



## HEARING TOMORROW'S VOICES

**A Report on the Visit of the AU Youth Envoy,  
Ms. Chido Mpemba to Ghana | 12-13 July 2022**

**As part of the 60-day Listening Tour to African Countries**

## INTRODUCTION

# THE 60-DAY LISTENING TOUR CAMPAIGN

The 60 days Listening Tour Campaign is an initiative of the Office of the African Union Youth Envoy (OYE). The Listening Tour aims to promote meaningful participation of African youth in Africa's development processes; promote solution-focused engagements and collaborations among/between African youth and relevant stakeholders and raise awareness on the mandate of the Office of the African Union Youth Envoy.



***Ms. Chido Mpemba listening to some youth participants as they shared their views during a focus group discussion.***

Premised on the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063 and inspired by the need for inclusive sustainable development and youth-focused multi-stakeholder collaboration in Africa, the 60 days Listening Tour Campaign is to ensure an enabling environment for Africa to harness the invaluable human capital and entrepreneurial spirit embodied in its bulging youthful population.

With UNFPA Ghana's support for the initiative, the Youth Envoy and her team arrived safely in Ghana on Monday 11th July 2022 to commence the 60 Days Listening Tour to nine (9) African countries, beginning with Ghana.



## OBJECTIVES

# THE 60-DAY LISTENING TOUR CAMPAIGN

The objectives of the 60-day Listening Tour Campaign are to:



- Raise awareness of the mandate of the Office of the AU Youth Envoy (OYE) in 55 AU member-states by April 2023.
- Strengthen meaningful participation of African youth in Africa's development processes within 55 AU member states.
- Promote solution-focused engagements and collaborations among/between African youth and relevant stakeholders across the 55 AU member-states.

## Thematic Areas

Thematic areas that the Listening Tour Campaign focused on included but were not limited to the following:



# THE TOWN HALL WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



***Ms. Chido Mpemba addressing participants at the Town Hall with young people in Accra.***



***Kwasi Nimo Jr., a youth participant***



***Young People are the future, hear their voices!***



***Emmanuella Boansi, a youth participant***

The Town Hall with Young People was the AU Youth Envoy's first engagement in Ghana. Inspired by her interest to learn and be informed about the aspirations, questions and status of the youth of Africa, the Office of the AU Youth Envoy, led by Ms. Chido Mpemba and the UNFPA Ghana Country Office hosted a town hall where she interacted with about 100 Ghanaian youth selected from a wide range of youth groups and networks.

The various youth groups represented at the meeting included student leaders, youth in politics, youth advocates for the environment and climate change, youth advocates for employment and livelihoods, advocates for youth inclusion in the digital and technology space, advocates for youth with disabilities, advocates for sexual and reproductive and public health, gender and inclusion for girls, among others.

The spirited conversations started off with an opening session attended by the UNFPA Country Representative a.i, Mr. Barnabas Yisa, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Youth Authority (CEO), Hon. Mr. Pius Enam Hadzide, the Executive Director of Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG), Mr. Emmanuel Ametepey, as well as, the Advisor on Youth Engagements at the Office of the President, Mr. Jake Bediako.

The town hall was held with various speeches and addresses by the invited guests, a panel discussion on a variety of topics covered among the thematic areas, as well as, focus group discussions. It was rounded up with a Twitter Chat session as a lead up to the celebration of World Population Day in Ghana. The Twitter Chat was on the theme: "Towards a resilient future: Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all."



# INTERACTION WITH KAYAYEI AT AGBOGBLOSHIE MARKET



***The AU Youth Envoy held close interaction with over 60 Marginalised Girls.***



***A cross-section of the Kayayei.***

The AU Youth Envoy and her team visited the field to get first-hand knowledge of development interventions targeted at marginalised girls, often referred to locally as kayayei, who are head porters that migrated from Northern parts of Ghana to the Central Business District of Accra to make a living.

The interventions are led by an NGO, the Purim Africa Youth Development Platform (PAYDP), an Implementing Partner of UNFPA under the Adolescent Girls Programme. The team visited the girls at the Agbogbloshie market in Accra. The objective of this visit was to showcase to Ms. Chido Mpemba, how the needs of these vulnerable young women are being addressed through various innovations.



***Executive Director, PAYDP, Rev. Aku Xornam Kevi***

The team was received by the Executive Director of PAYDP, Reverend Aku Xornam Kevi, who gave an overview of the programme interventions and how UNFPA was supporting its implementation.

She highlighted approaches used in reducing the vulnerabilities of kayayei girls to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, which includes paralegal training which enables some of the girls to serve as forces of protection, while assisting the girls to report cases of violence and abuse to the relevant authorities. The Executive Director of PAYDP also showcased the livelihood skills development component of the programme, emphasising how important it was for helping the girls to reduce their dependence on men and boys who violate and abuse them.

# THE SCOOP ON THE GTV BREAKFAST SHOW



***Ms. Chido Mpemba speaking with the host of the GTV Breakfast Show, Ms. Thelma Tackie***

The AU Youth Envoy was hosted on Ghana Television (GTV) Breakfast Show on the second day of the Listening Tour Campaign. During her interaction on the show, she shared information about her rise as a young person, recognition she received for her work and how she was using her capacity to advance the cause of young people on the continent.

She also shared information about her Office and what she and the team were doing to champion youth development across the continent. Most importantly, Ms. Chido Mpemba provided details about the 60 Days Listening tour Campaign for the benefit of viewers.

***Click the image or scan the QR Code with your phone to watch the video***





# VISIT TO PPAG YENKASA CALL CENTRE



***Ms. Chido Mpemba interacting with the young contact centre agents/counsellors.***

The AU Youth Envoy and her team also visited the Yenka Digital Contact Centre for SRHR Information and Services which is operated by the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), an Implementing Partner of UNFPA. The Operational procedures and functionalities of the contact centre were explained to the Envoy. She had the opportunity to interact with the young contact centre agents/counsellors who serve as the bridge between callers/clients and service delivery points across the country.

The Yenka Call Centre also refers issues of SGBV to the Orange Support Centre for further support, for instance, around issues related to psychosocial support and legal services. The youth programmes Officer at PPAG who conducted the Envoy's visit to the Contact Centre challenged the Envoy to explore possibilities for similar services to be available to young people in other countries, where access to SRHR services is challenged.



# COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER OF YOUTH & SPORTS



***Ms. Chido Mpemba(left) in a tête-à-tête with the Ghana's Minister of Youth & Sports, Hon. Mustapha Ussif.***

The Envoy also paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Youth and Sports of Ghana, Hon Mustapha Ussif. At this meeting, the AU Youth Envoy briefed the Minister on the 60 Days Listening Tour Campaign. She emphasised the critical need for enhanced collaboration between her office and the office of the Minister of Youth and Sports, as well as the various Agencies that play critical roles in youth empowerment and development in Ghana, as is her interest for all the other Member States of the AU.

She also shared opportunities available for the Minister to join colleagues of other member states to support the Office of the Youth Envoy by seconding young people to the office in Addis Ababa within the framework of exposure, capacity-building and extension of opportunities for the youth of Africa. The AU Youth Envoy highlighted that the post of the AU Envoy is a rotational role, which will rotate across the Regions on the continent every two years. She added that it

was therefore important for countries to take steps to adequately build capacity to support young people to potentially take leadership roles for the future.

On his part, the Minister expressed his deepest congratulations and wishes of success to the Envoy, with the hope that she will excel beyond expectations, and that she will bring new energy to the office.

Hon. Mustapha Ussif also shed light on a number of policies and programmes that the Government of Ghana had rolled-out for the development and advancement of young people in Ghana, including: the Free Senior High School (SHS) policy and programme, the National Builders Corps (NABCO) and the Accra Digital Centre for building the capacity of young people in emerging technologies, among others. He invited the Envoy to spend some time to see these programmes and become acquainted with the progress being made in Ghana for young people.





# AT THE EMBASSY OF ZIMBABWE IN GHANA



***Ms. Chido Mpemba making a point during the visit to the Embassy of Zimbabwe in Ghana.***

The AU Youth Envoy also paid a brief visit to the Zimbabwean Embassy in Ghana. As a citizen of Zimbabwe, UNFPA arranged for the Envoy to visit and share with the Embassy, the raison d'être of her mission to Ghana and to ensure her country's mission provided her all courtesies that could be accorded her.

The Deputy Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Ghana cordially received the AU Youth Envoy and her team together with some UNFPA Staff. The plenipotentiary introduced the Envoy to the work the mission was doing in Ghana, mainly in the areas of attracting investment to Zimbabwe in the context of the African Continental Free Trade (AfCFTA). He took time to also wish her well and gave an assurance that the



***The Deputy Ambassador making a point during the meeting.***



***The AUYE providing details about the 60-Day Listening Tour Campaign.***

Embassy will be willing to assist in whichever way may be required.

The Envoy provided information about the 60 Days Listening Tour and emphasised the importance for collaboration and cross-continental exchanges to advance youth development. She encouraged the Zimbabwean Mission in Ghana to work for the advancement of youth at the highest level to promote their meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels.

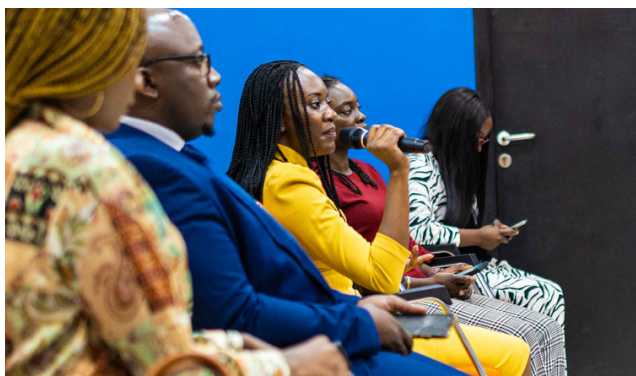
# INTERACTION WITH YOLE FELLOWS AT THE ORANGE LOFT



***The AU Youth Envoy and her team in an interaction with the YoLe Fellows.***

The AU Youth Envoy and her team also visited the Orange Loft, a Youth Innovation Hub designed by UNFPA Ghana to hone the skills of young graduates in Ghana, while equipping them with in-depth knowledge of UN operations and the larger Sustainable Development ecosystem. The space also allows for co-working and hosting events, with state-of-the-art facilities adapted to be youthful and to enable the fellows to be highly productive.

The session with the UNFPA YoLe Fellows took the form of a 'Q n A' which allowed for mutual dialogue on a variety of youth-related issues. The AU Youth Envoy explained the importance of the 60 Days Listening Tour Campaign to the Fellows. She also encouraged them to be interested in sharing ideas and making contributions towards the development of the African continent. Ms. Mpemba commended UNFPA for making worthwhile investments in young people.



***Ms. Chido Mpemba answering a question during the interaction.***



***A YoLe Fellow, Ms. Amtu Akumfi Ameyaw making a contribution during the interaction.***



# MEETING WITH THE UN YOUTH GROUP IN GHANA



***The AU Youth Envoy in a dialogue with members of the UN Youth Group in Ghana.***

The AU Youth Envoy spent the afternoon of the 2nd day of her 60 Days Listening Tour Campaign with the UN Youth Group in Ghana. The Chairperson of the UN Youth Group, Ms. Anne-Claire Dufay, who is also the UNICEF Representative to Ghana hosted the meeting. Following a brief round of introductions, the Chair indicated that the UN Youth Group was the primary inter-agency working group focusing on addressing the multi-sectoral issues of youth in partnership with the Government, from the diverse mandates of the various agencies.

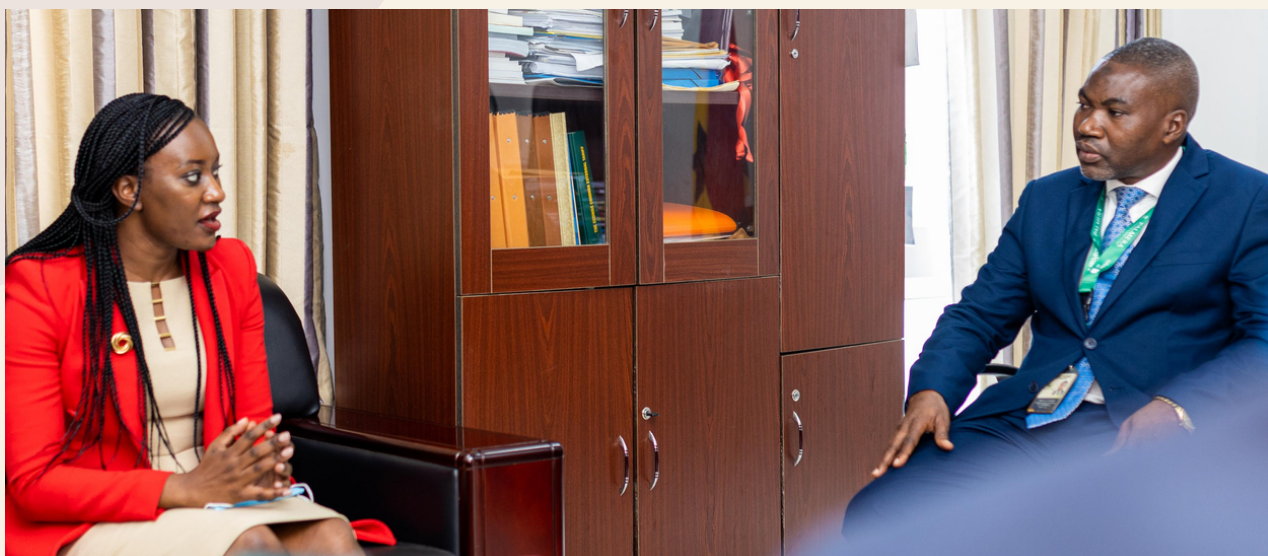
She also expressed her delight about the prospects of the 60 Days Learning Tour Campaign. The Envoy on the other hand thanked the team for making time to meet and interact with her on this visit. She shared the objectives of the visit and indicated how inspired she has become after her engagement with the youth of Ghana at the Town Hall meeting the previous day. Ms. Mpemba extended an invitation to the UN Youth Group to open doors of partnerships and collaborations with her office, emphasising the importance of creating spaces for more young people to learn and be actively involved in policy design, implementation and decision-making at all levels.

The AU Youth Envoy mentioned the opportunity that is available to the UN agencies and member states to assign youth to her office on secondment so that there can be more young people like her to support the enormous work that needs to be carried out by the Office of the AU Youth Envoy. The meeting allowed for an exchange of ideas around resource mobilisation, programming, and other areas of partnerships to advance the cause of young people in Ghana and across the continent.



***The AU Youth Envoy and members of the UN Youth Group.***

# AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



***The AU Youth Envoy in an interaction with the Ag. Director, Bureau of Regional Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdulai Haruna Alhassan.***

The AU Youth Envoy and her team also made time to pay a courtesy call on the Acting Director of the Bureau of Regional Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdulai Haruna Alhassan, to bring him up to speed on the 60 Days Listening Tour Campaign.



***The AU Youth Envoy exchanging pleasantries with the Ag. Dir, Bureau of Regional Integration, MoFARI.***

Mr. Alhassan appreciated the visit; congratulated Ms. Chido Mpemba over her appointment and also pledged the support of the Government of Ghana to assist in making the campaign a success.

The AU Youth Envoy added that her Office sought to have commitment from the level of the Presidency as Africa's champion on engaging financial institutions, for young people to be active participants in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework.



# DEBRIEFING WITH THE UNFPA COUNTRY OFFICE TEAM

The mission ended with a debriefing in the Conference Room of the UNFPA Ghana Country Office. The entourage of the AU Youth Envoy and Management Team members of the Country Office went over the mission to see how things went.

The UNFPA Country Rep a.i., Mr. Barnabas Yisa commended the team for their patience, dedication and sense of duty that made them visit the many people and places as prepared on the Agenda. Mr. Yisa also thanked the AU Youth Envoy for her visit and hoped that the objectives of the mission, which mainly involved getting the input of young people as part of the learning tour, were achieved.



***Mr. Barnabas Yisa welcoming the AU Youth Envoy to the debriefing.***



***The AU Youth Envoy expressing appreciation to UNFPA.***

The AU Youth Envoy, Ms. Chido Mpemba on behalf of her Office, also thanked UNFPA for the coordination role the agency played in making the mission possible. Ms. Mpemba indicated that the team noted several highlights and key takeaways from the Youth Town Hall which will guide further engagements with Africa's young people to inform policy making.



***The UNFPA Ghana Organizing Team with the AU Youth Envoy and her team in a group photograph.***

***Click the image or scan the QR Code using your phone to watch the Town Hall.***



## CREDITS

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