



The Report of the Evaluation Survey of the Youth Forum

Biennale of Luanda: The Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace

Background

The follow-up strategy of the first Biennale of Luanda, designed for, with and by youth, began with the launch of the official report of Biennale through a webinar that was successfully organized on 16 July 2020 by UNESCO and the PAYNCoP Network, and attended by participants of the Youth Forum. The strategy also involved an evaluation of several aspects of the youth forum component, through an online survey, administered to the participants of the Youth Forum of the Biennale of Luanda.

The online survey was launched on 28 July 2020 and run until 6 August 2020 to collect the views of participants on the organization of the Biennale of Luanda, their experiences since the event, how they may have integrated the lessons learned and shared, the application and relevance of the outcomes to the work they do, considering the impact of COVID-19 among others. Another aim of the survey was as well to remind participants of the Biennale on the commitment and prompt them to act upon the recommendations.

General Information on the Online Survey Questions

Primarily, there were a total of twelve (12) questions with some follow-up question attached to some of them to elicit deeper answers from the respondents. A total number of forty-seven (47) responses were received from the survey which was administered in English, French and Portuguese and sent to seventy-one (71) young people. Out of the seventy-one (71) young people, six (6) were participants from the host country, Angola, while sixty-five (65) were from other African Union (AU) countries and the Diaspora.

Twenty-six (26) participants responded to the online survey in English, twenty (20) participants responded to the French version while one (1) responded to the Portuguese version. *Please see figure 1 below*

The validity of the data and limitations

The total number of responses received represent 66% (47 participants) of the expected feedback from 71 young people, who were invited to respond to the survey.

The 34% (24) participants who didn't respond to the survey are made up of young participants from Angola who cited internet connection cost and challenges (5); some of the young people who could not attend the Biennale and felt they did not have adequate information to evaluate the youth forum (10); young professionals who may no longer work with their organizations and may have changed emails (2); and a few young people who did participate in the youth forum but have failed to send in any response (7). Another factor that may have affected the number of responses received to what was expected, could be the short deadline.

It is important to note that ten (10) of the young people (out of the 24 participants who didn't respond to the survey), did not eventually attend the Biennale of Luanda for various reasons including missed flights, last-minute cancellation issues, inability to obtain permission from work to travel, health issues et cetera.

How did youth participants respond to the survey?
71 Participants who received the survey

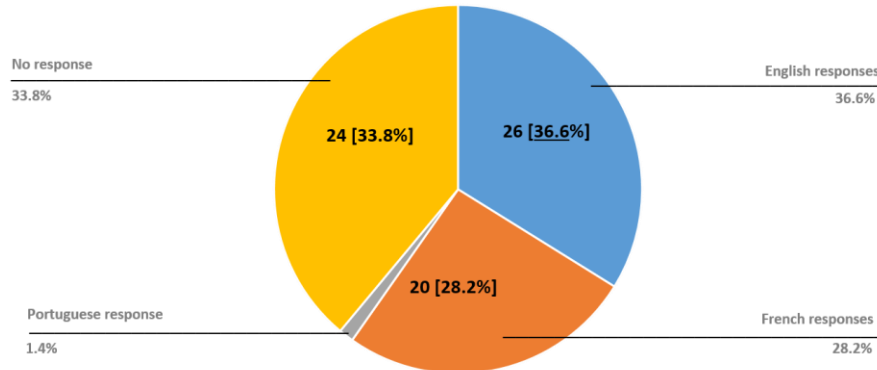


Figure 1: Responses expected compared to what was received with language distribution

Processing and Analyzing the Responses to the Survey Questions

The below analysis is based on the 47 responses received from the survey administered. The following were the questions and the feedback received:

1. Has your participation in the Youth Forum provided you with new insights? (Y/N)

95.7% of the respondents (45 participants) agreed that the youth forum provided them with new insights, while 4.3% (2 participants) did not find any new insights from the forum.

For those who answered Yes, the interconnection of Youth, Peace and Security, and Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Innovation; the need for collective partnership; the importance of constant dialogue between governments and their citizens; and the commitment of young people to the popularization of the existing normative frameworks to foster understanding, were very evident. The experience and ideas sharing component which provided the opportunity to learn about the work of other young people on the two topics was also acknowledged, with some of the respondents emphasizing the need for a safe space for dialogue and exchanges among young people. For example, a respondent stated the following: “the sessions allowed me better understand the need for cross-cutting issues of citizen engagement of young people in the preservation of peace and security in Africa but above all through a total commitment for their development”. Another respondent shared an insight gained from the youth forum which focused on the need for “the establishment of a permanent consultation framework to support youth projects to achieve the objectives of the SDGs and Agenda 2063”.

For the 4.3% (2 participants) of the respondents who didn't develop any new insights from their participation of the forum, they stated that they would have liked to learn more about issues around “digital tools for advocacy and social activism” and “policymaking and active youth engagement on policymaking, focusing on how young people can disrupt policy windows and redefined the notion of active engagement” among others.

Q: Has your participation in the Youth Forum provided you with new insights?

47 Respondants

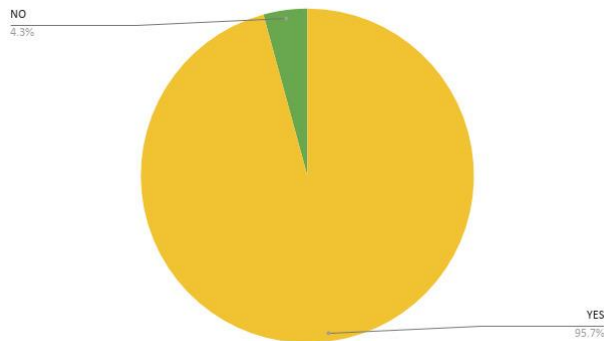


Figure 2: Participants who got new insights vs those who did not.

2. Do you believe what you have learned from the Youth Forum has influenced or changed your work? (Y/N)

90% (42) of the respondents stated that what they learnt from the youth forum has influenced and/or changed their work. 6% (3) of the respondents stated that what they learnt has not changed or influenced their work, as they still find a certain lack or dysfunctional communication between youth and institutions including financial institutions.

4% (2) of the total respondents did not reply to this question as they had answered NO under Question 1.

The respondents whose answer was “Yes” acknowledged the essential nature of creating opportunities for collaboration; networking and idea sharing for other young people; and the powerful influence of advocacy using several creative strategies. They also emphasized the importance of research and documentation in the work of youth-led organizations. One respondent stated that “the African Diaspora in America seem very disconnected from UNESCO, the African Union, and the great work that young adults and youth are doing in Africa. Similarly, great work and initiatives are happening in the USA in favor of Black youth and young people in Africa, UNESCO and the African Union do not know anything about. This is a serious problem, I hope to help change that narrative and build a stronger connection of support”. Another respondent stated that “the lessons encouraged me to think beyond my comfort zone and to move towards new paradigms such as the engagement of young people in prison”.

3. From each of the two sessions, did you learn about any initiative that you would like to see replicated/implemented in your country? (Y/N)

77% (36) of the respondents stated that they did learn about some initiatives that they would like to see replicated/implemented in their country, 19% (9) of the respondents said they did not, while 4% (2) of the total respondents did not reply to this question as they had answered NO under Question 1.

For those who answered “Yes”, the highlights were: the water project from Rwanda; the dynamism of the PAYNCoP and the creation other national chapters; the Prisonpreneur project from Cameroon; the organization of similar forums at the national and local levels; the youth commitment session which gave deep perspective on how to carry young people alone; the role of women in peacebuilding; the dynamism of the Partners’ forum when designed as an intergenerational discussion; the Saana Faces documentary project in Senegal; the Youth4Peace coalition in Nigeria; the Incubation Lab in Cote d’Ivoire; and the creativity of using Arts and Culture to promote peace and entrepreneurship among others.

4. Did you learn about any initiative that you would like to see adopted by your Organization? (Y/N)

72.3% (34) of the respondents confirmed that they learnt about an initiative or more that they would like to see adopted by their organizations, 23.4% (11) of the respondents did not identify any initiative that they would like to see adopted by their organizations, while 4% (2) of the total respondents did not reply to this question as they had answered NO under Question 1.

The reasons given by the respondents that answered No to this question revolved around the fact that they are currently not involved in any organization; that they found the discussion somehow political; and that they did not see anything that could apply specifically to their organizations. A respondent stated that “the issues for the Diaspora in the USA are different than for the continent. I think the big take away is supporting youth in shifting policy in the USA and taking part in dismantling structural racism and striving for racial equity”.

The respondents that answered “Yes” stated the following initiatives: the idea of creation of safe spaces for youth to engage in dialogue, the water project from Rwanda, Implementing and localizing Youth Peace Security frameworks especially UNSCR 2250 and 2419, progressive mentorship for young women and girls, Value entrepreneurship to help cultivate growth wealth peace, and mobilizing young people while conveying the value of PAYNCoP.

5. Did the way you think about the role African youth should play in promoting peace and security in the continent changed after attending the Youth Forum? (Y/N)

While 4% (2) of the total respondents did not reply to this question as they had answered NO to Question 1, 72.3% (34) of the respondents stated that they changed their initial thoughts on the role African youth should play in promoting peace and security in the continent after they attended the youth forum. 23.4% (11) of the respondents stated that their thoughts did not change.

Some of the respondents who answered “NO” stated that they were overly aware of the mechanisms needed to make things work and the forum only reinforced their initial thoughts on the role of African youth in promoting peace and security.

For the respondents whose answer was “YES”, their reasons revolve around the following: a narrative change of youth as troublemakers; young people should be equal partners and not beneficiaries; young people should take initiative or action first before asking for support and help; financial and educational support is critical to the work of youth-led initiatives; peace and security is as much the responsibility of youth as it is of the government et cetera. A respondent stated clearly “I see youth as the engines of development and with innovative ideas that can light up Africa”.

6. Did your perception of how youth employment can be promoted/achieved in Africa change? (Y/N)

57.4% (27) of the respondents confirmed that they had a change in perception on how youth employment can be achieved in Africa after attending the forum, while 38.3% (18) stated that their perceptions did not change. 4.3% (2) of the total respondents did not reply to this question as they had answered NO under Question 1.

For those whose answer was YES, their perception changed or was expanded in some of the following ways: public policies related to employment in Africa need to focus on growth-promoting occupations and address the mismatch between the training supplied and the needs of the labor market; public-private collaboration is super important; skills and competencies must be made to fit the new market demand, and Entrepreneurship is not only in cities.

For the respondents who answered “NO”, they claimed that their perceptions did not change because they were already aware of the proposed modalities. Some of them also stated the following: that increased youth Entrepreneurship should start first in communities; that the policies are based on a theory of the

problem of youth employment without taking into account the real aspects and difficulties which block the employment system; and that the biennale of Luanda did not list youth projects during the forum as part of the Biennale.

7. Do you feel concerned by the Commitment of African Youth for the Culture of Peace adopted at the end of the Youth Forum?

74.5% (35) of the respondents felt concerned about the commitment of African youth to the culture of peace adopted at the end of the youth forum, while 21.2% of the respondents didn't feel concerned by the commitment. 4.3% (2) of the total respondents did not reply to this question as they had answered NO to Question 1.

For those who did feel concerned by the commitment, they stated that they have shared the commitment among their colleagues, adopted the strategies proposed under the entrepreneurship session and mainstreamed into the plans of one of the largest network of young African entrepreneurs funded by the Diaspora called "Diaspo4Africa"; they have engaged in peaceful protests on Sexual and gender-based violence for women and girls and are engaging youths in communities to promote peace, and have begun to train youth on leadership, conflict resolution and entrepreneurship development. A respondent gave this feedback: "I have translated the commitment into the Somali language to engage more Somali youth. I have also engaged with government institutions like the ministry of Youth and informed about the African youth commitment".

Those who stated that they did not feel concerned by the commitment, seem to have misunderstood the question as to the reasons they gave, perfectly align to those given by those that feel concerned.

8. To which degree was the Forum inclusive for youth: Extremely inclusive/ Very inclusive/ Somewhat inclusive/ Not so inclusive/ Not at all-inclusive

2.1% (1) of the respondents described the forum as extremely inclusive for youth, 27.7% (13) described it as very inclusive, 46.8% (22) felt it was somewhat inclusive, 23.3%(10) described the forum as not so inclusive, and 2.1% (1) stated that the forum was not-at-all-inclusive for youth.

Q 8: To which degree was the Forum inclusive for youth?

47 Respondants

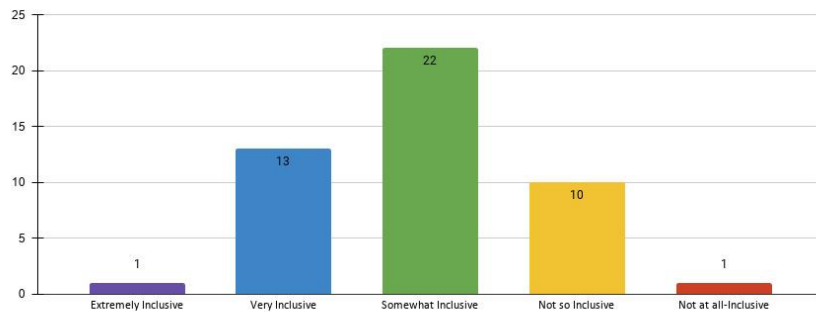


Figure 3: Respondents views on the inclusiveness of the forum for youth

9. Do you think there is anything that could have been done to make the Biennale more inclusive for Youth, including Youth with disabilities and rural youth? (Y/N)

While 8.5%(4) of the respondents answered “No”, 91.5% (43) of the respondents felt that there were a couple of things that could have been done to make the forum more inclusive for youth, including youth with disabilities and rural youth.

For those that answered “Yes”, the forum would be more inclusive if there were sign language interpreters at the event; if there were side events for youth to showcase good practices from the field on with high-level partners; and if online streaming for other young people to participate in all events had been organized. Others were mainstreaming of youth across the entire planning processes as equal partners, mainstreaming youth in all sessions of the Biennale including the opening session, better travel logistics that allows young people to attend the closing sessions as well, the increased representation of youth from across the continent for diversity, and improved online engagement using webinars. A respondent emphasized access to the event site as it was too far away from the hotel young people were lodged, and that the infrastructures were not very accessible.

10. Were the chosen themes ("Youth, Peace and Security" and "Creativity, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation") relevant, and did they meet your expectations? Extremely relevant/ Very relevant /Somewhat relevant/ Not so relevant/ Not at all relevant

31.9% (15) of the respondents found the chosen themes to be extremely relevant, 57.5% (27) found them very relevant, 8.5% (4) felt the chosen themes were somewhat relevant, no respondent found the themes to be not so relevant, while 2.1%(1) felt that the chosen themes were not at all relevant.

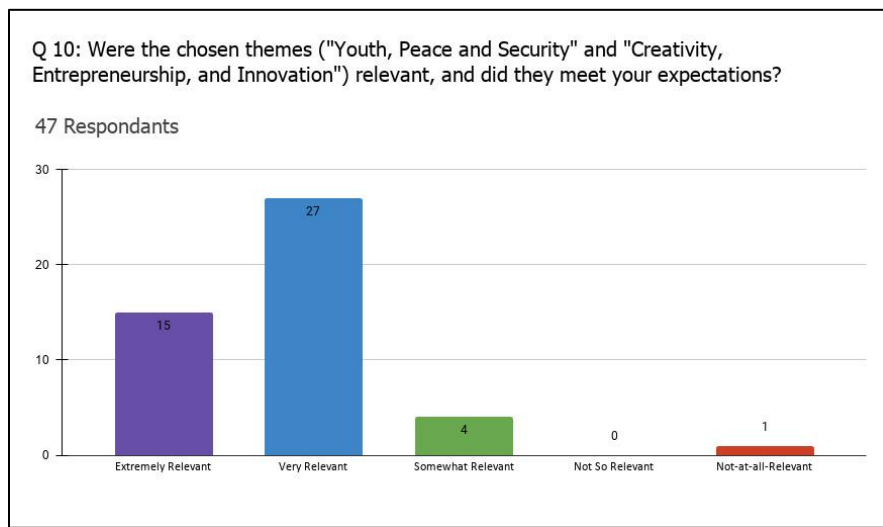


Figure 4: Respondents views on the relevance of the chosen themes for the youth forum

What (other) topics would you have liked to be discussed?

The respondents stated that they would have liked to discuss topics around: illegal immigration and brain drain in Africa; Violence against girls and women; Law & justice, Arts and cultures (tourism): factors of economic development; young people in the regional integration process; Youth-In Prisons and Correctional Centers; Arts as a tool of changing the narrative; civic engagement and advocacy in oppressive regimes; Digital activism and social media campaigns; Artificial Intelligence and its potential impact on the development of youth in Africa; Digitalization and e-ethics, et cetera.

11. In your country, have you seen an increase of violence and conflicts due to COVID19? Please explain briefly (30 words Maximum)

While 14.9% (7) of the respondents have not seen an increase of violence and conflicts due to COVID19 in their countries, 85.1% (40) of the respondents have seen an increase of violence and conflicts. Some of the feedback received revolved around: an increase in cases of police brutality; sexual and gender-based violence; burglaries and killings within the most vulnerable groups and rural communities; loss of lives and burning of properties by youths due to social media misinformation and the unprofessional conduct by the security personnel el; crackdown on citizens as they protest the lack of PPEs for medical workers; inter-clan and tribal conflicts in semi-arid and arid areas; violation of human rights of young workers by employers, et cetera.

Q 11: In your country, have you seen an increase of violence and conflicts due to COVID19?

47 Respondants

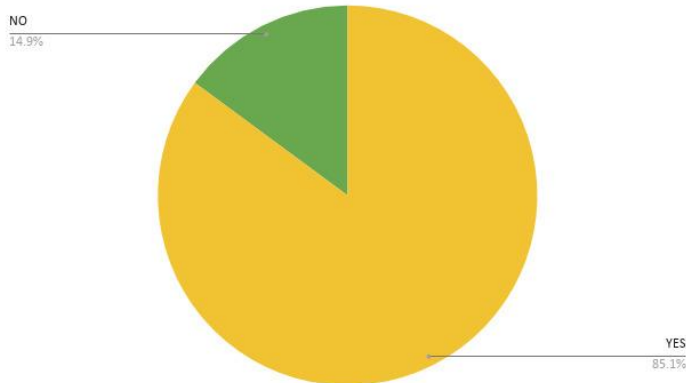


Figure 5: Respondents view on the increase of violence and conflicts due to COVID19 in the countries.

12. How can the Youth Adhoc Committee support youth in the implementation of the recommendations made during the Youth Forum? (30 words Maximum)

Some of the feedback received from the respondents revolved around the following:

- The Adhoc Committee must serve as a permanent interface between young people and partner institutions in order to perpetuate the achievements of the first edition of the Luanda Biennale and to channel the efforts of young people to achieve the objectives of the agenda 2063 and the SDGs as part of the new global partnership.
- Institutional and financial support (mobilize funds from donors) for an effective implementation
- The Adhoc committee should constantly follow the achievements of young people or organizations that participated in the Biennale and tell their stories.
- To sign MoU with youth-led organizations at grassroots on specific areas and support (technical and financial) - Hold a joint program with youth-led organizations at the level on recommendations
 - Develop infographic on how to implement actions from Youth Forum
 - Form Integrated M&E system on Youth Forum
- To continue to engage young people by putting together initiatives such as the Youth Webinar (as the one done in July 2020 by UNESCO) share the report and any recent or revised materials in this regard, do a monthly check-in with young people and find out the work they are currently doing in their countries and support them
- They can support through active youth engagement, brief action/work plan and follow-up of the process
- To be a liaison between UNESCO and participants highlighting accomplishments emanating from the Luanda Biennale

- The committee should be formed in an open, non-partisan way and continue to be made up of competent and experienced people in such affairs on the Committee, hence ensuring that people feel engaged & well-represented.
- The Adhoc committee can support the implementation by working on an action plan that unifies the efforts of all stakeholders to work on getting better results
- To foster implementation and coopt more young people in the follow-up processes through sub-committee
- Through collaborative efforts, financial support and monitoring

An online survey developed by UNESCO in collaboration with PAYNCoP

The survey was undertaken in July – August 2020 in English, French and Portuguese

Data analyzed by:

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