YCA '26 Summit Program

Pre-Summit - Monday 23rd to Tuesday 24th November 2026

Accreditation
Date & Venue: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
21st – 23rd Nov 2026 for local delegates | Venue: Gasabo District Hall
22nd – 25th Nov 2026 for international delegates | Kigali Convention Center

YouthConnekt Africa Technical Committee Meeting
Format: Workshop, Hosted by the YCA Hub | **Venue:** Ubumwe Grande Hotel
Dates: 23rd -24th November 2026

YouthConnekt Africa Export Accelerator Bootcamp
Format: Workshop | **Venue:** Ubumwe Grande Hotel
Partners: YCA, UNDP, AfCFTA, AUC
Dates: 23rd -24th November 2026

Mashariki Creatives Workshops
Format: Workshop | **Venue:** Mashariki Arts Academy
Partners: MFF, MAA
Dates: 23rd -24th November 2026

Generative AI Masterclass
Format: Workshop | **Venue:** UNIPOD – UR, CST
Partners: UNDP
Dates: 23rd -24th November 2026

YCA High Level Networking Cocktail
Format: By invitation only | Dates: 24th November 2026

Day 1 - Wednesday, 25th November 2026

8:30 – 10:30 **Arrival of delegates**
Format: Networking and entertainment - DJ

11:00-12:30 **Official Opening Ceremony**
Venue: Auditorium – Kigali Convention Center (KCC)
Format: High-Level Plenary

Presidential Xchange
Format: Moderated conversation with Heads of State
Theme: **"Shaping the Generational Mission"**

Launch of Youth Spaces
Marketplace: Youth innovations/products Marketplace

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:30 -16:00 **Fireside Chat: Africa's Turn**

Format: Open conversation with an Eminent Personality **| Room:** Auditorium

Parallel Breakout Sessions

- **Passing the torch**, Civic action across generations
  Lead partner: ASG | **Format**: Cine debate | **Room**: MH3

- **YouthConnekt Congo Basin**: Harnessing the Congo Basin's Natural Capital for Youth Employment
  Lead partner: YC Congo Brazza | **Format**: Regional Side Event | **Room**: MH2

- **Policy Roundtable** on Climate change and SRHR
  Lead Partner: UNFPA, AUC,Imbuto Foundation | **Format**: PolicyRoundtable | **Room**: MH4

Health Corner - AD11 **| Connecting Zone -** AD12 **| AUC Egumeni Hub -** AD10

18:00 – 20:30: **Gala Dinner**
Format: Banquet **Hosted by:** GoR **| by invitation only** | **Venue**: KCC

Kigali Immersion Activities

- **Film Screening**
  Format: Outdoor film screening **Hosted by:** Mashariki Film Festival

- **UNIPOD Demo Evening & Social Mixer**
  Format: Networking Activities **Hosted by: UNDP**

- **Imagine Kigali Day**
  Format: Networking Activities **Hosted by:** Zaria Court

Day 2 - Thursday, 26th November 2026

8:30 – 09:30 **Arrival of delegates**
Format: Networking and entertainment – DJ

8:30 – 9:30 **Securing the Future of Africa's University Innovation Pods**
Format: High-level Ministerial Breakfast Meeting **| Hosted by: UNDP |** by invitation

9:30 – 11:00 **The Future of Jobs**
Format: Mix of TED Talk and Interactive Panel **| Hosted by: UNDP | Room:** Auditorium

Beyond the City: Building Resilient Livelihoods 4 Rural Young Women (Part 1)
Lead Partner: BRAC | **Format**: Workshop | **Room**: MH2

11:30-13:00 **Financing Africa's Future Mission**
Room: Auditorium **| Format:** High-level interactive Panel Engagement

Parallel Breakout Sessions

- **Skilled to Trade: Capitalizing on the Demographic Dividend for a Borderless Africa**
  Lead Partner: AfDB, TDB,GIZ | **Format**: Interactive panel | **Room**: MH1

- **Beyond the City:** Building Resilient Livelihoods 4 Rural Young Women (Part 2)
  Lead Partner: BRAC | **Format**: Workshop | **Room**: MH2

- **Influencing the Change, Youth leadership**
  Lead partner: YCA YAC | **Format**: Ted Talk | **Room**: MH3

- **ACET Youth Policy Lab**
  Lead partner: ACET | **Format**: Workshop | **Room:** MH4

Health Corner - AD11 **| Connecting Zone -** AD12 **| AUC Egumeni Hub -** AD10

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:30 – 16:00 **Legacy vs NextGen:** Reimagining African Creativity
Venue: Auditorium **| Format:** Generational Debate with eminent personalities

Parallel Breakout Sessions

- **Making Finance Work for Rural Youth Entreprises**
  Lead partner: Catholic Relief Services | **Format**: Learning Spotlight and Youth Fireside | **Room**: MH1

- **YouthConnekt XRegions**
  Lead partner: YouthConnnekt Mano River Union and Sahel Regional Forum | **Format**: Learning Spotlight and Youth Fireside | **Room**: MH2

- **Buy from Youth: Turning Green Livelihoods into Green Markets**
  Lead partner: FAO,WFP | **Format**: Masterclass | **Room**: MH3

- **Policy Round Table on Inclusive Trade**
  Lead partner: YCA Hub, Mastercard Foundation ,UNDP | **Format**: Roundtable | **Room**: MH4

- **Health Corner | Connecting Zone | AUC Egumeni Hub**

18:00 – 20:30 **Youth Talent Night**
Venue: Auditorium **| Format:** Mix of entertainment activities

Day 3 - Friday, 27th November 2026

8:30 – 9:30 **Arrival of delegates**
Format: Networking and entertainment - DJ

9:30 – 11:00 **Legacy vs NextGen:** the Future of Sports Economy
Lead partner: YCA Hub, Minisport | **Format**: Generational debate | **Room**: Auditorium

11:30 – 13:00 **Trajectories of Dignified Employment**

Lead partner: Mastercard Foundation **| Venue:** Auditorium **| Format:** High-level interactive session

Parallel Breakout Sessions

- **YouthConnekt Southern Africa: Pitch Your Country**
  Lead partner: Republic of Zambia,UNDP ECoWYERT Project | **Format**: Generational debate with eminent personalities | **Room**: MH1

- **The Next Tech Africa Giants**
  Lead partner: YCA Hub | **Format**: Ted Talk | **Room**: MH2

- **Africa's Creative Wealth**
  Lead partner: UNDP | **Format**: TedTalk | **Room**: MH3

- **Thrive Africa: Investing in Innovative Youth Health, Education & Empowerment:**
  Lead partner: UNFPA,Imbuto Foundation,African Union | **Format**: Intergenerational Fireside Chat & Youth Solutions Arena | **Room**: MH4

- **MRU YouthConnekt Steering Committee**
  Lead partner: YouthConnekt Mano River Union | **Format**: Boardroom | **Room**: AD7

Health Corner | Connecting Zone | AUC Egumeni Hub

13:00 –14:00 **Lunch**

14:30 – 16:00 **Official Closing Ceremony**
Venue: Auditorium

17:30 – 19:30 **Kigali Night Run**
Venue: Nyarutarama Green Carpet

Day 4 - Saturday 28th November 2026

9:30 – 14:30: **YouthConnekt Africa Steering Committee**
Format: Ministerial Meeting – by invitation only

14:30 – 16:30: **Visit Rwanda Optional Activities**
Format: City excursions