**WELCOME TO THE WEST AFRICA YOUTH CONFERENCE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

WAYC is a West African Regional Organization Non-governmental that brings young people together for the development of the regional youths including Youth Participation in Governance, the establishment of the West Africa Youth Commission, youth political participation, provision of better Youth integration within the region and sustainable development. WAYC was established in 2012 in Mozambique at the Africa Youth Conference as a regional follow-up in sustaining regional youth development. The Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS), each Government of the Region and different civil society organization reaching out to millions of Youth across the Region. So far, the West Africa Youth Conference has had three West Africa Youth Camp from Nigeria, Liberia and Cote d’Ivorie and an Exchange programme in South Africa.

**WAYC believe that:**

* Young people are the best agent of Social Change.
* Knowledge is our most powerful tool for transforming our society.
* Progress is only possible through working together.
* Thinking globally, we can change the world.
* Trade as the partway National Growth.

WAYC force is driven by the belief that positive engagement of Youth in Sustainable Development is fundamental to peace building and stabilizing democracy in the West Africa Region.

**Our Key policy**

* Mobilizing Youth for sustainable development to create demand for services and enhancing accountability that supports full democracy;
* Promoting youth employment through supporting employability, skills and enterprise development;
* Promoting access to quality education and stronger bond among youths;
* To strengthen the Youth Led Organization for stronger and United Youth Movement in West Africa.
* Strengthening youth farmers/women farmers through community based agricultural extension and development of agricultural value chains.
* Trade and Investment of the young people of our Region.

**WHY YOUTH AND POLITICAL GOVERNANCE**

The UN Programme on Youth defines youth participation as the active and meaningful involvement of young people in all aspect of their own and their communities’ development, including their empowerment to contribute to decision making about their personal, social economic and political development.

The Commonwealth Head of Government meeting held alongside the Commonwealth Youth Forum in Sri Lanka from 14th – 17th of November, 2013 had as its theme ***“Inclusive Development Stronger Together”***. It’s all clear in the world today that there is need for effective youth participation which means that young people are not seen as passive recipients of national resources or he root cause of Society’s problems. Instead they should be seen as stakeholders who make an important contribution to their countries development and whose involvement must therefore be appropriately nurtured and cultivated.

When talking about participation, it is important to look closely at the nature of participation where success is measured not only by its scope, such as the number of young people who participate but also by their quality. The UN and Commonwealth Youth Forum programme on youth has identified different level of participation finding that the higher the level of participation the more control, influence and responsibility young people will have on the outcome.

**WHY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**?

We all know at the moment that Africa as a continent is facing Democratic challenges and there is need for Young people across the African Continent to come up with fresh and democratic strategies in overcoming the challenges in the Continent. Participation of young people in decision making and developing leadership as active citizens to promote participatory democracy in the continent, this have to evolved into strong system that channels the energy and resources of young people into gainful inputs for socio-economic development and develop young people as active citizens and leaders with strong commitment to development values equity and effective democratic values. WAYC believe that this Exchange Programme on Youth Participation and Good Governance will avail the participants the opportunity of learning first-hand from different Youth leaders and sharing ideals leaguing on the legacy of replicating on Governance of European values.

**MODALITIES AND CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION**

Youth Leaders and Young Professionals engaged in Youth-Led activities, ages 25 – 35; and

Letter of identification from your Organization or a letter from Government Agency and as well as respected Clergy;

**SPONSORSHIP**

The WAYC 2014 Sponsor Support opportunities exist in 3 areas:

* Sponsoring Delegates from your Countries
* Underwriting and/or donating venues, accommodation and catering for evening events during the WAYC 2014:  Pre-Conference Orientation Night; WAYC Cultural Night Dinner; Coffee breaks and Special Lunch Receptions; Final Evening ‘Culture Night’ Events
* Overall Event Administration/Logistics:  A Singular Naming Opportunity for a Major Donor

**If you are interested in becoming a WAYC 2014 sponsor,**please contact us at info@waycng.org for more information about opportunities during the Exchange Programm.  All sponsors will be fully recognized online and during the WAYC special events, with Special Thanks in our Program.

**KEY DATES**

**January 31, 2018 –**Registration Opens

**March 14th, 2018 –**Registration Closed

6th of April Arrival Date

**7th – 14th of April, 2018** Conference Proper

Visit our website [www.waycng.org](http://www.waycng.org)

**WHY ATTEND?**

* To learn about strategic ways of youth participation in Democratic Governance, policy and decision process.
* To hear great speakers, policy makers and opinion leaders.
* To voice your opinions on the urgent issues of today and help make a permanent impact throughout the world.
* To strengthen the bilateral relationship between the South African Government and the West African Youth leaders.
* To meet other dedicated Youth Leaders Across South Africa.

**BE THERE!**

The world, with all of its complex inter-relationships, is not always an easy place to understand. The WAYC allow young leaders, through dialogue, to reach a greater understanding of the complex nature of international relations, creative activism and diplomacy.

**LANGUAGE**

All events at the West Africa Youth Conference are carried out in English.

**REGARDING VISAS**

* All Visa application will be made through your various Countries embassy;
* Flight, Hotel Accommodation, Feeding will be arranged by WAYC coordinating Team.

**TARGETED PARTICIPANTS**

* 60 persons across West Africa Countries

**EXPECT OUTCOME**

* To create an impact political and build the capacity on leadership in each participants locality;
* To educate follow youths on the knowledge acquired during the Exchange Programme;
* Do a project on political and governance as it affects youths in their locality

**MONITORING**

* Monitoring will be done through Government of their locality, the West Africa Youth Coordinator of each Country.