



UNV Side Event at TICAD7:

Socioeconomic and Political Transformation in Africa through Innovative Youth Volunteerism

Venue: Annex Hall F204, Pacifico Yokohama (1-1-1, Minato Mirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama, 220-0012, Japan)

Date: 28 August 2019 from 18:00 to 19:30

Background information:

With formal employment opportunities becoming scarce in the face of the youth bulge in Africa (with 10 to 12 million youth enter the workforce each year in Africa, and only 3.1 million jobs are created), entrepreneurship and innovation is increasingly recognized as one of the main drivers of self-job creation and development across the continent. The importance of cultivating a new generation of innovators remains central to inclusive economic and social transformation as well as durable social cohesion and stability in the continent. Utilizing innovative approaches to volunteerism to harness the abundant entrepreneurial spirit in the youth will ensure the creation of adequate new and productive jobs, businesses and new ways to deliver services.

With the adoption of UN Resolution “Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond” (the Plan of Action) in 2015, the UN general assembly called on, and recognized the necessity of integrating volunteerism into peace and development and encouraged member states to heighten the use of volunteerism as a medium for peacebuilding. In December 2018, the UNGA further reiterated, by the adoption of resolution “Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” the call for utilization of volunteerism in the implementation of SDG agenda 2030. For Africa, the actualization of these aspirations is enshrined in our collective ability to leverage volunteerism for the achievement of the twin Agenda SDG 2030 and AU Agenda 2063.

In April 2019, African member states expressed that *volunteerism and volunteers can be the bridge that connects people together, especially those who are excluded and left behind* during the Africa Regional Sustainable Development Forum in Marrakesh. The 2030 and 2063 Agendas call upon all multi-sectoral and multi-partnership approach to achieving the targets enshrined in the goals. Volunteerism therefore, provides an opportunity for diverse stakeholders to come together to address local and indigenous challenges. To accelerate the impact on the unprecedented number of youth, it is believed that innovative volunteerism through leveraging technologies and the private sector is the way forward.

These imperatives were reiterated in the Nairobi Declaration adopted in 2016 at TICAD VI. The declaration recognized the fact that the value of youth empowerment and its potential impact on the socio-economic and political transformation of Africa must come through enhancement and leveraging of critical elements such human resource development, and social stability and peacebuilding. At the same time, the declaration paved the way for new thinking on the role of volunteerism and innovative volunteerism as a cross cutting mechanism needed to address the continent’s peace and development challenges.

It is against this background, that UNV, in collaboration with AUC and UNDP, and with support from the Government of Japan, organizes an interactive side event at TICAD7 with the following objectives:

- 1) Showcase the added value and contributions of volunteerism to peacebuilding and development (2030 and 2063 Agendas) in Africa highlighting the Plan of Action**
- 2) Share experiences and innovative practices of volunteerism as a cost effective and people-centered mechanism for the implementation of the twin agendas, particularly in promotion of youth**
- 3) Present opportunities for forged partnership between UNV, AU member states, the private sector and TICAD partners on the specific innovative entry points for integrating volunteerism into national development plans and budgets**

Session timeline:

MC: Ms. Afke Bootsman, UNV Regional Manager for West and Central Africa

- **Introduction to event by MC (18:00 – 18:05)**
- **Opening remarks & introduction (18:05 – 18:10)**
 - Ms. Aya Yoshida, Director of Global Issues Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- **Keynote speech (18:10 – 18:20)**
 - Mr. Toily Kurbanov, UNV Deputy Executive Coordinator (5 min)
 - Mr. Lamin Manneh, UNDP Director of Regional Service Center for Africa (5 min)
- **Presentations & discussions (18:20 – 19:10)**

Moderator: Mr. Njoya Tikum, Regional Manager for East and Southern Africa

 - H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner – Human Resources Science and Technology Department, African Union Commission
 - Ms. Kasapo Manda, Innovative Youth Volunteer from Zambia
 - Ms. Ngeyi Hilda Tabot, Innovative Youth Volunteer from Cameroon
 - Ms. Reina Otsuka, Environmental Specialist, Innovation Lead for Africa (Innovation Facility), UNDP Rwanda (serving as a UN Volunteer)
- **Q&A with audience (19:10 – 19:25)**
- **Closing of session by MC (19:25 – 19:30)**

Presenters:



AYA YOSHIDA

Ms. Aya Yoshida is Director of Global Issues Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau, MOFA Japan, since July 2019.



H.E. Professor SARAH ANYANG AGBOR

Professor Sarah Anyang Agbor is African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology since July 2017.



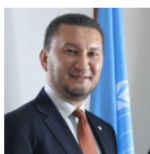
LAMIN MOMODOU MANNEH

Mr Lamin Momodou Manneh is UNDP Director of Regional Service Center for Africa since July 2017.



REINA OTSUKA ISEDA

Ms. Reina Otsuka Iseda is Environmental Specialist / Innovation Lead for Africa from UNDP Rwanda.



TOILY KURBANOV

Mr Toily Kurbanov is UNV Deputy Executive Coordinator since August 2016.



KASAPO MANDA

Ms. Kasapo Manda is Country Head of 2nd Door Management and Private Banker and Service Consultant of First National bank Zambia.