



UPFYA

Newsletter

M A R C H 2 0 1 8

Unlocking Youth Potential for Sustainable Wealth Creation and Development



Editorial

According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Uganda's total population in 2017 is projected at 37.6 million, with youth (18–30 years) constituting roughly 22 per cent (8.2 million) of that population. Given the high number of children (55 per cent of the population) today, it can only be expected that the number of youth will keep increasing. Uganda's large youthful population is a huge potential for the country's development only if the youth are prepared to contribute to development, this is because the majority of Uganda's youth continue to face: unemployment, underemployment, lack of skills, relevant education, access to capital, unmet need for health-related information and service and therefore more deliberate efforts should be employed to ensure that this great resource (the youth) is put to use in order to spur the country's social, political and economic development.



However, efforts geared towards youth development should be well coordinated and inclusive bearing in mind the heterogeneous nature of the youth and the young people need to be consulted on policies and programmes that affect their lives.

In this issue of our Newsletter, we bring insights into our new strategic plan, highlights from the state of the youth report as well as details concerning the professionalizing youth work in Uganda.

I hope you will find release more educative and informative.

Nice reading.

Fred Bbosa
ICT and communications Officer.

Cover Picture: Speaker Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga together with UPFYA members during the launch of the new UPFYA strategic Plan.



Word from the Chairperson

Dear Partners,

We have finally come to the end of the year 2017; a year that has given us many opportunities and challenges in the same measure. As a forum, we were able to grow through serving the young people of Uganda and deal with a myriad of challenges that they face. This has been possible through your support both at individual level and through your various institutions.

UPFYA values partnerships and over time has used a multi-stakeholder approach to generate amicable solutions to the challenges of young people. As you are aware through this approach, we were able to generate youth demands as indicated in the National Youth Manifesto. Government as a key partner indeed shared into the youth aspirations and committed to deliver on the demands. We recognise that it is important therefore to take stock on the commitments and review how far we have come in delivering for the young people. And thus through a deeply consultative process using youth parliaments, reflection platforms and reviewing existing literature we have been able to generate the State of the Youth Report 2016/17 that has given us a indication on how far we have moved with delivering on the promises as government.

We recognise that while government has made tremendous steps in coming up with policies and given the legislative work of Parliament, a lot remains to be achieved in implementing these policies. There is need to keep advocating for a coordinated process of delivering youth programmes especially on job creation given the high levels of unemployment in Uganda. The reports highlights the need to improve on the youth participation



in government programmes especially those meant for them. As a forum whose focus is to legislate and advocate for youth responsive development and policy advocacy with state and non-state actors to advance the youth agenda, we understand how important it is to engage young people in all programmes as the main beneficiaries.

In that regard therefore, our 2018/21 strategic plan commits to work towards an environment where young women

and men can have unrestricted access to economic opportunities and social services and where they can register impactful participation in decision-making. We believe that it is high time to change the modus operandi where we will holistically nourish the ecosystem for youth participation, leadership, and representation. We believe that a step in raising champions for youth will create the kind of youth we want. As Parliamentarians we want to dedicate the next four years building and supporting platform where young people's potential can be harnessed.

Therefore, we call upon all the youth, the youth leaders and all the development partners to partner with us in

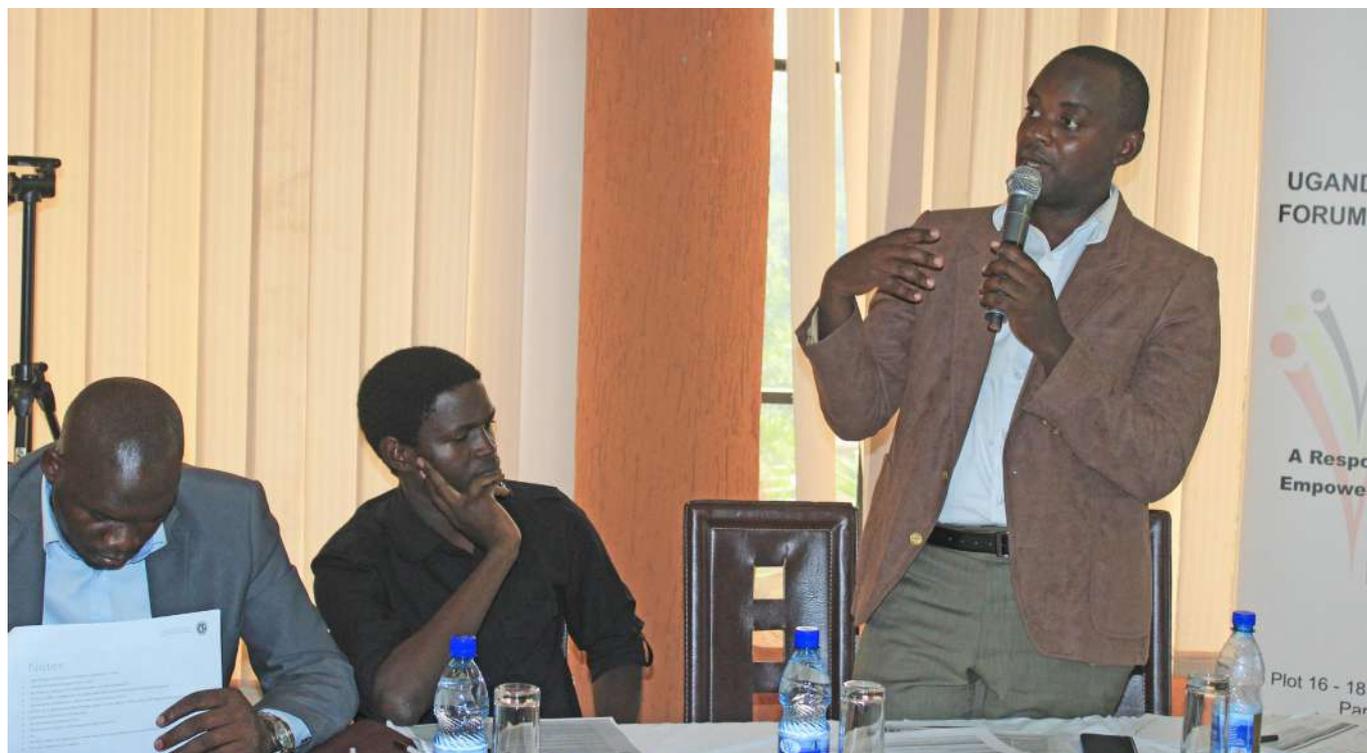
ensuring that we raise the champion we want and hence the kind of youth we want. As parliamentarians, we are making a commitment to become youth champions and would like to invite all youth loving leaders to join us in this drive.

I am more than convinced that with all the support and commitment we can never go wrong in transforming the young people and the country at large.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

For God and my Country!

Mwine Mpaka (MP)





The Ugandan youth population continues to grow on a daily basis and so are the challenges young people face. Around 8.2 million Ugandans today are youth (18 – 30 years), and this number is projected to rise to almost 10 million by 2020. However, while the youth population is rapidly growing, economic and social development opportunities are not. Rising unemployment, inability to access essential services such as quality education and health, and gender based violence are just part of several constraints faced by Ugandan youth.

The Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA)'s strategic plan that was generated after a diverse

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUTH: WHAT THE UPFYA 2018/22 STRATEGIC PLAN OFFERS

and deepened scanning of the sector commits to whole work for and with the young people. Our commitment to youth embodies a clarion call to Uganda youth leaders at all levels and of all dispensations to work for an environment where young women and men can have unrestricted access to economic opportunities and social services and where they can register impactful participation in decision-making.

In the recent past, the youth sector been a beehive of activities by government and nongovernmental actors including civil society and the private sector. A critical missing link however is that our work has suffered weak coordination and, at times, outright competition. At the heart of our limitations has been the weak interaction between the civil society, political society and the bureaucratic apparatus of government. The negative effects of this are glaring: neither increased youth uptake of leadership roles nor high vibrancy of youth civic actors has delivered much needed impacts on youth empowerment.

Therefore, the need to shift from 'business as usual approaches' has underlined the design of our strategy for the next five years (2018 – 2020). Rather than focussing on selected topics or programme areas, UPFYA is choosing to holistically nourish the ecosystem for youth participation, leadership, and representation.

Our mission is to ensure that the aspirations of youth of all walks of life can reach the highest levels of decision-making. Blended with the power of well-coordinated advocacy, we expected that laws, policies and programmes that respond to youth aspirations will be enacted, implemented and that there will be results to show for this, these results must be reflected in increased opportunities for all youth.

This is not merely a strategy of UPFYA but rather one for all youth leaders in Uganda. The new approach suggested in this plan advances the urgent need to shift from competition to cooperation and a move to replace

duplication of efforts with synergy. Most importantly, we shall need to talk to one another and agree to put our voice behind common priority issues. As parliamentarians, we are making a commitment to become youth champions and would like to invite all youth loving leaders to join us in this drive.

We would like to thank the Democratic Governance Forum (DGF) our core donor who have supported us since we started as a forum; through this support we have been able to reach out to many young people and strengthen the youth participation in legislative processes. We also thank the WestMinister Foundation for Democracy (WFD) the key partner that has been instrumental in championing our work in Parliament and reaching out to the youth through a multi-stakeholder approach. We will continue to work with the two partners in ensuring that this work reaches out to more young people in Uganda and Internationally. We also appreciate UNFPA for the support and partnership in generating the strategic plan and other engagements that promote the key population and development issues. Ofcourse we appreciate all the other partners most especially those who have contributed to taking forward the UPFYA agenda; and most importantly the organisations that belong to the Youth Coalition on Electoral Democracy whom we have partnered together to deliver key

Theory of Change



youth advocacy initiatives like the National Youth Manifesto and tracking its implementation. We are grateful to the youth leadership through the National Youth Council structures and the youth in political parties under the IYOP who continue to ensure that we connect well with the youth in Uganda and provide leadership at different governance levels.

Finally, we thank the of the UPFYA leadership for taking time to develop such a definitive strategic plan and most importantly the members who subscribe to this forum that have committed to be champions of the young people in Parliament and other influential spaces.

**By Elone Natumanya
Coordinator**



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE ON THE KCCA AMENDMENT BILL, 2015 AND THE MINIMUM WAGES BILL, 2015

can be best placed in amending these bills.

Kampala City Council having transitioned to Kampala City Council Authority establishment through the Kampala Capital City Act 2010, there were various changes since it ceased to operate under the Local Government Act, 2015. These changes however did not take care of some key representation yet representation is everyone's right. UPFYA sought to ensure that the amendment of the Act takes consideration of the youth within the framework of KCCA. Both the KCC Act, 2010 and the KCCA Amendment Bill, 2015 make no mention of how the youth structures enshrined within a decentralized local government framework will operate in KCCA. The same applies to other marginalized groups such as women councils, disabled persons' council and the elderly people's council. UPFYA's presentation to the Committee aimed to ensure that youth councils and those of other disadvantaged groups are catered for within the authority.

The proposals to the amendment bill aim to ensure ownership, guidance and support of youth structures within the capital city like it is within local governments. Youth councils in city divisions are currently being treated like their counter parts in municipalities. This is in the assumption that city divisions are equivalent to other District Municipalities which is not the case. Since KCCA is an authority, the Committee was urged to make provisions for youth councils within the same structure. UPFYA also proposed that the law compels KCCA to plan for and allocate money to youth councils without only relying on central government grants. It is also important that the law makes mention of how youth council structures participate in the election of council leaders from local council 1 to the position of Youth members of Parliament without.

UPFYA further has made proposals to the committee on Gender making proposals for consideration in the framing of the Minimum Wages Bill, 2015. Uganda currently does not have a minimum wage although there have been attempts in the past to establish one without success. Minimum wage is a key component of the right of persons to work under satisfactory, safe and healthy conditions as enshrined in Article 40(1)(a) because it helps the employee live up to the pre-existent cost of living

Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA) remains a formidable platform in Parliament working for an enabling environment for youth, youth actors represented by youth led and youth focused CSOs to ensure that youth issues and concerns are a subject of the policy and legislative dispensations. Parliament has a number of Bills that are at the committee level that will later lead to the third reading and later enacted into law. Among these Bills are the KCCA Amendment Bill, 2015 and the Minimum Wages Bill, 2015. Given its mandate, UPFYA has been able to get a bird's eye view of these two bills given the impact they have on the youth in Uganda and share recommendations on what

which in turn connects directly with the dignity of the employee. Without a minimum wage, some sectors have been exploitative of employees, especially young people who get hired and fired at will, work for long hours without or with meager pay not commensurate to the work they do and many are exposed to workplace health risks that have even seen some sustain serious and permanent injuries and other lose their lives. The Minimum Wages Bill, 2015 currently before the Committee of Gender is



Ms. Akello Saraha appearing before the Trade Committee

timely and will go a long way in improving workplace environment and establishing fair remuneration where young people stand to be majority beneficiaries.

Among main issues of concern is the composition of the Employment Board which we feel should include representation of CSOs/NGOs because they employ a sizeable number of the population and the proposed composition of the board as it is in the Bill leaves out representation of the sector. It is also UPFYA's conviction that the law must be clear on contractual types of employment and provides that clear terms and conditions of work under a contract must be made known to both parties before assumption of the post/commencement of employment. We also believe that categories of employees that stand to benefit from the law must be clear including taking into consideration the interest of

government uniformed officers in security installations. On the powers of the Employment Board, UPFYA is of the view that the same should have a self regulatory and authoritative role instead of vesting much power in the hands of the Minister. The Board should also have a reasonable time before expiry or renewal of their term of office.

On the overall, it is crucial that all forms of legislation cater for representation of all categories of the population. It is further more important to give the youth the highest priority since they constitute the highest percentage of the population. It is also crucial to ensure that there is effective implementation of the laws once they have been passed such that they deliver on what they are meant for.

By Saraha Akello
Policy and Research Officer



THE 2016/17 STATE OF THE YOUTH REPORT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



In the run up to the 2016 general elections **UPFYA** and Youth Coalition on Electoral Democracy (**YCED**) after a very rigorous **c o n s u l t a t i v e** process produced the National Youth Manifesto 2016-2021 with a set of demands to be addressed by the Government

that would take up the mantle after elections. These demands were produced under five thematic areas: Jobs, Education, Health, Youth Participation, and Sports and Creative Arts. Subsequently the National Resistance movement adopted the Youth Manifesto into its own Manifesto and upon winning elections and YCED established the Technical National Youth Manifesto to track and evaluate the implementation of this manifesto. This State of the Youth Report therefore reviews the level of implementation of the Youth Manifesto by Government in the first one year and below we share with you some of the key findings of the report.

The report was generated through a desk review of the ministerial policy statements presented by the different ministries to Parliament, the government budget documents including the National Development Plan II, National Budget Framework Paper FY 2016/17 and 2017/18,

Parliamentary committee reports on the Ministerial Policy Statements and other youth related reports. The report analysed the Youth Voices generated from 6 regional based Youth Parliaments and National Reflection Platform, convened by the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs. The report indicates that as much has tried to deliver some laws and policies; a lot remains to be delivered on the actual delivery of these policies and laws. We thus share with you a summary of some of the key findings and government responses.

JOBS

The Youth had demanded that investors should be tailored to target hiring at least 40% of local youth recruitment, tax breaks incentives to the youth, offering internships, formalization of the informal sector, establish a law on labour exportation to create a clear legal framework to avoid labour exportation, procuring locally from the Youth in business among other.

However government has up to date failed to operationalize a policy on local content and in away still failing to meet this demand and has made no attempts to formalize the informal sector which would help create more jobs. Up to now there are no attempts by government to introduce a law on labour exportation. Government has set up livelihood funds like youth livelihood programme and capital venture fund that support youth to start up business enterprises.

HEALTH

The Youth had demanded for passing of a National Health Insurance Bill to provide for Universally affordable Health



The Speaker of Parliament launches the State of the Youth Report

Care, provision of accurate and comprehensive health information to the Youth, strengthening partnerships between health and other sectors to ensure coordinated access to health information, allocating 5% of the Health Budget to sustenance of youth corners in all health facilities across the country, investing in health research to discover the unique health needs of youth and other minority groups, elimination of harmful traditions like Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriages, reducing teenage pregnancies and supporting Youth Involvement to curb drug abuse.

Government has failed despite cries from all health stakeholders to introduce a National Health Insurance

Bill, the health information available is scanty and mostly in the English language hence largely unreachable by the Youth, the health sector is not well connected with other sectors to make access to health information easier than it is, little efforts have been invested in health research and government has completely ignored committing 5% of the Health budget to creation of Youth Corners in its Health Facilities.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The demands of the Youth were to enhance free skills training through UPPET and BTVET as well as creation of more vocational centers, incentivize private investment in education in hard to reach areas, increase the education



budget for the next five years, improve teachers welfare, provide refresher courses for teachers to keep them up with evolving trends, provision of free daily meals to Primary School going children, strengthening school management committees through capacity building, emphasizing mandatory vocational education in secondary schools and establishment of six regional centers in special needs education.

Government is working on a Skilling Uganda Project through Ministry of Education which will help avail more vocational skills to the Youth, government is also currently partnering with Private schools through provision of Capitation Grants under Universal Secondary Education in hard to reach areas, however the current increment in the Education budget of about 700 Billion is still insufficient, government has made some attempts to improve teachers welfare by capitalizing their SACCO through the Microfinance Support Center to a tune of 6.8 Billion to enable them access loans. However, government has completely failed on offering refresher courses to Teachers, provision of meals to Primary going children and has only managed to train 6000 members of School Management Committees of 1200 Primary Schools.

SPORTS AND CREATIVE ARTS

The demands were to create community sports centers, reviewing the structure of major sports so as to revitalize the sector, gazetting of land for sports activities so as to establish sports complexes at regional level and revamping district stadia, encourage investment in sports through incentives, support expeditious passing of Lotteries Bill so that Income from gaming can go to supporting sports development, establish creative industry hubs with good facilities and good studios to act as incubators for artists.

Government's efforts in this area are still at the lowest and government has only committed itself on the establishment of a High altitude stadium in Kapchorwa and rehabilitation of 6 regional stadia. The Parliament passed Gaming and Lotteries Bill did not provide for the proceeds from gaming getting committed to the development of sports and creative arts.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The demand was to amend the National Youth Council Act to place the National Youth Council at the center of addressing youth issues, recruiting Youth Engagement Officers in MDAs, increase budget allocation to youth activities, reinvigorate the existing students' movement to enable students meaningfully participate in decision making, lower the age to contest for LCV Chairpersonship to enable the youth contest for the position.

Whereas Parliament has amended the Constitution to allow Youth Participate as candidates in LCV Chairperson Election and the President promising to increase the National Youth Council Budget, there are no clear efforts to amend the National Youth Council Act, to involve the students body more in decision making and influencing as well as other demands. Government seems to be in a comfortable situation as far as Youth engagement is concerned with a feeling that the existing efforts are sufficient.

CONCLUSION

The State of the Youth Report therefore reports generally on the levels of government commitment to implementing the demands that the Youth of this Country put before it prior to the 2016 National Elections and puts government commitment and implementation at a level below average.

By Osborn Turyasingura
Programme Officer



“We are committed to taking forward democracy through supporting Parliaments,” Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Uganda Country Representative

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) has been a fundamental partner in supporting UPFYA in its work to strengthen youth participation and representation in Parliament of Uganda. Through partnership, UPFYA has been able to engage a large number of stakeholders and review its strategic direction that will bring about an environment where young people at the heart of policy making, legislation and overall government planning. We had a brief chat with the WFD Uganda Country Representative; Mr. Joseph Mulyangabo about their plans and what young people can look forward to in 2018 and beyond.

1. Tell us about WFD and what you do?

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) was established in 1992 after the fall of the Berlin wall. We are the UK institution dedicated to the establishment of legitimate and effective multi-party democracy around the world.

We operate programmes in over 40 countries through a network of 26 country offices, including our own in Kampala. WFD programmes generally support the equitable distribution of resources, credible elections

and the inclusion of women, youth and minorities into the political process.

WFD has operated in Uganda since 2007 supporting Parliament of Uganda, Parliamentary Committees of Gender and Human Rights Affairs, IPS, UWOPA, and CSOs in Northern and Eastern Uganda (Gulu Women's Economic Development and Globalization), UPFYA and Uganda Parliamentary Press Association.

WFD Uganda is currently implementing a three-year \$420,000 programme (2016-2019) to improve the engagement of women, young people and persons with disabilities in Ugandan politics.

Tell us more about the work you do with Parliaments around the world

For over 25 years, WFD has been known as the leading provider of UK experience and expertise in parliamentary culture and practice, both from Westminster and also through the devolved parliaments and assemblies of the United Kingdom. We recognize how important parliaments and political parties are in establishing and sustaining democratic governments capable of meeting the security, economic, and social needs of their citizens.



Mr. Joseph Munyangabo (WFD country representative) making a presentation during a high level meeting organized by UPFYA

2. So, how are you able to do this?

We understand that each country is different, there is no magic formula to make democracy effective. This is why our way of working is built on a detailed analysis of the context in which our partners operate. This includes working locally, with a mix of local and international experts, and cultivating relationships and building

knowledge over time reacting to fast-evolving situations when needed.

WFD is unique in the field of ‘democracy assistance’ as it brings together technical expertise from UK institutions and political expertise from the UK political parties.

In many countries we have been successful in building capacity for parliaments to assess budgets, hold



government ministers to account through committees, research legislative topics and support multi-party initiatives. We also advise parliaments on strategy, communications and outreach, devolution and decentralization. And we support regional efforts, such as taking action in the East African Legislative Assembly to protect civil society, to mention a recent one concerning Uganda.

3. Let's bring the conversation back home, what has WFD been able to accomplish here in Uganda

Our work in Uganda has focused on legislation supporting the UN's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), to help root out violence suffered by women and girls in partnership with the Ugandan Women Parliamentarians Association (JWOPA) and gender focused CSOs.

We also worked with Parliament of Uganda to develop a Human Rights Checklist and we helped establish both a Human Rights Committee and the Institute of Parliamentary Studies.

More recently, recognizing issues around youth participation in the country, we moved to support the Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs so that policies affecting young people are made a priority in national planning and implementation.

4. Please elaborate more about this support to the youth and their representatives.

WFD aims to build the capacity of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA) to champion the youth agenda and promote a culture of engagement for advancing policy issues. Over the last year, we partnered with UPFYA to strengthen youth participation and representation in Parliament of Uganda. This programme is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA) to effectively coordinate and represent the interests of young people within the PoU. The programme seeks to create

coordination, consultation and outreach mechanisms for UPFYA and key youth national stakeholders so as to facilitate policy engagement and inform policy debate in PoU led by young legislators. The programme assists UPFYA to establish internal mechanisms for consensus building on policy issues, bills and motions before they are tabled on the floor of PoU so as to enable UPFYA members to internally engage and debate issues and reach common ground before they engage the general public or the house.

Through the quarterly reflection engagements and dialogues between youth and their leaders we have created a useful platform where youth are able to participate in key legislative and policy making processes. This will enable youth representatives and other MPs to make policies and laws which are responsive to the needs of their constituencies.

5. So, then what is in the WFD pipeline for the young people of Uganda this year?

We are supporting UPFYA as it implements the realistic and achievable plan we helped devise. This will create a supportive environment for members but also reach out to young people outside the organization to present UPFYA priorities and actions publicly and improve accountability. We also plan to support reviews by parliament and civil society of the impact new and existing laws have on the young people of Uganda (a process known technically as 'post-legislative scrutiny').

Your parting words for the young people of Uganda.

I encourage youth leaders, both nationally and in local communities, to promote good governance by using every available opportunity to engage with political leaders and demand accountability. Young people are one of the strengths of our country and their energy and success is a tremendous opportunity for social and economic development.

www.wfd.org

Professionalizing of youth work in Uganda



Mr. Samuel Kavuma presenting during a session on Professionalizing youth work.



There are several social, economic, and political issues that Uganda is currently struggling with. Uganda's energetic and optimistic youth are invaluable resources for tackling these various issues. Uganda being one of the countries in the world and more so in sub-Saharan Africa with the youngest population, currently with a labour force that is estimated to be 9.8 million for persons aged 14-64 years, of which 53% are female and about 75% of the labour force is below 40 years.

A lot of efforts have been done in addressing youth issues that involved a number of key stakeholders that stem from Government, CSO, private sector and Development partners etc. However youth hood is a transition from child hood to adult hood and is a stage of potential destruction and development.

Uganda's youth sector has been developing with great potential and constraints. There is internal brain drain and transfer of human resources across other sectors partly due to limited recognition. Thus, there is need to professionalize and institutionalize youth development in Uganda.

On-going Efforts: In response to the need to support the growth and development of practitioners in Youth work occupation, in addition to customized workshops/trainings for the senior government officials, youth workers and youth leader, the Commonwealth Youth Programme has been providing a special training programme for youth work practitioners through a Commonwealth Youth Diploma in partnership with Makerere University. The diploma in Youth Development was initiated in 1974 by the Commonwealth Youth Program which was an important step in professionalizing youth work. As of today Makerere University has step-up to a Bachelors degree in Youth Development work which was launched last year

In addition, there are key global efforts in development of youth Work Ethics and Standards by the commonwealth Youth Program and putting together networks of Youth Workers associations, developing competency standards and parallel qualifications for youth works. However Uganda has lagged behind in these efforts and process that are shaping today's global agenda and focus on how to approach youth development.

Professionalization of youth development being a strategic objective for the commonwealth Secretariat and in recognition of the GNOP key focus areas of working towards coordinating stakeholders including youth experts, academicians, CSOs, Government in the youth sector towards the process of establishing / developing Occupational/Competency Standards for Youth Development Work for Uganda and in the East African Community.

While we focus and advocate for Professionalizing Youth work in Uganda, must consider towards achieving:

- i. A Country where youth work is recognized and valued for its contribution to development and democracy outcomes.
- ii. A Uganda where youth workers are in place, recognized and supported in their work.
- iii. A nation where youth workers are well trained and equipped, and have access to quality education and training.
- iv. A sector where youth workers and practitioners work together to influence youth and national development Policy.

However is recognition of youth work, we must define key terms for clarity to those who are involved in youth Programming and practice.

Key Terms: Among the key important terms to define, is **“Youth Work”** and **“Youth Sector”**



a) Youth Work:

Given the diverse range of work, training and expertise in the youth work field, it is difficult to arrive at a simple definition of youth work. However, there are a number of definitions presented by many youth experts, however for purposes of this concept we could consider the three definitions of Youth Work from different agencies;

Definition 1: *“The informal social and political education and empowerment of young people within a matrix of care, including enhancing young people’s participation in issues that affect their lives” (CYP).*

Definition 2: *“Youth work is a practice that places young people and their interests first. Youth work is a relational practice, where the youth worker operates alongside the young person in their context. Youth work is an empowering practice that advocates for and facilitates a young person’s independence, participation in society, connectedness and realisation of their rights.” (Australia)*

Definition 3: *“Youth work is a field of practice that focuses on the holistic development of a young person.” (South Africa).*

b) The youth sector:

This is a part of the national social and human development framework. It comprises of those agencies – organizations, programs and workers, government and non-government, paid and unpaid – who work with, or to the benefit of, young people as a significant part of their work. It includes volunteer and paid work in face to face youth work, management of service delivery, advocacy, research, training, evaluation and policy formation.

Those working in the youth sector possess a variety of skills, experiences and qualifications and the sector includes, but is not confined to, professionals who have formally trained in youth work. Most importantly, a significant proportion of the sector’s work involves working with or to the benefit of young people (CW-CEP).

Professional Youth Workers Associations: Professional associations provide a resource, a backup and a foundation for professionals who may share common interests and values. They are typically created to provide an organized structure for a group of individuals, usually from a specific range of employment background. Volunteers can sometimes also be members of a professional association. Professional networks also play a crucial role in defining and regulating the nature of practice, validating, qualification and certification, acting as a gateway to the profession. At the foundation of a successful professionalizing process lies the collective strength of youth work practitioners participating in defining the parameters of their profession.

In conclusion as a Country, we end up missing the benefits of professionalizing youth work to look to address enable of challenges faced in the sector and practice which include but not limited to:

- Youth work is not recognised as a profession/field of study.
- Dispersed, common work and competencies, but no common identity – lack of association building.
- Inadequate qualifications pathways.
- Inadequate supervision of professional practice.
- Inadequate, sometimes decreasing, investments in youth services and youth service management

It is also important to note that together with UPFYA, GNOP and other stakeholders such as UYONET and MUK. Initial efforts have been made to start up the conversation and dialogue with policy makers and the line Ministry to consider fast-tracking of the process of recognizing Youth work as Key sector in National Development Work and structure.

By Sam Kavuma
Chairperson of Global Network of Peace Builders
Former National Youth Council Chairperson



A group photo of the team at the Launch of the State of the Youth Report.



UPFYA board member, Hon. Ofwono Yeri making submission during a UPFYA lobby meeting



Mr. Mondo Kyateka, Assistant Youth Commissioner (2 L) and UPFYA Coordinator (in the centre) during one of the lobby meetings.



Mr. Kenneth Nkumiro (former UPFYA Coordinator) making a point during the UPFYA lobby meeting



Mr. Boniface Mwangi, making a keynote presentation at the National Reflection on Youth Agenda.



Some of the dignitaries that attended the Youth Expo 2017



Hon. Anna Adeke (in the middle) responding to a question raised during the Girl Child day Celebrations



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