe is "**Youth dreams for a better world**".

IDAY-International invited 4 African Youth Ambassadors to Brussels to exchange with young Europeans about their aspirations for a better future.

Raising youth voices across the globe

In 4 African countries (Ghana, Kenya, Togo and DRC) IDAY local coalitions collected aspirations and recommendations of the youth for a better future and the role they want to play in tackling development issues that concern them.

Youth dreams exhibition and advocacy actions

IDAY-International gathered dreams from young people and created a "dream board" on a dedicated website (youthdreams.iday.org) and also launched a cultural event alongside the EP's conference with an art exhibition at Brussels City Hall on domestic workers.

After the event, advocacy actions were conducted in each African and European country about their exchanges with other youngsters.

CONFERENCE AT FONDATION UNIVERSITAIRE

Programme

12:00 - Registration and accreditations

12:15-12:40 - Keynote address by James Kofi Annan on

"Is the African youth given the chance to participate in Africa's development?"

12:45-13:45 - First session: Presentation of youth dreams by Youth Ambassadors and discussion (moderator: Claire Veale)

14:15-14:40 - Intervention by Ms Linda McAvan

14:45-15:45 - Second session: *"How can development aid provide a brighter future to European and African youth?"* (Panel members: Ajay Bramdeo, Daniel Wisniewski, Maria Rosa De Paolis, Cécile Kyenge, Francesca Minitti, Jean Marie Sohler. Moderator: Amadou Wade Diagne)

16:00-16:30 - Conclusions by Jean-Jacques Schul

LOCATION:

Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Ville de Bruxelles

IDAY YOUTH AMBASSADORS

CHARLES KIGOTHO



MARIÈME DIOP



ERIC RWAMUCYO



JOANNA DOGBEY



NOTE: Two Youth Ambassadors, Christian Kabuika and Agossou Dodzi N'Tsoukpoe, were not able to come to Brussels to celebrate the Day of the African Child with us because of VISA issues.

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



LINDA MCAVAN - MEP AND CHAIRMAN OF DEVE



JAMES KOFI ANNAN - FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD



H.E. AJAY BRAMDEO
- AFRICAN UNION
REPRESENTATIVE AT
THE EU



DANIEL WISNIEWSKI -
DIRECTOR OF
WYA EUROPE



CÉCILE KYENGE - MEP



MARIA ROSA DE PAOLIS -
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
OFFICER AT DEVCO



JEAN-MARIE SOHIER -
SEALORD



FRANCESCA MINITTI -
CIVIL SOCIETY ALLIANCE

MODERATORS

CLAIRE VEALE - EDD15 YOUTH COORDINATOR



AMADOU WADE DIAGNE - EDUCATION CONSULTANT





KEYNOTE ADDRESS by JAMES KOFI ANNAN

After having thanked the authorities for their presence and IDAY for organising the event, James Kofi Annan starts his speech with a few highlights of his personal story.

Born in a family of 12, he is sold as a slave aged 6, working 7 days a week with little food and subjected to violent treatments. He manages to escape at 13 with only one dream: receive an education. He did so well that he got an university degree and worked in a bank. After 10 years, he leaves his job and creates the NGO “Challenging Heights” to save children from going through the same ordeal as his. The NGO helps today 700 children and their families.

For James: *“Education is the bedrock of development and it is important that African governments recognise the need to support the very families that raise our youth. We cannot expect our youth in Africa to engage meaningfully in development, claim their right to economic participation and stand as confident citizens if their formative years are marred with poverty, violence, ill-health, abuse and unceasing marginalisation from accessing their basic rights.*

Poverty is the main obstacle to quality basic education for all, hence the need to involve families to achieve quality basic education for all.

Numerous initiatives (NEPAD, African Union Commission, African Youth Charter) recognize the central role that youth can play in civic participation and social cohesion in communities and on the national level in Africa. Unless, however, children grow up in a caring family environment, Africa cannot achieve a proper engagement of the youth.

Family for Every Child is a global alliance of local grassroots organizations committed to improve the life of vulnerable children. It is recognised by international authorities. African governments must understand that families are the indispensable clue to proper child education. HIV-AIDS, corruption, poverty sometimes lead to the observation that education outside the family may also be appropriate and governments should take this into account.

- Challenges faced by the African youth are immense. Unemployment is high, access to education is still difficult, health and public services are scarce. Today, over 60% of Africa’s unemployed are youth aged between 15 and 24. Out of the 73 million jobs created in Africa in the last few years, only 16 million were targeted for young people.

- Corruption impedes youth having access to public employments resulting in decreases in youth confidence in their future within their home countries.

- Poor families with little access to public services and no social security support are forced to make difficult choices that may not prioritise the youth’s needs. They certainly do not allow for the recognition of their right to participate in civic engagement on issues that directly affect them.

- To change the system, we must:

- o Recognise that access to education remains the bedrock of all development.*
- o Improve the quality and scope of data on youth*
- o Integrating youth and economic growth*
- o Improve government support for families*
- o Fight corruption including through the Global Youth Anti-Corruption Network (GYAC)*
- o The African Union must entrench the African Youth Decade Plan of Action*

To you, IDAY Youth Ambassadors who are the Africa of tomorrow, the Africa of today belongs to you and to the millions of other African boys and girls. Yours is the voice we want to hear to make it happen. I wish you great success on the road ahead.

Thank you.”

SESSION ONE: YOUTH DREAMS FOR A BETTER WORLD



INTRODUCTION by CLAIRE VEALE

Ms Claire Veale, the moderator of this session, begins by introducing each of IDAY Youth Ambassadors:

Charles is 25 years old, born and raised in the second largest slum in Kenya, Mathare. He graduated from Communication, photography and journalism studies and has been imparting photography skills to orphaned and vulnerable children within his community.

His mission is to empower and open up doors for Mathare youth through mentorship and sensitizing the need for education for each and every kid. He initiated Big Sister Campaign and the Boys to Men campaign, which encourage young people to be proud of their identity and mentor them to become responsible adults in their society. His dream: to see that every young person is empowered with education or skill that will help in their growth and that of a nation.

Marième is 26, comes from Dakar (Senegal), but lives in Paris where she studies finance and now works in a bank as an intern to complete her studies. She is passionate about education, especially for girls. Marième came on her own initiative to support IDAY and replaces one of the young ambassadors who did not get his visa. Marième was already the representative of the African youth at the IDAY meeting in Europe in 2007.

Joanna is from Accra (Ghana) 22 going to be 23 this week! She studied publishing and arts. She is a student activist, president of the art society and has been opening book clubs in basic schools and advocating the value of reading. This contributed hugely to the writing of her maiden unpublished storybook entitled Portia's Garden.

Eric is a student in economic law of Rwandan origin. Eric lived in 5 African countries. He lives now in Belgium.

Each of the young ambassador is asked to express his dream, for himself and/or for Africa:

CHARLES wishes that everyone to be more conscious of their surrounding and the environment.

MARIÈME hopes that all in Africa with receive equal chances and opportunities in life

JOANNA dreams of a world where Basic Education will be fun and related to our daily lives

ERIC wishes that young people be more socially and politically involved, become active citizens of the world.

Claire then reminds us that the dreams expressed here are not only the ones from the Youth Ambassadors but also those of several youngsters who have expressed their hopes through the IDAY Youth dreams website.

As a way to structure the session, Ms Claire Veale asks Joanna to summarise what she saw as being the great potential of the African youth. To Charles, she asks him to highlight the obstacles to these potentials and to Marième the means to overcome the obstacles. Finally, Eric is asked to summarize in one catchphrase all of these dreams and the whole issue of African youth future.



THE POTENTIAL OF AFRICA AND ITS YOUTH by JOANNA

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The endowed potentials of Africa can be harnessed and exploited to the benefit of not just the continent but the world as a whole. Below are a list of the potentials of Africa which could be used as a tool to empower the youth for the emancipation of the African continent.

a. Its population

Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most-populous continent. At about 30.2 million km² including adjacent islands, it covers 20 % of its total land area. It has 54 fully recognized sovereign states or countries, 9 territories and 2 de facto independent states with limited or no recognition.

b. Its diversity

Africa hosts a large diversity of ethnicities, cultures and languages. Strength, they say lies in differences not similarities. The continent cherishes and preserves the ethnic and cultural diversity which nourishes and strengthens this community. A lot of different flowers make a bouquet. This shows the beauty in the diversity of Africa.

In spite of this, respect for each other's differences is highly upheld giving birth to different talents, skills and abilities.

c. Youthful Exuberance

About 65% of the total population of Africa is below the age of 35 years, and over 35% are between the ages of 15 and 35 years, making Africa the most youthful continent. By 2020, it is projected that out of 4 people, 3 will be on average 20 years old. About 10 million young African youth arrive each year on the labor market. Africa therefore contributes about 40% of the world's total workforce.

This burgeoning youth population which is often seen as a challenge for the continent is an opportunity and her greatest asset. Africa's young people have the potential to be a powerful engine for development. Not just because of the physical strength but also, the mental capacity. However, to realize this potential, we must invest in them, address their particular needs, include them in decision-making and empower them to become agents of change.”

d. Resilient and Resourceful

Resilience is all about being able to overcome the unexpected. Sustainability is about survival. The goal of resilience is to thrive. One may wonder about the makeup and personality of Africans with their amazing ability to fight for and through life. Not only that : they have the ability to recover quickly from difficulties and are able to adapt to change.

They never say that they can't do something, or that something seems impossible, or that something can't be done. No matter how discouraging or harrowing it may be, Africans are limited only by what they allow themselves to be limited by.

As Albert Bandura once said, “In order to succeed, people need a sense of self-efficacy, to struggle together with resilience to meet the inevitable obstacles and inequities of life”. This is a basic trait of Africans.

e. Collective Responsibility

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today. Africans are responsible for each other's actions and reactions. The actions of people are believed to have repercussions on others, thus the need to hold everyone responsible for their actions.

f. Natural Resources

Africa is the heart of the world with respect to her natural resources. Be it gold, timber, uranium, cocoa and the others. Not only is the continent rich in culture but in resources. There is an abundance of natural resources all over Africa that individuals and nations come from far and near to benefit from her amusing resources.

g. Conclusion

The African continent is not a matter of the future but the present. Africa may not have what the world may expect from her but she can survive on her positive potentials. An encouragement from the world will empower Africans to put in their best to be the shining star of the world.”



THE OBSTACLES TO A DIGNIFIED LIFE FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE AFRICAN YOUTH by CHARLES

Charles presents all the obstacles faced by the African Youth:

"In the field of education

- limited access to education, particularly outside main towns and for very poor people.
- lack of proper infrastructure - schools, electricity, water, school equipment – particularly in rural areas resulting in inadequate availability of schools
- corruption resulting in limited availability of education
- lack of teachers (with the result that at time one finds more than 80 kids in a classroom)
- education in rural areas is not adapted to the way of life, seasonality of agricultural activities, etc.
- education system is not adapted to the African reality (learning is directed more to the western history which isn't applicable to Africans)

In the field of health

- Debilitating tropical diseases: HIV/Aids, malaria, intestinal infections, respiratory diseases;
- lack of access to healthcare, medical equipments and drugs

In the socio-cultural field : Peace

- conflicts: tribal (ethnic groups) brought about by competition for land, power and money

In the field of Energy

- Need for electricity in schools, health sector and ICT

The most preoccupying obstacle to development and the African youth having confidence in their future are the persisting inequalities not only on a regional basis, but also socio-economically.

The development business has hierarchised nationalities and identities for decades - stating that being Masai might be inferior to being Portuguese or being a woman from Mombasa might be inferior to being a man from Brussels.

This building of identity through discourse affects African youth, it makes them feel disempowered and weak.

We need to unite in diversity, accept diversity, find the strength in diversity."

To end his presentation, Charles wanted to share this quote:

« Talent is universal but opportunities are not. Equal opportunity can only arise in peaceful societies that have strong infrastructure (physical and social).»

THE REMEDIES by MARIÈME

"The long term solution to solve the problems affecting Africa is education. One needs quality education for all, with qualified trainers. It must be adapted to the diversity of the population, to its way of life, taking the language dimension into account. For this a common basic education system must be created with modules adjusted to the particular needs of categories of people.

Quality education goes hand in hand with a good health. One must therefore eradicate debilitating tropical diseases like malaria in particular with Artemisia that has shown to be effective in Kenya. Schools should also comprise health centres to combine good health and education.

Once properly trained, the youth who represent that largest African population, must integrate the decision-making processes. Herefore, one must first fight corruption that has largely contributed to their discouragement. They must also participate in seminars on citizenship and peace. Furthermore, they must be adequately represented in the international

encounters in particular by young ambassadors or delegates. Adults are obliged to accompany them. Each and everyone must bring his stone to the construction of a better world.

Civil society has a critical role to play in sustainable development. Hence, there must be a strong mobilisation of civil society and its empowerment. These activities, however, must not substitute for those of the government, but must remain complementary.

The African continent is very rich of its resources that are improperly exploited. Concerning infrastructure and equipment, they must be adapted to the African realities. One should, for instance, exploit more fully solar energy.

Africa must find its due in the exploitation of its natural resources. One must review the tax system so as to compensate the loss in natural resources by gains in human resources. This could then become a win-win solution for Africa and Europe."

IN SUMMARY by ERIC

Eric had the tough job to summarize all the recommendations from the youth in one catchy sentence, and he picked this quote:

« We have the ability to achieve, if we master the necessary goodwill, a common global society blessed with a shared culture of peace that is nourished by the ethnic, national and local diversities that enrich our lives » - Mahnaz Afkhami

DISCUSSIONS FROM THE FLOOR

After the presentation from IDAY Youth Ambassadors, the audience was invited to interact with the speakers. The discussion were related to:

- the catastrophic impact of corruption and the limited role of specific small projects that become blocked by government interference
- the fact that aid money does not reach the target population and the request that donors check more carefully where their money really goes
- parents who need to be educated about the importance of education for their children, especially girls who are sometimes prevented from going to school during certain delicate periods.



INTERVENTION by MS. LINDA MCAVAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE EU PARLIAMENT

Ms. McAvan begins by reassuring the audience about the European Parliament's concern about aid efficiency. It is a permanent subject of discussion.

She acknowledges that *“while many countries in theory offer free education, the reality on the ground is often very different: families all too often have highlighted that other costs - uniform, materials, extra charges - make education inaccessible for very poor families.*

Quality education cannot be achieved if teachers are not trained or paid properly and this is something for governments to address.

Aid is only a very small part of the funding of education: most funds come from resources raised in developing countries themselves. Taxes need to be raised to finance education: the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is carrying out work to ensure more tax is collected in developing countries - for example a 1% rise in taxes would be equivalent to the total foreign aid amount.

This means everyone - companies and individuals - need to pay their taxes and governments must make the system more accountable to citizens.

Stopping corruption requires people to get involved and check on the politicians, which is admittedly easier in Europe than in some countries in Africa where democratic and accountability structures are not well developed.”

She praises the young speakers from Africa on their courage fighting for change in their countries.

“In Europe, democracy had been campaigned for and built through a bottom-up approach, starting at local levels where politicians are more responsive to the needs of the population. It is true that European media give a negative image of Africa, preferring to present negative events rather than the positive ones. And if they do, it is generally to present positive European actions rather than genuine African improvements.

Europe has its own dark history and was responsible for some of the most devastating and murderous conflicts known to human kind, so we are not well placed to lecture others. But what we have learned is that peace is valuable, that you need strong democratic institutions and that we need to respect differences: gays, black and white, men and women.

Most importantly, you must keep hope and keep us informed of your work. Participate in important international conferences or ensure that the civil society is properly represented. Be politically active and.... keep hope.”

Questions from the floor concern the openness of the European Parliament to get new actors involved in the international conferences and in particular youth representatives.

Ms. McAvan indicates that so many government officials participate in these conferences that even she may not be allowed in the main conference halls.

SESSION 2: "HOW CAN DEVELOPMENT AID PROVIDE A BRIGHTER FUTURE TO EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN YOUTH?"



Panel: Daniel Wisniewski (World Youth Alliance-Europe), HE Ajay Bramdeo (African Union), Cécile Kyenge (MEP), Maria Rosa De Paolis (European Commission), Francesca Minitti (Civil Society Alliance), Jean-Marie Sohier (Consultant – Sealord).

Moderator (in the center): Amadou Wade Diagne (Education consultant)

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

DANIEL WISNIEWSKI, PRESIDENT OF WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE EUROPE

"Africa is not a wild place and Africa is not a problem to be solved but a land full of opportunities. It is not an endangered zone where one would have to arm oneself with protective weapons before going. It is a very resourceful continent so development aid should be framed while listening to Africans and geared to the African context. If not properly tackled, the issues undermining African development could harm development in Europe and the rest of the world."

MS. CECILE KYENGE, MEMBER OF THE EU PARLIAMENT

Her speech puts the declaration of the first speaker in perspective. She encourages that African Youngsters should stay in Africa and develop their potentials and work for the forward movement of their countries. The speech also gears towards the political scenery. She admonishes that there should be a coalition of all political parties in Africa. In her concluding part, she bemoans the porous nature of Europe's immigration system and encourages that immigration challenges be addressed openly.

MARIA-ROSA DE PAOLIS - INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OFFICER AT DEVCO

Maria Rosa intimates that Africa should concentrate on professional and vocational studies without which its progress could be stalled. Professional and vocational training is the building block of technology; hence Africa should ignore the aspiration of knowledge just to obtain professorial certificates. She encourages children and women to require good employment opportunities with decent work and social protection. She warns Africa about the polarized nature of its media and asks the media to focus on the success stories of Africa.

FRANCESCA MINITTI, CIVIL SOCIETY ALLIANCE

She gives a thorough and comprehensive presentation about the scope of work of their organization. She adds that civil society organizations should combine forces to pursue the interest of the public

JEAN-MARIE SOHIER, SEALORD

"Education has always been and will forever be the key to success. Education systems should set objectives taking into account that children born in 2015 will probably live to be a 100. They will have to acquire skills that will guarantee their liberty financially and contribute to society until 2115. All Africa's educational systems go through rampant changes upon regime changes. A clear objective and vision should be set and leaders should ensure a sustainable education." He adds that educationalists should identify the needs of the nation and train people to attune to them.

H.E. AJAY BRAMDEO - AMBASSADOR OF THE AFRICAN UNION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Ambassador reminds the audience about the Agenda 2063 of Africa. Agenda 2063 clearly spells out the direction and destination of Africa in the next 48 years. African youth have been widely consulted on their views on the Africa they want as they are the future leaders. He asks African youth to do a retrospection to see how and what the previous youth contributed to social change so that we can also learn lessons and become agents of change. He states that efforts are being made to include subjects on civil education, democracy and human rights into the educational curricular. He ends by addressing reasons for the increased migration from Africa and the Middle East to Europe and narrating why Europe has closed its doors to Africans.



SUMMARY OF THE CONFERENCE BY AMADOU WADE DIAGNE

Following the presentation of the panelists, the moderator recalls the dreams of the young African Ambassadors:

- i. A quality education for all that guarantees employment of the young and their integration in the professional world;
- ii. An environment of peace and serenity made of prevention and intelligent management of conflicts;
- iii. Making active citizenship of the young a reality with a real social mobilisation around ideals of peace and development through the exploitation, in particular of local resources;
- iv. Access for all, including in particular the poor, to basic infrastructure and equipment (energy, health...);
- v. Countries ankered in good governance (transparency, fight against corruption, accountable, public policy helping the poor ...).

These dreams, however, will have to be implemented in a context dominated by:

- The wealth of a continent with its natural and human resources, the availability of its land, its low population density...
- A high birth rate that will see its population double by 2050 comprising essentially youngsters (60% of the population) that can become a timebomb or an immense opportunity with a demographic dividend;
- An improvement of the access to education but with large groups forgotten and a still much too low quality;
- A level of poverty that fails to drop despite the public policies put in place;
- Countries in conflict or post-conflict situations due to various causes (civil war, ethnical fights, conservation/conquest of political power, terrorism...);
- Doubts about the orientation, efficiency and impact of the aid from Northern countries;

The panel therefore should answer the question: « **How can foreign aid answer and contribute to the aspirations of the African youth ?** »

Following the exchange of ideas, recommandations concerned first:

- i. Orientation of foreign aid toward the means to raise economic growth;
- ii. Support for initiatives that guarantee peace, the effective exercise of citizenship among the youth and intercultural

exchanges particularly between Northern and Southern youngsters.

- iii. Strengthening the capacity of youngsters in leadership and entrepreneurship;
- iv. Improvement of governance;
- v. Development of official migration channels.

The recommendations will succeed only if they are acted upon in the following state of mind:

- Change the way Africa is seen (positive) and rethink foreign aid thoroughly (avoid charity) in a « win-win » frame of mind;
- Adopt an approach taking into account the real needs including in particular those of the grassroot and of the forgotten areas;
- Adopt a holistic vision, with integrated and diversified interventions;
- Develop partnerships with the private sector which supplies employment;
- Invest in best practices with proven results in the field as for instance the use of *Artemisia annua* against malaria and enlarge their scale;
- Better coordinate the interventions to raise synergies and complementarity;
- Reinforce the implication of the African civil society in its surveillance role, its influence and contribution where the State is absent or inefficient (avoid substituting for State inadequacies);
- Measure continuously the aid efficiency;

These measures will have to avoid the pitfalls of education curricula and professional training aimed only at the search for money and power; the curricula must integrate the human element in development, that of the citizen and of the worker.

And for that, one will need to rely on the following potential, opportunities and strengths:

- i. The dynamism of the African civil society;
- ii. The resilience of the Africans when facing challenges;
- iii. The new development objectives of the international agenda;
- iv. The agenda 2063 of the African Union « A global Strategy to optimise the use the African resources to the advantage of all Africans ».

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS by JEAN-JACQUES SCHUL



Ms Irène G. Mbugua (Second Counsellor at Kenyan Embassy of Brussels), Charles, Joanna and M. Schul.



With Mrs. Nana Kraah Ansah-Adjei (Minister Counsellor at Ghana Embassy for Belgium and Luxembourg).

“First and foremost, it is symptomatic but regretful that the visa of two of the original four youth ambassadors were refused. The bureaucratic attitude of the EU-member countries to be responsible for making simple traveling by the African youth utterly difficult and hence for the death of thousands of young Africans seeking to join Europe by clandestine means. Youth from all over the world and hence also from Africa must be allowed to travel.”

His second point is about the inefficiency of foreign aid. *“This is due to a combination of causes. Only 20 to 40% of the announced amounts of aid to education actually reach their target; 70% of aid never enter the aid-recipient countries; again 70% goes to countries suffering from high-levels of corruption; donors’ geopolitical considerations, the private companies’ transfer pricing practices that result in large illicit exports of capital; donors’ primary concern with the need to satisfy their good conscience more than trying to resolve the fundamental causes of poverty. The lack of impact of foreign aid on economic development of the recipient countries is well illustrated in the literature. If there remains any doubt, the growing number of young Africans who risk their lives to try to live a decent life through emigration should be adequate proof.”*

He also criticises the European policies against immigration. *“Europe must recognise that emigration is written into the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it benefits both the emigrant and the recipient society. It is furthermore a vital necessity for an ageing Europe to welcome young blood. As indicated by Joanna, Africa will be in 2060 the largest reservoir of young people in the world, representing 40% of its active workforce; it would be unwise from Europeans to forget this wealth available*

so close to its borders. In a just society, free circulation of goods and capital implies necessarily free circulation of the people. Just as economic protectionism impairs productivity of the enterprises shielded from its competitors on the world market, so does social protectionism harms the future prospects of a European youth shielded from the competition from a dynamic and combative African youth.”

He also picks up the remark by Marième on the need to capture the income from the export of natural resources through taxes that will finance better social services: the export of natural capital must pay for the enrichment of local human capital. He reminds the audience of the conclusion by the representative of the Organisation for Cooperation and Economic Development at the June 16 2013 conference organised by IDAY: the most efficient foreign aid is the one allocated to the improvement of the tax system of aid-recipient governments. Africa is rich and it should use this wealth to serve the needs of its youth.

Finally, he notes that many issues facing the African youth are similar to those facing young Europeans: curricula ill-adapted to the needs of daily life, the need for lifelong learning, unemployment, lack of proper democratic representation, etc. He therefore believes that the encounter at the end of the week with the Youngsters of World Youth Alliance should constitute a first experience to be repeated regularly.

Finally, he concludes by thanking the panel members of the two sessions, the excellent moderators, the translators and the IDAY staff who worked hard to succeed in this event despite the unexpected obstacles, and finally he, of course, thanks the IDAY Youth Ambassadors.

POST-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

EXHIBITION / RECEPTION AT BRUSSELS CITY HALL



WYA ACTIVITIES



IDAY OFFICE and TV INTERVIEW





———— IDAY-INTERNATIONAL ————

IDAY is an network of NGOs fostering a constructive dialogue between African civil society organisations (CSO) and their governments and advocating for the right of all African youth to access quality basic education.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

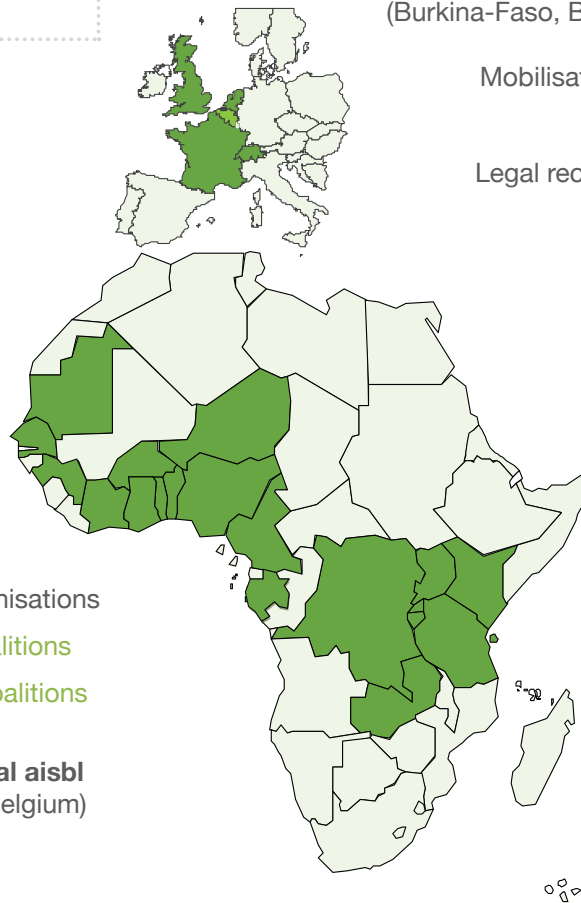
Networking
Advocacy
Empowerment

WE ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

Fighting malaria in schools with *Artemisia annua* (Burkina-Faso, Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda)

Mobilisation of grassroots organisations against child trafficking (Togo)

Legal recognition of Domestic workers (Burundi, Rwanda, DRC, Kenya, Uganda)



IDAY directly contributes to the schooling of **260,000** children and youth in Africa (2014 census).

IDAY NETWORK

570 member organisations

- 19 African coalitions
- 5 European coalitions

Coordinated by
IDAY-International aisbl
(headquarters in Belgium)

80 million children and youth in Africa are still deprived of quality basic education.

All children have the right to access quality basic education. **IDAY** exists because too many African children and youth are still deprived of it.

