

**SECURE NIGERIA SECURE AFRICA (5TH EDITION)
AFRICA REGIONAL YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION &
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

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ABUJA, NIGERIA
OCTOBER 4-5, 2018

FOCUS: NATIONAL SECURITY, ANTI-CORRUPTION, DIGITAL RIGHTS AND
PRIVACY, CYBERSECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY, HATE SPEECH, FAKE NEWS,
NEW MEDIA, HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN ISSUE

THEME:
**Enlisting Citizens Support and Participation in Achieving a Secure
Nigeria**

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

PREAMBLE:

The public security status of any government is ultimately an indicator of its public acceptance. This is because public security is one of the most prominent factors that determines good governance and guarantees the extent of socio-economic growth and development. The lack of viable public and safety mechanisms in any given society makes sustainable socio-economic development a very difficult task. It is in the light of this that the Youth Crime Watch Nigeria, African Centre for Citizens Orientation and other partners convene its 5th **Secure Nigeria, Secure Africa** Conference - *Africa Regional Youth Crime Prevention & Development Conference* scheduled to hold at ICPC Auditorium, National Headquarters, Abuja between 4th and 5th of October, 2018 with the theme, ***“Enlisting Citizens Support and Participation in Achieving a Secure Nigeria”***.

The Africa Regional Youth Crime Prevention & Development Conference considered problems of common interest and concern to Nigeria and discussed ways and means by which our people could achieve fuller economic, social, cultural and political growth in order to reduce corruption, human rights abuse, kidnapping child abuse, migration, drugs trafficking, trafficking in persons, violence against women, human rights, and armed insurgency in Nigeria and Africa.

PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Two Hundred and Twenty-Six (226) delegates participated in the two days event, in addition, the following organizations participated in the conference:

1. Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)
2. Youth Alive Foundation (YAF)
3. Youth Alliance on ICT for Development
4. Youth Anti-Corruption Network (YANET)
5. African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council
6. Pan African Institute for Entrepreneurship & Community Development
7. Islamic Organization for World Peace and Terrorism (IOFWPAT)
8. Believers Today
9. Nation Builders Organization
10. Youth Crime Watch Nigeria (YCW Nigeria)
11. African Centre for Citizens Orientation (ACCO Nigeria)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, LEAD SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

The following eminent personalities or their duly representatives were in attendance:

Dr. Garba Abari, Director General, National Orientation Agency

The ICPC Acting Chair, Dr. Musa Abubakar ably represented by Mr. Mohammed Baba Ashiru, National Commissioner, Education;

Dr. Tunji Asaolu, Chairperson, Social Affairs & Health, AU ECOSOCC

Dr. Udy Okon, Executive Director, Youth Alive Foundation;

Mr. Ayanyimika Ayanlola, President, Nation Builders Organization;

Mr. Adegoke Adeboye, Program Manager, West Africa, Paradigm Initiative;

Mr. Benjamin Akinmoyeje – IT Support Advisor, Management Sciences for Health in Nigeria

Ms. Oyeyemi Pitan, Program Manager, Vaccine Network for Disease Control & Rise Up Fellow

Mr. Segun Medupin, Program Manager, Youthub Africa, & Rise Up Fellow

Ms. Ore Oluwatosin, Gender Mobile Initiative

Ms. Mojisola Ogundiran, CEO, United Youth for Peace and Diplomacy

Mr. Ovo Otarigho, Coordinator, Youth Anti-Corruption Network (YANET)

Ms. Faith Ayegba, Program Manager, Calmaj Foundation

Mr. Dotun Roy, CEO, dotunroy.com

Mr. Sam Emojah

Casey 'Gbenga Adeleye, National Coordinator, YCW Nigeria and ACCO Nigeria

Fatima Usman Nagogo - A Student from Sheikh Abubakar Gumi Academy

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

The special representatives of the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), Reporters at Large, Global News Clock and Believers Today were in attendance.

OBSERVATIONS:

The conference took note of the papers presented and keynote addresses by the speakers and panelists to examine the root cause of multiple challenges facing Nigeria as a country and Africa as a whole.

Commending the quality of the presentations, as well as the relevance of the various recommendations set out therein, the government representatives as well as private institutions pledged their support to youth empowerment and reaffirmed their strong commitment to the system integrity, anti-corruption, human rights, digital security and democracy.

Highlight of this session was the presentation of African Organization of the Year Award to the ICPC Nigeria; the African Accountability & Integrity Heroine Award to Dr. Udy Okon,

Executive Director, Youth Alive Foundation (YAF) and Outstanding African Leadership Award to Dr. Tunji Asaolu, Chairperson, Social Affairs & Health, AU ECOSOCC.

In her presentation on the topic, "Achieving a Corrupt-Free Nigeria through Integrity & Ethics Education", Dr. Udy Okon said, "If we are going to have a corrupt-free Nigeria in the long term, the youth should be the primary target in the fight to have transformative effect. We should go back to national value and inculcating it into the school curriculum and also parents should show examples worthy of emulation."

In his message to the conference, Casey 'Gbenga Adeleye said "high levels of crime and violence pose a serious threat to African emergent socio-political and economic development. It results in the deprivation of the rights and dignity of citizens, and poses a threat to peaceful resolution of differences and rightful participation of all in the democratic process. Crime and violence cast fear into the hearts of many; it is dangerous to not conceive solutions in time to all of these issues."

He urged leaders at the conference to support an advocacy to place a responsible youth on the board of the ICPC. He challenged the Federal Government to respect laws and acts governing appointments into public offices, which ensure youth representation. Adeleye quoted Section 3(f) of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Act (2000), as saying the Board membership of the Commission includes "a youth not being less than 21 or more than 30 years of age at the time of his/her appointment."

In his words, Dr. Tunji Asaolu said, "The issue of appoint youth into federal government boards is not only with the ICPC board membership but also with so many other parastatals and ministries in Nigeria. There is a provision for youth inclusion on the board membership of almost all the ministries and parastatals in the country, but how many youths are appointed on these boards?"

Mr. Muhammed Baba-Ashiru rolled out various strategies and programs being implemented by ICPC targeting young people in Nigeria to include integrity clubs in schools, national anti-corruption coalition for NGOs/CSOs among others and system integrity programs.

Youth in Anti-Corruption Session and High-level Political Forum on Fake News, Hate Speech and 2019 General Election were merged and it was chaired by the Director General, National Orientation Agency, Dr. Garba Abari. Other speakers during this session were Mr. Muhammed Baba-Ashiru, ICPC; Mrs. Azuka, Assistant National Commissioner, ICPC, Miss Faith Ayegba, Program Manager, Calmaj Foundation and Mr. Ovo Otarigho, Coordinator, Youth Anti-Corruption Network (YANET).

Dr. Garba Abari, DG, NOA said, "Securing Nigeria cannot happen unless we have a new citizen, with new values & orientation that is not digitally excluded." He further said, the youths are key drivers to the nation's wealth, peace, prosperity and sanity. He charged the youth to be innovative, hardworking and prepare for future leadership. He bemoaned fake news and hate speech especially in electoral process.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of the above observations, papers presented and contributions made during the conference; the following recommendations were made:

The conference applauded the efforts of the security agencies in the fight against armed insurgency in the land; and affirmed that there is need for citizens to be proactive and be involved in the fight against insecurity in the land.

We noted the importance of women's equal and full participation as active agents in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. The processes of peacebuilding should albin to take into cognizance the structure of each geo-political area, economic distribution amongst both classes of gender and access to redevelopment funds, startup capital, access to land and fiscal/financial literacy as well as basic education.

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) constitutes a serious threat to human and national security. In this age of social media, human traffickers have more power but less expensive and less dangerous means of trafficking our children and girls. Proper orientation and education must be developed by relevant agencies such as NCC, NAPTIP, Nigeria Police for the citizenry to prevent this ill in our schools and communities.

To control corruption within our system, we must invest in education which is anticorruption in nature. Education is a must to restructure our system. We should invest in the education of our young people at all times. Government should insure educational infrastructures to ease its burden and to enable protection and maintenance of educational infrastructures. There should be multifaceted approaches to education and learning materials should be translated to local languages for quick and speedy transfer of knowledge and protection of local languages.

Government should bring sustainability to all the ICT Library Centres established by NCC, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs and the Federal Ministry of Communication Technology in the rural communities to reduce migration of young people from rural areas to urban centres and for Digital skills acquisition.

The conference urged the Executive and Legislative arms of government to ensure the inclusion of a youth on the board of the ICPC in fulfillment of the section 3(f) of the ICPC Act. It also agreed to press further and start a campaign in that regard.

The delegates at the conference agreed to participate and support a peaceful, free, fair and credible elections and encourage Nigerian youths to participate in the process.

The conference recommended also the following:

Nigerian youths should demonstrate their patriotism and contribute meaningfully to peacebuilding and peaceful co-existence of all Nigerians.

Delegates at the conference called for improved power generation and distribution to promote entrepreneurship and discourage unemployment among Nigerian youths.

The African Union and other regional bodies should develop effective control mechanisms to tame the wildfire of illicit drugs, illegal trafficking, importation and use of Methaqualone across African countries.

The conference concluded that alongside what our leaders and military formations are doing, citizens must also participate and cooperate with necessary stakeholders in building the needed peace and promotion of national security and development. It was noted that our situation call for a collective strategy and collective actions to bring out the desired peace and tranquility needed for economic growth and development.

It was also observed that the root of many conflicts across Africa can be traced to exclusion. African Union and other Regional Bodies should ensure their member states work together to lessen the distance that exists between government and wider society in order to fast track Africa growth and development.

The conference urged African governments to work towards educating every child and make adequate policies to keep them in school. They should also strengthen existing laws and policies which prevent child marriage. A strong legal system will provide a very good environment for women and girls' empowerment, service improvements, and changes in social norms.

Development, human rights, peace and security are indivisible and interrelated. We are committed to supporting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions.

We will reconvene in 2020 to be hosted by the Republic of Kenya.

Abuja, Nigeria; October 5, 2018