



Youth&Land

INTERNATIONAL  
LAND  
COALITION

AFRICA  
AFRIQUE



Yilaa.org  
a dynamic youth for land



Habitat  
for Humanity



Sweden  
Sverige



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



# INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2022 CONFERENCE



VENUE: **VIRTUAL**

DATE: 11-12th August, 2022

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# CONCEPT NOTE



## HOST INSTITUTIONS:

IGAD, ILC Africa, Youth Initiative for Land in Africa (Yilaa) and Habitat for Humanity International Africa Area Office

## THEME:

Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages

## TOPIC:

The role of youths in responding to land governance, property rights, climate change while building intergenerational solidarity as a contribution to achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the agenda 2030.



## 1.1 / BACKGROUND

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is a Regional Economic Community (REC) of the African Union. Member countries include: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. IGAD's mission is "to assist and complement the efforts of the member countries through increased cooperation to achieve food security and environmental protection; promotion and maintenance of peace and security and humanitarian affairs; and economic cooperation and integration"<sup>1</sup>. IGAD's activities consist mainly of policy support, information and knowledge sharing, capacity development and research, and promoting the uptake of science and technology.

IGAD is mandated under the Africa Union (AU) Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges to serve its Member States using its convening capacity to facilitate dialogue, providing technical support for policy development and implementation, and building capacity through experience sharing and knowledge exchange and cross-pollination.

IGAD through the Land Governance Programme developed Land Governance Business Plan 2020-2030 with four strategic objectives:

- a) Land administration in IGAD region is more efficient, harmonized and gender-inclusive;
- b) Enable sustainable development through strategic gender-sensitive and conflict-sensitive approach to land use and management;

- c) Increased Member States capacity to leverage land (rural, peri-urban, and urban) for economic transformation and;
- d) Reduced barriers and enhanced protection of women and youth's rights to land in the public and private sphere.

The IGAD Youth and Land Conference 2022, lies at the heart of reducing barriers to youth inclusion in land governance and fostering intergenerational solidarity for improving land governance in the IGAD Region towards sustainable development. Over the years, the IGAD Youth and Land have taken several initiatives to enhance youth participation in the land sector. In furtherance of this quest, IGAD together with her partners, **the International Land coalition – Africa (ILC – Africa), Youth Initiative for Land in Africa (YILAA) and Habitat for Humanity International Africa Area Office** will commemorate the International Youth Day by virtually holding the IGAD Youth and Land Conference from 11th -12th August 2022.

In 1999, General Assembly resolution 54/120 endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers of Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. International Youth Day aims to amplify youth voices while advocating for and strengthening youth inclusion and representation in the land governance process. This will engage creating effective spaces for youth collaborative land dialogues as a prerequisite for intergenerational solidarity.

<sup>1</sup> The Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Desertification (IGADD) was established in 1986 to address recurrent droughts and other natural disasters in the Horn of Africa. It became IGAD in 1996 when its mandate was extended to other areas of cooperation.



## 2.1 / PROBLEM STATEMENT AND JUSTIFICATION

Youth can be a positive force for development when provided with the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive. Today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16% of the global population. By 2030 the target date for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that make up the 2030 Agenda the number of youths is projected to have grown by 7%, to nearly 1.3 billion. Further, according to the UN, Africa has the youngest population in the world, with 70% of sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 30.

Land continues to be essential to start a business, own a home, produce food and/or generate an income, thus creating an opportunity for youth employability. However, many youth face obstacles in getting access to and control over land and other natural resources as land laws and policies are not favorable to them. This is mainly attributed to the fact that in most African societies, youth can only own land from their families when their parents pass on as inheritance. They are often excluded from institutions that provide access to financial services, denying them credit, savings, and insurance. Skill development opportunities, education, or resources such as land are scarcely accessible<sup>2</sup>. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world and Africa in particular needs to leverage the full potential of all generations. Solidarity across generations is key for sustainable development.

Several frameworks such as the African Union (AU) Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, The AU Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa, the New Urban Agenda, and the IGAD Youth and Land Strategy highlight the benefits of mainstreaming approaches that promote youth rights, participation, inclusiveness,

and empowerment in land governance matters, as a mechanism of offering youth a platform to have greater control over their lives and destiny through active participation and involvement in decision-making processes. The importance of land to implementing the New Urban Agenda cannot be overstated. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory spatial planning and the creation of tenure security for all parts of society are prerequisites for the vast majority, if not all, New Urban Agenda concerns. According to a report by UN-Habitat, by 2030, over two-thirds of the world's population will reside in urban areas, and the number of slum dwellers continues to rise. In addition, housing accounts for more than 70 percent of land use in most cities, although one billion urban dwellers lack secure property rights.

Youth empowerment through innovation has incredible potential to address problems such as crime resulting from unemployment at a grassroots level if they are given robust platforms and resources to connect and act. Leveraging on youth expertise and determination as catalysts of change and early adopters of technology is powerful for social, cultural and economic transformation. Technology is an enabler to securing tenure rights, however, the existing structures, policies and plans provide irregular and sometimes do not take cognizance of the use of technology and innovation in the land sector and hence limiting youth engagement across all spheres of land governance. Furthermore, failure to provide youth space/opportunity in land administration and governance processes and positions could be one of the drawbacks to progress in improving land delivery the transformation of food systems.

2 <https://www.landcoalition.org/en/explore/our-work/youth/>



Inclusive youth land governance and tapping into youth digital innovation for transparency in land governance is a prerequisite for the youth in Africa to contribute to household food security and the development of sustainable food systems, create job opportunities, thus fostering sustainable livelihoods for the youth and the nations of Africa.

Therefore, in commemoration of the International Youth Day 2022, the IGAD Youth and Land Conference, 2022 will be held to discuss the role of youths in responding to land governance,

property rights, climate change while building intergenerational solidarity as a contribution to achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the agenda 2030. Additionally, the conference will provide proactive actions and mechanisms for youth engagement, representation, and participatory democracy in land governance; integration of technology and digitalization; claim youth space and advocate for the security of tenure as preconditions for climate mitigation and adaptation, highlighting the power of partnership for transformative change.

### 3.1 / OBJECTIVES

- To increase the body of available evidence and facilitate the exchange of views through dialogue on intergenerational solidarity for youth inclusion in land governance.
- To explore ways in which young people can leverage the land resource for employment, sustainable and equitable sharing of land resources that contribute to the attainment of the AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.
- To highlight innovation and innovative ideas by youth on land governance, access to decent housing and building resilient cities and communities while addressing intergenerational gaps.

### 4.1 / MODE OF EXECUTION

The International Youth Day Celebrations will be a **two-day** event broken down into **two segments**.

**Segment 1** is the **Webinar**, drawing on the experiences and practices of the youth on the African continent, showcasing their contribution to improving land governance, transforming climate change and food systems. For this, calls for presenters and innovators will be made.

**Segment 2** is the **policy segment** in which the summaries from Day 1 are communicated to the policy makers and consensus built on how best to further the agenda of youth inclusion in land governance for transformative climate adaptation and food systems. This segment will draw participants from the IGAD Member States, the African Union, Development Partners, the Civil Society and Private Sector actors among others. It will inform the next steps in implementing the 2020 – 2025 IGAD Youth and Land Governance Strategy.



## 5.1 / INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY: CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

This call for presentations (paper, video, pictorials, case studies, best practices presentation) invites international scholars and presenters, especially those from the African and IGAD region with expertise in the subject matter to present abstracts of their presentations covering the three thematic areas.

### 5.1.1 Thematic area 1: Secure Land Rights for Youth: Key to Attaining Climate Change Adaptation, Resilience, and intergenerational equity in land and property rights.

Today's youth are the future of tomorrow. Therefore, youth inclusion in land governance and security of tenure are paramount as a pathway to addressing some of the world's challenges, such as climate change. Collective and individual land tenure insecurity among the youth in the face of the climate crisis makes them more vulnerable, contributing to increased youth marginalization, migration, frustrations, and economic disempowerment.

When youth are denied access, ownership and control over land, it is impossible to foresee a lively and dynamic adoption of efforts to combat and adapt to climate change in many regions in Africa. Efforts to reduce intergenerational gaps while bolstering climate adaptability calls for equitable access and control over land for the youth. This means youth must be at the forefront of decision-making processes on matters that affect them.

Inclusive land governance will provide millions of young people with vital, creative, and inventive

opportunities in climate action and sustainable land use, allowing them to earn and participate in wealth creation while supporting growth and development across continents. This space aims to go beyond tokenism for the youth; for many decades, youth have engaged in the lower rung where they are used to push the Adults Agenda (The Hart 1992) and have been left behind in participatory decision-making spaces concerning land, climate, and many other resource sectors. The youth Agenda must be for the youth and driven by the youth.

#### This call is for,

1. A young person below 35 years.
2. Expertise in the confluence of tenure security, climate change, and youth access to land and its resources.
3. Has created and piloted tools, methods or approaches of engagement and addressing climate change and land governance.

#### Desired Output,

- Make a presentation for the International Youth Day, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- Write a blog/Vlog sharing or rallying fellow young people on how innovation or explorable opportunities for young people and IGAD Youth and Land and all partners to integrate the talent.



### 5.1.2 / Thematic area 2: Integrated Innovation for collaboration in land governance.

The IGAD region, made of seven countries; Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda from the richly heterogenous continent of Africa, continues to play a lead role in the development and diffusion of policy frameworks with regard to governance of land for poverty reduction, and capacity building against a myriad of cross-border socio-economic challenges. Specifically, the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa with recourse from other eight global and regional frameworks have provided the core programs and priority areas to address and exterminate various land policy issues and constraints within the region.

Through digital and creative innovation, young people in the region are demonstrating resilience against the consequences of increasing climate threats, escalating conflicts and the recent COVID-19 pandemic impacting the IGAD region and African continent's land policy implementation and capacity improvement programs at large. The goal of this session is to highlight and provide the existing young talent with a platform to share, showcase, teach and mobilize fellow young people on how practical and integrative the existing policies and tools can be fitted to benefit young people in gaining maximum benefit from land as a resource.

#### The call is for:

A young person between the age of 23-35 years;

1. Has created and piloted tools, methods or concepts engaging components of land governance, productivity, and risk management with a bias towards youth and land governance.
2. Published research on the current innovative trends, opportunities and challenges tackling a component within any of the current 8 governance frameworks<sup>3</sup> (Global and Regional Frameworks informing IGAD'S Land Governance Work).
3. A youth leader advocating for policy & digital integration.

#### Desired Output:

- Make a presentation for the International Youth Day, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022
- Write a blog/vlog sharing or rallying fellow young people on how innovation or explorable opportunities for young people and IGAD Youth and Land and all partners to integrate the talent.



### 5.1.3 / Thematic area 3: The role of the youth in promoting access to decent housing, building resilient cities and communities while addressing intergenerational gaps.

The United Nations' sustainable development goals provide for the equitable access to adequate housing, provision of human settlements that have improved educational, health and economic outcomes for their residents which is essential for sustainable development and ensuring no one, and no place, is left behind. The New Urban Agenda mentions land multiple times. It commits to promoting increased tenure security for all, recognizes the diversity of tenure types, and emphasizes the importance of developing "fit-for-purpose and age-, gender-, and environment-responsive solutions within the continuum of land and property rights, with particular attention to land tenure security for women including young women as a key to their empowerment, including through effective administrative systems. In addition, the New Urban Agenda emphasizes that access to land is one of the critical requirements for low-income urban dwellers to achieve economic stability and social mobility.

The Sustainable Development Goal 11 recognize the need to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The target is to ensure, by 2030, access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums. Integrated housing frameworks that support economic, social, and environmental policy planning and infrastructure linkages across

the urban-rural ecosystem, building resilient cities and communities. The Goal for this session is to highlight the role of the youth in promoting access to decent housing, building resilient cities and communities while addressing intergenerational gaps. We will reading/ looking at the best practices/ proposal that address access to decent, affordable housing while putting the young people at the center of housing agenda.

#### The call is for,

1. A young person between the age of 23-35 years.
2. Expertise in youth and access to decent housing, shelter, and urbanization.
3. Has created and piloted tools, methods, or approaches of youth engagement in the promotion of access to decent housing, shelter, and sustainable urbanization.

#### Desired Output,

- Make a presentation for the International Youth Day, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- Write a blog/Vlog sharing or rallying fellow young people on how innovation or explorable opportunities for young people and IGAD YL and all partners to integrate the talent.

## 6.1 / TARGET AUDIENCE

To ensure no one is left behind in the conference, governments, Civil Society youth organization representatives, development partners and academia will participate while ensuring regional representation, as well as the inclusion of marginalized youth. The event will be held virtually targeting around 500 participants from the IGAD region and beyond.

