

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (IDIS)

**THE ROLE OF GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUMS IN PROMOTING
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: A CASE STUDY OF KENYA**

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENT
FOR MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN DIPLOMACY, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

DECEMBER, 2019

DECLARATION

I declare that this research project is my original work and has never been presented for examination in any other university.

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This dissertation has been submitted with my approval as the University supervisor

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this study to my mother – Esther Mwangi who consistently supported and encouraged me through this program and to Mrs. Agnes Nyaguthii Mwangi- my grandmother, for her continued faith in me and prayers thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who in various ways have contributed to the realisation of this work.

Firstly, thank you University of Nairobi for granting me the opportunity to pursue my master's degree. To my lecturers who taught me with patience and were always open to consultations, thank you. Many thanks to IDIS staff, library staff who were open to assist when needed as well.

Secondly, I acknowledge with profound thanks the role played by my supervisor, Prof. Maria Nzomo. I'm forever grateful for her continuous intellectual guidance, inspiration and encouragement.

Thirdly, thanks to my classmates: Julia Waweru, Kinyuru Munuhe, Abdiaziz Noor, Roselyn Musera and Rose Wamaitha, Kenneth Juma for their companionship and support. To all my friends and colleagues thank you.

Fourthly, special thanks to my respondents from the Kenya Ministry of Public Service ,Youth and Gender Affairs, Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) , Amref Health Kenya–Youth Act (Y ACT), the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA), National Democratic Institute of Kenya, the Kenya Inter-Party Youth Forum, Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), National Youth Council, Emerging Leaders Foundation, Youth Alive Kenya, PAWA 254, Mathare Social Justice Centre, IFIA, Siasa Place, Jiactivate, youth representatives at UN and other agencies, Young Diplomats of Kenya (YDK), Kenya Model United Nations(KMUN) and the Kenyan youth. Thank you all for your time and contribution.

Fifthly, thank you to my family for your support and for cheering me on.

Lastly, thanks be to God for his continued mercy and grace upon my life.

May God bless you all.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Global Youth leadership Forums- Forum is defined as an avenue where people meet and discuss matters of public interest.¹ This study considered such platforms in two parts; One is the platforms that are created and funded by International Organisations and Individuals for various purposes one being to engage the youth on sustainable development across boundaries. Secondly, the local associations created by youth or for youth that are engaging and pursuing the sustainable development goals through partnerships with donors (Foreign missions, development agencies etc.) The researcher was guided by the global leadership definition that states that it is a process by which individuals across the world work together ‘synergistically’ towards common objectives that enhance quality of life.²

National Interest – The study considered the secondary interests of a state, seeking to highlight the decentralization in the pursuit of the same by the youth- its citizens in whichever capacity it is.

National development – Aligned to the frameworks available; AU Agenda 2063, Agenda 2030 etc

Sustainable development – Roadmap to meeting the wants of development but ensuring it does not compromise future generations from pursuing their wants.³

¹American dictionary, Cambridge Dictionary. University Press

² Turnbull, Professor Sharon. 2010. “Toward an Ethic of Conviction and responsibility-‘worldly leadership’ development as a new frame for progress.” Fish International Conference in Responsible Leadership.

³UNESCO; education for sustainable development- definition on sustainable development and sustainability

ABSTRACT

This study seeks information on the role of global youth leadership forums in promoting sustainable development in Africa and focussed on its three objectives to confirm the study's hypotheses. To achieve this, the study narrows down on the relationship between the youth in their Global Youth Leadership Forums and national development to examine and analyse if they have an impact on sustainable development in the country, strengthen national leadership and governance and lastly contribute to the national interests of the state. The liberal theory best guides this study as one of its major principles is supporting the involvement of non-governmental actors and international organizations in shaping state preferences in the study's case national development. Questionnaires and Interviews guides were used in data collection to confirm the studies hypotheses. The study confirmed the hypotheses that global youth leadership forums do strengthen national leadership and governance in Kenya. The study recommends academic scholars to explore the opportunity in youth work for them to have a niche in the quest for youth development and to engage and collaborate more with government, youth and civil society by helping bridge the knowledge gap. Lastly, the study recommends the collaboration of all actors in youth initiatives by having the youth council fully representational of all sectors in the youth sector and its capacity be built as a central institution for youth engagement and policy centre

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACROYNYS

GYLF	Global Youth Leadership Forums
YDI	Youth Development Index
MPSYG	Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
MUN	Model United Nations
KMUN	Kenya Model United Nations
UNON	United Nations Office Nairobi
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the Study

Globalisation has facilitated the increased access of the youth population to information, unlike the previous centuries. This is considered to be a key reason as to why the youth of the 21st century is more vocal in their demands and aware of their rights than before. The information technologies in liberal democracies expose them to criticisms of their government, networks that transcend boundaries, immediate access to state and non-state actors with just a tap on a screen or click a of a button. “The #NotTooYoungToRun campaign in Nigeria is a good example; it is a media campaign that sought to discourse against restrictive age credentials in submission to run for office in the arms of government. The campaign is now an act Not Too Young to Run Act.”⁴

The last decade has seen the African Continent opened to other continents. Globalisation has thrived and exists even more now as cross boundary issues dominate discussions in summits and international conferences around the world. A ‘different form of leader’ is required to sustainably navigate these issues and maximise on opportunities. A global leader then comes to play. “...African states current development prospects are feasible with governance structures that strives to promote institutional efficiency and effectiveness as well as good code of conducts.”⁵ Global leadership is like the effort that advances relevant and essential policies that enhances humanity⁶.

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⁵Modisane, Keba T. 2018. “Finding the Niche to Reposition Leadership in Africa's Developing Economies for the Global Highway: Review on Leadership Development Programmes- Methods and Techniques.” *Human Resource Development International* 21:1, 12-23.

⁶ Williams, Christopher. 2003. “Global leadership, Education and Human Survival, World Futures.” *The Journal of General Evolution* 59:3-4, 301-913.

“The African continent’s population is projected to rise as from 1.2 billion people to 2.2 billion people between 2015 and 2050. Majority of (41%) of the African population are 15 years and below where as 19% forms the youthful generation between 15 and 24 years. The young citizens in Africa are reflected in the East African Community (EAC) in which about 45% of the 150 million citizens in Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania form the age group of 15years and below and 28% formed the youthful generation 15 and 24 years. In the past, there has been limited opportunity to enhance the role of the youth in addressing regional challenges as well as developing youthful leaders with knowledge and skills on peace and security⁷. Global Youth Leadership Forums (GYLF) depending on the purpose and accessibility, have provided the youth with access forums for participating in national policy formulation and implementation. They are challenging the world view of being beneficiaries to development and that they are also initiators for development globally- United Nations framework, commonwealth State and non – state actors have created policies to involve the youth some of the interventions have been youth forums that provide a platform for youth to discuss on issues facing the world, continent and their country.

1.1 Problem Statement

The previous millennium development goals are considered to have failed as it did not engage all actors in this case the youth in the pursuit of development. Now, the youth participation and influence in the national development of their countries, is considered key towards the achievement of sustainable development. Global youth forums are one of the avenues of access for the youth to engage, discuss and influence policy in the national development agenda of their countries and the world.

⁷Bernard O. Onyango. 2019. *African Institute for Development Policy*. <https://www.afidep.org/our-work/population-change-sustainable-development/current-programmes/regional-analysis-youth-demographics/>.

Scholarly work contribution on this topic has been focussed on the criticisms of youth policies with few on the role played by the youth in their various forums to achieving national development. The study examines and analyses role of the Global Youth Leadership Forums in the promotion of sustainable development in Africa.

1.2 Research Questions

1. How do global youth leadership forums contribute to the promotion of national interests of various countries around the world?
2. What impact do global youth leadership forums have on sustainable development in Africa?
3. What is the contribution of global youth leadership forums to strengthening national leadership and governance in Kenya?

1.3 Research Objective

The study's main objective is to explore the role of global youth leadership forums in promoting sustainable development in Africa.

1.3.1 Specific objectives:

1. To analyse how global youth leadership forums, contribute to the promotion of national interests of various countries around the world
2. To investigate the impact global youth leadership forums, have on sustainable development in Africa
3. To examine the contribution of global youth leadership forums to strengthening national leadership and governance in Kenya

1.4 Justification of the Study

1.4.1 Academic Justification

This study explored the role of global youth leadership forums in promoting sustainable development in Africa. The hope is that the study contributes to knowledge; supplement the existing literature on global youth leadership forums and theory building. It can help scholars to build the bridge and clear the knowledge gaps which hinder implementation of policies created to promote sustainable development through complementing data efforts by the civil society and encouraging the youth in their institutions to continue in their pursuit. Resulting in Africa; Kenya having an evidence-based approach to its challenges on youth development.

1.4.2 Policy Justification

The study hopes that the data collected will be used to further enhance the visibility of global youth leadership forums especially the local ones in promoting sustainable development. It also wishes to provide primary data that will be used to highlight areas policymakers can partner with the global youth to improve the continents; country's impact on achieving sustainable development in the continent. Lastly, that with the awareness, leaders will offer and open opportunities for the global youth to be more meaningfully engaged in promoting sustainable development through youth development.

1.5 Literature Review

1.5.1 The Concept of Global Leadership

Petrick, Scherer & Co. Define the characteristics of an ideal global leader to be one who balances four dimensions of service delivery: "Namely profitability and productivity, secondly effectiveness and efficiency, thirdly has dedication and self confidence and lastly adjustable

and creative adaptability⁸. They summarize that these leaders comprehend complex issues from different motive based perspectives and actualise a comprehensive cognitive mechanisms through addressing various duties in a “highly cohesive and harmonious way”. These leaders actualise governance mandates by being responsible representatives of the people; protect human rights as well as the natural resources that advance socio economic and political development.⁹

The responsible leadership conference in 2010 highlighted that there was a leadership crisis at the national level in Africa. They pointed that there are minimal citizen awareness on how to keep the government on check. Also they further stated that non state actors focused more in advancing their interest with minimal consideration to the society they operate in¹⁰. They also pointed out that public institutions appeared ineffective to enhance adequate service delivery to the citizens based on the will and desires of the people. In their conclusion, they quoted Green, 2008 who stated that active citizenship refers to citizens who engage with the political system and assume responsibility to an extent for the public domain. Illustrating that global leadership involves having an informed public who are openly concerned of more than just their ‘people in power’ but if the public system work. This is a clear challenge of citizens in African countries, Kenya being a good example.

The fourth goal of the 2015 sustainable development goal is on quality education. Malin and Cohen in their book on educating for global competency observed that the education system in the 21st century in many African states still have shortcomings of the minimal connections

⁸ Joseph A. Patrick, Robert F. Scherer, James D. Brodzinski, John F. Quinn and M. Fall Ainina. 1999. Global Leadership Skills and Reputational Capital: Intangible Resources for Sustainable Competitive Advantage. Vol. 13. Academy of Management Executive.

⁹(Joseph A. Patrick 1999)

¹⁰ 18-20 May 2010. “The Next Generation Responsible Leaders.” Centre for Responsible Leadership Conference Proceedings.

between the capacity of the learning institutions to prepare the students effectively so that they can address the global challenges¹¹. Such challenges they elaborate to include trials of cooperatively improving the well being of the poor people, advancing sustainable human and environment engagements as well as improved international trade among others. The same authors highlighted that a few learning institutions are providing adequate skills to students that is necessary to promote collaboration and partnerships across national territories to help in the provision of necessary solutions to the global challenges.¹²

1.5.2 UN and Global Youth Leadership Forums

Leaders are born and then made¹³. Gregersen elaborates the mechanisms which are essential to develop global leaders: “Foreign travel with immersion in the country’s way of life; the formation of teams where people with varied skills cooperate and work jointly; effective classroom training and practical learning of projects; and overseas assignments, which serves to broaden the outlook of future global leaders, exchange of programmes as well as bench markings.” Two of the above conditions are fully fulfilled by the Model United Nations Program and the rest are in part.

Based on the initiation of teams where people with varied skills work closely and jointly, the model united nation emphasizes on student interaction as since it provides the learners with an opportunity to encounter how global cooperation looks like and how it is done. Learners from various institutions have had an opportunity to debate at Model UN Club meetings, attending large conference which promotes public speaking, critical thinking and in-depth research,

¹¹Malin, Joel E.Cohen & Martin B. n.d. *International Perspectives on the Goals of Universal Basic and Secondary Education; educating for Global Competency.*

¹²(Malin n.d.)

¹³H.B.Gregersen, A.J.Morrison, J.J.Black. *Developing Leaders for the global frontier.* 1998.

student delegates interact in blocks, write resolutions and vote on issues affecting the world. Citizens from many states usually come together in the formulation of remedies through inclusive participation as well as exchange of opinions.

In the angle of classroom training and practical activities, the global classroom advances enlightenment, skills and effective citizens that participate in governance. The global class program is “An innovative educational program of the UN Association of the USA which engages learners in the exercise of exploring global concerns as well as empowering the citizens so as to become effective citizens.¹⁴ It is an essential strategy of learning and teaching on global governance in a globalizing world as well as aiding in the understating of global organizations.

Martzner quotes Kaunecks & Auer who state “Model United Nations is a reflection of global policies that represents nation states behaviour. Students are provided with date and they are expected to adequately represent the nation states in dialogues.¹⁵ They later explain for it is in these nations where participants are presented with challenges that is to be mitigated. This creates the genesis of the goals, motivations and limitations of the simulation. The United Nations Information Centre elaborates on this statement by explaining that the trainings as well as research that is conducted under the united nations model provides the youth with an opportunity to have an insight on the global concerns and also helping them in knowing the causes of intra and interstate conflicts.

¹⁴Foundation, United Nations. *Global Classrooms Model UN*.

¹⁵Nils Matzner, Robert Herrenbruck. “Simulating a Climate Engineering crisis: Climate politics simulated by students in Model United Nations.” *Simulation and Gaming*, 268- 290.

Model United Nations programs exist from as far as Nepal with the Everest International Model United Nations (EIMUN) to the National Model United Nations (NMUN) in New York, USA. It is a program aimed at attaining the UN chapter preamble of peaceful coexistence in the world. MUN within the United States of America is an essential case for political will to develop mutually benefiting coexistence between the government and the UN. The United States of America/s state department, under the secretary for political affairs, there is the Bureau of International Organisations is the focal point for all things Model United Nations. It partners with the United Nations Association of the USA to host the Departments signature annual Model UN conference bridging hundreds of youth for a day of debates and negotiations and also partnerships with universities.

The Global Classrooms Model UN came to be in 1999 as a result of this partnership. It presents the learners to the urgent global concerns as well as functions and responsibilities of the United Nations. Before 2000, when the Global classroom was created, students in economically disadvantaged public school rarely had the opportunity to participate as it was aligned with institutions having the resources to match a strong student interest in world affairs. Based on this, many citizens of the United States have been involved in the participating in the Model United Nations program; learners from various levels especially from middle schools to colleges have been engaged in the Model United Nations club meetings they attend. This enhances the understanding on international relations as well as advancing the knowledge about the United Nations¹⁶.

¹⁶Foundation, United Nations. *Global Classrooms Model UN*.

Grossley- Frolick observed the Model United Nations format as an essential participatory learning strategy that promotes the teachings about governance in globalizing society and the limits of the global organizations. Societies in which the youth for example are exposed to different world politics are able to think put its states actions rationally reducing threat of conflict based from identity politics. Model United Nations brings citizens from various nations' states to develop remedies to global challenges by having active and participatory discussions. They engage in policy formulation and implementations so that global concerns are addressed amicably for the promotion of sustainable development. During simulations, especially international forums participants are able to interact and accept differing opinions which is crucial to the assumption of leadership in the 21st century.

Model United Nations transforms a society's youth into innovative individuals not limited by their circumstances. It enhances creativity and critical thinking in formulating and coming up with policies that can help in solving the factors that jeopardize the international system. This in turn fosters unity as they are unified to fight for a common good. The dependent group in a society acquire critical thinking, public speaking skills and are granted access to opportunities which provides those means to earn a living and work collaboratively creating peaceful coexistence between the different age groups in the society

1.5.3 Global Youth Leadership Forums

The Idealist approach to a certain point highlights the credibility of Global Youth Leadership Forums as it emphasises on the existence of more than the state as an actor in international relations. Thus, supporting the role non state actors' play, specifically the Inter-Governmental Organisations and Inter-Non-Governmental Organisations in embracing the role of global youth leadership in the international system. Its belief in International Organisations as forums

of multilateral action and attainment of collective security¹⁷, the dependence on international law as a standard environment for peace corroborates the role of global youth leadership platforms such as the MUN by the United Nations sub group UNESCO, the African Youth Commission of the African Union, the AMREF - Y act by the AMREF among others, Commonwealth Youth Forum, European Youth Forum, Pan African Youth Forum among others. The approach highlights that there is a universality of interests and interconnectedness of humanity and human beings in the international system. Sustainable development is definitely a universal interest especially to the African continent. As the approach is greatly focussed on socio economic interest of a state than the military interests, it will guide the exploration of the impact of global youth leadership in achieving sustainable development in Africa. This being said, the liberal approach is the guiding theoretical framework for the study.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

The study was guided by Liberalism theory of International Relations, which believes in spreading democracy through cooperation as opposed to violent means of achieving world peace. Robert Keohane, a scholar under this theory elaborates that “liberalism reaffirms the attempt of institutionalists seeking to understand politics for the sake of designing institutions that will promote cooperation, welfare and human rights.”¹⁸ It disagrees that the state carries out its affairs as a sole actor but instead aligns itself to bureaucracies with own interests. Other Classical liberal theorists such as Jeremy Bentham, projected that the formation of world institutions would be beneficial for states to reduce distrust amongst them thus foster collaboration and world peace.

¹⁷ Professor Maria Nzomo, 2018. Class notes. *Theoretical Approaches of International Relations*

¹⁸ Keohane, R.O. (2002), ‘*Power and Governance in a Partially Globalized World*’ (London: Routledge).

The liberal theory best guides this study as one of its major principles is supporting the involvement of non-governmental actors and international organizations in shaping state preferences, “argues that human beings are perfectible, that democracy is necessary for perfectibility to develop, and that ideas matter”. The theory further elaborates that “world politics; with interdependency being a crucial feature emanates from a complex bargaining between different actors: concluding that national interests also include economic, environmental, social and technological terms.

The interaction between the GYLF and states, youth citizens of various states in the pursue of sustainable development through policy making and implementation for example could be anchored in this theory. The forums provide platforms for the youth to have discussions and solutions to global issues especially on development, international peace and security and human rights. However, the study was not able to identify a more specific theory of practice utilised by youth, state governments and actors in pursuing youth development in their interactions and collaboration.

1.7 Hypotheses

1. Global youth leadership forums contribute to the promotion of national interests of states
2. Global youth leadership forums have no impact on sustainable development in Africa
3. Global youth leadership forums strengthen national leadership and governance in Kenya

1.8 Methodology of the Research

1.8.1 Research Design

The study used the mixed method research design, both qualitative and quantitative data which allowed the collection of vast information. Specifically, the descriptive survey design through

the use of questionnaires and interview guide to achieve the research objectives¹⁹. The survey allowed for high representativeness by allowing collection of large amounts of data.²⁰The results have minimal observer subjectivity and high precision due to scrutiny and standardization required in the descriptive survey used.²¹Therefore, descriptive research was used to examine the role of global youth leadership forums in promoting sustainable development in Africa. The study also relied on secondary data to analyze and derive key themes and trends to assist in the conclusion and recommendations.

1.8.2 Research Site

The research site was in Africa, the Eastern Africa region, in a country called Kenya; Nairobi County. Nairobi was selected because it is a cosmopolitan town where majority of the target population have their main offices.

1.8.3 Research Target Population

The study's unit of analysis were representatives from the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs (MPSYG) of Kenya, Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC), Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Amref Health Kenya- Y ACT, Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA), United Nations (Kenya Youth Representatives Kenya Inter -Party Youth Forum, the National Youth Council, Emerging Leaders Foundations, Youth Alive Kenya (YAK), Model United Nations, Community Based Organisations, Youth Serving Organisations and Kenyan Youth.

¹⁹Paul J Lavrakas, *Encyclopaedia of Survey Research Methods* (Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE Publications, 2008).

²⁰Lavrakas, *Encyclopaedia of Survey Research Methods*, 56.

²¹J. Sieber, *the Ethics of Social Research* (New York: Springer, 2012).

1.8.4 Research Sample

The study employed the sampling formulae by Yamane, 1967 to determine the appropriate study sample size from the total of the target population which ensured greater accuracy of the data collected.²² The approximated total population size of the target population was estimated to be 2,000.

The desired sample size was given by:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2} \quad 23$$

Where: - n - the sample size

N - The population size

e - The acceptable sampling error

Thus

$$n = \frac{2000}{1+2000(0.1)^2} = 95.24$$

1.8.5 Sampling Procedure

The study employed the purposive sampling technique and also relies on the simple random sampling guided by the calculated sample size of 95. Purposive sampling was used to select those to be interviewed to help get the right information. The study divided the target population into representative groups.²⁴ Following the separation of groups, the researcher selected a simple random of clusters from the target population. The purpose of sampling was to establish the representativeness of what is being studied and in turn reduce bias²⁵.

²² Yamane, Taro. (1967). *Statistics: An Introductory Analysis*, 2nd Edition, New York: Harper and Row.

²³ Yamane, T. (1967). *Statistics, an Introductory Analysis*.

²⁴ Lavrakas, *Encyclopaedia of Survey Research Methods*, 56.

²⁵ Baker L.T. (1999). 'Doing Social Research'. 3rd Ed. New York: McGraw-Hill. p 203

Table 1.1: Target Population, Sample & Sample Procedure

Target Groups	Sample	Sampling Procedure
1. The Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs of Kenya	6	Simple random sampling
2. Young African Leaders Initiative	8	Simple random sampling
3. Commonwealth Youth Council	4	Purposive sampling
4. Amref Health Kenya- Y Act	6	Simple random sampling
5. United Nations (Kenya Youth Representatives	4	Simple random sampling
6. Kenya Young Parliamentarians Associations	8	Purposive sampling
7. Kenya Inter- Party Youth Forum	8	Simple random sampling
8. National Youth Council	10	Simple random sampling
9. Emerging Leaders Foundation	10	Simple random sampling
10. Youth Alive Kenya	4	Simple random sampling
11. Model United Nations	10	Purposive sampling
12. Community Based Organisations, Youth Serving Organisations and Kenyan Youth	17	Simple random sampling

Source: Research, 2019

1.8.6 Research Tools

The study used questionnaires and interview guides as the research targeted both qualitative and quantitative data. The interview guide ensured in depth examination of the research problem from the key institutions, to bring out the role of global youth leadership forums in promoting sustainable development in Africa with the focus being in Kenya. Questionnaires were also sent out to the selected sample population to provide complementary data to the information collected through interviews.²⁶ The study also utilized secondary data so that findings related to the subject were based on factual evidence as opposed to inferences.

²⁶ Brown, J. D. (2001). 'Using Surveys in Language Programs'. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Furthermore, these research tools were economical, especially because nearly all the respondents were located in Nairobi, Kenya's capital city.

1.8.7 Data Analysis

Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis. The study also used Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) for the quantitative data collected. The data was presented in the forms of bar graphs, pie charts and percentages.

1.8.8 Instruments, Reliability and Validity

The study conducted a pilot study that assisted in enhancing the reality and validity of the interview guide. The response of the participants in the pilot informed the study to have varying questions in response to the different profile of survey sample. Furthermore, it ensured that the tools used gathered the intended data as per the objectives of the research to achieve reliability.

1.8.9 Ethical Considerations in the Survey

The researcher only sought secondary data to inform, supplement and guide the study, no deliberate plagiarism was done. This proposal was approved by the University of Nairobi Senate; the researcher also applied for and secured a research permit from National Council for Science and Technology and Innovation. Participation was voluntary, the study presented interview consent forms which outlined the objectives of the study, rights of the respondents and elaborated on the use of the data collected to the participant. Data collected was kept private, confidential and anonymous unless respondent wished to be quoted. All with an aim to ensure the process sustained the trustworthy relationship between the researcher and the respondents.

1.9 Limitations to the Study

The researcher faced some difficulty in accessing and meeting the full quota of participants in the interview guides and questionnaire due to the unavailability of some among other reasons and some financial constraints.

1.10 Chapter Outline

Chapter 1:

This chapter contains the background to the study, problem statement, research questions, objectives and points out the gaps from the study. It also highlights the methodology used to collect insight from the target population.

Chapter 2:

This chapter analysed how global youth leadership promotes national interests in Africa. The focus was on global youth leadership forums in Africa. The main focus being on Kenyan national interests.

Chapter 3:

This chapter entails various roles played by the youth in the global youth leadership forums in pursue of national development and at large sustainable development in the world and in Kenya

Chapter 4

This chapter examined and highlighted the challenges faced by global youth leadership forums in strengthening national leadership and governance and prospects around the same.

Chapter 5:

The chapter contains the details on the processing of the raw data collected from questionnaires and interview guides all which assisted the study to arrive at answers to the research questions.

Chapter 6:

Entails the Study conclusion and recommendations

CHAPTER TWO

GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUMS CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROMOTION OF NATIONAL INTERESTS

2.1 Introduction

This chapter highlights the secondary data acquired on the research question how do global youth leadership forums contribute to the promotion of national interests of various countries around the world. Narrowing down from the world to Africa and eventually Kenya. This chapter highlights the secondary data acquired on the research question how do global youth leadership forums contribute to the promotion of national interests of various countries around the world.

2.2 National Interests

The sole custodians of national interests from the formation of the state system have been states. Sovereignty being its vital interest that has been guarded heavily often leading to the securitization of other secondary interests. However, the formation of the United Nations increased the interdependence between states cementing the notion of shared interests in the international system. Some such shared interests are development, human rights and international peace and security. In the pursuit of the three states through domestication of laws such as the “Universal Declaration of Human rights have had to invest not only in state security but also in human security where development is to include socio economic development and not just the generic GDP.” The states national development agenda then comes to play.

Often specific to the ruling government, in the term of the sitting presidents’ objectives are set to achieve the development agenda. In democratic states, inclusivity of all stakeholders is the form of best practice. In the study’s case inclusion of the now majority- the youth not only as

beneficiaries of government initiatives but also decision makers have been greatly commended. Global Youth leadership Forums offer such opportunities for the youth to engage, deliberate and inform national development.

2.3 Youth and national development

Youth leadership forums are important and they have a role in developing the youth's potential so as to provide avenues through which they can demonstrate the relevance of negotiation in a diverse society hence creating an inclusive society which is conducive for sustainable development²⁷.

National development simply refers to the processes of engaging the citizens in the policy formulating and implementation so as to achieve the wholesome objectives of a country. The youth are key pillars of any nation state since they are a population that have the energy to engage in innovation, exploration of new ideas based on the advancement of the effects of globalization in the world. Going by the definition of national development, all citizens are involved in the planning and development of policies that are essential for the growth and development of all sectors of the society. The youth just like any other group in the society are important and nation states are supposed to be involved in promoting national interest based on their huge population.

With globalization, the youth are not just leaders of tomorrow but of today and also key partners in development because they can influence the decision making, policies and also shape the direction in which a government policy are channelled so as to address the immediate needs.

²⁷Putnam, Robert D., and Lewis Feldstein. *Better together: Restoring the American community*. Simon and Schuster, 2009.

This is essential for development in those nation states because it helps to mitigate the effects of the youth bulge effects.

The youth have the potential to promote national development in the sense that they are a people who have the enthusiasm to advance their skills and ready to learn new ideas and these are essential for the growth of a state through improved GDP as well as innovations that open avenues for employment opportunities²⁸.

Bill gate argued that the youth is a people that have the potential to revolutionize in a way that can shape the world. He had a revolutionary mind that shaped the world through the Microsoft software that has improved the growth and development of the nation states as well as efficiency in the service delivery in many nation states²⁹. The youth as mentioned earlier are the key social actors for change and progress in an economy. They have the potential to carry out various activities that the older people cannot do and this is essential for economic growth of an economy. Just like in Kenya, many youth have been engaged in multiple ventures like farming as well as business activities to enhance their wellbeing in the economy.

The study established that majority of the youths have the desire to have a good life and this has pushed them to engage in numerous ventures, they also spend money in various activities and this promotes businesses hence economic growth of the country. The older people make policies and plans but, in many instances, they are re-implemented by the young people and this is why they are key pillars for national development globally³⁰. Globally, the youth constitute a huge population and such a population cannot be ignored in development processes. Because

²⁸Gilligan, Robbie. "Adversity, resilience and young people: The protective value of positive school and spare time experiences." *Children & society* 14, no. 1 (2000): 37-47.

²⁹Facer, Keri. *Learning futures: Education, technology and social change*. Routledge, 2011.

³⁰National Planning Commission. "National development plan vision 2030." (2013).

of their number, several nation states have been engaged in various activities that can enhance the youth development so that they can fully actualize their potential as well as to commit to the full realization of both personal and national development agenda.

In Kenya, the government partnership with the private sector so as to promote the youth development. The Kenya private sector alliance in many instances has engaged with the national government to promote the full realization of the youth in the country. Youth are essential in development in that when they are engaged fully, they promote sustainable environment for peace and this creates conducive environment for investments to thrive.

The government has realized that some of the youth innovations has helped in creating employment opportunities and this has helped the government to reduce the menace of unemployment. This has called for greater integration of the youth agenda in the full realization of the national development agenda. Empowered youth are essential in advancing national interest of a country since they can promote close ties with other youth through engagement in various platforms which have been brought by the effects of globalization of development in the international system. Empowerment means creating favourable environment through which the youth can have an opportunity to engage with various stakeholders in advancing key objectives of the national government. Therefore, it is essential for the nation states to create favourable environment in which the youth can fully be involved in the adequate decision, making and policy formulation so that the agenda that are addressed by the government can help address the inclusive needs of the society³¹.

³¹Loorbach, Derk. "Transition management for sustainable development: a prescriptive, complexity- based governance framework." *Governance* 23, no. 1 (2010): 161-183.

2.4 Youth forums improves peace and cooperation

Sustainable peace is essential for development internationally, the youth is a huge population and they can help promote peace and security in the world, in many developed nation states, the youth have been fully empowered and this has enhanced sustainable development³².

It is also noted that majority of the problems that the society is facing is as a result of the youth. Inadequate engagement of the youth in the society has enhanced conflicts, violence as well as the crimes. Youth when fully engaged in the development in the society can improve societal development because they can be agents for peace and security. Empowered youth minimizes the vices of radicalization, hence development³³.

With minimal youth engaged in development, negative activities can be minimized in the society. Youth forums are important and it helps in information sharing that are essential for mutual cooperation in the society hence promoting development. For instance, youth forums are enhancing peer reviews that promote sharing of ideologies and innovations.

The study established that the youth are key agents for peace since they are at the grass root level and they need empowerment hence they promote policies that are essential for mutual engagement. They are a people that are aware of what they need in the society so they are not involved in many incidences of negative cultural practices like ethnicity.

2.5 Youth forums improves cultural development

Youth forums are essential for promoting cultural development which is key for promoting sustainable development in the society. Culture is a tool that has the potential of changing the society that can strengthen the communities, enhance a sense of recognition of the people of

³²Meyer, John W., John Boli, George M. Thomas, and Francisco O. Ramirez. "World society and the nation-state." *American Journal of sociology* 103, no. 1 (1997): 144-181.

³³Schäfer, Nadine, and Richard Yarwood. "Involving young people as researchers: Uncovering multiple power relations among youths." *Children's geographies* 6, no. 2 (2008): 121-135.

all ages. As an element for promoting development in the society, youth development and engagement contributes to sustainable and political and economic development for future and present generations. The youth is an actor and abridge through which various cultures and serve as pillars in advancing peace and intercultural understanding and this promotes development in a country through cultural exchanges³⁴.

It is noted that the youth have the potential to enhance information sharing as well as the potential to utilize the advance technology to network and to and transcend various geographical boundaries. This promotes cross border movement hence opening various avenues for trade and investments like in the case of Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The youth in many instances have the potential of promoting the concerns of the society by addressing the heritage management, local tourism, sustainable development as well as the community involvement in management of state policies³⁵. The study observed that they are in apposition top initiate positive social changes that can results to social and economic development for the well being of the state.

Global youth forums currently have as well engaged in protecting heritage and acceptance that heritage belongs to the past and present. It promotes identity and values in the society. Many youth prefer intercultural exchanges and this enhances societal diversify that is essential for creating an environment which is peaceful and this responds to the United Nations mission. Youth forums through the links they create demonstrates clearly that it is a driver for sustainable development by connecting the past and present³⁶

³⁴Gaens, Bart. "ASEM as a tool to "bridge the cultural divide". In *Europe-Asia Interregional Relations*, pp. 105-120. Routledge, 2016.

³⁵Font, Xavier, and Ralf Buckley, eds. *Tourism ecolabelling: certification and promotion of sustainable management*. CaBI, 2001.

³⁶Jandt, Fred E. *An introduction to intercultural communication: Identities in a global community*. Sage Publications, 2017.

Internationally, the youth forums are a key resource that has not fully been exploited, as mentioned earlier; it is an avenue for promoting creativity, knowledge sharing, and policy formulation implementation. It was observed that youth forums act as avenues that are important for innovation, learning opportunities, and also in advancing the well being of the people in the society. The study observed that the youth have been in many instances engaged in suggesting workable remedies to grass root problems. Based on this, it is important to harmonize all the youth energy and policies that can have positive impact in the society.

2.6 Chapter finding and conclusion

The chapter established that the global youth forums are essential in advancing development in nation states since it is a way of gathering information of issues that are affecting the youth at large and therefore helping in forging possible way forward in capitalizing on the youthful generation to promote socio economic development of the society. It needs full support from all the stakeholders so as to ensure full realization of the youth potential. Inadequate commitment and utilization of the forums can jeopardize the effective achievement of the objective of national development. It is important to ensure that youth are fully engaged in popular policy formulation and implementation so as to actualize mutual societal development as this reduces conflicts and waste of skills.

CHAPTER THREE

IMPACT OF GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUMS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Introduction

This chapter highlights the secondary data acquired on to elaborate on the various roles played by the youth, youths in the global youth leadership forums in pursue of development and at large sustainable development in the world and in Kenya and their impact on sustainable development.

3.2 Impact of Global Youth Leadership Forums

Contextual investigations from all sides of the world, assembled by the World Youth Report, appear to legitimize young people's hopefulness. From an adolescent development driving atmosphere activity over the Arab region to an association growing computerized education among young people within the rural parts of the Philippines, to a worldwide youth organize for sexual and conceptive rights, youngsters wherever are undoubtedly stepping in where past ages have fizzled³⁷.

Case studies from all corners of the world, gathered by the World Youth Report, seem to justify young people's optimism. There is an increase in the activities of the young people within the Arab region when it comes to the management of the environment. Also within Philippines. young people are getting involved in activities that are linked to sexual reproductive rights and this is through groups such as the global youth network for sexual and reproductive rights, young people everywhere are indeed stepping in where previous generations have failed. "The

³⁷Zu, Liangrong. "Fostering Social Innovation and Youth Entrepreneurship for the Achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda: The Chinese Way." In *The Future of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 341-365. Springer, Cham, 2020.

latest UN DESA's World Youth Report is clear: Young people have the potential to save the world. All we have to do is let them do just that," said Assistant Secretary-General at UN DESA and UN Chief Economist Elliott Harris. "And that means giving them a fair shot at quality education and decent jobs"³⁸.

As indicated by the World Youth Report, one of every four individuals of secondary-school age are not enrolled in a school, and not exactly 50% of every young people are partaking in works that are linked to SDGs. Also, even among those that do have a vocation, one out of six live in extraordinary neediness. These numbers are more than simple insights they represent wasted capability of a great many individuals whose capacities and energy could have significantly quickened our advancement towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Guaranteeing access to comprehensive, quality training is fundamental for young people's odds of finding nice work. Quality essential and auxiliary instructions are insufficient. They ought to be supplemented by reasonable specialized, professional and tertiary training that gives youth pertinent aptitudes for work and business³⁹.

The World Youth Report on "Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), evaluate the role of the new youth agenda and the supportive roles that are offered. The reports give more information of the role that the young people have based on the youth development agenda in line with vision 2030 regarding the SDGs. This is based on the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Programme of Action for Youth regarding the Addis Ababa Action Agenda ⁴⁰.

³⁸Ibid

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰Ibid

The Report reflects the role the 2030 Agenda can have in improving development of the efforts by the young people and examines how prove regarding youth can assists the hastening of youth-related goals. It covers the essential objective of that the young people have in the execution of the sustainable development process at all areas⁴¹.

Far from being meagre recipients of the 2030 Agenda, youths have been vigorous designers in its creation and continue to be involved in the outlines and processes that support its implementation, follow-up and review.

The use of the vision 203 has led to the heightening of the process that is aimed at involving the youth from the member states which is crucial in the realization of the vision 2030 SDGs. This is because there is the inclusion of the youth groups and the civil society⁴².

Currently, there are about 1.2 billion youths who are between 15 and 24 years, and this is about 16% of the global population and thus there is the need to include the young people based on the contribution that they can be able to make in achieving SDGs within their own countries. For instance, the young people have been found to be crucial in the management of various SDGs related goals within the community such as the creation of healthy environments through waste management among others.⁴³

⁴¹Ibid

⁴²McGorry, Patrick D., Sherilyn D. Goldstone, Alexandra G. Parker, Debra J. Rickwood, and Ian B. Hickie. "Cultures for mental health care of young people: an Australian blueprint for reform." *The Lancet Psychiatry* 1, no. 7 (2014): 559-568.

⁴³Ibid

As indicated by the European Youth Organizations' commitments to the 2030 Agenda, for youth associations, the 2030 Agenda gives an advantageous process to grandstand their work. The 2030 Agenda is not such a great amount about changing the work they are as of now doing; rather, it is tied in with encircling their work inside the "master plan", better surveying its effect and respondents expanding its role. The 2030 Agenda represents a tool to strengthen the relevance of youth organizations' work and demonstrate this work to institutional and other actors, by using a common language and shared indicators⁴⁴.

Most organizations identify that greater visibility and better assessment of their activities is crucial to gain legitimacy and access policy-making processes: "Being able to frame our work more in the Agenda and SDG-related work, saying 'this is doing something towards Goal 4 etc.', it would help us have a stronger voice on the Agenda. It would give us more legitimacy in the political processes on the Agenda⁴⁵."

In the 2019 forum, Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC, said in the closing session; "We've heard about unacceptable levels of inequality, and we must come together to overcome the barriers and keep segments of youth, poverty, and insecurity. It is abundantly clear that young people are exasperated and indeed deeply scared about climate change. Additionally, the level of ambition will be much higher if young people were at the decision-making table as we've heard." UNCTAD Youth has been nailing down the focus on SDG 8 and 10, as of the breakout sessions we were heavily involved in as facilitators and speakers. We reflected on the progress made in implementing multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives at global and other levels⁴⁶.

⁴⁴Insights From Youth Experiences." In *Building Sustainability Through Environmental Education*, pp. 89-120. IGI Global, 2019.

⁴⁵El Zoghbi, Mona Betour. "Conferences as Learning Spaces for Advancing Knowledge and Action for the SDGs:

⁴⁶CEPAL, NU. "Report of the Thirty-third Session of the Committee of the Whole." (2019).

Under the ECOSOC, the Youth Action Hub is working together with UNCTAD, next to the activities the Youth Action Hub is doing the Youth Action Hub functions as a reference point for UNCTAD. In this way, the voice of the youth around the world is heard, and UNCTAD can use the input from the Youth Action Hubs around the world. The information will be used in discussions about global problems and challenges. On our turn, as Youth Action Hub, we are aware of the issues and challenges that are of current importance globally and work on solving them locally. This framework is what gives the Youth Action Hub strength, being united by multiple Youth Action Hubs around the world collaborating to work on a better world, taking down global challenges by implementing them and solving them locally. This is what gives the Youth Action Hub strength, being united by multiple Youth Action Hubs around the world collaborating to work on a better world, taking down global challenges by implementing them and solving them locally. The Youth Action Hubs are from Youth 4 Youth, creating opportunities for youth and empowering youth around the world. Creating awareness for the SDGs and highlighting the importance of the SDGs by translating the global issues into local solutions⁴⁷.

By educating youth on SDGs and creating tools for the domestic private sector, public sector, and individuals to contribute to the SDGs and empowering everybody to work and contribute to a more sustainable world. The Youth Action Hubs are from Youth 4 Youth, creating opportunities for youth and empowering youth around the world. Creating awareness for the SDGs and highlighting the importance of the SDGs by translating the global issues into local

⁴⁷World Health Organization. (2019). *Joint mission of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: Philippines, 7-11 May 2018* (No. WHO/NMH/NMA/19.99). World Health Organization.

solutions. By educating youth on SDGs and creating tools for the domestic private sector, public sector, and individuals to contribute to the SDGs and empowering everybody to work and contribute to a more sustainable world⁴⁸.

While digitalization can assume an urgent job in guaranteeing the execution of the SDGs, youth are delicate to the way that innovation can likewise be a base of rejection and imbalance. There is a need to guarantee that the world advantages from advances and that effective administrative system are actualized. Besides, with the expanded number and utilization of information, assurance of information and protection rights has turned out to be critical. Education is another crucial component for youngsters. It is our view that projects and instruction frameworks ought to be adjusting to the present evolving scene⁴⁹.

In East Africa, Tanzania is the 13th largest country in Africa. Tanzania's population is very youthful: As of 2014, 45 percent of the populace was younger than 15. It is the 6th most populated nation in Africa, with 52.3 million individuals. By 2030 just a long time from now, the population is anticipated to ascend to 79.4 million, and by 2050, except if the birth rate eases back generously, there will be 2.5 occasions the same number of individuals dressed in Tanzania as there are today 129.4 million which would make it the fifteenth biggest nation in the world⁵⁰.

⁴⁸Zu, Liangrong. "Fostering Social Innovation and Youth Entrepreneurship for the Achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda: The Chinese Way." In *The Future of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 341-365. Springer, Cham, 2020.

⁴⁹Ibid

⁵⁰Amesheva, Inna, Alex Clark, and Julian Payne. "Financing for Youth Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development." *Sustainable Development Goals: Harnessing Business to Achieve the SDGs through Finance, Technology, and Law Reform* (2019): 253-273.

UN Tanzania Resident Coordinator Alvaro Rodriguez said, “For the first time, governments of all countries have agreed on a set of goals for everyone. These goals will help all nations and all people share prosperity, reduce poverty, and protect the planet from climate change. They will address the interconnected elements of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.” Recognizing these challenges and the need to engage youth in sustainable development programs, TAYEN-Tanzania Youth Environmental Network, a nonprofit youth led organization mobilizes and engages youth across Tanzania to solve environmental and youth development challenges through community environmental action projects⁵¹.

TAYEN programs include tree planting to address deforestation and instructing youth about the changing atmosphere conditions that influence network jobs, especially horticulture which is the nation's financial spine. Today, TAYEN has planted more than 25,000 indigenous trees to battle deforestation, a main natural test. We've contacted in excess of 5,000 youngsters, drawing in them in network ecological activity tasks to moderate and secure the nation's rich regular assets and decrease destitution among rustic networks over the Tanzania⁵².

Youth in Tanzania have a major stake on the SDGs and whenever left out, the adventure for accomplishing the Global Goals will be longer than anticipated. Towards the acknowledgment of SDGs, a need and center ought to be reinforced in school and out of school youth investment with the goal that youngsters better comprehend the SDGs, yet more significantly, create solid Youth-grown-up organizations in all economic improvement programs that in the end lead to fulfilment of SDGs at all levels from town (network), national and worldwide. Youth groups

⁵¹Amesheva, Inna, Alex Clark, and Julian Payne. "Financing for Youth Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development." *Sustainable Development Goals: Harnessing Business to Achieve the SDGs through Finance, Technology, and Law Reform* (2019): 253-273.

⁵² Ibid

like TAYEN and the YALI Network of Tanzania have immense job to structure and execute youth-driven network activity to achieve the SDGS⁵³.

Young people in Africa are the main change agents within their own communities. The role of the young people is mainly felt within the local community and this is because of the role that they play. Hence, when thinking of implementing the SDGs, there is the need to include the youth and clearly identify the role that they are supposed to play⁵⁴.

Youths and youth-led entities have a role in the transformation of the SDG agenda from the local level to the national level based on their significance within the society. Young people in Africa have been found to be vigilant when it comes to the implantation of the SDGs and its monitoring in order to ensure that there is achievement of crucial success of the projects that they are involved in such as the case of youths in Soweto South Africa and environmental management⁵⁵.

Furthermore, it has been noted that the young people need to have a structures and protocols that allows them to have maximum effects on the implementation of the SDGs. This can be through having an effective plan for decision making that allows the youths to give their input some of the matters that they are able to handle in relation to SDGs implementation⁵⁶.

Young people in most parts of the Africa have the responsibility of ensuring that there is the realization of the SDGs. This has been based on the various initiatives that they has started by themselves and also with the help of the government as well as other entities such as the

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴Oluwatayo, Isaac B., and Ayodeji O. Ojo. "Walking through a tightrope: The challenge of economic growth and poverty in Africa." *The Journal of Developing Areas* 52, no. 1 (2018): 59-69.

⁵⁵Ibid

⁵⁶ Ibid

United Nations. For instance, in Uganda, there has been the development of various youth related groups aimed at making sure that there is the creation of an environment whereby it is possible to achieve some of the SDGs objectives. For instance, various youth groups have taken up the role of ensuring that there is the protection of the environment. This has been achieved through the launching of various tree planting initiatives in areas that have experienced deforestation. This is done because they have been informed of the role the environment plays when it comes to the supply of resources that are needed to develop the society as a whole as well as the benefits that come with having a country that has a stable natural environment⁵⁷.

Kenya has not been left behind when it comes to the role that the young people have in terms of assisting the country in achieving the SDGs. The Kenyan youths through the government have been to play a significant role within the communities. For instance, youths in Kenya have been involved in the creation of an environment that is safe and this is through their involvement in the sanitation activities. Youths in the slums are engaged in cleaning activities that have been done mainly within Nairobi. This is an initiative that has been supported by the government of Kenya with the help of other organizations such as the NGOs⁵⁸.

Poverty is another issue that is facing the Kenyan youths which is addressed in the SDGs. The government of Kenya has noted that youths are a critical part of the society and thus, there has been the development of various initiatives and policies that are aimed at enhancing the economic activities of the young people. There are initiatives such as the creation of the “Youth Fund” which is aimed at making it possible for youths to access loans that they can use to boost their businesses and thus eliminating poverty within the country.

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ Mubecua, Mandla A., and Ojochenemi James David. "So far so good? Tracking the poverty eradication goal of SDGs in Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa." *Journal of Public Affairs* (2018): e1964.

On the other hand, the Kenyan youth are keen on ensuring that there is the elimination of environmental destruction through the achievement of the Climate Action. There are various youth groups that are involved in the reclamation of some of the crucial forests in Kenya such as the Mau Forest. This is an issue that has enabled the creation of a green environment in Kenya and thus inching closer to the achievement of the SDGs. This is key in ensuring that there is the protections of the environment against issues that might arise such as the climate change⁵⁹.

3.3 Chapter Summary

The challenges for youth that are central to Africa's economic development are numerous and varied, they include employment, health and political participation. These issues differ among groups within countries (by gender, education level, ethnicity and health status), and across countries and regions. Conversely, the size, energy, enthusiasm, innovation and dynamism of youth are assets that can be harnessed for Africa's development with appropriate policies that deal adequately with the issues facing them.

⁵⁹ Ibid

CHAPTER FOUR

CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUMS IN STRENGTHENING NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

4.0 Introduction

This chapter highlights the challenges faced by global youth leadership forums in strengthening national leadership and governance and prospects around the same.

4.1 Youth in Governance

Good governance has been illustrated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the practice of political, economic and administrative power for managing state functions and affairs. It entails various measures, procedures, relationships as well as organizations in which the people actualize their rights, addresses their concerns for mutual coexistence⁶⁰. The Kenyan constitution emphasizes the need for good governance and this is enshrined in article 10 that addresses the national values as well as the principles of governance. These include efficiency, effectiveness, transparent and accountable exercise of power in addition to the principles of humanity like human dignity, equity, human rights, social justice, inclusivity, non-discrimination, and protection of the marginalized. Consequently, youth under article 100 are categorized as marginalized group and are recognized as a group that can participate in governance.⁶¹

⁶⁰ United Nations Development Programme Discussion Paper 2 (1997), Reconceptualizing Governance, UNDP.

⁶¹ The Constitution of Kenya, Kenya Gazette supplement No. 55 (The Constitution of Kenya 2010) Nairobi 27th August 2010, printed and published by the Government printer NAIROBI.

Inclusive governance should entail all groups within the society including the youth. This entails engaging the youth in the policy formulation and implementation⁶².

4.2 Policy Framework

At the international level, the World Programme of Action for Youth⁶³ is the principal policy for youth participation. It gives the policy structure, mechanisms and a guide on how nation states should promote the conditions of the youth. This program entails proposed ways since the year 2000 and beyond with the aim of achieving global youth agenda as well as advancing the conditions of the youth in the international system. Program of Action focuses on initiating strategies for enhancing nation states potentials in responding to the youth concerns as well as expanding the opportunities that are allocated to the youth. This is to ensure that there is inclusive and effective participation in the society, thus promoting sustainable development.

The National Youth Policy proposes a legal framework to deal with issues of youth involvement in the governance processes to ensure that democracy is promoted at the all levels in the society. It also proposes to address issues of young people empowerment as well as participation in national life by engaging the youth in the policy formulation and implementation so that issues that affect them become part of the national agendas. Some of the challenges to be addressed by the national youth policy include unemployment, radicalization, young people with disability, youth and HIV among others⁶⁴.

⁶² Bowie. M, Tinkew. J, Youth Governance: How and why it can help out-of-school time programmes, 2018

⁶³ The United Nations General Assembly at its 915t meeting of December 1995 in its resolution 50/81

⁶⁴ Simiyu, J.W. (2010). Entrepreneurship education as a tool to support self-employment in Kenya (TVET Best Practice Clearinghouse Issue 2). Bonn: UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

4.3 The National Youth Policy

The national youth policy is based on the principles of the respect of cultural belief systems and ethical values; equity and accessibility to socio-economic opportunities for the youth; gender inclusivity approach and equity to the development of the youth; - in particular, affirmative action for the youth as a strategy of participation and empowerment.

The main aim of the policy is to advance youth involvement in democratic practices in the society. It also ensures that the programs that are addressing youth needs are youth centered and they are adequately involved. The policy is aimed at sensitizing national stakeholders who are involved in policy formulation so as to identify immediate needs of the youth and harmonize the youth issues in the national agenda, propose ways and means of empowering the youth so that they can become responsible people in the society.

Youth empowerment and involvement entails interdependence in the provision of resources and opportunities in actualizing the desires of the youth. The inclusivity of the youth in the policy formulation and implementation enhances unity and a sense of belonging that promotes sustainable societal development and also the importance of the program⁶⁵. This policy illustrates that young people feel empowered when they realize that they can participate, create wider choices in life, they can make brilliant decisions on their own and this requires a favorable platform or environment. This platform entails a just economic, political and social base, effective and efficient resource allocation, adherence to the rule of law, peace and security, democratic governance, equitable access to information and knowledge. Based on this policy, the youth are essential asset in every nation state and if adequately empowered can lead

⁶⁵ Flores, K.S. (2013). Youth participatory evaluation: Strategies for engaging young people. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.

to sustainable development in the society. They can as well be used as agents of change in the globalizing society.⁶⁶

After formulating and adopting the National Youth Policy, implementation on a nation-wide level and in order to ensure its relevance and make it the framework for community and national youth development. Such a policy ensures that there is adequate involvement of the young people in the development of their respective states as they are given adequate platforms to express their opinions.

4.4 Youth Related Policy Frameworks

At the international level,

The youth desire for equality is an essential way through which they can submit their concerns so as to have a better society. The DFID–CSO document Youth Voices on a Post-2015 World, informed SDG processes, illustrated the opinions of the youth in the international community nearly from 12 states. The report indicated that equality and freedom is essential in any society since it enhances peaceful coexistence that again creates conducive environment for sustainable development. The report observed that the highlight on equity and freedom evidently shows the challenges that the youth faces in the society.⁶⁷

On the regional basis, the COE and the EU focus on programs that addresses the youth concerns. Hence it is necessary to understand the basis through which this organization understands youth. During the 1970s, the COE youth sector was formulated to spread the thematic areas of the institutions to the youth. Currently, these sectors operates various

⁶⁶Simiyu, J.W. (2010). Entrepreneurship education as a tool to support self-employment in Kenya (TVET Best Practice Clearinghouse Issue 2). Bonn: UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

⁶⁷DFiD-CSO Youth Working Group 2015, 8.

programs, despite this, there is still no universal meaning of the youth. Based on the lack of explicit meaning of the youth, various ad hoc definitions have been used by varied programs when need be. For example, in the All Different-All Equal campaign for diversity, human rights and involvement, the group of 12-30 years was employed as the youth⁶⁸.

4.5 The United Nations World Programme for Action for Youth (2000 and Beyond)

The World Programme Action for Youth (WPAY), (2000 and Beyond) under the United Nations forms the guideline for both international and national that supports and fosters conditions to improve the well-being and livelihoods of the youth.⁶⁹ In particular, it centers towards stabilizing the national potentials in increasing the quality and quantity of chances allocated to the youth so as to enhance effectiveness and efficiency for involvement in the state.⁷⁰

The commitment to the above focus areas, as pointed out in the WPAY, is ultimately the duty of the state by formulating as well as adopting a cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary agenda for the youth supported by WPAY in partnership with NGOs, youth organizations.⁷¹ However, the prerequisite to achieve key objectives of WPAY are to enable socio economic and political involvement of the youth in state affairs. Investing in the youth by the international and national communities was viewed as a means to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

It is thus clear that the youth are affected by each of the goals and are thus responsible for their achievement. Therefore, the WPAY emphasizes that the youth are the makers in society and

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Division for Sustainable Development, Agenda 21, 2010

⁷⁰ Ibid: 6

⁷¹ Ibid

are the resource that can lead to the development of the current and future generations.⁷² In complementing the WPAY and the SDGs, the African Youth Charter supports the call for the young people, specifically towards developing sub-Saharan region and, through its action plans, identifies obstacles and options to further youth development in the region.

4.6 The African Youth Charter

Advocates for the African Youth Charter (AYC) believed that youth are the most important resource in surmounting the socio-economic problems within the states in Africa, if they are given the opportunity (African Union, 2006). Article 11 of the AYC states that; “every 27 youth shall be given an opportunity for participating in developing all spheres within the society”. To reinforce the above, the Charter instructs member states to adopt a comprehensive as well as coherent national youth policy, as stated in Article 12. This will be supported by the AU, as mentioned in Article 28 of the charter, through partnership between states and the Nongovernmental organizations so as to initiate strategies for youth involvement in implementing policies while mutually instilling cooperation amongst the youth forums for the development of regional integration⁷³.

The African Union Assembly initiated the charter in Banjul 2006 July. The charter was effected in 2009 after its 15th member state ratified it. Member states of the charter has increased and out of the 53 states in the african continent, 37 states have signed to its obligations where as 21 states are in the process of ratifying the treaty.⁷⁴

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Ibid

⁷⁴ African Youth Charter; Adopted on 2 July 2006; Entered into Force on 8 August 2009

The AYC is essential in that youthful generation forms the biggest part of the African population and this is different with other parts of the world like Europe where huge population is aging. Saadhna Panday observes that the youth in Africa are experiencing numerous challenges like unemployment, exploitation by the elites, some are illiterate and this affects their decision making skills. Because of these problems, many youth have been drawn to various violence, conflicts and radicalizations that affect the society.

Despite these, the AYC has various strategies that can improve or mitigate the issues for instance the right to development. While the clause “every young person shall have the right to social, economic, political and cultural development with due regard to their freedom and identity and in equal enjoyment of the common heritage of mankind may sound positive, it has been formed in a way that clear meaning and understanding cannot be effected . Due to the lack of clear meaning and its generalization, its applicability has been jeopardized making it unreal on the ground.

The article further provides good clauses for instance the development of the media for the youth as well as empowerment on the rights of the youth.⁷⁵ Article 11 advocates for the youth involvement. This includes the functions and responsibilities of the government for instance youth engagement in parliamentary schedules as well as the formation of peer programs for the youth who have been marginalized. Article 11 also provides for the creation of an opportunity for the youth to be involved in politics and this if effectively initiated can allow for inclusive presentation and representation of the youth in governance and development. This charter strives to protect the youth away from the adverse negative consequences of war and conflicts.

⁷⁵ African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; Entered into force on 21 October 1986; Art. 10(3)(b), 10(3)(d).

Despite having these tangible procedures, it is observable that these clauses are not far reaching.

Nation states in many instances have criticized the essences of war and conflicts in the society, youth involvement and the recruitment as well as the youth slavery and abuse and they fail to create stringent measures to curb and reduce the possibility of the occurrence of such incidences in the society. There is still continuous use of the minors in war and violent conflicts in many parts of Africa and this jeopardize their rights to live and develop as war deter the existence of peaceful environment. It is essential and relevant in that the AYC gives room for the youth living abroad to develop Africa as well as to encourage youth to come to Africa.⁷⁶

Overall, AYC has numerous articles and clauses that provide limited rights and which are common universal rights for instance the freedom to expression. Despite this, article 11 on youth participation clearly shows the exact right of the youth. The AYC covers both socio economic and political rights of the youth and this gives them wider opportunity to instill development in the society as well as advocates for proper governance due to empowerment that they get in the society. The AYC provisions are wide and despite this, some of its principles may not be of use or applied in other societies.

4.7 Summary

Global youth leadership forums have different objectives they set to achieve in their various platforms. Some initiatives are solely focussed on entrepreneurship, health, advocacy, training of skills and leadership incubation etc. Leadership and governance cuts across all of these objectives. As leadership incubators for example, the Young African Leadership Initiative

⁷⁶ Ibid., Art. 21

(YALI) and Emerging Leaders Foundation among other things seek to train the youth on leadership skills, on meaningful engagement in political processes be it budget making, public participation on bills, informing of policy documents etc. Ideally the forums advocate for inclusivity, provide a platform for public participation, to discuss and find resolutions on issues affecting the society. However, most times the forums take on an activity-based approach that does not allow for enough deliberations and follow up to make substantive feedback and implement the same.

CHAPTER FIVE

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This chapter contains the findings collected through the study's interview guide and questionnaire. These data collection tools were guided by the study's three objectives to answer the research questions regarding the role of global youth leadership forums in promoting sustainable development in Africa, using Kenya as a case study.

5.1 Response Rate

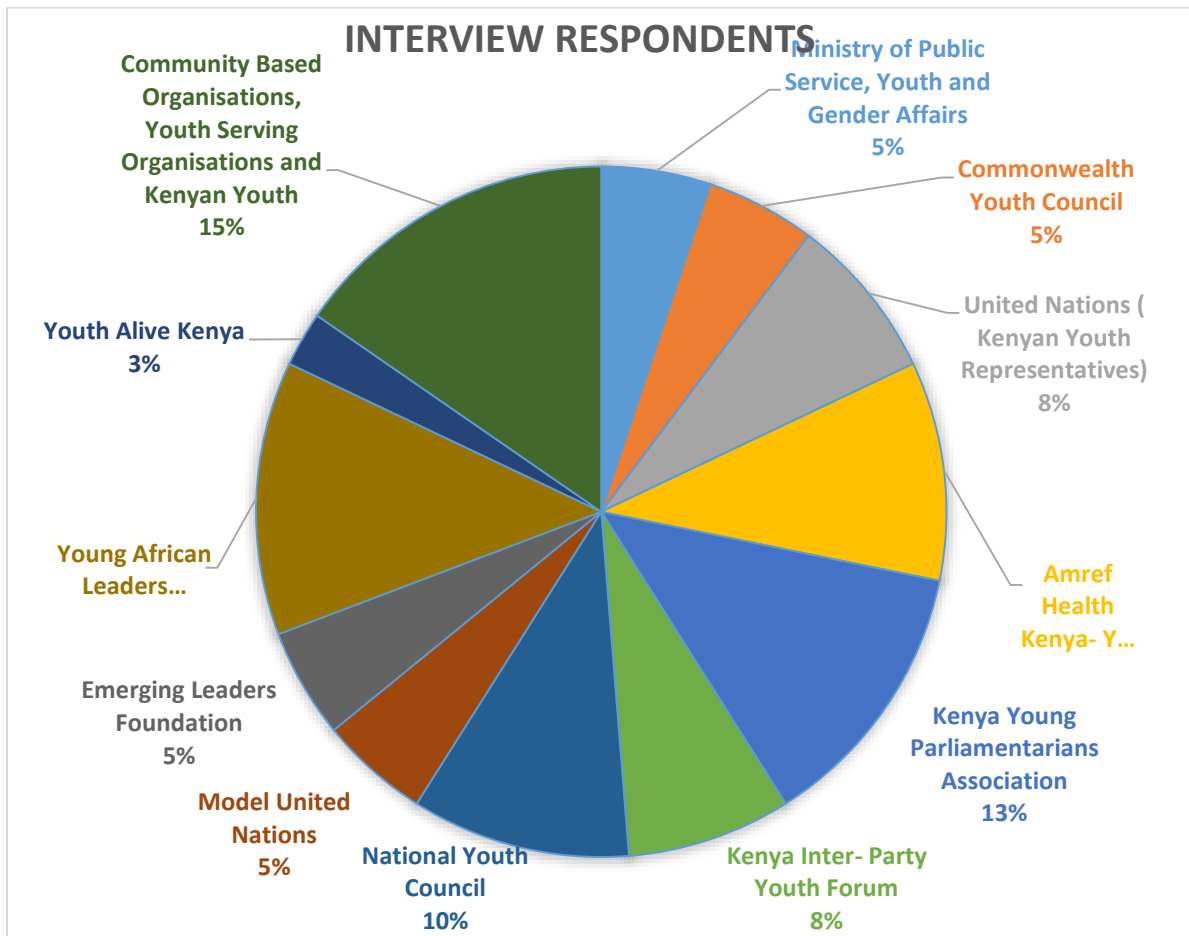
The study's sample size was 95 respondents from the targeted population of the study. Both qualitative and quantitative data was sought; interviews were conducted to feed into the qualitative data and questionnaires (Both electric and hard copy questionnaires) were distributed to feed into quantitative data. 77.9% of the research sample size was covered in data collection.

Table 5.1: Study sample size, respondents, qualitative and quantitative data collected

Sample size	95
Respondents	74
Qualitative Data Collected	41
Quantitative Data Collected	33

Source: Author, 2019

Figure 5.1: Presentation of the interview guide respondents from the study’s target population



Source: Author, 2019

5.2 Quantitative and qualitative data collected

The questionnaire shared had 14 questions, both open ended and closed questions were asked aligned to the study’s research objectives. The questionnaires were distributed to individuals from the targeted population to ensure that the information received was in harmony with that collected from the interviews.

5.2.1 Demographic details of respondents

The questionnaires were filled by 33 respondents, 51.51% of which were female and 48.48% male. 6% of the respondents were of the ages 16-19, 33.36 % 20-24, ages 25-29, 33.36 % and

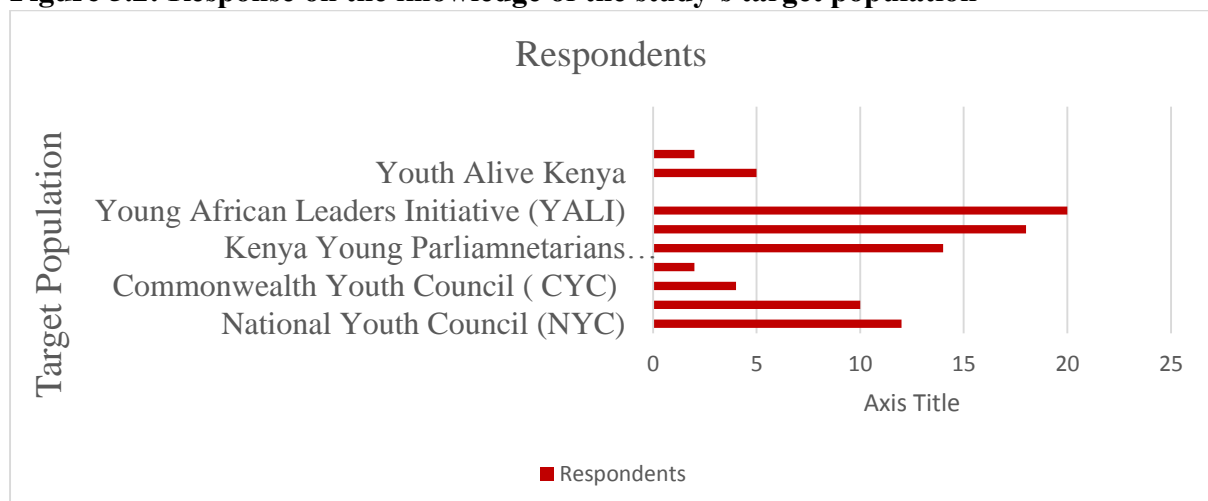
lastly ages 30 and above 21.21%. The study concluded that the majority of the respondents were between the ages of 20- 29 across the targeted population. It was important for the study to ask on the highest level of education from the respondents so as to determine if they understood the research topic. 87.88% of the respondents are in university or have graduated from university with 6% from or in tertiary colleges and 6% from or in high school.

The study discovered that despite the level of education achieved, exposure to the global youth leadership forum was key to understand the subject and contribute to the study. Which is why the questionnaire distribution was specifically distributed across the target population but respondents randomly selected.

5.2.2 The Study’s global youth leadership forums (Target Population)

The fourth question sought to introduce the study’s target population to the respondents and expected the respondents to select the forums they were familiar with.

Figure 5.2: Response on the knowledge of the study’s target population



Source: Author, 2019

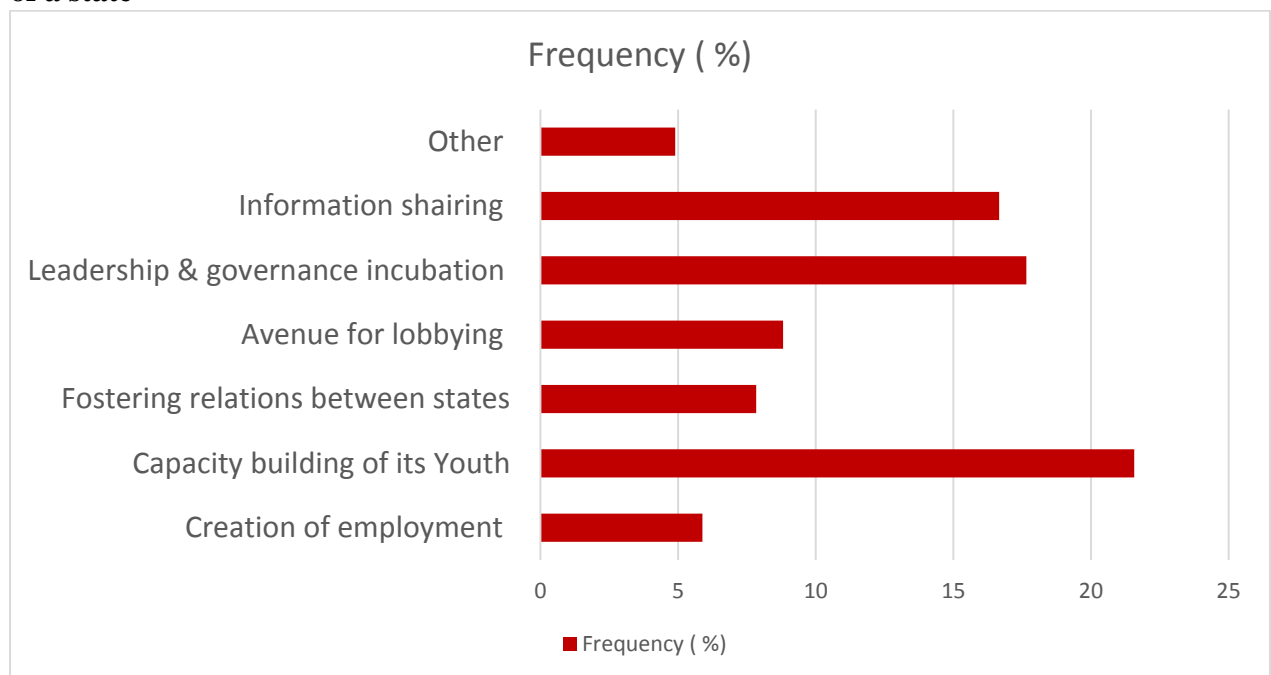
5.2.3 Role of global youth leadership forums in promotion of national interests of a state in the Kenyan context

The questionnaire asked the respondents if they believed that global youth leadership forums promote the national interest of a state in the context of Kenya. 70% agreed that they do, 30% disagreed though it is suspected that some of the respondents both agreed and disagreed. For those who agreed, the study's questionnaire had provided multi choice answers to this question and allowed multiple selection which included an open choice (Other) for those the study had not included.

The study's choices were that the forums promote the national interest of a state through the creation of employment, capacity building of its youth, fostering relations between states, provide an avenue for lobbying for state interests, they are leadership and governance incubation hubs, through information sharing on best practices and another option provided.

The question received 102 responses as presented below

Figure 5.3 Distribution of responses on ways the forums promote the national interests of a state



Source: Author, 2019

Respondents who chose on the other option elaborated that through the forums there is a clear understanding of problems and solutions to them in the society and exposure.

From the graph above, the global youth leadership forums greatest role to the promotion of national interests of the Kenyan state is in the capacity building of its youth. The youth being the dependant population of whom majority are unemployed, the various skills gathered do help the state address the hopelessness felt by the youth as alternative sources of income are presented. Of the 30% who disagreed that the global youth leadership forums promote the national interests of states, 1% strongly disagreed. Those who did not believe that the GYLF do not promote the national interests of a state's main reason was that they instead promote specific donor interests, among other responses were that the GYLF mostly promote the interests of the youth, which may not be aligned to those of the state.

5.2.4 The effectiveness and impact of global youth leadership forums on sustainable development in Kenya, Africa

The respondents were asked if they thought that the Global Youth Leadership Forums (GYLF) were effective in promoting sustainable development in Africa, through a closed ended question that later asked them to justify their response. 82.14% of the respondents thought GYLF were effective while those that disagreed were 17.86%.

5.2.4.1 The effectiveness of global youth leadership forums in promoting sustainable development in Africa.

Among the 82.14% respondent's justification were that:

Firstly, the forums sharpen the reasoning of future leaders enabling them to link with the international bracket of reasoning through their participation feeding into their drive to impact

the globe in a positive way. Secondly, the GYLF enable the participating youth to share different ideas and solutions around the issues the sustainable development goals seek to achieve, creating a synergy in the continent.⁷⁷ Thirdly, the forums through its debates enable the understanding of sustainability by the youth who then have an opportunity to make steps of their own towards realising the dream. Fourthly, in the case of the forums being programs that offer trainings on leadership among other things, they enlighten the youth and people participating, empowering youths with skills of facing life challenges, introduce a holistic approach in life ensuring the beneficiaries are able to actualise their plans through avenues that are sustainable and productive in turn leading to the sustainable development of their country and the African continent.⁷⁸ Lastly, the forums forge partnerships in the pursuing of the sustainable development goals across societies doubling efforts towards Africa and the world achieving sustainable development goals.

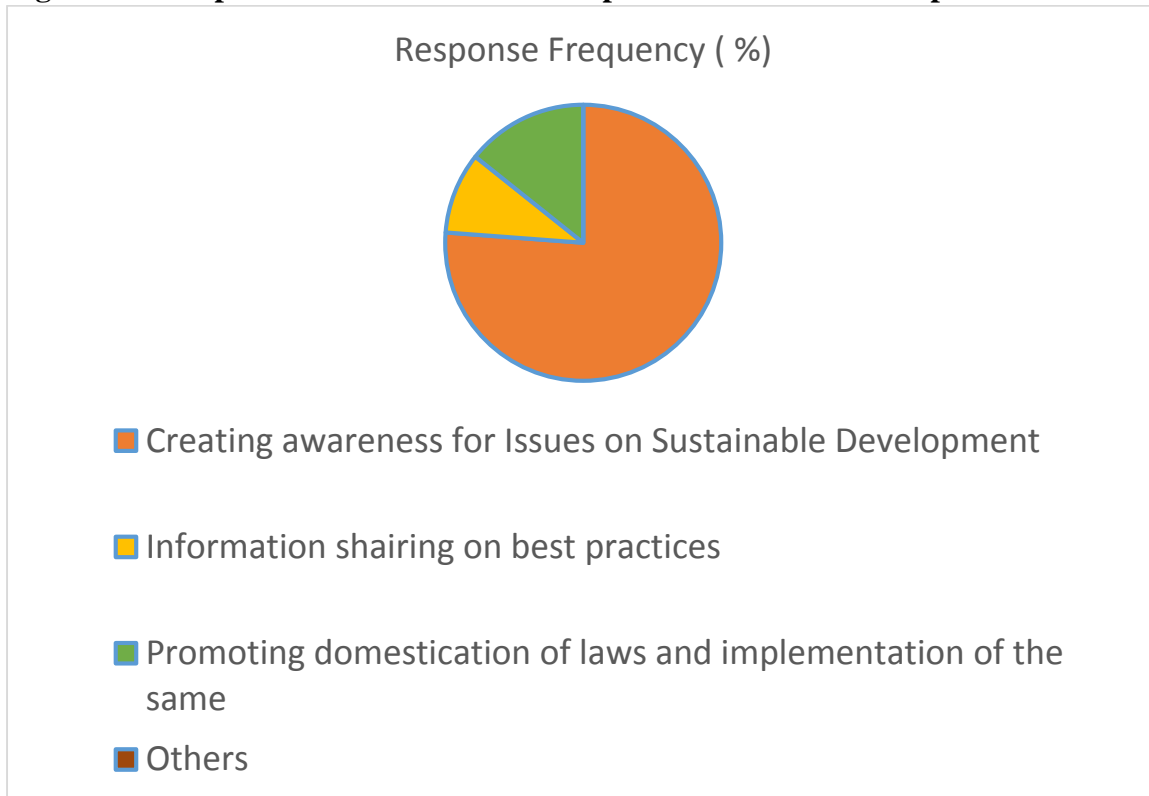
5.2.4.2 The Impact of Global Youth Leadership Forums on Sustainable Development

In the follow up question, the respondents were also asked if they believe that the global youth leadership forums have an impact on sustainable development in Africa. Of the responses received 86.21% believed yes, 13.79% disagreed. Choices were provided to the follow up question which asked respondents to justify on how with reference to the Kenyan context.

⁷⁷ Respondent 25 from study's questionnaire distributed on the 27th of August, 2019.

⁷⁸ Respondent number 28 from the study's questionnaire

Figure 5.4: Responses on the how GYLF impacts sustainable development



Source: Author, 2019

From the findings, it was noted that there were similarities in the responses regarding the effectiveness of the GYLF and the impact of the forums on sustainable development. Those that agreed that the GYLF are effective in promoting sustainable in Africa justified their answers by stating the following. Firstly, they are capacity building hubs for the youth. Members or participants undergo trainings that enlighten them, equip youths with skills of facing life challenges such as assertive, listening and responding to others, creative thinking and critical thinking. That it promotes self-awareness and highlights one's individual strength.

Leadership Incubators

Through trainings young leaders are equipped with leadership skills practical to a globalized world and have a proper understanding of the sustainable development goals which helps inform their government through their public participation and as the future leaders seek to

effect and sustain implementation. The forums also help youth to build networks that enhance their effectiveness in seeking for change. The consistent trainings enable a rise of new crop of leadership who over time will continue to effect the needed change in the continent.

Some of the forums encourage the youth to go back to their citizen country- in the event of an exchange program for example and seek to effect change however small at their capacity be it in their neighbourhoods or communities resulting in the youth being and effecting the change they want now as opposed to waiting on the government thus encouraging pro activeness in the quest for sustainable development.

Food Security

The GYLF include technocrats who advise the forums on action areas to note for the achievement of sustainable development goals. For example, on food security where agriculture is being promoted and encouraged as a key career in ensuring the world survives through climate change disasters such as famine now and in the future. Barriers created by stereotypes in the pursuing of farming have been broken down through the merging of agriculture with business, technology among other things.

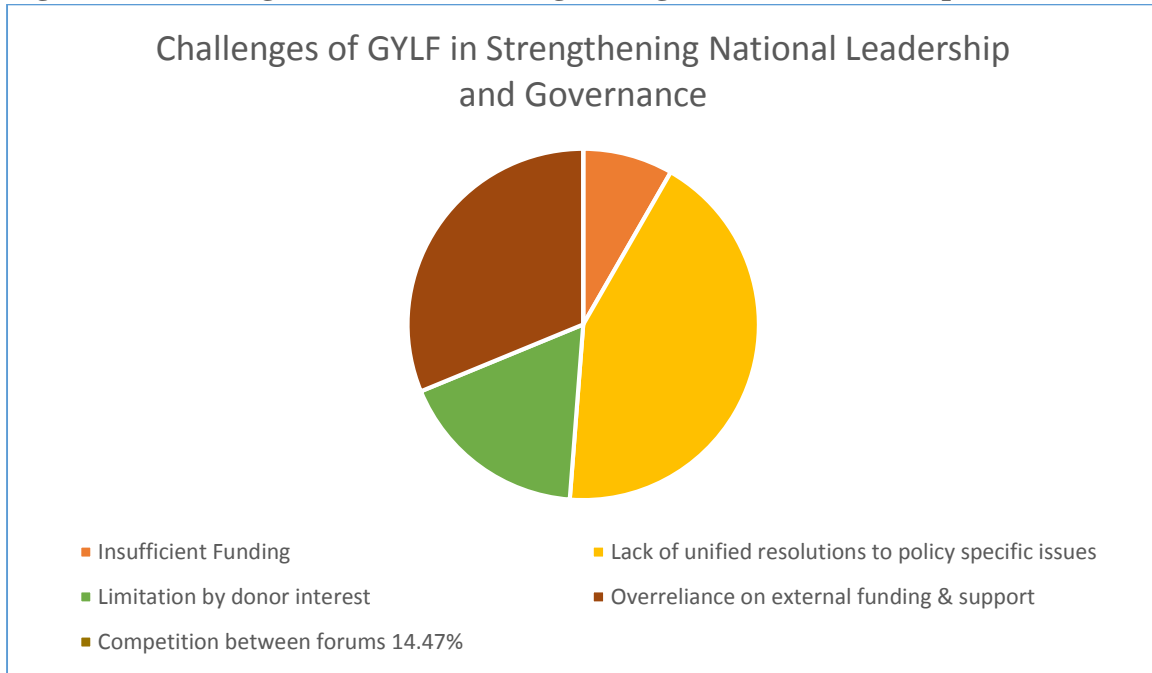
5.3 Challenges and Prospects of Global Youth Leadership Forums in strengthening national leadership and governance

The respondents were asked if they believed that the global youth leadership youth leadership forums strengthen national leadership and governance. 85.1 % of the respondents said yes while 14.8% said no. The respondents were asked to justify their answer

5.3.1 Challenges Global Youth Leadership Forums face in strengthening national leadership and governance in Kenya.

The table below illustrates the response from the study’s target population. A total of 76 respondents selected from a multi choice question asking on the challenges GYLF face in strengthening national leadership and governance in Kenya.

Figure 5.5 Challenges of GYLF in Strengthening National Leadership and Governance



5.3.2 Prospects of Global Youth Leadership Forums in strengthening National Leadership and governance

Youth work by the commonwealth secretariat was brought out as an opportunity for the forums to pursue, as youth work involves professionalization of youth practitioners the forums could adopt this as an agenda to push policy makers to fully implement it. Secondly, social media being the main mode of communication amongst the youth, to circumvent boundaries global youth leadership forums could establish networks and engagements that they pursue digitally. Thirdly, PWDs are often marginalised when it comes to attending these forums. Actively pursuing their participation would provide global youth forums an opportunity to explore on

solution finding to issues faced by the PWDs thus cementing the inclusivity of the policies achieved.

5.4 Analysis

The study's sought to analyse how global youth leadership forums contribute to the promotion of national interests, to investigate the impact the forums have on sustainable development and to examine their contribution to strengthening national leadership and governance.

The study confirmed hypotheses 3 that stated that global leadership forums strengthens national leadership and governance in Kenya, On the other two hypotheses, it was unclear of the GYLF's contribution to the promotion of national interests. As the Kenya national interests are not clearly outlined in the national development agenda.

On the second hypotheses, the global youth leadership forum have no impact on sustainable development, impact was hard to investigate for there was no monitoring and evaluation available at the time of the study. However, global youth leadership forums definitely create awareness on the sustainable development agenda 2030.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary of findings

The study's sought to analyse how global youth leadership forums contribute to the promotion of national interests. Indeed, the challenges for youth that are central to Africa's economic development are numerous and varied, they include employment, health and political participation. These issues differ among groups within countries (by gender, education level, ethnicity and health status), and across countries and regions. Conversely, the size, energy, enthusiasm, innovation and dynamism of youth are assets that can be harnessed for Africa's development with appropriate policies that deal adequately with the issues facing them.

The study found out that the forums sharpen the reasoning of future leaders enabling them to link with the international bracket of reasoning through their participation feeding into their drive to impact the globe in a positive way. Secondly, the GYLF enable the participating youth to share different ideas and solutions around the issues the sustainable development goals seek to achieve, creating a synergy in the continent.⁷⁹ Thirdly, the forums through its debates enable the understanding of sustainability by the youth who then have an opportunity to make steps of their own towards realising the dream. Fourthly, in the case of the forums being programs that offer trainings on leadership among other things, they enlighten the youth and people participating, empowering youths with skills of facing life challenges, introduce a holistic approach in life ensuring the beneficiaries are able to actualise their plans through avenues that are sustainable and productive in turn leading to the sustainable development of their country and the African continent.⁸⁰ Lastly, the forums forge partnerships in the pursuing of the

⁷⁹ Respondent 25 from study's questionnaire distributed on the 27th of August, 2019.

⁸⁰ Respondent number 28 from the study's questionnaire

sustainable development goals across societies doubling efforts towards Africa and the world achieving sustainable development goals.

6.2 Conclusion

Political good will to facilitate implementation is necessary to achieve the 17th goal of the SDGs in agenda 2030. There is awareness in relation to difficulties experienced by youth in their engagement in national development and as a global network seeking to hold their governments accountable and presenting and branding themselves as equal partners providing durable solutions to global issues. That being said, there is great competition amongst all actors; civil society, youth serving organisations, unregistered grassroots initiatives involved even between the executive in Kenya. The inadequate collaboration in streamlining the youth sector in the country has resulted in the lack of durable impact by the initiatives, activity led interventions that do not transcend into institutions that lead to implementation and monitoring of impact.

6.3 Recommendations

6.3.1 Academic Recommendations

Academic scholars need to collaborate more not only with government practitioners but also with the civil society who are engaging in youth development to ensure durable policies are not only created but implemented. Youth work might be the niche for academicians to actively influence positive youth development. Also, as some of the youth participating in global youth leadership forums are in learning institutions, universities could create a course that trains these forums and its members on research, monitoring and evaluation to help bridge the knowledge gap that exists.

6.3.2 Policy Recommendations

The amendment of the Kenya National Youth Council Act is a good first step, for by strengthening it, the intense competition between the local youth initiatives and duplication might be tamed and instead have a working ecosystem of actors with engagement rules. Secondly, the ministry of youth and the executive and the national youth council should collaboratively share information. Perhaps have the council as the sole focal point for seeking advise on youth interventions; having ensured the information is fully representative of the situation on ground (All actors in the youth sector) to inform policy action and implementation. Thirdly, perhaps

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APPENDIX 1

Key Interview Guide for the Research Question: How do global youth leadership forums contribute to the promotion of national interests of various countries around the world?

INTRODUCTION

This study seeks information that will lead to elaborating on the role of global youth leadership forums in promoting sustainable development in Africa, using those present in Kenya as a case study.

I kindly request that I may take **15 minutes** of your time to ask you a few queries related to the study. If you allow me, I would like to ask you the following queries.

- 1) Which global youth leadership forums do you know?
- 2) Do you believe that global youth leadership forums promote national interests of a state? Is this the case in Kenya?
- 3) How do you think global youth leadership forums in Africa have contributed to the promotion of national interests of its host countries?
- 4) How does your forum impact Kenya's national interest?

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

APPENDIX 2

Key Interview Guide for the Research Question: What impact does global youth leadership forums have on sustainable development in Africa?

INTRODUCTION

This study seeks information that will lead to elaborating on the role of global youth leadership in promoting sustainable development in Africa, using Kenya as the case study.

I kindly request that I may take **15 minutes** of your time to ask you a few queries related to the study. If you allow me, I would like to ask you the following queries.

- 1) Do you believe that global youth leadership forums have any impact on sustainable development in Africa?
- 2) What impact would you say global youth leadership forums have on sustainable development?
- 3) What impact does your youth organization have on the sustainable development of the country?
- 4) In your opinion, do you think global youth leadership forums such as MUN, YALI, and The National Youth Council among others are effective in promoting sustainable development in Kenya?

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

APPENDIX 3

Key Interview Guide for the Research Question: What is the contribution of global youth leadership forums to strengthening national leadership and governance?

INTRODUCTION

This study seeks information that will lead to elaborating on the role of global youth leadership in promoting sustainable development in Africa, using Kenya as a case study.

I kindly request that I may take **15 minutes** of your time to ask you a few queries related to the study. If you allow me, I would like to ask you the following queries.

- 1) Do you believe that global youth leadership forums strengthen national leadership and governance?
- 2) What potential do you think global youth leadership forums has in strengthening national leadership and governance?
- 3) What challenges do you think global youth leadership forums such as MUN, YALI, and National Youth Council among others face in improving national leadership and governance in Kenya?
- 4) Which prospects do you see for global youth leadership forums in improving national leadership and governance in Kenya?

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

APPENDIX 4

QUESTIONNAIRE

INTRODUCTION

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire seeks the information that will lead to elaborating on the **role of global youth leadership in promoting sustainable development in Africa, using Kenya as a case study**.

You have been selected by chance to help in providing the required information as your views are considered important to this study.

The information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used for the purpose of the study, future academic research on the same topic and will be highly appreciated.

Please do not write your name or any other personal details not required in the questionnaire.

Instructions

1. Answer all the Questions.
2. Put a tick or (X) in the space provided in each Question.
3. Kindly answer all the provided Questions with the best of your knowledge.

Thank you.

SECTION A: Demographics of the Respondent

1. Kindly Indicate your Gender

Male []

Female []

Other []

2. Age of The Respondent

16 - 19 []

20 - 24 []

25 - 29 []

30 and above []

3. What is your highest level of education

Primary []

Secondary []

Tertiary College []

University []

4. Which global youth leadership forums you know. (Both local youth associations that participate in global initiatives (SDGs) and global forums that participate in promoting sustainable development; Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. Whether international, regional or local)

- National Youth Council (NYC)
- Model United Nations MUN)
- Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC)
- AMREF Y Act
- KYPA (Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association)
- Emerging Leaders Foundation
- Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)
- Kenya Inter Party Youth Forum (IPYF)
- Youth Alive Kenya
- PAWA254
- Other (Please specify)

5. Do you think global youth leadership forums promote the national interests of a state and is this the case in Kenya?

YES []

NO []

6. If in Q. 5 you answered **yes**, please identify on how? Through...

- Capacity building of its youth
- Fostering relations between states
- Avenue for Lobbying
- Leadership and governance incubation
- Information sharing on best practices
- Other (Please specify)

.....
.....

7. If in Q. 5 you answered no, please identify on why? Because ...

- They promote specific donor interest
- Other (Please specify)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

8. In your opinion, do you think global youth leadership forums are effective in promoting sustainable development in Africa?

YES [] **NO** []

9. Please justify your answer (Why?)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

10. Do you believe that global youth leadership forums have an impact on sustainable development in Africa?

YES [] **NO** []

11. . If in **Q. 10** you answered yes, please identify on how in the **Kenyan** context?

Through...

- Creating awareness on issues for sustainable development
- Information sharing on best practices
- Promoting domestication of laws and implementation of the same
- Other (Please specify)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

12. Please justify your answer. (Why?)

.....
.....
.....

13. Do you believe global youth leadership forums **strengthen** national leadership and governance?

YES []

NO []

14. Please justify your answer. (How?)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

15. What **potential** do you think global youth leadership forums have in strengthening national leadership and governance? Please identify below...

- Communication; Leveraging Social Media
- Creating a common mainstreamed Youth Agenda
- Institutionalization of youth policy
- Other (Please specify)

.....
.....
.....
.....

16. What **challenges** do you think global youth leadership forums face in **improving** national leadership and governance in Kenya? Please select the **three main challenges** in your opinion. (Feel free to add in the other checkbox what you feel is missing)

- Insufficient funding
- Lack of unified resolutions to policy specific issues

- Limitation by donor interest
- Overreliance on external funding and support
- Competition amongst forums
- Other (Please specify)

.....

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17. . From **your** challenges **above**, what **recommendations** would you give?

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Thank you for your time and cooperation.