

**“Cities, communities, care.
Youth in action for sustaining peace”**

**Charter of Commitments Nairobi 2025
for Peace and Youth Empowerment**

Nairobi 12.11.2025

Preamble

We, young citizens of Africa and the world, affirm our shared responsibility to promote peace, justice, and human dignity. Recognizing the essential role of the United Nations and regional organizations such as the African Union, we commit to building inclusive and peaceful societies from the local to the global level.

Peace cannot wait for tomorrow — it must be built today. We, the youth, accept the responsibility and the privilege of being its architects. Being bridges, going beyond all borders and being ‘Together to Care’, we will sustain a lasting peace.

1. Youth Empowerment and Participation in Decision-Making

Youth are leaders for today, not just for tomorrow, particularly in the African continent where youth are in the majority, but their voices are hardly heard. Through meaningful participation in decision-making processes, youth can be leaders of transformation.

- We emphasize on creating **spaces for active youth inclusion** in governance, community planning, and peacebuilding.
- We advocate for **capacity-building through citizenship culture**, and leadership training in local and international institutions. By creating permanent mechanisms for collaboration at all levels, ensuring young leaders and citizens are involved in decision-making and policy development in the service of their communities.
- We highlight **community learning** through peer-to-peer and intergenerational dialogue by elevating intentional mentorship thus bridging experience and innovation.

2. Peace-building and Conflict Prevention through Community Action and Dialogue

In light of the unity of the human family, we take the role of being **“peace influencers”**, and want to encourage other young people worldwide to join us.

We recognize cultural expressions as vehicles for peace and solidarity. Grounded by African communal values and in the spirit of Ubuntu, we embrace peace as a collective and urgent responsibility.

- We appreciate **the role of the United Nations and African Union** in supporting and collaborating with local governments, religious institutions, civil-society actors, and youth led organizations, on local and global platforms.
- We advocate for **localized peace initiatives**, elaborated and realized by community stakeholders. Traditional forms of **community dialogue** (e.g. *palaver tree*) could serve as a meaningful inspiration to concrete action.

- We encourage **cultural programs, faith and intercultural dialogue initiatives** to foster inclusion and social cohesion. We commit ourselves to develop and share **experiences through arts, music, and sports**.

3. Youth inclusion: Education, Innovation, and Economic Empowerment

We stress the crucial importance of quality education through inclusive, global educational reform, allowing African youth to be empowered to grow and flourish vocationally and economically, advancing a new approach where human dignity is upheld.

- We propose to partner with local governments to **establish community-youth centers that act as incubators** that nurture talent, generate shared income and promote collaborative projects contributing to the prosperity and the cohesion of the social fabric.
- We welcome initiatives that equip in particular youth and women with **entrepreneurial knowledge, tools and access to networks** that foster self-reliance through innovation, digital empowerment, and sustainable enterprise.
- Striving for green and just economies, we endorse initiatives that engage youth in **sustainable resource use, environmental restoration, and awareness campaigns** to combat illegal mining and ecological degradation.

4. “Cities with Heart and Soul”: Community and Inclusive Urban Development

We champion the rethinking of urban life. We call for moving to community-oriented urban spaces, by fostering connections and shared responsibility in governance, to reflect a more human, inclusive and resilient development approach.

- We call for **community-oriented urban planning and design** that encourages solidarity, sustainability and participation (e.g., shared workspaces, plazas and creative hubs, and nature-based solutions).
- Cities should promote social, cultural, and economic equal opportunities, ensuring **young people are part of the processes that shape urban futures**, where they can gather and express themselves, through volunteering, social innovation and political participation.
- We welcome the cultivation of a spirit of **interconnectedness within cities as catalysts for change**, as the foundation for a peaceful and shared prosperity.

Ubuntu in Action for a New Africa

“I am because we are”: we call for a new, united Africa. We would like to invite young people, citizens and institutions to envision a borderless Africa and promote unity, well-being that goes beyond gross domestic product, and a shared identity across the continent.

At the end of the international conference in Nairobi, we commit to:

1. Be ambassadors of peace in our communities.
2. Engage with courage and humility in shaping the future of the planet.
3. Create and sustain youth-led strategies for dialogue, inclusion, and civic education.
4. Practice solidarity, integrity, and mutual support in all our actions.
5. Use art, music, and culture initiatives as tools for healing and building unity.
6. Form alliances and networks to collaborate across borders in the world.