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BIENVENUE / WELCOME



SYMPOSIUM ROUNDUP:

Official Opening Session

P 2

Substantive Session

P 3

Introductory Session

P 4

Demographic Dividend Around the World: Lessons and Perspectives

P 5

Demographic Dividend in Africa: Policies and Interventions

P 6

Sustainable Development in Africa: Perspectives of Elders

P 7

Recommended Follow-up Actions

P 9

Call To Action from AfriYAN

P 10

Voices of Eminent Personalities

P 11



**"Population is at the beginning and the end of any process of development"**

H.E. Mahammad Boune Abdallah Dionne, Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal

**Harnessing the demographic dividend and investing in our future by putting Africa's young people first**

The High-level Symposium, which is embedded within the 11th Global Meeting of the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) Network, was held in Dakar, Senegal, on June 20, 2016. The distinguished speakers and attendees included several current and former Heads of State and Government, more than fifteen ministers, faith leaders, prominent activists, researchers, development partners, and expert practitioners from around the world. The panels, moderated by media personality Mr. Eric Chinje, Chief

Executive Officer of the African Media Initiative, discussed ways to engage in joint actions and expand existing partnerships to accelerate the development of human capital, such as the Ouagadougou Partnership, which focuses on family planning; and the flagship Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) regional initiative, which seeks to improve the region's handling of maternal and reproductive health and adolescent girls' issues.

INTRODUCTORY SESSION: (from left to right) Mr. Eric Chinje, Moderator; H.E. Amadou Ba, Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning (Senegal); H.E. Mary Teuw Niane, Minister of Higher Education and Research (Senegal); H.E. Mahammad Boune Abdallah Dionne, Prime Minister (Senegal); Ms. Hiroute Guebre Sellassie, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel; Mr. Pape Arona Traoré, Executive Secretary of Africa Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and Development and Mr. Andrew Mason, Professor of Economics- NTA Network; (on the screen) Mr. Mabingue Ngom, UNFPA Regional Director for West and Central Africa.



The symposium was preceded by the opening of the Global Meeting on the NTA, which brought together researchers and policy makers who are at the forefront of work on demographic and economic issues. During its **Official Opening Session**, eminent leaders acknowledged the urgent need to scale up investments in education, healthcare, and social services, in addition to ending child marriage, female genital mutilation, and other harmful practices that prevent countries from reaping the demographic dividend.



**“The conference is progressive because it highlights important multidisciplinary issues that are highly sensitive politically”** Prof. Matar Mour Seck, Rector of the University of Thiès



Highlighting the benefits of child spacing and small families, the leaders stressed the need for people to be better educated on family planning. Having fewer children reduces the economic pressure on parents and allows them to invest in their children's education and health. Moreover, they called for higher spending on family planning, good nutrition, clean water, and sanitation. “Governments should put in place sound macro and micro economic policies, policies which will be conducive to promoting and accelerating economic growth and rapid job creation” declared H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of Tanzania. Fighting corruption and ensuring good governance are both critical in reaping the demographic dividend.

OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION: (at the top and from left to right) H.R.H Yahaya Haliru, Emir of Shonga (Nigeria); Mr. Mabingue Ngom, Regional Director for West and Central Africa (UNFPA); H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President (Tanzania); H.E. Mary Teuw Niane, Minister of Higher Education and Research (Senegal); H.E. Dr. Yakubu Gowon, Former President (Nigeria).

(left to right) Prof. Latif Dramani, Coordinator of the Center for Economics and Applied Finance (CREFAT) and Prof. Matar Mour Seck, Rector of the University of Thiès.



This **Substantive Session on Women's Empowerment and the Demographic Dividend** highlighted emerging theory on demography and economics; and also presented an ongoing flagship regional programme - the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) Initiative - developed and

implemented as a partnership between the World Bank, UNFPA and the governments of six countries in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger), as well as many other regional and national partners.



SUBSTANTIVE SESSION : (at the top and from left to right) Dr. Justin Koffi, Regional Technical Secretariat Coordinator (UNFPA/Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend); Prof. Gretchen Donehower, University of California, Berkeley / National Transfer Accounts Network; Ms. Louise Cord, Representative of the Vice-President and Country Director for Senegal, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and Mauritania (World Bank); and Ms. Fatimata Sy, Head of the Ouagadougou Partnership Coordination Unit.



The symposium was also an “opportunity to strengthen the South-South cooperation, consolidate sustainable partnerships, and make a significant contribution to the demographic dividend continental roadmap,” said Mr. Mabingue Ngom, UNFPA Regional Director, during the **Introductory Session, “Strengthening Political Commitment for the Demographic Dividend.”**

In his presentation, “**#PutYoungPeopleFirst: A Call to Action,**” Mr. Pape Arona Traoré, Executive Secretary of the Africa Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and Development (AfriYAN), a youth organisation, called for more concrete and inclusive policies to help young people, a re-evaluation of leaders’ commitments, and a greater participation of youth in key decision-making and political processes (see Call to Action on page 10).



Ms. Hiroute Guebre Sellassie, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, expressed a sense of urgency and suggested that sound approaches should be implemented to slow down the demographic growth, such as investing in family planning, education, professional training and job creation. She highlighted how young people need to be fully integrated into national and regional development plans.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Mahammad Boune Abdallah Dionne, recommended improving policies and increasing investments in youth employability. His government has allocated \$45 million to professional training. Addressing the issue of governance, H.E. Mr. Dionne stressed the need to eliminate costs, such as those incurred by corruption, to strengthen the process of developing human capital.



INTRODUCTORY SESSION : (at the top and from left to right) Mr. Eric Chinje, Moderator; H.E. Amadou Ba, Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning (Senegal); H.E. Mary Teuw Niane; H.E. Mr. Dionne; Ms. Guebre Sellassie and Mr. Mabingue Ngom.



The discussions on the **Demographic Dividend Around the World: Lessons and Perspectives**, several ministers and distinguished researchers, began with a presentation of the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) method and also successful global experiences of how the DD was harnessed especially by Asian Tigers, and how that could replicated and contextualised in Africa. This was followed by a dialogue among policy makers and development actors, who took stock of existing initiatives and explored good practices and successful partnerships that have expedited country-led policies and programs to harness the demographic dividend.

Africa is facing an unprecedentedly rapid growth of its youth population, which could lead to social and political instability if people's expectations for standards of living, especially in non-democratic settings, cannot be met. To avoid mass suffering and political, social, and economic instability and conflict, governments, in collaboration with the private sector and other development actors, should scale up their targeted investments in health, education, and skills development and provide the requisite capital



and infrastructure to support higher employment. Recognizing the use of security and military forces as an expensive solution, the panellists recommended investing in education and youth employment instead. The participants stressed the need to better shape the debate around the DD by using the right language and including social justice and human rights arguments. The demographic dividend is not an issue for demographers only. The entire community, including the media, should be mobilized, and tools like the NTA should be used widely.

LESSONS AND PERSPECTIVES SESSION : (at the top and from left to right) Mr. Andrew Mason, Professor of Economics- NTA Network; H.E. El Moctar Ould Djay, Minister of Economy and Finance (Mauritania); H.E. Amadou Ba; Hon. Munah Pelham-Youngblood, Member of Parliament and Youth Leader (Liberia); Prof. Alioune Sall, Executive Director of African Futures Institute (South Africa); and Prof. Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue, Cornell University (United States).



This high-level panel on the **Demographic Dividend in Africa: Policies and Interventions** brought together policy makers at the ministerial level, including H.E. Mariam Mahamat Nour, Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) ; H.E. Nana Oye Lithur, Representative of the President of the Organisation of African First Ladies (O AFL); the Emir of Shonga, representing religious and traditional leaders; and members of the private sector and civil society. The panellists highlighted the need



to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders like the African Organisation of First Ladies, faith leaders, young people, women's groups, the media, and communities to help African governments empower youth and end child marriage. Emphasis was placed on the vital role of faith-based organisations and community leaders as agents to drive change and advocate for the reduction of high fertility and the elimination of early marriage and other harmful practices.

The Panel also suggested increasing the involvement of the private sector to facilitate access to infrastructure, improve the business environment, and enhance the continent's human capital through training. By supporting job creation, entrepreneurship, innovation, and skills and network development for young people, the private sector will help advance the demographic dividend.

Additionally, the African Union and its roadmap and initiative on the demographic dividend was identified as the key process to engage with advocacy leaderships from the Chairperson (Chad) and the facilitation of the African Union Commission who had representatives speaking at the dinner. UNFPA was invited to implement a proper plan of action to harness the demographic dividend.



Partnerships involving the private sector, young people, and the international institutions and banks are key for advancing the demographic dividend.

POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS SESSION : (at the top and from left to right) Mr. Pierre Diouf, Global Service Provider Business Manager, Maghreb, West and Central Africa, CISCO Systems, Inc (South Africa); H.E. Nana Oye Lithur, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection (Ghana); H.R.H Yahaya Haliru, Emir of Shonga (Nigeria); Mr. Kingsley Obeng Kyereh, Coordinator Curious Minds (Ghana); H.E. Mariam Mahamat Nour, Minister of Planning and Prospective (Chad); and H.E. Mounouna Foutsou, Minister of Youth and Civic Education (Cameroon).



**“For the demographic shift to happen, measures must be taken to decrease fertility rates: We must invest in Family Planning: there are no short cuts!”**

H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of Tanzania on behalf of the Africa Forum

**“Young people appreciate tall buildings only if they can project their futures in those buildings, not if they feel excluded from access to them”** Ms. Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate

2011 Nobel Peace Laureate



The discussions on the **Sustainable Development in Africa: Perspectives of Elders** was led by four Former Presidents H.E. Karl Auguste Offmann, H.E. Armando Emílio Guebuza, H.E. Dr. Yakubu Gowon, H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, (Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania), the former Prime Minister and current Special Envoy to the President of Senegal, H.E. Aminata Touré, and the 2011 Nobel Laureate, Ms. Leymah Gbowee.

This Session sought to harness the wealth of opinions and recommendations from these leaders to support the implementation of large-scale interventions on the demographic dividend and the achievement of both the 2030 and 2063 Agendas. They identified **four actions as necessary to trigger the demographic dividend: initiating demographic change, improving health, enhancing education for all, and promoting economic development and good governance policies.** The need to invest simultaneously in creating meaningful employment opportunities, good governance, a stable infrastructure, and a functioning business climate was underlined as essential to the continent’s development.

Emphasis was placed on improving access to education, especially for girls; delaying marriage and pregnancy; and training people with less skilled, more labor-intensive jobs in more efficient and value-added agricultural production, as well as in technology, business, and other professions.

Another recommendation from the panellists was to encourage the **inclusive representation of young people in decision-making in local and national organisations for the prevention and resolution of conflict, including institutions and mechanisms to counter violent extremism.** To achieve sustainable economic development and good governance, financial and technical partners should help governments meet the needs of young people in different areas, while enhancing synergies and coordination to maximize efforts and results. In addition, **promoting gender equality is fundamental to leveraging the demographic dividend.** To progress towards greater equality, countries should adopt a comprehensive approach and make a paradigm shift in how they relate to gender from primary education onwards.

PERSPECTIVES OF ELDERS SESSION : (at the top and from left to right) H.E. Armando Emílio Guebuza, Former President of Mozambique; H.E. Karl Auguste Offmann, Former President of Mauritius; H.E. Aminata Touré, Special Envoy to the President; H.E. Dr. Yakubu Gowon, Former President of Nigeria and H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of Tanzania.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BREAKFAST WITH THE AFRICA FORUM

June 21, 2016



- The continent should play a key role at the global level. The collaboration between Asia and Africa is primordial and should be promoted;
- The need to define common African objectives related to peace, unity and development in order to eradicate poverty;
- Africa Forum constitutes a network of forty Former Head of States, which were selected based on their credentials, including democratic entry and exit in their respective countries. UNFPA should use the Forum to promote the youth agenda and related actions. Former Presidents have made a clear appeal;
- The Africa Forum should create a roadmap similar to the one the African Heads of State have agreed upon. Innovative solutions would also include engaging with the continent's private sector leaders to support the demographic dividend agenda as part of corporate social responsibility;
- The need to train the youth for future leadership on the continent. To have a holistic approach to the youth issue and promote a continuous intergenerational dialogue between the youth and the elders; and
- A forum similar to the symposium led by the youth should be organised.



**SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) between UNFPA and the Africa Forum to leverage former Heads of State and government as champions for the demographic dividend. They will work at advancing intergenerational dialogue and mobilising high-level support and resources for the demographic dividend.**

Prof. John Tesha (right), Executive Secretary (Africa Forum) and Mr. Mabingue Ngom (left), Regional Director for West and Central Africa (UNFPA).



**“We need to reflect on Who is going to monitor and track progress to harness the DD. This includes financial and human resources dedicated for this. Political leaders need to implement policies, plans and financial resources so that Africa takes advantage of the DD. Concrete plans need to be put in place – Who takes leadership and Who are we accountable to?”**

H.E. Nana Oye Lithur, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection of Ghana

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While details of the symposium are in the Report, some of the recommendations include:

- The need to **Invest in Young People** as a firm foundation to prepare them for future life and enable them become competent and productive work force that can develop their societies and the nations sustainably. The investments should prioritize health (including sexual and reproductive health), education, skills development and decent employment creation to avoid mass suffering that may lead to political, social, and economic instability and conflict;
- The centrality of **Family Planning** to improve women's health and reduce total fertility ratio and the dependent children below the age of 15 years;
- The need for good **Governance and Leadership** in support of efforts of Africa to fully capture the benefits of the demographic dividend.
- The need for young people to proactively take their seats at the table and help steer their countries and our continent to the 'Greatness We Want Africa to be'. "The Africa we want should be the Africa we build"- **Proactive Youth Participation**;
- The need for adults/leaders to ensure that African youth are at the table as part of the decision-making processes and not only as a target group of country programmes. This should include **promotion of intergenerational dialogue between leaders and young people** and also youth mentorship and coaching to be good leaders.
- The **high-level eminent persons and the opinion leaders called on UNFPA to work with them more at regional and national levels** to ensure promotion of more investments in young people for Demographic Dividend. They are uniquely placed to influence and shape the views of their fellow leaders and communities; and
- The **African Union should continue champion the cause of Africa's young people**, by building on his advocacy to protect adolescent girls, strengthen resilience and address the root causes of insecurity, in addition to ensure that these issues are placed at the forefront of discussions of African leaders at the AU Summits.

## RECOMMENDED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- **The Outcome of the Symposium should be finalised and shared with the African Union (AU), through the Chairperson of the African Union (President of Chad) and through the African Union Commission Chairperson;**
- **The Outcome should inform the AU Roadmap on Demographic Dividend that is currently being developed; and**
- **The Outcome should be shared with UNFPA Country Offices to follow up or replication at country level.**

## EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND



The closing dinner aimed to provide a further opportunity for guests to share their thoughts and opinions on the demographic dividend as a way to reach sustainable development on the continent and to reflect on the outcome of the symposium.

Ms. Fatimata Sy, Head of the Ouagadougou Partnership Coordination Unit, H.E. Dr. Rakiatou Christelle Kaffa-Jackou, Minister of Population of Niger and Chair of the SWEDD Steering Committee, H.E. Mariam Mahamat Nour, Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) and Minister of Planning and Prospective (Chad) and H.E. Amb. Olawale Maiyegun, Director of Social Affairs (AU Commission) spoke at the opening panel followed by reflections from ministers and young people on the importance of partnerships.

The presentations and discussions specifically clarified the importance of involving the private sector, young people and the international institutions and banks as partners for advancing the DD. The initiatives and arrangements like the Ouagadougou Partnership and the SWEDD, Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend need to be replicated and expanded in other regions.

## CALL TO ACTION FROM AfriYAN

**# PUT YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST**

1. "We are calling for Heads of State and their governments to translate their promises into concrete actions that are result oriented and live transformer by ensuring effective and priorities investments that are geared towards our education, health and empowerment.
2. We re-iterate that we be valued and that our needs and rights be put first, ensuring a growth and development space for an African youth well educated, healthy, hardworking and innovative.
3. We continue to call for the establishment of permanent and effective intergenerational dialogue to reinforce our leadership skills, capacity and build generational parity to ensure our meaningful participation in decision-making processes.
4. We recognize the global role, commitments and efforts of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in partnership with other regional partners and key players in enabling young people to fully reach their potential, through empowerment and advocacy programmes, and promoting their participation to fully benefit in the Demographic Dividend and Africa's Development discourse.
5. To ensure maximum and meaningful participation of young people, we are urging governments, political leaders and international development partners to consider the benefits and profits that the continent is set to enjoy while investing in young men and women, and give impetus to education, health, entrepreneurship and human rights, as the basis of youth empowerment and development.
6. We are calling on all African Member States to legislate and create conditions that are conducive for youth entrepreneurship, including through specific and dedicated procurement measures for youth; tax reduction for young entrepreneurs, mechanisms of protection against external markets and capacity building trainings on entrepreneurship and business development.
7. We are calling on all African development partners and researchers to enhance information and data systems on the continent particularly on youth issues. Create business incubator's center to improve agri-business and research innovation centers to conduct impact analysis.
8. And We, as young people, fully commit to fulfill our duly responsibilities in bettering our lives and play our destined role to harness the demographic dividend."



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### Voices of Eminent Personalities



"Youth are the future leaders of the country and can help any country to move forward."  
H.E. Dr. Yakubu Gowon, Former President of Nigeria



"It is all about education - quality education that will empower youth to help transform countries."  
H.E. Armando Emílio Guebuza, Former President of Mozambique



"Realizing a DD and "ensuring that No One is left behind," will require multiple intersecting initiatives and measures."  
H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of Tanzania on behalf of the Africa Forum



"The time to take the necessary actions for the demographic dividend is now."  
H.E. Karl Auguste Offmann, Former President of Mauritius



"Senegal's Emergence Plan is composed of three axes. It is of primary importance -in order to boost DD- to identify how youth is taken into account in the strategy and what's their role across all axes." H.E. Aminata Touré, Special Envoy to the President of Senegal



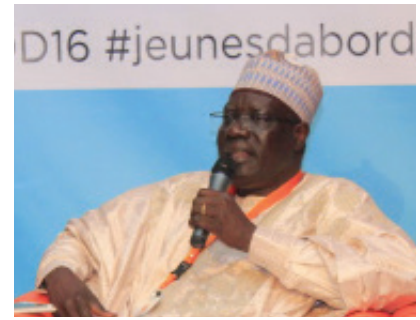
"We need to map the religious and community systems, know them by size and effect, build capacities and network them."  
H.R.H. Yahaya Haliru, Emir of Shonga of Nigeria



"The exportation of our raw materials and assets includes the exportation of our youth."  
H.E. Mahammad Boune Abdallah Dionne, Primer Minister of Senegal



"This 11th conference is in line with the country's willingness to achieve the Emergence Program of Senegal as well as the SDGs."  
H.E. Mary Teuw Niane, Minister of Higher Education and Research of Senegal



"Investing in young people is therefore to secure our future, our future."  
H.E. Mounouna Foutsou, Minister of Youth and Civic Education of Cameroon



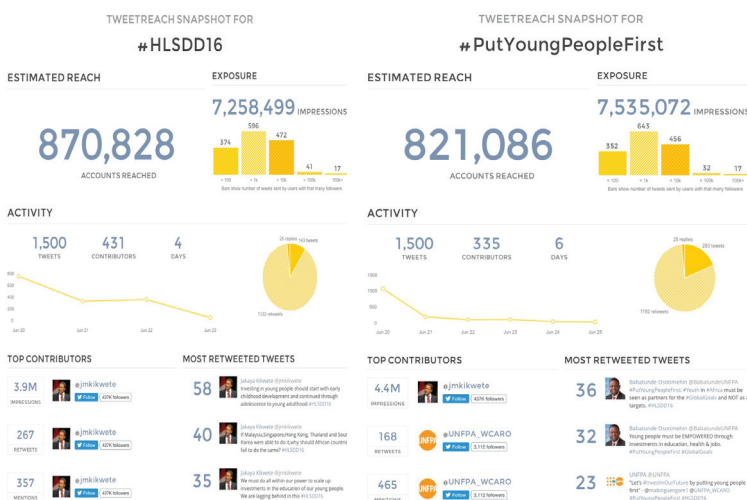
"As researchers, we would like to come up with ways to help the world to be a better place for all."  
Prof. Andrew Mason, Professor of Economics, University of Hawaii (National Transfer Accounts Network)



H.E. Amb. Olawale Maiyegun, Director of Social Affairs (African Union Commission) received the Call to Action for for onward transmission to the African Union



"Demographic dividend builds resilience and helps to achieve sustainable growth: Let us invest in our future by putting our young people first."  
Mr. Mabingue Ngom, Regional Director for West and Central Africa (UNFPA WCARO)



"Effective communications and media engagement need to accompany the advocacy, policy dialogue and programmatic interventions to harness the DD".  
Mr. Nelson Muffuh (left), Regional Adviser on Communications, Media and Advocacy (UNFPA WCARO) and Mr. Eric Chinje (right), CEO of the African Media Initiative

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