



**YOUTH  
CONNEKT  
SAHEL  
FORUM'21**


Theme:

# Connecting Sahelian Youth For Peace and Prosperity

#YouthConnektSahel

30th Nov. - 2nd Dec. 2021  
Dakar, Senegal

BROCHURE



The Regional YouthConnekt Sahel Forum 2021  
Connecting Sahelian Youth for Peace and Prosperity

30 November - 2nd December 2021

King Fahd Palace Hotel  
Dakar, Senegal



# Youth Connekt Africa

YouthConnekt Sahel is an initiative of the YouthConnekt Africa Hub in partnership with the UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa, which is the pan-African platform with the vision of connecting African youth for socio-economic transformation. Headquartered in Rwanda, the YCA Hub has since 2017 prioritized the empowerment and full participation of youth in the achievement of Africa's SDGs mandate, the AU 2063 agenda, and AU Youth Charter.

**Working in tandem with sub-regional and national initiatives to accelerate results at scale and with impact, the YCA Hub accomplishes its mandate by:**

1

Coordinating a global network to create a continental ecosystem for African youth;

2

Sharing experience and knowledge on program and policy design, youth initiatives, fund setting and reporting;

3

Providing a conduit for resources at scale and data on youth to up-skill and finance African youth-led enterprises.





Since the launch of YouthConnekt Africa, several African countries have demonstrated strong interest in learning and replicating the model in their respective countries. As a result, YouthConnekt has scaled up beyond Rwanda to 23 African countries and providing critical support to youth, promoting innovative and promising practices, and scaling-up key local solutions as integrated youth empowerment models. This is being done not only empower youth including the most vulnerable, but also contribute towards local and national development.

The YouthConnekt Sahel Forum is an extension of this Africa-wide agenda and effort. In addition, it will provide a platform to enable Sahelian youth exchange innovative ideas, explore their potential to the fullest, brainstorm on opportunities and home-grown solutions to achieving peace, prosperity and resilience. The overarching goal if this important platform is to inspire, connect, engage and empower young people in the region, to change the Sahel narrative into a land of opportunities, investment and prosperity. This platform will also allow young people, particularly the most vulnerable, to move beyond the challenges and discover the potential in them and the opportunities offered by the Sahel region.

Following the UN-Generation Unlimited Sahel (GenU Sahel) launch by the UN Deputy Secretary-General on the 1 November 2021, YCA is collaborating with GenU Sahel and other partners to launch the Sahel YouthConnekt Hub. GenU Sahel's operational framework focuses on building a ready workforce in the sub-region. It calls for an urgent, collective, and robust political leadership in Sahel countries. GenU works in new ways to align, amplify, and multiply efforts of the public, private and multilateral sectors with and for youth in an innovative partnership paradigm with a view to mobilizing catalytic funding to accelerate action in the most vulnerable Sahel populations with a focus on young women.





YouthConnekt  
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to **23 African  
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# The Youth Connekt Sahel Forum (YCSF)

The Sahel is a youthful region with unique social, political, and geographical standing in Africa. The youth is the biggest asset of the region, if it is valued and utilized properly it will lead to peace, prosperity and stability in the region.

The YouthConnekt Sahel Forum (YCSF) 2021 will be an annual convening event that connects youth from across the Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal) and beyond with policy influencers, political leaders, and public, private and development sector institutions as well as the civil society to engage, discuss, design and accelerate youth empowerment efforts in the region. The YCSF intends to create a platform for Sahelian youth to voice their issues, promote local solutions and rebrand the region beyond fragility, crisis and violence. Moreover, YCSF will enable the

youth to set the vision for the region and lead the change process for the transformation of the region through local solutions, innovations, disruptions and with positive engagement. This year's forum will focus on "Connecting Sahelian Youth for Peace and Prosperity" and will be discussing various aspects of youth empowerment - economic, social, digital, and political empowerment of young Sahelians. The YCSF 2021 is a testament of the flagship collaboration between the UN and GenU Sahel under the auspices of the UN Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel and signifies UNDP's contribution to the UNISS and its Support Plan tenets to empower youth.

Held in Dakar, the capital city of Senegal, the YouthConnekt Sahel Forum will offer, over three days, a combination of informative, high-level plenaries, panel discussions, keynote speeches, small group workshops, awards, learning visits, exhibition and cultural events.

The YCSF 2021 is organized in line with the ongoing flagship collaboration between the UN and Generation Unlimited (GenU) under the auspices of the UN Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel. YC Sahel and the Forum is UNDP contribution and articulation of youth programmes to the UNISS and its Support Plan tenets to empower youth.



# Event Format

The YouthConnekt Sahel Forum (YCSF'21) will take place in Dakar, Senegal from 30th November to 3rd December 2021, at King Fahd Palace Hotel. Over three (3) days, YCSF will deliver a combination of informative, high-level plenaries, panel discussions, keynote speeches, small group workshops, awards, learning visits, exhibition and cultural events.

The YCSF 2021 will be organized in a hybrid mode targeting 500 in-person delegates and at least 2,500 participating virtually from across the Sahel and beyond with a specific effort to ensure participation of young women and youth with disabilities. The virtual participation will be unlimitedly open to interested youth and partners. Physical presence will strictly adhere to the COVID-19 preventive measures. The Forum will feature an opening ceremony to launch the YouthConnekt Sahel Initiative & YouthConnekt Senegal chapter followed by plenary, parallel sessions and interspersed with a cross border trade show and exhibition.

**The programme will be  
structured as follows:**







# Expected Outputs

- ⇒ **01** YouthConnekt Sahel & the national YouthConnekt Senegal Chapter officially launched.
- ⇒ **02** Tangible pathways developed to engage, empower and support youth in the Sahel.
- ⇒ **03** Key partnerships at global, regional and national levels to enhance inclusive youth empowerment in the region built
- ⇒ **04** Sahelian youth development solutions and innovations, value chains and sources of youth employment and sustainable livelihoods showcased and promoted
- ⇒ **05** Youth connected to peers, role models, key development players and informed about available opportunities for enhanced employability, voices amplification and greater engagement.
- ⇒ **06** Demonstrated support and articulation of UN-GenU youth partnership in Sahel
- ⇒ **07** Official statement of recommendations and partnership pledged to enhance youth empowerment and engagement in the Sahel region.





# Overview of Participants



## **Guest of Honor:**

Néné Fatoumata Tall, Minister of Youth, Republic of Senegal

Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, USG/Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel

Ministers of Youth from Sahel countries

Ahunna Eziakonwa, ASG-Regional Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa

Oulie Keita, Executive Director - YouthConnekt Africa Hub

Kevin Frey, CEO-Generation Unlimited (GenU)

Siaka Coulibaly, Resident Coordinator, UN Senegal

Chido Mpemba, AU Youth Envoy

Governments Officials

Development Partners

Private Sector Representatives

Civil Society, Innovation & Incubation labs

Academia Representatives

Religious leaders

Youth (Entrepreneurs, youth leaders, innovators, students, artists, youth in diaspora and youth with disabilities)

Media

# Call to Action: A Leap for Sahel Youth

**Day One: Tuesday 30 November 2021**

09:00 – 10:45 Arrival and registration

10:45 – 11:00 Music: Kora Orchestra

## **11:00 – 12:00 Opening Ceremony: Official Launch of YouthConnekt Sahel and Senegal Programmes (Main Auditorium)**

### **Moderator**

Ibrahima Diédhiou

Call to Action/Youth's event framing remarks

**Youth Leaders - Khadim Diop, Sadya Touré**

Welcome Remarks by UN Senegal Resident Coordinator

**Siaka Coulibaly**

Remarks by Chief Executive Officer – Generation Unlimited (GenU)

**Kevin Frey**

Remarks by African Union Youth Envoy

**Chido Cleopatra Mpemba**

Remarks by UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa

**Ahunna Eziakonwa**

Remarks by UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel

**Abdoulaye Mar Dieye**

## **Interlude: Video of YouthConnekt Sahel**

## **Official Launch of YouthConnekt Senegal & YouthConnekt Sahel**

Keynote Speech by the Minister of Youth, Republic of Senegal

**Néné Fatoumata Tall**

## **Interlude: Music & Poem (Young Poet)**

## **12:00 – 14:30 Plenary Session 1 Let's Connekt!**

### **Interactive session for youth to share experiences and network**

Although the Sahel is the youngest region in the world, with an estimated 65% of its population under the age of 35, investments in this demographic group are seriously lacking. Increased instability, unexploited natural resources, and lack of youth participation in political and socio-economic processes all contribute to challenging the region's full potential. Let's Connekt is a space for youth to express their problems, promote local solutions, and rebrand the region to shape the future they want. During this session, young people will be invited to reflect together on how to strengthen solidarity in the face of common challenges and opportunities. By capitalizing on each other's talent, passion, stories and energy, the "Let's Connekt" dialogue promotes a culture of empowerment and solidarity.

### **Moderator**

Mariama Djambony Badji, CEO of DNA, Youth Leader for SDD's

### **TedTalk**

Amy Sarr Fall: CEO of Intelligence Group, Teslem Meissa : entrepreneur, promotor of Saha Café and Hamid Khayar Ouamr Defallah - General Coordinator of the Digital Transition in Chad





## **14:30 - 15:30      Lunch break, Networking**

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## **15:30 - 17:30      Sahel Youth Innovation Challenge Pitch**

Before the event, the organizers will run a campaign to select best innovative solutions created by young Sahelians to drive positive change in their communities. During the event, the selected innovation challenge champions from all 10 countries will pitch in front of a panel of judges and Forum participants. In addition to the panel, all the online and on-site participants will be requested to vote online for the best innovations. The champions will be ranked by number of votes received and the results of the competition will be announced during the Award Ceremony on last day.

### **Moderator**

Marieme Ndour – Corps Africa

### **President of the jury**

Jean Philbert Nsengimana (Rwanda)

### **Members of the jury**

Sahid Yallou (Managing Director, Ecobank- Senegal)

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17:30 - 18:30              Trade Show Visit, Networking & Partnerships Building







# Youth As Leaders Of The Economic Transformation Of Sahel

**Day Two: Wednesday 1 December 2021**

## 09:00 – 10:30 Plenary Session 2

### The Sahel We Want!

It is time to show another side of the Sahel region. Youth is the largest segment of population and have energy, skills, innovations, businesses, networks and above all the attitude to promote the Sahel promise- as a youthful land of opportunities and possibilities. This session will be discussing tangible improvements, promising practices and youth-led solutions to change not only the narratives, but also changing the angle to look at the Sahel.

#### Moderators

Sobel Aziz Ngom and Awa Mounaya YANNI (Senegal)

#### Panelists

Young Entrepreneur - **Patricia Lamah (Guinea)**, Young Community Leader - **Farida Boube Dobi (Niger)** and Private Sector - **Ferdinand Adimefe (Nigeria)**

## 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break, Networking

## 11:00 – 12:30 Parallel Sessions

### Embracing Opportunities For Youth In Sahel Borderlands

#### Moderator

Tchegoun Koba – SNV  
Netherlands Development  
Organization

#### Panelists

Awa Caba – Agri entrepreneur  
Ibrahima Gorgui Faye, President,  
RAPEA  
Rabiou Abdou Oumalkhair –  
Founder of Khairaty  
Balkissa Ide Siddo – Head of  
Public Policy, Francophone Africa,  
Meta  
Sharon MUKWAWAY, Activist –  
feminist & owner of U-Discover by  
Sharo

### Digital Natives Of The Sahel Shaping Its Digital Future: What Is Required?

#### Moderator

Marija Novkovic - Programme  
Manager, Office of Global  
Innovation

#### Panelists

Nadi Albino - GenU Senior Adviser  
on Partnerships  
Ahmed Abdulkadir - Street2School,  
Youth Challenge global winner  
Emmanuel Niyikora - ITU  
Programme Office  
Claire Matjasec - UNCDF Youth  
Finance Advisor  
Ousseynou Gueye – Polaris Asso  
Pamela Bahdje Madjiarmbaye -  
Youth UNV with UNICEF on the  
U-report

### Empowering African Youth On Their Journey From Learning To Earning – A Session With And For Youth

#### Moderator

Joannes Paulus Yimbassalu -  
UNICEF & Maissa Abdellaoui –  
Education specialist

#### Panelists

Djamirratou Natoukelba Nadège  
Zorom – UNV with UNICEF  
Burkina Faso  
Ousmane Bangoura –  
YouthConnekt Guinea  
Cristina Bacalso – Independent  
researcher  
Aissata Ba – UNV UNHCR  
Mame Aby Seye, Director 3FPT  
Vittoria Dentes, UNODC  
Bruhan Mohamud, UNV, UNODC  
Senegal  
Silvia Danailov – Representative  
UNICEF, Senegal  
Veronique Zidi-Aporeigah, UNV  
Regional Manager

**12:30 – 13:30**

**Lunch Break, Networking**

## 13:30 – 15:00 Parallel Sessions

### Too Big To Ignore: Empowering Young Girls For Accelerated And Inclusive Recovery

#### Moderator

Dr Awal Issa Rachid –  
Epidemiologist, Executive  
Secretary of AfriYAN West and  
Central Africa

#### Panelists

Maryam Suleiman Jaji – UNV, UN  
Women  
Hawa Diassey - Vice president of  
Kolda Adolescent Girls Clubs  
Assy Diamanka: President & peer  
educator at the Centre Conseil  
Adolescents of Kolda, Senegal  
Fatima Gomez - Adolescent Girl  
Advisory Counselor for the Global  
Fund for Women  
Hyaceinthe Coly – Executive  
Secretary, National Youth  
Network for Promotion of the  
Abandonment of FGM & Child  
Marriage

### Revolutionizing Food & Farming – How Are Youth Engaging In Agri Value Chains?

#### Moderator

Awa Caba – Agri entrepreneur

#### Panelists

Kanté Adama - Agri entrepreneur  
Rabiou Abdou Oumalkhair –  
Founder of Khairaty  
Moussa Doumbia - Agri  
entrepreneur  
Kayaba Ouedraogo – Ministry of  
agriculture (Kaya)

### What Is Possible At Home? Promoting Home-Grown Solutions Of Sahel

#### Moderator

Mohamed Salaha – Freelance  
journalist

#### Panelists

Ibrahima Guindo - President of the  
Youth Association of Koro/Mali  
Zidata Mint Zouber – Association  
Cordinator in Djibo/Burkina Faso  
Idrissa Soumana – Former Mayor  
of Tera/Niger

## 15:00 – 16:30 Plenary Session 3

### Youth Greening the Sahel – Accelerating Green Innovations and Actions towards Greener Sahel

Greening the Sahel is the only way to food security, vegetation and sustainable livelihoods for communities living in the region. According to FAO reports around 10 million hectares will need to be restored each year to reverse the impacts of deforestation, overgrazing and desertification of the Sahel. In simple words, some 166 million hectares of land have been identified for restoration in the survey — nearly three times the size of Kenya or France. This is a massive job that requires integrated community-based efforts that use innovations and indigenous knowledge together to lead the regreening process. Since, youth is the biggest segment of the population, it would be integral to engage, train and support young Sahelians to lead this green revolution to build a greener future for them and generations to come. This session will bring informed discussion on nature-based ecosystems, agroforestry businesses, green construction, effective land management, green innovations to protect the environment and create decent green jobs.

#### Moderator

Hana Sahatqija - GenU Youth Engagement Lead

#### Panelists

Titipole Akinola –Tony Elumelu Foundation, Director of Operations, Sulayman Darboe –Green Waste Initiative Founder, Mamady Aminata Touré - CIPAD Guinea Founder, Chioma Ukonu – Recycle Points, Co-founder/COO, Awanah Michael Atamakira –YouthChallenge Finalist



**16:30 – 18:00      Trade Show Visit, Networking & Partnerships Building**





# Youth For A Peaceful And Stable Sahel

**Day Three: Thursday 2 December 2021**

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**09:00 – 11:00 Plenary Session 4**

## Removing the barriers - Sahel Intergenerational and Interfaith Dialogue Series 2021

Youth and adults from different religious backgrounds openly discuss the root causes of insecurity and instability, lack of trust in youth and traditional norms that limit youth's inclusive participation in development and peace processes. What do older generations think about youth? What are youth's concerns and perceptions of their role in society? What is the role of faith-based organizations and religious leaders?

### Moderator

Brice Koue Dié (Senegal)

### Panelists

Religious Leader - Father Isidore Jean Thomas Ndione (Senegal), Young Public Service Leader - Nana Djoubie Harouna Mathy, MP (Niger), Youth representative - Fadimatou Iyawa, President of the National Youth Council (Cameroon), Youth Representative - Ousman Touray (The Gambia, Young Ancestors Foundation)

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**11:00 – 12:00 Coffee Break and Photo of Delegations**

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**12:00 – 13:30 Parallel Sessions**

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**Beyond COVID-19 Response:  
Untold Stories of Sahelian  
Youth Innovations in COVID-19  
response & recovery**

### Moderator

Sofia Ba - Journalist

### Panelists

Fatoumata Gaam Diouf – UNV at UNDP Senegal  
François Diouf – Entrepreneur & CEO of Khabaranta  
Mapathé Sow – CEO of Or Noir Africa  
Almamy Chouaibou Diagana – Co-founder of Smart System Services  
Mariama Cire Camara, President of the Amical of Youth and Women Leaders of Guinea

**A Young Person, An  
Opportunity! Experience of  
YouthConnekt Senegal co-  
creating with youth under  
the “Emerging Senegal Plan”**

### Moderator

Hyacinthe Coly – Executive Secretary, Network of young leaders and activists of Senegal

### Panelists

Ndeye Mary Aida Ndiéguène – Founder & CEO Eco-builder & Green entrepreneur  
Ghaels Babacar Mbaye – Youth civic leader  
Khadim Diop – President of the National Youth Council, Senegal

**Youth Reimagining  
Peacebuilding & Governance  
Their Own Way? Tech4peace  
And E-Governance  
Innovations By “Gen Y&Z”**

### Moderator

Hana Sahatqija - Youth Engagement Lead for GenU

### Panelists

Precious Agaecheta – African Union, Youth Engagement Associate  
Sébastien Lyon - UNICEF Senegal, Strategic Advisor  
Taibat Hussein - Young People's Action Team Member at GenU  
Hamid Khayar Oumar Defallah – Chad Innovation Hub, Founder  
Rotimi Olawale - YouthHubAfrica, Co-founder and Executive Director

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**13:30 – 15:00 Lunch Break**



## Awards and Official Closing Ceremony (15:00 - 16:30)

### Moderator

Ibrahima Diédhiou

- Music, creative performance
- Awards Ceremony – Sahel Youth Innovation Challenge 2021 (Panel of Judges, Selected Leaders, Sponsors and Young Influencers)
- Forum Declaration (Youth Representative/Youth Council Senegal)
- Poem

### Closing Remarks

Oulie Keita, Executive Director - YouthConnekt Africa Hub

Kevin Frey, CEO-Generation Unlimited (GenU)

### Vote of Thanks

Njoya Tikum – Manager, UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa

Néné Fatoumata TALL, Minister of Youth - République du Sénégal

Music

**16:30 – 17:30**

**Trade show visit, networking and departure to the African Renaissance Monument**

**17:30 – 21:00**

**Entertainment and cultural session**





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#YouthConnektSahel

For More Information, Please Visit  
<https://youthconnektafrica.org/sahelforum/>

