



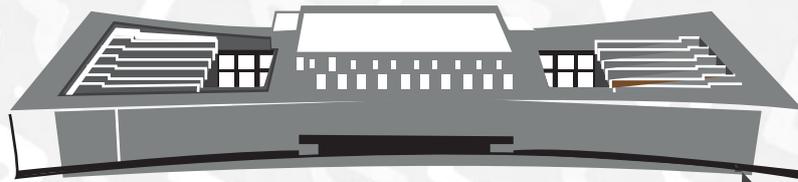
# AFRICA MUSIC ART & CULTURAL EXHIBITION LUSAKA 2023



MULUNGUSHI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE (MICC)

*Theme: "Harnessing the Dividends of the African Creative Industry through Investments in Youth Talents"*

## FINAL REPORT



Mulungushi International  
Conference Center

**20 - 23 JUNE 2023**

**LUSAKA ZAMBIA**

**Agenda 2063 Aspirations and SDGs We Are Contributing Through This Initiative**



## Foreword

In recent years, the creative industry in Africa has experienced tremendous growth, showcasing the immense talent and creative potential of the continent's youth. This report delves into the opportunities and challenges that lie within this vibrant sector and underscores the crucial role of investing in youth talents to unlock its full potential.

Africa's creative industry encompasses a rich tapestry of artistic expressions, including music, film, fashion, literature, visual arts, design, and more. It is a source of cultural pride, a driver of economic growth, and a powerful platform for social change. The creative industry not only contributes to job creation, entrepreneurship, and tourism but also serves as a catalyst for innovation, cultural preservation, and the projection of African narratives on the global stage.

However, while the African creative industry is brimming with talent, it faces various barriers that hinder its full development. Challenges such as limited access to funding, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient skills development, and a lack of supportive policies and institutions have constrained the growth and sustainability of creative talents across the continent.

This report sheds light on the transformative power of investing in youth talents within the African creative industry. By recognizing the potential of young creatives, providing them with the necessary resources, mentorship, and opportunities, we can harness their creativity, drive innovation, and create a thriving ecosystem that benefits individuals, communities, and the continent as a whole. Investments in youth talents must encompass multiple dimensions.

Financial support and access to capital are vital, enabling young creatives to turn their ideas into tangible realities. Equally important is the provision of platforms, networks, and mentorship programs that foster collaboration, skills development, and knowledge-sharing. Investing in education and skills training is crucial to nurture the next generation of creative leaders. By integrating creative disciplines into formal and informal education systems, we can equip young people with the necessary tools, knowledge, and critical thinking skills to navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of the creative industry.



## INTRODUCTION

The creative industry in Africa is a rapidly growing sector with significant potential for job creation and economic growth. With young people constituting about 60% of Africa's unemployed, opportunities in the arts and cultural sector can be leveraged to create about 20 million jobs and contribute an estimated US\$20 billion to Africa's gross domestic product (GDP). According to the Creative Economy Report 2013 by UNDP and UNESCO, investing in the creative industry creates jobs, reduces poverty, promotes sustainable development and has the potential to contribute to 4% of Africa's GDP. However, the African Development Bank (AfDB) reports that many young people in Africa still face significant barriers, including inadequate access to funding, resources, and training, in their bid to venture into and thrive in this field. This has led to a growing number of initiatives and programs aimed at providing young people with the support they need to succeed in the creative industry. These efforts have, however, been piecemeal and without sustained investment and attention.

Over the years, the All-Africa Students Union (AASU) has made considerable attempts to drive unity and development in Africa by advocating for policy changes to promote the use of arts and culture as an engine to advance pan-Africanism and provide jobs to the Continent's teeming youth. The Union has leveraged advocacy spaces on both regional and global levels to emphasise the need to recognise the potential of arts and culture in driving economic growth and development.

As part of AASU's Golden Jubilee celebrations, the Union called on African governments and other stakeholders in the arts and culture sector to devise policies and strategies that contribute to a structural transformation of Africa's creative arts and culture industry. Towards this mission, AASU, under the auspices of H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia and hosted by the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts convened high-level conversations and high impact-factor programs under the banner "Africa Music, Arts and Cultural Exhibition" (AMACE23) on 20-23 June 2023 in Lusaka, Zambia.

AMACE23 lasted for four (4) days with intensive policy-oriented discussions on the roles of arts and culture in promoting the achievement of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. These discussions were organized through a series of twelve (12) panel discussions, with panelists from African countries and beyond. The panelists included policymakers, researchers, advocates and activists, and industry players who work with both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## OFFICIAL OPENING

The Africa Music, Arts and Cultural Exhibition began with an official opening which featured keynote addresses from H.E. W.K. Mutale Nalumango, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia, Hon. Elvis Chishala Nkandu (MP), Minister of Youth, Sports and Arts of the Republic of Zambia and Mr. Peter Kwasi Kodjie, Secretary-General, All-Africa Students Union. The opening session featured a keynote speech by H.E. Sheikh Manssour Bin Mussallam, Secretary-General, Organization of Educational Cooperation (OEC). The session also featured the singing of the national anthems of Zambia and the All-Africa Students Union by Trinah Lusaka and Rhonda Natasha Amoako, respectively. There were a series of entertainment which featured popular arts and culture groups from Zambia.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF WELCOMING ADDRESSES

### *Welcome Address by H.E. W.K. Mutale Nalumango*

H.E. W.K. Mutale Nalumango welcomed the team to Lusaka and expressed her gratitude to AASU and acknowledged AASU's dedication in fostering growth in Africa. She also expressed her confidence in the AMACE23 as the conversations brought forth during the event will express the urgency of the need to fortify a new African identity and development pathway in the areas of arts, culture and music. She bemoaned that the African Identity is under constant threat from early civilizations and highlighted that the future of shared prosperity and wealth creation in Africa is fundamentally dependent on the modernization of Arts, Culture and Music.

The ability of the continent to harness the economic good in the development of indigenous arts sits at the center of shifting barriers against poverty and underdevelopment. Specifically, the Vice President highlighted that:

## *Benefit of the creative sector*

1. The creative sector has the power create wealth on the African continent
2. The creative sector has the power to overcome poverty
3. The creative sector can contribute to the creation or maintenance of the African identity through culture, music and arts.

## *Welcome Address by Hon. Elvis Chishala Nkandul*

The Minister of Tourism, Hon. Elvis Chishala Nkandul, welcomed the dignitaries and all other participants of the event, whiles expressing his profound gratitude to Mr. Peter Kodjie, the Secretary-General of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU) for organizing the AMACE23. He believed that it is a platform which can be leveraged by young people in the creative industry to ignite the spikes of innovation.

The Minister highlighted the important role of creativity, arts and culture in shaping Africa's continent. This is an essential catalyst for social and economic development. He bemoaned that unity, understanding and prosperity can be fostered through the provision of platforms for cultural exchange. The Minister acknowledged the relevance of AMACE23 to promoting creativity. He emphasized that the AMACE is a:

## *Relevance of AMACE*

1. Melting point for creativity
2. A platform to ignite the spikes of innovation of young people
3. A platform to expose youths to the diversity of Africa in terms of arts and culture



## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Keynote Address was delivered by H.E. Sheikh Manssour Bin Mussallam, Secretary-General, Organization of Educational Cooperation (OEC). He began with an appreciation of the organizers of AMACE23, the All-Africa Students Union (AASU) which is also an associate member of the OEC. He acknowledged the Government of the Republic of Zambia for their support for the AMACE23. He continued with a description of the OEC as an intergovernmental organization created in January 2020 by the Global South to champion education in the South. He stressed that the OEC is an organization for the third wave for development through education. He highlighted the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on both the organization and the educational sector at large.

With particular focus on the education sector, the Keynote Address emphasized on the need for inclusive education. Sheikh Manssour defined inclusive education as education that is transformative and serves the vision of the future. He bemoaned that inclusive education is characterized by:

1. An education that is not separate from the community
2. An education system that adapts to national priorities, local realities and individual aspirations.

Currently, the Organization for Economic Cooperation is taking key initiatives to foster transformation of education in Africa. Key among these initiatives are:

1. Promoting student exchanges within the Global South: This is targeted at ensuring that students in the Global South move from their country of origin to study in another country within the region.
2. Develop endogenous technologies in a bid to bridge the technological divide between the Global North and the Global South.

This involves the establishment of companies in the Global South that would build these technologies which are relevant to various sectors of the economy of the Global South, thereby reducing import dependence of the South and strengthening the finances of the South.

The address highlighted that financing remains a major challenge in Africa's education sector. This is due to the over-reliance on developed countries for loans and Aid. Debt financing directly affects the education and creative sectors given that resources allocated to these sectors are channeled to debt financing. Accordingly, strengthening Africa's economy and more specifically finances is critical to strengthening Africa's structural weaknesses.

## Call to Action

1. Seize opportunities presented by AMACE23 to foster cultural exchange and promote entrepreneurship in the creative sector.
2. Engage, collaborate and learn from peers
3. Embrace opportunities of an intercontinental future
4. Leverage arts and culture to create transformation of Africa
5. Recognize the potential of arts, culture and music to drive economic growth
6. Perceive the dynamics of arts, culture and music as our own African revolution in restructuring our economic paradigm leapfrogging to development
7. Utilize arts, culture and music for job creation
8. Develop policies to promote arts
9. Articulate the necessary platforms for advocacy
10. Produce and transform in our continent to reduce import dependence, thereby strengthening Africa's finances
11. Leverage the creative industry for South-South development
12. Ensure that Africa does not fall for the commodification of culture

## SESSION

# Preserving Heritage and Culture: Disruptions and Displacement Due to Globalisation

## INTRODUCTION

Globalization has brought about significant disruptions and displacements in the preservation of heritage and culture worldwide. As borders become more porous and communication technologies advance, cultures are increasingly influenced by external forces, leading to the dilution or even loss of traditional practices, values, and identities. The homogenizing effect of globalized media, such as movies, music, and fashion, often promotes a dominant culture at the expense of local traditions. Furthermore, economic globalization can drive urbanization and migration, resulting in the abandonment of rural communities and the disintegration of cultural ecosystems. As a result, intangible cultural heritage, including languages, rituals, and craftsmanship, faces the risk of extinction. However, there is also a growing recognition of the need to safeguard and celebrate cultural diversity. Efforts to preserve heritage and culture have emerged, including the establishment of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List and various local initiatives. By engaging in inclusive and participatory processes, promoting cultural education, and implementing sustainable development practices, societies can strive to mitigate the negative impacts of globalization on their cultural heritage while embracing the benefits of a interconnected world. To this end, the AMACE23 held a session to discuss the impacts of globalization on Africa's heritage and culture. The session had panelists from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise to discuss how to preserve Africa's heritage and culture despite the ascendancy of globalization.

The panel was moderated by Misheck Samakao, the CEO of Xero Entertainment Ltd. Dr Jaliba Kuyateh, a Goodwill Ambassador to UNESCO set the stage for the discussions with a presentation. Other panelists on the panel were Robinson Jerahyo Kasao, CEO of Jerahyo Inc Artiste & Talent Management; Dennis Mutumba, Executive Director of Young Africa Leadership Development Institute, Shawn B Kabemba, CEO of Goodlife Studio Express, Sash Mubanga Makumba, and Dr Bibian Kalinde, a Music lecturer at the University of Zambia.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

Globalization has undoubtedly transformed the world in many ways, and while it has provided economic opportunities, it has also caused cultural homogenization and the erosion of local traditions. One of the key issues we face is the commodification of culture, where traditional practices are commercialized for tourism purposes, often resulting in the dilution or distortion of their original meaning. This can lead to the loss of cultural authenticity and a sense of disconnection for local communities.

Another challenge we face is the displacement of communities due to globalization. As industries expand and urbanization accelerates, local communities are often forced to relocate, leading to the loss of their cultural identity tied to their ancestral lands. The pressure to assimilate into the dominant culture can also lead to the abandonment of traditional practices and languages, further exacerbating the issue of cultural displacement. It is essential to explore strategies for preserving heritage and culture in the face of these challenges. Education and awareness play a crucial role. By educating both locals and visitors about the significance of cultural heritage, we can foster appreciation and respect. Additionally, involving local communities in decision-making processes regarding cultural preservation is vital. Empowering them to actively participate in safeguarding their heritage can ensure its long-term survival.

Collaboration between various stakeholders is also critical. Governments, NGOs, and local communities should work together to develop sustainable tourism practices that respect and support local cultures rather than exploiting them. This can help create economic opportunities while safeguarding heritage sites and traditions.

Embracing technology can be a powerful tool in preserving heritage and culture. Digital preservation initiatives, such as virtual museums and online archives, can help make cultural artifacts and information accessible to a global audience. Furthermore, leveraging social media platforms and digital storytelling can raise awareness and facilitate cultural exchange, creating connections that transcend physical boundaries.

While technology offers opportunities, we must also recognize that preservation efforts must be rooted in the active involvement of local communities. We should prioritize capacity-building initiatives that enable communities to document, preserve, and transmit their cultural knowledge to future generations. Supporting local artists, artisans, and cultural practitioners can help revitalize traditional practices and ensure their continuity in the face of globalization.

It is important to celebrate diversity and foster intercultural dialogue. Encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences between different cultures can help combat cultural homogenization and promote a more inclusive global society. By recognizing the value of diverse heritage and cultures, we can embrace globalization without sacrificing our rich cultural tapestry.

The moderator thanked the panelists for sharing valuable insights and suggestions. He concluded that preserving heritage and culture in the midst of globalization is undoubtedly a complex task, but through education, collaboration, technological innovation, and community engagement, and recommended that we work towards a more sustainable and inclusive future. Let us all continue this important conversation and take concrete steps to protect our shared heritage.



## CONCLUSION

The panelists acknowledged that globalization has brought about disruptions and displacements, leading to the dilution or loss of traditional practices, values, and identities. The homogenizing effect of globalized media and the influence of dominant cultures pose risks to the preservation of local traditions and intangible cultural heritage. Additionally, economic globalization can drive urbanization and migration, which further contribute to the displacement and disintegration of cultural ecosystems. However, amidst these challenges, the panelists expressed a sense of optimism and recognized the growing recognition of the need to preserve and celebrate cultural heritage. Initiatives such as UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List and local grassroots efforts demonstrate a commitment to protecting cultural diversity.

The conclusion drawn from the discussion is that preserving heritage and culture in the face of globalization requires inclusive and participatory approaches. Engaging local communities, promoting cultural education, and implementing sustainable development practices are essential in mitigating the negative impacts of globalization while embracing the benefits of an interconnected world. By recognizing the value of cultural diversity, societies can foster a sense of pride and ownership among communities, ensuring the transmission of traditions, languages, and rituals to future generations. Balancing the forces of globalization with the need to preserve and protect local heritage is a delicate but necessary endeavor to maintain the richness and uniqueness of cultural expressions worldwide.



# Dignity of Work: Fair Compensation or Arts Products

## INTRODUCTION

The dignity of work and fair compensation for arts products in the context of Africa are crucial aspects that deserve attention and support. In many African countries, artists and artisans contribute significantly to the cultural fabric and economic development of their communities. However, they often face challenges in terms of recognition, protection of their rights, and receiving fair compensation for their creative outputs. The globalization of the art market has both positive and negative implications. While it offers opportunities for exposure and access to broader audiences, it can also perpetuate exploitative practices and undervaluation of African artistic works. To ensure the dignity of work for African artists, it is essential to promote fair compensation through mechanisms such as transparent pricing, ethical sourcing, and empowering local communities. Governments, cultural institutions, and international organizations can play a pivotal role by implementing policies that safeguard the rights and economic well-being of artists, fostering collaborations and exchange programs, and advocating for the fair representation of African arts in global markets. By recognizing and valuing the contributions of African artists, we can support sustainable artistic practices that preserve cultural heritage, promote social cohesion, and contribute to the overall development and prosperity of the continent. The AMACE23 convened a team of policymakers and practitioners to deliberate on issues related to the elimination of decent work deficits in the arts and culture sector.

The panel was moderated by Assa Williey, Director of Venus Gardens. Roland Seri, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP set the stage for discussions. The other panelists were Betty Bulongo Chilonde, Co-founder and Team lead for Bulongo Incubator for creative skills; Osayimwense Daniel Uwadia, Africa Adviser for Global Solutions Initiative in Berlin, Jacob Blasius European Students Union (ESU) Steering Committee Member (Global Student Forum), Ms Lindiwe Kasonde, founder of Beleza Talent Agency and Humphrey Zimba, the Executive Director of Open Window University.



## HIGHLIGHTS

One crucial aspect that must be addressed is the fair compensation for arts products. Many artists face challenges in receiving adequate payment for their creative work. It is essential to recognize and value the contributions of artists by ensuring they are fairly compensated for their artistic endeavors.

The globalization of the art market has both positive and negative implications. While it offers opportunities for exposure and access to broader audiences, it can also perpetuate exploitative practices and undervaluation of artistic works. We should explore mechanisms such as transparent pricing and ethical sourcing to ensure fair compensation for artists.

Governments, cultural institutions, and international organizations play a pivotal role in supporting the dignity of work for artists. By implementing policies that safeguard the rights and economic well-being of artists, we can promote fair compensation. Additionally, fostering collaborations, exchange programs, and advocating for the fair representation of artists in global markets are crucial steps to ensure their rightful compensation.

Artists contribute significantly to the cultural fabric and economic development of societies. It is essential to educate the public about the value and impact of artistic work, creating awareness about the need for fair compensation. By raising awareness and promoting appreciation for arts products, we can foster an environment that values and supports artists' livelihoods.



Creating a sustainable ecosystem for artists requires collaborative efforts. Artists themselves, along with art galleries, agents, and collectors, need to embrace ethical practices and ensure fair compensation throughout the artistic supply chain. By working together, we can establish a system that respects the dignity of artists and provides them with the financial support they deserve.

It is crucial to address systemic inequalities and biases that hinder fair compensation for artists. This includes breaking down barriers to access and representation for marginalized artists. By fostering diversity, inclusivity, and equal opportunities, we can strive for a more equitable arts ecosystem that upholds the dignity of all artists.

Public support and appreciation for the arts are instrumental in achieving fair compensation. By advocating for increased public funding for the arts, promoting arts education, and encouraging individuals to invest in art, we can create an environment where artists are valued, and their work is appropriately compensated.



# Funding, Financing, and Investing in Africa's Creative Economy

## INTRODUCTION

Africa's creative economy encompasses a wide range of sectors, including film, music, visual arts, fashion, design, literature, and performing arts. Over the years, there has been a growing recognition of the economic potential and cultural significance of Africa's creative industries. These industries not only contribute to economic growth but also serve as vehicles for cultural expression, social cohesion, and job creation. However, one of the key challenges faced by Africa's creative economy is the lack of adequate funding, financing, and investment opportunities. Limited access to capital and financial resources hinders the growth and sustainability of creative ventures, leading to missed opportunities for economic development and the nurturing of artistic talent. Historically, creative industries in Africa have faced difficulties in attracting traditional sources of financing, such as banks and venture capitalists, due to factors such as perceived risks, lack of collateral, and unfamiliarity with the sector.

This has created a funding gap that stifles the growth and potential of creative entrepreneurs and artists. In recent years, there have been concerted efforts to address this challenge. Governments, development organizations, and private sector actors are increasingly recognizing the importance of investing in Africa's creative economy. Initiatives such as specialized funding schemes, grants, and creative hubs have emerged to provide financial support, technical assistance, and mentorship to creative entrepreneurs and artists. The discussion surrounding funding, financing, and investing in Africa's creative economy that was held at the AMACE23 in Lusaka, Zambia, sought to explore strategies to bridge the financing gap, foster an enabling environment for creative entrepreneurship, and attract domestic and foreign investments. This discussion brought together panelists with expertise in investment financing to discuss issues related to promoting investment in Africa's creative sector.



The discussion was moderated by Abraham Makano, Managing Consultant at Metro Consult Limited. Mulaza Kaira, Founder of Alpha Entertainments set the stage for discussions. Other panelists included, Ernest Adade Wiredu, Chief Accountant, FR Ghana, Chavunga Lungu, Director of Marketing for Zambia Tourism Agency, Leonard Amanyana, Officer at the Uganda Telecommunications Commission, David Nkansa Anto, National Lottery Authority, Ghana and Chanozya Kabaghe.



## HIGHLIGHTS

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Access to funding and financing is a major hurdle for creative entrepreneurs in Africa. We need to explore innovative financing mechanisms that cater specifically to the needs of the creative economy. This includes the establishment of specialized funds, crowdfunding platforms, and investment models that understand and appreciate the unique risks and opportunities in the creative sector.

Public-private partnerships are essential in unlocking the potential of Africa's creative economy. Governments should create supportive policies and regulatory frameworks that encourage private sector investment. At the same time, private entities should recognize the value and potential returns of investing in the creative industries and be willing to take calculated risks.

Financial literacy and capacity-building initiatives are crucial to empower creative entrepreneurs in Africa. Many artists and cultural practitioners lack the necessary skills to navigate the complexities of funding and financial management. By providing training and mentorship programs, we can equip them with the tools to access and manage funds effectively.

We should foster cross-sector collaboration to leverage existing resources and networks. This includes partnering with financial institutions, philanthropic organizations, and development agencies to pool resources and expertise. Collaboration can lead to the creation of funding pipelines, mentorship programs, and investment opportunities tailored to the specific needs of the creative sector.



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Investing in Africa's creative economy goes beyond financial returns. It is an investment in social and cultural development. Impact investors should recognize the value of supporting creative ventures that promote cultural diversity, social inclusion, and job creation. By aligning financial objectives with social impact, we can attract more investors to the creative sector.

Local and regional funding sources are vital for sustainability. African governments and institutions should prioritize allocating resources to support the creative economy. This includes establishing grant programs, tax incentives, and affordable credit facilities tailored to creative entrepreneurs. By nurturing local talent and industries, we can create a thriving creative ecosystem that contributes to economic growth and cultural vibrancy.



## CONCLUSION

the discussion on funding, financing, and investing in Africa's creative economy has shed light on the challenges and opportunities faced by creative entrepreneurs and artists. The panelists have highlighted the critical need to address the funding gap and create an enabling environment for sustainable growth in the creative sector. To unlock the potential of Africa's creative economy, it is imperative to establish specialized funding mechanisms that cater to the unique needs and risks of the sector. Public-private partnerships, collaboration among stakeholders, and supportive policies can encourage private sector investment and leverage existing resources.

Furthermore, financial literacy and capacity-building programs are crucial in empowering creative entrepreneurs to navigate the intricacies of funding and financial management. By equipping them with the necessary skills, training, and mentorship, we can enhance their chances of accessing and managing funds effectively. Impact investors have a significant role to play in supporting Africa's creative industries. Recognizing the value of investing in cultural diversity, social inclusion, and job creation, impact investors can align their financial objectives with social impact and contribute to the sustainable growth of the sector.

Finally, the importance of local support cannot be overstated. African governments, institutions, and regional entities should allocate resources, establish grant programs, tax incentives, and affordable credit facilities tailored to the needs of creative entrepreneurs. By nurturing local talent and industries, Africa can create a vibrant and sustainable creative ecosystem that contributes to economic growth and cultural development. Overall, with concerted efforts from various stakeholders and a focus on collaboration, capacity building, and targeted financing models, Africa's creative economy can thrive, creating opportunities, preserving cultural heritage, and driving inclusive and sustainable development across the continent.



# Incentivizing the Gig Economy to Drive the Creative Industry

## INTRODUCTION

The gig economy, characterized by temporary and freelance work arrangements, has gained prominence globally and has significant potential to drive the creative industry in Africa. The creative industry encompasses sectors such as film, music, visual arts, fashion, design, literature, and performing arts, which are vital contributors to cultural expression, economic growth, and job creation. In the context of Africa, the gig economy presents both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, it offers a flexible and accessible platform for creative professionals to showcase their talents, collaborate with diverse clients, and reach a global audience. It enables individuals to leverage digital platforms, social media, and e-commerce to monetize their skills and services, even without traditional employment structures. However, there are challenges that need to be addressed to fully harness the potential of the gig economy in driving the creative industry in Africa. These challenges include limited access to technology, financial barriers, inadequate social protections, and a lack of supportive infrastructure and policies that cater specifically to the needs of gig workers.

In this panel discussion, experts and stakeholders explored ways to incentivize and empower the gig economy to drive the creative industry in Africa. They delved into topics such as creating an enabling regulatory environment, improving access to technology and digital platforms, fostering skills development and entrepreneurship, promoting fair compensation and social protections for gig workers, and enhancing connectivity and infrastructure to facilitate gig-based creative collaborations.

The session was moderated by Amadou B Jobarteh, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement in the Gambia. His Worship Mr George Mwanza, Mayor of Chipata City set the stage for discussions. Other panelists included Mulenga J Mulenga, Painter/Sculptor; Bwalia Nkumbula, CEO of Zed Arts Records Limited, Michelo Mara Zhanet, CEO and Founder of Jacaranda Hub, Katrina Sproge, Vice President of European Students Union and Chandra Choongo, President of the University of Zambia Students Union.



## HIGHLIGHTS

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To incentivize the gig economy in Africa's creative industry, we need to focus on creating an enabling regulatory environment. This includes ensuring fair and transparent contractual arrangements, protecting the rights of gig workers, and promoting a level playing field for all participants. By providing legal clarity and regulatory support, we can foster trust and confidence in the gig economy.

Improving access to technology and digital platforms is essential in driving the gig economy in Africa's creative industry. We must invest in infrastructure, connectivity, and digital literacy programs to bridge the digital divide. This will empower gig workers to effectively market their services, reach wider audiences, and capitalize on the global marketplace for creative talent. Skills development and entrepreneurship support are crucial for gig workers in the creative industry. By providing training, mentorship, and resources, we can enhance their capacity to deliver high-quality work, develop business acumen, and navigate the gig economy successfully. This will empower them to seize opportunities and drive their creative careers forward."

Fair compensation and social protections are key incentives for gig workers in the creative industry. We need to establish mechanisms that ensure gig workers receive fair payment for their services and access to social security benefits. Providing a safety net and protections against exploitation will attract and retain talent in the gig economy.

Collaboration and networking opportunities are vital to incentivizing the gig economy. By fostering connections, facilitating collaborations among gig workers and industry stakeholders, and creating platforms for knowledge sharing, we can stimulate creativity, innovation, and collective growth within the creative industry.

Government and industry support is critical for incentivizing the gig economy. Governments can offer tax incentives, grants, and funding opportunities to support gig workers in the creative industry. Industry associations and organizations should also play a role in advocating for the rights and recognition of gig workers, promoting best practices, and providing support services tailored to their needs.



## CONCLUSION

The discussions on incentivizing the gig economy to drive the creative industry in the context of Africa highlighted the immense potential and specific considerations involved in leveraging the gig economy for economic growth, cultural expression, and social development. The panelists provided insights and recommendations to create an enabling environment that maximizes the benefits of the gig economy while addressing its challenges.

It was recognized that establishing an enabling regulatory environment is crucial, with fair and transparent contractual arrangements and protections for gig workers. Improving access to technology and digital platforms is essential to ensure connectivity and enhance market access for creative talent across Africa. Furthermore, investing in skills development, entrepreneurship support, and mentorship programs can equip gig workers with the necessary tools to succeed in the creative industry.

Fair compensation and social protections are vital incentives for gig workers, necessitating mechanisms that ensure fair payment and access to social security benefits. Collaboration, networking opportunities, and platforms for knowledge sharing can foster innovation, creativity, and collective growth within the gig economy. Lastly, government and industry support through tax incentives, grants, and advocacy efforts play a critical role in incentivizing the gig economy and nurturing the creative industry.

By implementing these recommendations and fostering a supportive ecosystem, Africa can unlock the full potential of its gig economy within the creative industry. This will enable individuals to monetize their skills, drive entrepreneurship, and create sustainable livelihoods. Ultimately, leveraging the gig economy will contribute to economic growth, cultural diversity, and social progress in Africa, empowering individuals and fostering a vibrant and thriving creative sector.



## Women in the Creative Industry

### INTRODUCTION

Women in the creative industry in Africa have played a significant role in shaping cultural expression, promoting social change, and contributing to economic growth. Across various sectors such as film, music, visual arts, fashion, design, literature, and performing arts, women have demonstrated immense talent, creativity, and resilience. Historically, women in Africa's creative industry have faced unique challenges, including gender inequality, limited access to resources and opportunities, and cultural biases. However, there has been a notable shift in recent years, with increasing recognition of women's contributions and efforts to address gender disparities. Women artists and entrepreneurs are breaking barriers and making strides in their respective fields. They are using their platforms to challenge social norms, advocate for gender equality, and explore diverse narratives that resonate with African experiences. Women-led initiatives and organizations are emerging to support and amplify the voices of women in the creative industry. The AMACE23 organized a session to explore the challenges and opportunities that exists in the creative industry as regards women.

The panel was moderated by Mulenga Kapwepwe, Cultural Expert, Women's Museums. Monde and Chichi Nyambe, Co-Managing Partners of PR Girl Media set the stage for discussions. Other panelists included Natasha O. Banda, Author and Founder of Copper Monstrea; Eng. Veronica Chita, Publicity Secretary of Zamrus; Brenda Kiconco, Secretary for Female Affairs of the National Youth Council, Namwezi Namwinga, General Manager of the Movement Magazine and Bianca Borges dos Santos, Global Students Forum.



## HIGHLIGHTS

The creative industry in Africa is seeing an increasing number of talented women making their mark. However, gender inequalities still persist. We need to address barriers such as limited access to resources, biases, and societal expectations that hinder women's progress. It is crucial to create platforms and opportunities that empower women to fully express their creativity and realize their potential.

Women in the creative industry are not only driving cultural expression but also challenging social norms and promoting gender equality. We should celebrate and amplify their voices, ensuring their stories are heard and valued. By providing mentorship, networking, and skill-building programs tailored to women's needs, we can support their professional growth and help them navigate and thrive in the industry.

Financial support is vital for women in the creative industry to sustain and grow their businesses. We need to establish funding initiatives specifically targeted at supporting women entrepreneurs in the creative sector. This includes access to grants, loans, and investment opportunities that recognize the economic potential of women-led businesses and foster their growth and sustainability.

Representation matters. We must actively promote diverse and inclusive spaces within the creative industry, ensuring that women have equal opportunities for leadership roles, recognition, and visibility. Industry associations, cultural institutions, and media platforms should actively work towards gender balance in their programming, decision-making processes, and representation.

Collaboration and networking are essential for women in the creative industry to thrive. Creating mentorship programs, fostering networks of support, and facilitating collaborations among women artists and entrepreneurs can foster a sense of community, empower knowledge-sharing, and open doors for new opportunities. By building strong networks, women can navigate the industry more effectively and support one another.

Policy interventions and advocacy are critical to advancing gender equality in the creative industry. Governments and institutions should enact policies that promote equal opportunities, address gender biases, and provide incentives for gender-balanced representation. By fostering an enabling environment, we can create a level playing field for women in the creative industry and ensure their contributions are recognized, valued, and rewarded.



## CONCLUSION

The panelists' discussion on women in the creative industry in the context of Africa highlights the significant contributions, challenges, and opportunities for women in this sector. They underscored the importance of addressing gender inequalities, promoting inclusivity, and providing targeted support to empower women to thrive in the creative industry. The panelists recognized the progress that has been made in amplifying the voices and visibility of women in the creative sector. However, they also acknowledged that there is still work to be done to break down barriers and create equal opportunities. The panelists stressed the need for continued efforts to provide access to resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities tailored to women's needs. Financial support is identified as a critical aspect for women in the creative industry. The panelists advocated for the establishment of funding initiatives and investment opportunities that recognize the economic potential of women-led businesses and foster their growth and sustainability.

Representation and gender balance within the industry are emphasized as important factors. The panelists emphasized the need for diverse and inclusive spaces that provide equal opportunities for women in leadership roles, recognition, and visibility. They called for industry associations, cultural institutions, and media platforms to actively work towards achieving gender balance in their programming, decision-making processes, and representation. Collaboration, mentorship, and networking were seen as vital components for women in the creative industry to succeed. The panelists emphasized the importance of building strong networks that foster knowledge-sharing, support, and collaboration among women artists and entrepreneurs. By creating a sense of community and empowering one another, women can navigate the industry more effectively and seize new opportunities.

Policy interventions and advocacy were identified as essential drivers of change. The panelists emphasized the need for governments and institutions to enact policies that promote equal opportunities, address gender biases, and provide incentives for gender-balanced representation. By fostering an enabling environment, gender equality can be advanced in the creative industry.

Generally, the panelists agreed that concerted efforts were needed to continue supporting and empowering women in Africa's creative industry. By addressing gender inequalities, providing targeted support, promoting inclusivity and representation, and enacting supportive policies, the creative sector can harness the full potential of women's contributions and pave the way for a more diverse, equitable, and thriving creative landscape in Africa.



# The Future of Arts in a Technological Age

## INTRODUCTION

The future of arts in a technological age is a topic that explores the intersection of creativity, technology, and cultural expression. As technology continues to advance at a rapid pace, it is fundamentally transforming the way art is created, shared, and experienced. This discussion raises questions about the impact of technology on traditional artistic practices, the emergence of new art forms, and the evolving relationship between artists and audiences.

One key aspect is the integration of technology into the creative process. Artists are embracing various digital tools, such as virtual reality, augmented reality, artificial intelligence, and digital platforms, to explore new possibilities and push the boundaries of their artistic expression. Technology offers artists innovative ways to experiment, collaborate, and create immersive and interactive experiences for audiences. Furthermore, technology has revolutionized the way art is consumed and accessed. Digital platforms and online streaming have expanded the reach and democratized the distribution of art, making it accessible to a global audience. This has opened up new opportunities for artists to connect with diverse communities and gain recognition beyond traditional art institutions. Against this background, the panelists discussed the challenges and opportunities of Arts in a Technological Age.

The session was moderated by David Mwambazi, Chief Executive Officer of Acu-Serve. Dr. Hakyung Han of Arts Council Korea set the stage for the event. Other panelists included Sherine Omondi, Commonwealth Students Association, Chris Puta, Director of Multichoice Talent Factory, Seybal Alexandra, Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU), Ingrid Nayame, Author and Moses Chisha Callen, Proprietor of Twice Art Gallery.



## HIGHLIGHTS

The future of arts in a technological age holds tremendous potential for innovation and creativity. Technology allows artists to experiment with new mediums, collaborate across disciplines, and create immersive experiences. We must embrace these tools as opportunities to push the boundaries of artistic expression and engage audiences in novel ways.

The integration of technology in the arts brings up important questions about authenticity and the role of the artist. As digital art and virtual experiences become more prevalent, we must grapple with the definition of originality and the value of physical artworks. It is crucial to navigate these challenges while preserving the integrity and unique perspectives of artists.

The accessibility of art has greatly expanded in the technological age. Digital platforms and online streaming enable artists to reach broader audiences and democratize art consumption. However, we must address the digital divide to ensure equitable access to artistic experiences for marginalized communities, and find ways to support artists financially in this evolving landscape.

The future of arts in a technological age presents exciting opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. Artists can collaborate with technologists, scientists, and researchers to explore new frontiers of creativity. By embracing these partnerships, we can push the boundaries of artistic innovation and create transformative experiences that bridge disciplines and resonate with diverse audiences.

Ethical considerations are paramount as we navigate the intersection of arts and technology. We must address issues of data privacy, algorithmic biases, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence in artistic creation. Ethical frameworks should guide the integration of technology to ensure the protection of artists' rights and the well-being of audiences.

Education and digital literacy are key to unlocking the full potential of arts in a technological age. We must equip artists and audiences with the skills and knowledge to navigate the digital landscape, critically engage with technology, and harness its power for creative expression. By fostering digital literacy, we can empower artists and cultivate informed and active audiences.



## CONCLUSION

Panelists acknowledged that technology offers new avenues for artistic expression, interdisciplinary collaboration, and audience engagement. Embracing technological tools and platforms can push the boundaries of creativity and expand the reach of art to diverse audiences globally. However, the discussions also recognized the challenges and considerations that arise with the integration of technology in the arts. Questions of authenticity, ownership, and the value of physical artworks need careful exploration in the digital age. Ensuring equitable access to art experiences and addressing the digital divide are crucial for fostering inclusivity in the evolving landscape.

Ethical considerations such as data privacy, algorithmic biases, and responsible use of technology were emphasized as important factors to navigate as artists and institutions embrace the digital realm. Education and digital literacy were seen as key to empowering artists and audiences, enabling them to navigate the technological landscape critically and responsibly. The panelists concluded that by embracing technology thoughtfully and ethically, the future of arts in a technological age holds immense potential for innovation, collaboration, and accessibility.

It is essential to foster interdisciplinary partnerships, support artists financially, and preserve the unique perspectives and integrity of artistic expression. By embracing digital tools and platforms while addressing the challenges, the arts can continue to inspire, engage, and transform the cultural landscape in a rapidly evolving technological age.





## CONCLUSION

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The discussion on the topic of "Dignity of Work: Fair Compensation for Arts Products" emphasizes the importance of recognizing and valuing the contributions of artists. Fair compensation is essential to uphold the dignity of artists and sustain a thriving artistic ecosystem. The panelists highlighted the challenges artists face in receiving adequate payment for their creative work, including exploitative practices and undervaluation in the global art market. To address these issues, collaborative efforts are needed from governments, cultural institutions, organizations, and the public.

It was recognized that transparent pricing, ethical sourcing, and strong policy and legal frameworks play vital roles in ensuring fair compensation for artists. Education and awareness about the value and impact of artistic work are also essential in fostering an environment that supports artists' livelihoods. Moreover, promoting diversity, inclusivity, and equal opportunities for artists, along with breaking down systemic inequalities and biases, are crucial for achieving fair compensation and upholding the dignity of all artists. By advocating for increased public funding for the arts, supporting arts education, and encouraging public appreciation and investment in art, societies can create an ecosystem that values and supports artists. The conclusion drawn from the discussion is that fair compensation for arts products is not only a matter of economic justice but also a recognition of the immense cultural and social contributions that artists make to society. By ensuring fair compensation, we can create a more sustainable and equitable arts sector that honors the dignity of work for artists and enables their creative pursuits to thrive.



# Enacting Policy Frameworks to Promote and Protect Artists

## INTRODUCTION

Enacting policy frameworks to promote and protect artists is a crucial endeavor that recognizes the vital role of artists in society and aims to create a conducive environment for their growth, recognition, and sustainability. Artists play a fundamental role in shaping cultural expression, preserving heritage, and contributing to social and economic development. The background of this topic lies in the recognition of the unique challenges and barriers faced by artists in various aspects of their professional lives.

These challenges include issues of fair compensation, copyright infringement, limited access to social security benefits, inadequate funding and support, and the need for comprehensive cultural policies that recognize and nurture artistic expressions. Policy frameworks serve as a guiding framework to address these challenges and promote the well-being and rights of artists. Such frameworks encompass a range of measures, including legislation, regulations, and support mechanisms that seek to create a favorable ecosystem for artistic pursuits. These policies aim to ensure fair compensation for artists, protect their intellectual property rights, provide social security measures, offer funding and support opportunities, and foster an environment where artistic expressions are valued, preserved, and celebrated. This panel discussions explored existing policy frameworks that are crucial in promoting and protecting artists.

The panel was moderated by Esther Ng'ambi, Director of Art Development at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Arts. Fumba Chama, the Permanent Secretary-Arts at the Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Arts set the stage for discussions. Other panelists included Mwiche Chikungu, Award-winning publisher and assistant director of the Performing and Literary Arts at the National Arts Council (NAC); Yayha Kaba, Director of Killa Beats; Bridget Malumba Chibwe, President of the National Association of Media Arts; Tshireletso Modikwa, Creative and Cultural Sector Development Manager of the National Arts Council of Botswana; and Dr Isobel Manuel, Deputy Vice, Chairperson National Arts Council of Namibia (NACN).



## HIGHLIGHTS

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Policy frameworks are essential for promoting and protecting artists. They play a crucial role in addressing the systemic challenges that artists face, such as fair compensation and copyright protection. We need policies that recognize the value of artistic contributions and provide the necessary legal and financial mechanisms to support artists in their creative pursuits.

Enacting policies that provide social security measures for artists is vital. Artists often face income instability and limited access to benefits. Policy frameworks should include provisions for healthcare, retirement plans, and other social welfare programs to ensure the well-being and stability of artists throughout their careers.

Funding and support mechanisms are integral to empowering artists. Policy frameworks should establish grants, fellowships, and affordable workspace options to nurture artistic talent and enable artists to explore their creativity without financial burdens. Collaborations between governments, cultural institutions, and private sector entities are key to creating sustainable funding models.

Intellectual property rights are crucial for artists. Policy frameworks should provide robust copyright protection and enforcement mechanisms to safeguard artists' creations from infringement and piracy. Artists should have control over the distribution and use of their work, ensuring their artistic integrity and enabling them to derive fair value from their creations.

Education and cultural policies are important components of supporting artists. Policies should prioritize arts education in schools, fostering creativity from an early age. Cultural policies should recognize the diverse cultural expressions of artists, promote cultural exchange programs, and support the preservation and celebration of cultural heritage.

Policy frameworks need to be inclusive and consider the diverse needs of artists. They should address the specific challenges faced by marginalized artists, including artists from underrepresented communities and those working in non-traditional art forms. Policies should strive for equity, diversity, and inclusivity, ensuring equal opportunities and recognition for all artists.



# The Role of Youth in National Development

## INTRODUCTION

The role of youth in national development is a topic of great importance and significance. Young people represent a significant portion of the population in many countries and possess immense potential to drive positive change, innovation, and progress in various spheres of society. Youth bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to address societal challenges. Their energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to challenge the status quo can drive innovation, spur economic growth, and foster social progress. Their creativity, coupled with access to new technologies and digital platforms, enables them to develop novel solutions to complex problems. Also, young people play a crucial role in shaping the socio-political landscape. They bring diverse viewpoints, advocating for social justice, equity, and human rights. Youth-led movements and activism have proven instrumental in bringing about positive change, demanding accountability, and pushing for policy reforms that address issues such as climate change, education, employment, gender equality, and social inclusion. Moreover, they play a crucial role in shaping the socio-political landscape.

They bring diverse viewpoints, advocating for social justice, equity, and human rights. Youth-led movements and activism have proven instrumental in bringing about positive change, demanding accountability, and pushing for policy reforms that address issues such as climate change, education, employment, gender equality, and social inclusion. Education and capacity-building initiatives are vital in empowering youth for meaningful participation in national development. Access to quality education, vocational training, and mentorship programs equip them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to contribute effectively to society. Additionally, fostering an inclusive and enabling environment that values youth participation, encourages their voices to be heard, and provides opportunities for leadership and decision-making is critical. In this discussion, we explore the multifaceted contributions that youth make to national development and the factors that enable their active participation.

The session was moderated by Dumisani Ncube, the Executive Director of DLN Entrepreneurship Institute, Zambia. Hon. Pius Enam Hadzide, C.E.O, National Youth Authority (NYA), Ghana. Other panelists were Kangwa Chileshe, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts, Chilufya Luchembe, Executive Director of the Alliance for Accountability, Advocates Zambia (AAAZ) Zambia, Ellen Dixon, New Zealand Union of Students' Associations and Steering Committee Member (Global Student Forum), Mwila Chriseddy Bwanga, Director of BeRelevant Africa and Emmanuel Akwasi Essel Management and HR Consultant, Ghana.



## HIGHLIGHTS

Youth are the driving force behind national development. Their fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and technological savvy can fuel economic growth, foster social progress, and drive positive change. We must create opportunities for youth to actively participate in decision-making processes and ensure their voices are heard and valued.

Youth-led activism and social movements have proven instrumental in advocating for social justice, human rights, and environmental sustainability. Their passion, energy, and commitment to causes such as climate change, gender equality, and education access bring about transformative change. It is crucial to support and amplify their efforts in shaping the socio-political landscape.

Investing in youth education and skills development is key to unlocking their potential for national development. Access to quality education, vocational training, and mentorship programs equips them with the necessary tools and competencies to contribute meaningfully to society. We must prioritize their learning and empower them to become agents of change.

Youth entrepreneurship is a vital driver of economic development. Their innovative ideas, adaptability, and risk-taking abilities contribute to job creation, industry growth, and technological advancement. Governments and private sector entities should provide support, mentorship, and funding opportunities to nurture young entrepreneurs and harness their potential for economic prosperity.

Collaboration and partnerships are essential for leveraging the potential of youth in national development. Governments, civil society organizations, and private sector entities should work together to create platforms for dialogue, youth representation in decision-making processes, and support for youth-led initiatives. By fostering meaningful collaboration, we can maximize the impact of youth contributions.

Creating an inclusive and enabling environment is crucial for youth participation in national development. We must ensure equal opportunities, address systemic barriers, and promote diversity and inclusion. By valuing and embracing the rich diversity of youth perspectives, we can foster a society that is truly representative and inclusive.

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## CONCLUSION

The panel discussion on the role of youth in national development shed light on the significant contributions and potential of young people in driving positive change, innovation, and progress. The panelists emphasized the importance of creating an enabling environment that empowers youth, values their perspectives, and provides opportunities for their active participation.

The panel recognized that youth bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and technological savvy to address societal challenges. They acknowledged the pivotal role of youth-led activism and social movements in advocating for social justice, human rights, and environmental sustainability. The panelists stressed the need to invest in youth education and skills development to unlock their potential for meaningful contributions to society.

Furthermore, the panel highlighted the economic role of youth as drivers of entrepreneurship, job creation, and industry growth. They underscored the importance of collaboration and partnerships between governments, civil society, and the private sector in harnessing the potential of youth.

The panelists also emphasized the significance of creating an inclusive and enabling environment that values diversity, ensures equal opportunities, and addresses systemic barriers to youth participation. The panelists agreed that by recognizing and harnessing the potential of youth, investing in their education and skills, promoting their active participation in decision-making processes, and fostering collaboration and inclusivity, societies can unlock the full potential of youth in national development. The collective efforts of all stakeholders are crucial to creating a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future, with youth playing a central role in shaping the path forward.



# Creative Education and Human Capital Development

## INTRODUCTION

Creative education and human capital development in the context of Africa are crucial aspects for nurturing talent, promoting innovation, and driving sustainable development across the continent. This topic recognizes the transformative power of creative education in equipping individuals with the skills, knowledge, and mindset necessary to thrive in the creative economy. Creative education encompasses a broad spectrum of disciplines, including visual arts, performing arts, design, music, film, literature, and digital media. It goes beyond traditional academic subjects, encouraging critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and cultural expression.

By integrating creativity into the educational curriculum, creative education cultivates well-rounded individuals who can contribute to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of their communities. In the African context, creative education plays a pivotal role in harnessing and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the continent. It promotes a sense of identity, pride, and self-expression among African youth, enabling them to celebrate their diverse cultural backgrounds while embracing innovation and global influences.

Human capital development, in the context of creative education, focuses on nurturing and harnessing the talents, skills, and entrepreneurial spirit of individuals. It involves investing in education, training, mentorship, and capacity-building programs that empower individuals to realize their creative potential and contribute to the growth of the creative economy. By fostering creative education and human capital development, Africa can unlock a multitude of benefits. It can drive economic growth by nurturing a skilled and innovative workforce that can compete globally. Moreover, it can promote social inclusion, diversity, and cultural understanding, fostering a more harmonious and equitable society. The discussion on this panel focused on the strategies and policies that need to be enacted to leverage creative education for human capital development.

The session was moderated by Timothy Mulenga SAPATO, Executive director, Sapato Foundation on Governance & Human Rights. Dr Ben Warr, Country Director, SDGCA set the stage. Other panelists included Imane Benrabiaa, Chairperson of the African Students and Alumni Forum; Mabvuto M. Tembo, Secretary-General of the Southern Africa Students and Youth Development Association (SASYDA), Ulloa Hector Enoc, Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH) and Steering Committee Member of the Global Student Forum, George Cudjoe Agbemabiese (PhD), the Vice Dean of Graduate School at the University of Professional Studies, Accra and Sibu Malambo, Executive Director of the Zambian Youth Platform.



## HIGHLIGHTS

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Creative education is a transformative force that nurtures talent and promotes innovation. It empowers individuals with the skills and mindset necessary to thrive in the creative economy. We must prioritize creative education in Africa to unlock the immense potential of our youth and foster a culture of creativity and innovation.

Creative education plays a pivotal role in preserving and celebrating Africa's rich cultural heritage. It enables African youth to embrace their diverse identities and contribute to the global creative landscape. By integrating cultural expressions into the educational curriculum, we can promote social inclusion, diversity, and cultural understanding.

Human capital development through creative education is a catalyst for economic growth. By investing in education, training, and capacity-building programs, we can nurture a skilled and innovative workforce that drives the growth of the creative economy. It is essential to provide access to quality education and support entrepreneurship to unlock Africa's creative potential.

To ensure effective creative education and human capital development, we must address existing challenges. This includes tackling issues of limited access to quality education, inadequate infrastructure and resources, and gender disparities. Policy reforms and strategic partnerships between governments, educational institutions, and the private sector are crucial for overcoming these challenges.

Creative education fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration—essential skills for the future. It prepares individuals to adapt to the rapidly changing demands of the creative industry. We need to prioritize the integration of creativity and innovation across educational disciplines to equip African youth with the tools they need to succeed.

Collaboration and knowledge sharing are key to advancing creative education and human capital development in Africa. We should foster partnerships between educational institutions, creative industries, and cultural organizations. By sharing best practices, resources, and expertise, we can create a thriving ecosystem that supports lifelong learning and nurtures Africa's creative talents.



## CONCLUSION

The panel discussion on creative education and human capital development in the context of Africa emphasized the transformative power of nurturing talent, promoting innovation, and driving sustainable development. The panelists emphasized the importance of prioritizing creative education, preserving cultural heritage, and addressing the challenges that hinder effective implementation.

The panel recognized creative education as a catalyst for economic growth, social inclusion, and cultural understanding. It was acknowledged that investing in education, training, and capacity-building programs can empower individuals with the skills and mindset needed to succeed in the creative economy. By integrating creativity into the educational curriculum and supporting entrepreneurship, Africa can unlock its creative potential and contribute to global creative industries.

The panel also acknowledged the challenges that exist in implementing effective creative education and human capital development initiatives in Africa. These challenges include limited access to quality education, inadequate infrastructure, gender disparities, and the need for policy reforms and strategic partnerships to overcome these obstacles. In their concluding remarks, the panelists emphasized the importance of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of best practices. They highlighted the need for partnerships between educational institutions, creative industries, and cultural organizations to create a thriving ecosystem that supports lifelong learning and nurtures Africa's creative talents.

The panel concluded by highlighting the immense potential that creative education and human capital development hold for Africa's sustainable development. By prioritizing creative education, preserving cultural heritage, and addressing the challenges, Africa can harness the power of its rich cultural diversity, foster innovation, and equip individuals with the skills and mindset needed to thrive in the dynamic global landscape. With strategic investments, policy reforms, and collaborative efforts, Africa can build a prosperous future driven by the creativity and talent of its youth.

# Using Arts to Inspire Climate Action

## INTRODUCTION

The issue of climate change has affected several sectors of the African economy. However, there continues to be significantly low level of climate education. An increased climate education is required for the adoption of practices that can promote environmental sustainability. Such practices include adoption of lifestyle that reduces environmental pollution and activities that include tree planting, recycling and reusing.

It is acknowledged that several African governments and development partners have made considerable efforts to devise or implement strategies that promote environmental sustainability or an in line with positive climate action. Some of these activities have not gone unnoticed. In the education, schools are making efforts to include climate education in their curriculum whiles creating extra-curricular activities that would internalize climate action into students.

The use of arts in climate education or climate action has received little attention. Meanwhile, arts have the ability to transcend language barriers and reach diverse audiences, making them a valuable tool in raising awareness, promoting understanding, and inspiring collective action to address climate change. The session featured several presentations by individuals and organizations who are actively employing arts as a tool for climate action.

## INTRODUCTION

The session featured provocations by Nachilala Nkombo, Country Director, World Wide Fund for

Nature Zambia (WWF) and Megan Elizabeth Claire Baker, Acting CEO, SOS International. There were presentations by Sarah Chibombwe - Multimedia artist; Mwaaba Alec Mugala - Digital Artist; Mwelwa Musonko - Comic Artist; Ruth Mooto - My Perfect Stitch - Decor and Fashion; Clive Nyirenda, Africa Directions - Community Artist; Judy Yo - Musician; and Ubuntungwa Youth Organisation. The event was culminated by William Chilufya, Country Engagement Manager, Hivos, Zambia.





## HIGHLIGHTS

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The session featured an award-winning comic artiste who had created a comic book that educates people on the effects of unsustainable environmental practices. The book highlights the benefits of practices that are geared towards resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Digital artist and multimedia artists had developed games that showed how to promote climate action. These games particularly demonstrated the effects of unsustainable environmental practices, especially when these practices have direct detrimental effects. The games teach players the strategies to adopt to ensure environmental protection by building communities that are characterized by good environmental practices.

Other presenters showcased their physical works. This included recycling projects in a bid to promote the circular economy. The presenters used the AMACE23 platform as an advocacy space to project the relevance of the circular economy to positive climate outcomes. Concurrently, active participation in the circular economy has job-creation potentials.

The session also revealed that there are ways to climate education through music. Music can carry messages that can stimulate positive behaviors in individuals. The use of music to inspire climate action is appeared to be a positive strategy to promote job-creation while ensuring a perfect climate.

### Conclusions

Various forms of arts are required to champion climate action. While educating people to adopt positive attitudes towards the environment, individuals can create jobs. It is therefore crucial that policymakers and development partners leverage on arts as an engine of climate action. This can be done through investments, competitions and innovation hubs that mentor youths in the creative industry to develop initiatives that can be rapidly adopted by persons of all age groups to inspire climate action. Such incentives by governments and development partners can be in the areas of financing and the provision of platforms like the AMACE23 where young people can showcase their works.



Republic of Zambia  
Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts



AFRICA  
**MUSIC**  
ART & CULTURAL  
EXHIBITION  
LUSAKA 2023

## CONCLUSION

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# Digital Divide and Data Inequalities A Demand For Internet Data Justice

## INTRODUCTION

In today's interconnected world, access to the internet has become a critical factor in determining opportunities for education and social inclusion. However, the digital divide and data inequalities persist, posing significant challenges to digital inclusion and inclusive education for all.

This session is part of the effort of the All-Africa Students Union to demand internet data justice through its "Data Inclusion Campaign" which is being organized in 11 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Countries with the support of the Open Society Foundation Southern Africa (OSISA). The Data Inclusion Campaign (DIC) seeks to address the pressing issue of unequal access to digital technologies and the disparities in data availability and affordability within the context of the SADC region. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and reliant on digital platforms, it is essential to bridge the digital divide and advocate for internet data justice to ensure equal opportunities for all.

This session convened policymakers, researchers, advocates and activists in the





## HIGHLIGHTS

The factors that contribute to digital divide in the SADC region include infrastructure limitations, socioeconomic disparities, and unequal distribution of resources. High costs of internet remain a major challenge to access to internet data which consequently affects access to quality education. The high level of capitalism in internet service provision accounts for high costs of internet data which impedes equal participation in education.

Digital divide exacerbates limited access to information. In the context of education, an increased gap between the rich and the poor and the rural and urban dwellers impedes access to quality education by the marginalized. This is because, the marginalized are involuntarily excluded from participation in education-related activities that demand the use of internet, specifically, and the use of information and communication technology tools.

Strategies to increase access to internet data highlighted by the participants include reduction of internet taxes, public private partnerships and increased advocacy and activism in the light of internet data justice. Also, there is the need for fair and equitable data pricing, reliable connectivity, and sufficient data allowances to ensure that everyone can participate fully in the digital age.

In the interest of students, policymakers on the panel called for the for government and development partners to ensure that access to educational materials should be zero-rated, especially in universities. Students in rural areas should be prioritized regarding policies that seek to enhance access to internet data.



## CONCLUSION

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Our panel on the digital divide and data inequalities shed light on the significant disparities that exist in access to digital technologies and the uneven distribution of data resources. We have recognized that these inequalities have wide-ranging consequences, affecting education in terms of access and quality. Throughout our discussion, several key themes emerged. First and foremost, it is clear that bridging the digital divide requires a multi-faceted approach that encompasses infrastructure development, affordability, digital literacy, and content relevance. By focusing on these aspects, we can create an environment where everyone, regardless of their background or location, has equitable access to the digital tools and resources they need to thrive in today's interconnected world.

Addressing data inequalities is equally vital. We must acknowledge the power dynamics at play in data collection, storage, and usage, which often result in marginalized communities being disproportionately affected. Safeguarding individuals' privacy, promoting data ethics, and ensuring meaningful consent in data practices are crucial steps towards reducing data inequalities and empowering individuals to exercise control over their own information.

To achieve these goals, collaboration among various stakeholders is essential. Governments, private sector organizations, civil society, and international bodies must work together to create policies and initiatives that prioritize digital inclusion and data equity. Public-private partnerships can play a pivotal role in expanding infrastructure, providing affordable access, and delivering relevant content to underserved areas and populations. Investing in digital literacy programs and educational initiatives will empower individuals to navigate the digital landscape confidently and make informed decisions. By focusing on digital skills development, we can empower people to leverage digital technologies effectively, fostering economic opportunities and social mobility. Our panel emphasized the importance of ongoing research and data collection to monitor progress and identify emerging trends.

Regular assessment of the digital divide and data inequalities will allow us to measure the effectiveness of interventions, identify areas that require further attention, and adapt strategies accordingly. By adopting a comprehensive approach that addresses infrastructure, affordability, digital literacy, data ethics, and collaboration among stakeholders, we can work towards bridging the digital divide and reducing data inequalities. This requires sustained effort, commitment, and investment, but the potential benefits for individuals, communities, and societies at large are immense. Let us all join hands and strive for a future where digital opportunities are accessible to all, leaving no one behind."



# Enacting Policy Frameworks to Promote and Protect Artists

## Introduction

Enacting policy frameworks to promote and protect artists is a crucial endeavor that recognizes the vital role of artists in society and aims to create a conducive environment for their growth, recognition, and sustainability. Artists play a fundamental role in shaping cultural expression, preserving heritage, and contributing to social and economic development. The background of this topic lies in the recognition of the unique challenges and barriers faced by artists in various aspects of their professional lives. These challenges include issues of fair compensation, copyright infringement, limited access to social security benefits, inadequate funding and support, and the need for comprehensive cultural policies that recognize and nurture artistic expressions. Policy frameworks serve as a guiding framework to address these challenges and promote the well-being and rights of artists. Such frameworks encompass a range of measures, including legislation, regulations, and support mechanisms that seek to create a favorable ecosystem for artistic pursuits. These policies aim to ensure fair compensation for artists, protect their intellectual property rights, provide social security measures, offer funding and support opportunities, and foster an environment where artistic expressions are valued, preserved, and celebrated. This panel discussions explored existing policy frameworks that are crucial in promoting and protecting artists.

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## Highlights

Policy frameworks are essential for promoting and protecting artists. They play a crucial role in addressing the systemic challenges that artists face, such as fair compensation and copyright protection. We need policies that recognize the value of artistic contributions and provide the necessary legal and financial mechanisms to support artists in their creative pursuits.

Enacting policies that provide social security measures for artists is vital. Artists often face income instability and limited access to benefits. Policy frameworks should include provisions for healthcare, retirement plans, and other social welfare programs to ensure the well-being and stability of artists throughout their careers.

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Education and cultural policies are important components of supporting artists. Policies should prioritize arts education in schools, fostering creativity from an early age. Cultural policies should recognize the diverse cultural expressions of artists, promote cultural exchange programs, and support the preservation and celebration of cultural heritage.

Policy frameworks need to be inclusive and consider the diverse needs of artists. They should address the specific challenges faced by marginalized artists, including artists from underrepresented communities and those working in non-traditional art forms. Policies should strive for equity, diversity, and inclusivity, ensuring equal opportunities and recognition for all artists.

## **The Role of Youth in National Development**

### **Introduction**

The role of youth in national development is a topic of great importance and significance. Young people represent a significant portion of the population in many countries and possess immense potential to drive positive change, innovation, and progress in various spheres of society. Youth bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to address societal challenges. Their energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to challenge the status quo can drive innovation, spur economic growth, and foster social progress. Their creativity, coupled with access to new technologies and digital platforms, enables them to develop novel solutions to complex problems. Also, young people play a crucial role in shaping the socio-political landscape. They bring diverse viewpoints, advocating for social justice, equity, and human rights. Youth-led movements and activism have proven instrumental in bringing about positive change, demanding accountability, and pushing for policy reforms that address issues such as climate change, education, employment, gender equality, and social inclusion.

Moreover, they play a crucial role in shaping the socio-political landscape. They bring diverse viewpoints, advocating for social justice, equity, and human rights. Youth-led movements and activism have proven instrumental in bringing about positive change, demanding accountability, and pushing for policy reforms that address issues such as climate change, education, employment, gender equality, and social inclusion. Education and capacity-building initiatives are vital in empowering youth for meaningful participation in national development. Access to quality education, vocational training, and mentorship programs equip them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to contribute effectively to society. Additionally, fostering an inclusive and enabling environment that values youth participation, encourages their voices to be heard, and provides opportunities for leadership and decision-making is critical. In this discussion, we explore the multifaceted contributions that youth make to national development and the factors that enable their active participation.

The session was moderated by Dumisani Ncube, the Executive Director of DLN Entrepreneurship Institute, Zambia. Hon. Pius Enam Hadzide, C.E.O, National Youth Authority (NYA), Ghana. Other panelists were Kangwa Chileshe, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts, Chilufya Luchembe, Executive Director of the Alliance for Accountability, Advocates Zambia (AAAZ) Zambia, Ellen Dixon, New Zealand Union of Students' Associations and Steering Committee Member (Global Student Forum), Mwila Chiseddy Bwanga, Director of BeRelevant Africa and Emmanuel Akwasi Essel Management and HR Consultant, Ghana.

## Highlights

Youth are the driving force behind national development. Their fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and technological savvy can fuel economic growth, foster social progress, and drive positive change. We must create opportunities for youth to actively participate in decision-making processes and ensure their voices are heard and valued.

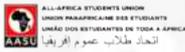
Youth-led activism and social movements have proven instrumental in advocating for social justice, human rights, and environmental sustainability. Their passion, energy, and commitment to causes such as climate change, gender equality, and education access bring about transformative change. It is crucial to support and amplify their efforts in shaping the socio-political landscape.

Investing in youth education and skills development is key to unlocking their potential for national development. Access to quality education, vocational training, and mentorship programs equips them with the necessary tools and competencies to contribute meaningfully to society. We must prioritize their learning and empower them to become agents of change.

Youth entrepreneurship is a vital driver of economic development. Their innovative ideas, adaptability, and risk-taking abilities contribute to job creation, industry growth, and technological advancement. Governments and private sector entities should provide support, mentorship, and funding opportunities to nurture young entrepreneurs and harness their potential for economic prosperity.

Collaboration and partnerships are essential for leveraging the potential of youth in national development. Governments, civil society organizations, and private sector entities should work together to create platforms for dialogue, youth representation in decision-making processes, and support for youth-led initiatives. By fostering meaningful collaboration, we can maximize the impact of youth contributions.

Creating an inclusive and enabling environment is crucial for youth participation in national development. We must ensure equal opportunities, address systemic barriers, and promote diversity and inclusion. By valuing and embracing the rich diversity of youth perspectives, we can foster a society that is truly representative and inclusive.



## Conclusion

The panel discussion on the role of youth in national development shed light on the significant contributions and potential of young people in driving positive change, innovation, and progress. The panelists emphasized the importance of creating an enabling environment that empowers youth, values their perspectives, and provides opportunities for their active participation. The panel recognized that youth bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and technological savvy to address societal challenges. They acknowledged the pivotal role of youth-led activism and social movements in advocating for social justice, human rights, and environmental sustainability. The panelists stressed the need to invest in youth education and skills development to unlock their potential for meaningful contributions to society.

Furthermore, the panel highlighted the economic role of youth as drivers of entrepreneurship, job creation, and industry growth. They underscored the importance of collaboration and partnerships between governments, civil society, and the private sector in harnessing the potential of youth.



The panelists also emphasized the significance of creating an inclusive and enabling environment that values diversity, ensures equal opportunities, and addresses systemic barriers to youth participation. The panelists agreed that by recognizing and harnessing the potential of youth, investing in their education and skills, promoting their active participation in decision-making processes, and fostering collaboration and inclusivity, societies can unlock the full potential of youth in national development. The collective efforts of all stakeholders are crucial to creating a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future, with youth playing a central role in shaping the path forward.

## **Creative Education and Human Capital Development**

### **Introduction**

Creative education and human capital development in the context of Africa are crucial aspects for nurturing talent, promoting innovation, and driving sustainable development across the continent. This topic recognizes the transformative power of creative education in equipping individuals with the skills, knowledge, and mindset necessary to thrive in the creative economy. Creative education encompasses a broad spectrum of disciplines, including visual arts, performing arts, design, music, film, literature, and digital media.

It goes beyond traditional academic subjects, encouraging critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and cultural expression. By integrating creativity into the educational curriculum, creative education cultivates well-rounded individuals who can contribute to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of their communities. In the African context, creative education plays a pivotal role in harnessing and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the continent.

It promotes a sense of identity, pride, and self-expression among African youth, enabling them to celebrate their diverse cultural backgrounds while embracing innovation and global influences.

Human capital development, in the context of creative education, focuses on nurturing and harnessing the talents, skills, and entrepreneurial spirit of individuals. It involves investing in education, training, mentorship, and capacity-building programs that empower individuals to realize their creative potential and contribute to the growth of the creative economy.



By fostering creative education and human capital development, Africa can unlock a multitude of benefits. It can drive economic growth by nurturing a skilled and innovative workforce that can compete globally. Moreover, it can promote social inclusion, diversity, and cultural understanding, fostering a more harmonious and equitable society. The discussion on this panel focused on the strategies and policies that need to be enacted to leverage creative education for human capital development.

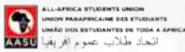
The session was moderated by Timothy Mulenga SAPATO, Executive director, Sapato Foundation on Governance & Human Rights. Dr Ben Warr, Country Director, SDGCA set the stage. Other panelists included Imane Benrabiaa, Chairperson of the African Students and Alumni Forum; Mabvuto M. Tembo, Secretary-General of the Southern Africa Students and Youth Development Association (SASYDA), Ulloa Hector Enoc, Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH) and Steering Committee Member of the Global Student Forum, George Cudjoe Agbemabiese (PhD), the Vice Dean of Graduate School at the University of Professional Studies, Accra and Sibu Malambo, Executive Director of the Zambian Youth Platform.

## Highlights

Creative education is a transformative force that nurtures talent and promotes innovation. It empowers individuals with the skills and mindset necessary to thrive in the creative economy. We must prioritize creative education in Africa to unlock the immense potential of our youth and foster a culture of creativity and innovation.

Creative education plays a pivotal role in preserving and celebrating Africa's rich cultural heritage. It enables African youth to embrace their diverse identities and contribute to the global creative landscape. By integrating cultural expressions into the educational curriculum, we can promote social inclusion, diversity, and cultural understanding.

Human capital development through creative education is a catalyst for economic growth. By investing in education, training, and capacity-building programs, we can nurture a skilled and innovative workforce that drives the growth of the creative economy. It is essential to provide access to quality education and support entrepreneurship to unlock Africa's creative potential.



To ensure effective creative education and human capital development, we must address existing challenges. This includes tackling issues of limited access to quality education, inadequate infrastructure and resources, and gender disparities. Policy reforms and strategic partnerships between governments, educational institutions, and the private sector are crucial for overcoming these challenges. Creative education fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration—essential skills for the future.

It prepares individuals to adapt to the rapidly changing demands of the creative industry. We need to prioritize the integration of creativity and innovation across educational disciplines to equip African youth with the tools they need to succeed. Collaboration and knowledge sharing are key to advancing creative education and human capital development in Africa.

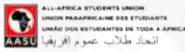
We should foster partnerships between educational institutions, creative industries, and cultural organizations. By sharing best practices, resources, and expertise, we can create a thriving ecosystem that supports lifelong learning and nurtures Africa's creative talents.

## Conclusions

The panel discussion on creative education and human capital development in the context of Africa emphasized the transformative power of nurturing talent, promoting innovation, and driving sustainable development. The panelists emphasized the importance of prioritizing creative education, preserving cultural heritage, and addressing the challenges that hinder effective implementation. The panel recognized creative education as a catalyst for economic growth, social inclusion, and cultural understanding. It was acknowledged that investing in education, training, and capacity-building programs can empower individuals with the skills and mindset needed to succeed in the creative economy. By integrating creativity into the educational curriculum and supporting entrepreneurship,

Africa can unlock its creative potential and contribute to global creative industries. The panel also acknowledged the challenges that exist in implementing effective creative education and human capital development initiatives in Africa. These challenges include limited access to quality education, inadequate infrastructure, gender disparities, and the need for policy reforms and strategic partnerships to overcome these obstacles. In their concluding remarks, the panelists emphasized the importance of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of best practices. They highlighted the need for partnerships between educational institutions, creative industries, and cultural organizations to create a thriving ecosystem that supports lifelong learning and nurtures Africa's creative talents.

The panel concluded by highlighting the immense potential that creative education and human capital development hold for Africa's sustainable development. By prioritizing creative education, preserving cultural heritage, and addressing the challenges, Africa can harness the power of its rich cultural diversity, foster innovation, and equip individuals with the skills and mindset needed to thrive in the dynamic global landscape. With strategic investments, policy reforms, and collaborative efforts, Africa can build a prosperous future driven by the creativity and talent of its youth.



## Using Arts to Inspire Climate Action Introduction

The issue of climate change has affected several sectors of the African economy. However, there continues to be significantly low level of climate education. An increased climate education is required for the adoption of practices that can promote environmental sustainability. Such practices include adoption of lifestyle that reduces environmental pollution and activities that include tree planting, recycling and reusing. It is acknowledged that several African governments and development partners have made considerable efforts to devise or implement strategies that promote environmental sustainability or an in line with positive climate action. Some of these activities have not gone unnoticed. In the education, schools are making efforts to include climate education in their curriculum whiles creating extra-curricular activities that would internalize climate action into students.

The use of arts in climate education or climate action has received little attention. Meanwhile, arts have the ability to transcend language barriers and reach diverse audiences, making them a valuable tool in raising awareness, promoting understanding, and inspiring collective action to address climate change. The session featured several presentations by individuals and organizations who are actively employing arts as a tool for climate action.

The session featured provocations by Nachilala Nkombo, Country Director, World Wide Fund for Nature Zambia (WWF) and Megan Elizabeth Claire Baker, Acting CEO, SOS International. There were presentations by Sarah Chibombwe - Multimedia artist; Mwaaba Alec Mugala - Digital Artist; Mwelwa Musonko - Comic Artist; Ruth Mooto - My Perfect Stitch - Decor and Fashion; Clive Nyirenda, Africa Directions - Community Artist; Judy Yo – Musician; and Ubuntungwa Youth Organisation. The event was culminated by William Chilufya, Country Engagement Manager, Hivos, Zambia.





## Highlights

The session featured an award-winning comic artiste who had created a comic book that educates people on the effects of unsustainable environmental practices. The book highlights the benefits of practices that are geared towards resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Digital artist and multimedia artists had developed games that showed how to promote climate action. These games particularly demonstrated the effects of unsustainable environmental practices, especially when these practices have direct detrimental effects. The games teach players the strategies to adopt to ensure environmental protection by building communities that are characterized by good environmental practices

Other presenters showcased their physical works. This included recycling projects in a bid to promote the circular economy. The presenters used the AMACE23 platform as an advocacy space to project the relevance of the circular economy to positive climate outcomes. Concurrently, active participation in the circular economy has job-creation potentials.

The session also revealed that there are ways to climate education through music. Music can carry messages that can stimulate positive behaviors in individuals. The use of music to inspire climate action is appeared to be a positive strategy to promote job-creation whiles ensuring a perfect climate.

## Conclusion

Various forms of arts are required to champion climate action. Whiles educating people to adopt positive attitudes towards the environment, individuals can create jobs. It is therefore crucial that policymakers and development partners leverage on arts as an engine of climate action.

This can be done through investments, competitions and innovation hubs that mentor youths in the creative industry to develop initiatives that can be rapidly adopted by persons of all age groups to inspire climate action. Such incentives by governments and development partners can be in the areas of financing and the provision of platforms like the AMACE23 where young people can showcase their works.



## Digital Divide and Data Inequalities – A Demand For Internet Data Justice

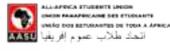
### Introduction

In today's interconnected world, access to the internet has become a critical factor in determining opportunities for education and social inclusion. However, the digital divide and data inequalities persist, posing significant challenges to digital inclusion and inclusive education for all. This session is part of the effort of the All-Africa Students Union to demand internet data justice through its “Data Inclusion Campaign” which is being organized in 11 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Countries with the support of the Open Society Foundation Southern Africa (OSISA).

The Data Inclusion Campaign (DIC) seeks to address the pressing issue of unequal access to digital technologies and the disparities in data availability and affordability within the context of the SADC region. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and reliant on digital platforms, it is essential to bridge the digital divide and advocate for internet data justice to ensure equal opportunities for all. This session convened policymakers, researchers, advocates and activists in the internet data sector in Africa and beyond.

The session was moderated by Mr. Rexford Akrong, Digital Inclusion Campaign Project Officer, All-Africa Students Union (AASU). Hon. Machila Jamba, Member of parliament, National Assembly of Zambia and Sebastian Berger, Executive Director, Global Students Forum (GSF) set the stage with presentations on challenges to access to internet data and the benefits of having access to internet data. Other panelists included Ernest Mafuta, Chairman of Affordable Internet Access, Georgia Potton, Global Head of Activism, 100 Million Campaign; Jonathan Ngoma, Director and founder of Smartweb; Steven Kanyakula, President of Zambia National Students Union (ZANASU); and Esther Gomani, Vice President of Malawi National Students’ Association (MANASA).





## Highlights

The factors that contribute to digital divide in the SADC region include infrastructure limitations, socioeconomic disparities, and unequal distribution of resources. High costs of internet remain a major challenge to access to internet data which consequently affects access to quality education. The high level of capitalism in internet service provision accounts for high costs of internet data which impedes equal participation in education.

Digital divide exacerbates limited access to information. In the context of education, an increased gap between the rich and the poor and the rural and urban dwellers impedes access to quality education by the marginalized. This is because, the marginalized are involuntarily excluded from participation in education-related activities that demand the use of internet, specifically, and the use of information and communication technology tools.

Strategies to increase access to internet data highlighted by the participants include reduction of internet taxes, public private partnerships and increased advocacy and activism in the light of internet data justice. Also, there is the need for fair and equitable data pricing, reliable connectivity, and sufficient data allowances to ensure that everyone can participate fully in the digital age.

In the interest of students, policymakers on the panel called for the for government and development partners to ensure that access to educational materials should be zero-rated, especially in universities. Students in rural areas should be prioritized regarding policies that seek to enhance access to internet data.

## Conclusion

Our panel on the digital divide and data inequalities shed light on the significant disparities that exist in access to digital technologies and the uneven distribution of data resources. We have recognized that these inequalities have wide-ranging consequences, affecting education in terms of access and quality. Throughout our discussion, several key themes emerged.

First and foremost, it is clear that bridging the digital divide requires a multi-faceted approach that encompasses infrastructure development, affordability, digital literacy, and content relevance. By focusing on these aspects, we can create an environment where everyone, regardless of their background or location, has equitable access to the digital tools and resources they need to thrive in today's interconnected world.

Addressing data inequalities is equally vital. We must acknowledge the power dynamics at play in data collection, storage, and usage, which often result in marginalized communities being disproportionately affected. Safeguarding individuals' privacy, promoting data ethics, and ensuring meaningful consent in data practices are crucial steps towards reducing data inequalities and empowering individuals to exercise control over their own information.

To achieve these goals, collaboration among various stakeholders is essential. Governments, private sector organizations, civil society, and international bodies must work together to create policies and initiatives that prioritize digital inclusion and data equity. Public-private partnerships can play a pivotal role in expanding infrastructure, providing affordable access, and delivering relevant content to underserved areas and populations. Investing in digital literacy programs and educational initiatives will empower individuals to navigate the digital landscape confidently and make informed decisions. By focusing on digital skills development, we can empower people to leverage digital technologies effectively, fostering economic opportunities and social mobility. Our panel emphasized the importance of ongoing research and data collection to monitor progress and identify emerging trends. Regular assessment of the digital divide and data inequalities will allow us to measure the effectiveness of interventions, identify areas that require further attention, and adapt strategies accordingly. By adopting a comprehensive approach that addresses infrastructure, affordability, digital literacy, data ethics, and collaboration among stakeholders, we can work towards bridging the digital divide and reducing data inequalities. This requires sustained effort, commitment, and investment, but the potential benefits for individuals, communities, and societies at large are immense. Let us all join hands and strive for a future where digital opportunities are accessible to all, leaving no one behind."

## Resilient Education - Strengthening Education in Crisis and Conflict Situations

### Introduction

Education plays a critical role in the development and well-being of individuals, societies, and nations. However, in crisis and conflict situations, access to quality education is severely disrupted, leaving millions of children and young people without the opportunity to learn and grow. These situations include armed conflicts, natural disasters, refugee crises, and other emergencies that destabilize communities and compromise educational systems. In such challenging circumstances, resilient education becomes paramount. Resilient education refers to the ability of education systems to withstand and recover from shocks and crises, providing continuous learning opportunities to children and young people in the midst of adversity.

It involves ensuring the right to education for all, irrespective of the challenges they face, and building education systems that are prepared, responsive, and adaptive. The panel discussion on resilient education aims to explore the strategies, approaches, and innovations that can strengthen education in crisis and conflict situations. The panel brings together experts, policymakers, educators, and humanitarian practitioners to share their insights, experiences, and best practices. It seeks to identify key challenges, discuss effective interventions, and highlight the importance of collective action in creating resilient education systems. The session was moderated by Frederikke Hogsgaard, Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Global Students Forum (GSF). Charity Chanda Lumpa, Founder and President of Charity Chanda Lumpa Foundaion set the stage with a presentation on strategies to strengthen education during emergencies. Other speakers on the panel include Ester Simon, Executive board member of the Global Campaign for Education; Prof. Aboubacarr Jallow, Principal of Gambia College; David Nkansa Anto, Manager of Good Causes Foundation of the National Lottery Authority; Eng. Humphrey Milandile Mwenya, Cofounder and Director of Plus 1 Zambia; and Petr Franc, Steering Committee at the Global Students Forum (GSF).





## Highlights

Resilient education requires a multi-dimensional approach that encompasses not only providing access to learning opportunities but also addressing the psychosocial needs of students. It is crucial to prioritize the well-being of learners and create safe spaces where they can heal, build resilience, and continue their education. In crisis situations, it is essential to engage with local communities and empower them to actively participate in the education process. By involving community members, parents, and local leaders, we can develop contextually relevant solutions that meet the specific needs of the affected population.

Technology can play a transformative role in crisis education. Digital platforms, online resources, and mobile technologies can help overcome barriers of distance and reach learners in remote areas. However, it is essential to ensure equitable access to technology and address the digital divide to prevent further marginalization of vulnerable groups.

Collaboration among different stakeholders is key to building resilient education systems. Governments, NGOs, donors, and international organizations must work together to coordinate efforts, share resources, and align policies to ensure continuity of education and avoid duplication of efforts.

Investing in the professional development and support of teachers is crucial in crisis situations. Well-trained and motivated teachers can adapt their pedagogical approaches, provide psychosocial support, and ensure quality education even in challenging circumstances. Supporting teachers should be a priority in any strategy for resilient education.

Funding mechanisms need to be flexible and responsive to the unique needs of education in crisis and conflict situations. Donors and funding agencies should prioritize long-term investments in education, ensuring sustainable resources for teacher training, infrastructure development, and continuous support for learners throughout the recovery and reconstruction phases.

Resilient education goes beyond emergency response. It requires a shift towards a more preventive and proactive approach that includes disaster risk reduction, conflict sensitivity, and peacebuilding elements in education systems. By integrating these components, we can mitigate the impact of crises and conflicts on education and promote sustainable peace and development.



## Conclusions

The insightful discussion on resilient education in crisis and conflict situations explored the critical importance of providing continuous learning opportunities for children and young people, even in the midst of adversity. The speakers recognized that resilient education requires a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach that encompasses access, inclusion, infrastructure, psychosocial support, and teacher training. Throughout the session, the esteemed panelists highlighted the need for collaboration among stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, local communities, and international organizations. By working together, we can pool our expertise, resources, and efforts to build education systems that are adaptive, responsive, and capable of withstanding shocks.

The panelists acknowledged the significant role of technology as an enabler of education in crisis situations. However, we must ensure that technology is accessible, inclusive, and ethically used, bridging the digital divide and addressing data protection concerns. Our panelists underscored the crucial role of investing in teachers, recognizing them as frontline responders who require adequate training, professional development, and support to effectively address the unique needs of learners in crisis and conflict contexts. The panelists emphasized the importance of integrating preventive measures, such as disaster risk reduction, conflict sensitivity, and peacebuilding, into education systems. By doing so, we can create environments that promote stability, social cohesion, and sustainable development. The discussion highlighted the necessity of sustained and flexible funding for resilient education. Donors and funding agencies must prioritize education in their humanitarian and development agendas, providing the necessary resources to ensure that no child is left behind.

## Closing Event

The closing ceremony was marked by statements from the President of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), H.E. Varney Aliu Jarsey. There were also statements from the Minister of Youth, Sports and Arts of the Republic of Zambia. The Minister supported the Youth of Zambia to read the AMACE23 Declaration statement. After which there was a series of speeches by Student and youth leaders across Africa. The closing event was climaxed with a series of music and arts performances by musicians and cultural grounds from Zambia, The Gambia and Ghana.



ALLAFRICA STUDENTS UNION  
UNION PARAFRICAINE DES ETUDIANTS  
UNION DE LOS ESTUDIANTES DE TODA AFRICA  
اتحاد طلاب عموم إفريقيا





# EVENT STATISTICS



**2**

**Plenaries**



**12**

**Breakout Sessions**



**1**

**Side Event**



**2**

**Tourist Destinations**



**1500**  
**Attendees**



**773**

**Female (51.5 %)**



**496**

**Males (53%)**



**937**

**Locals**



**496**

**Females (48.5%)**



**451**

**Males (47%)**



**563**

**Foreigners**



**295**

**Females (52.5%)**



**262**

**Males (47.5%)**

# PARTNERS



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# Photo Gallery



# Photo Gallery

