



2024

YOUTH AT THE HELM

A Game Changer in Migration Governance in Nigeria



Paving the Way: Enhancing Youth Participation in Migration Governance for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

PART A

Introduction

For the first time in Nigeria, the Youth led the way in shaping migration governance through the Youth Migration Forum which held on the 9th day of November 2024 in Abuja and hosted by Migration Moments with May Global Empowerment Initiative (popularly known as Migration Moments with May). The event which was hybrid brought together key youth leaders and young change makers in the national development space. This landmark event was all about amplifying youth voices and empowering the upcoming generation of migration policy game changers.

With the theme “*Paving the Way: Enhancing Youth Participation in Migration Governance for Sustainable Development in Nigeria*” the forum celebrated the power of determined Youths ready to make a difference. The day was filled with thought provoking initiatives and innovative ideas relating to the theme. The barriers and challenges of Youth participation in migration governance was tackled, the role of young people in migration policy development, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation was extensively discussed, and the unique contributions youths can bring into migration governance was spotlighted.

The turnout was unprecedented with a remarkable 16 young leaders present on-site and an additional 14 joining us virtually via Zoom. Our online participants represented diverse locations across Nigeria, including a Nigerian youth in diaspora. This clearly shows that young Nigerians are eager and ready to engage, no matter the distance, to shape the future of migration governance!

2.

Why the Youth Migration Forum?

The Youth Migration Forum was not just another gathering—it was a pivotal moment for change. The event was convened to address a critical gap in migration governance: the lack of meaningful and sustained youth engagement in both the development of migration policies and the activities that drive their implementation. As migration continues to shape national and global landscapes, it is crucial that young people, who represent the future, are empowered to take an active role in both policy creation and the day-to-day activities that affect migration outcomes.

This forum sought to amplify youth voices in migration governance, encourage collaborative action, and equip young leaders with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to lead migration initiatives. With migration issues playing an increasingly central role in global affairs, now is the time to tap into the energy, creativity, and innovation that youth bring to the table. When youth lead—not just in shaping policies, but also in executing the activities that support them—the future of migration governance becomes more inclusive, dynamic, and sustainable.



*Empowered youth are the catalysts
for positive change - Katoo Ole Metito*

Igniting the Spark: Speeches that Shaped the Forum's Vision

Opening remark

The Youth Migration Forum was officially opened with a warm welcome from the Convener and Executive Director of Migration Moments with May, Osatohanmwun Mary Igbinosun. In her address, she expressed immense gratitude to the participants, both online and in person, for their presence and support. She highlighted that the event marked another milestone in the journey of Migration Moments with May Global Empowerment Initiative, which continues to amplify the voices of Nigerian youth in migration governance. The initiative remains steadfast in its mission to empower young people to shape policies and practices that impact migration.

She further emphasized the significance of migration, particularly for youth in Nigeria, where young people represent the backbone of the nation. She acknowledged that the forum would focus not only on discussing the role of youth in migration governance but also on forging a collective commitment to national development



Osatohanmwun Mary Igbinosun
Executive Director of Migration Moments with May



Joy Akut

*Special Assistant on Youth to the
Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives*

Joy Akut - the Special Assistant on Youth to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives emphasized the fact that there is an urgent need to review our migration ecosystem and ensure that migration becomes a matter of choice rather than desperation. She reassured the participants that various policies have been implemented by the government to tackle the root causes of migration by fostering an environment where Youths can thrive – such policies include the National Youth Policy (2019 – 2023) which focused on creating economic opportunities for youths and the National Policy on the Health and Development of Adolescent (2020-2024) which is aimed at supporting young Nigerians by addressing factors that drive migration.

Other activities include promoting job creation, skills development and entrepreneurship. She encouraged participants to engage actively, share experiences and propose strategies that would guide legislative framework in a way that best serves Nigerian Youths.

The Director General, Committee of Youth on Mobilization and Sensitization (CYMS) – Chief Obinna Nwaka, FCAI in his goodwill message emphasized the need for active youth engagement in issues for national development. He further stated that irregular migration amongst youths are mostly caused by bad governance. The DG CYMS advised participants to dialogue actively.

He applauded Migration Moments with May for the initiative and looked forward to its sustainability.



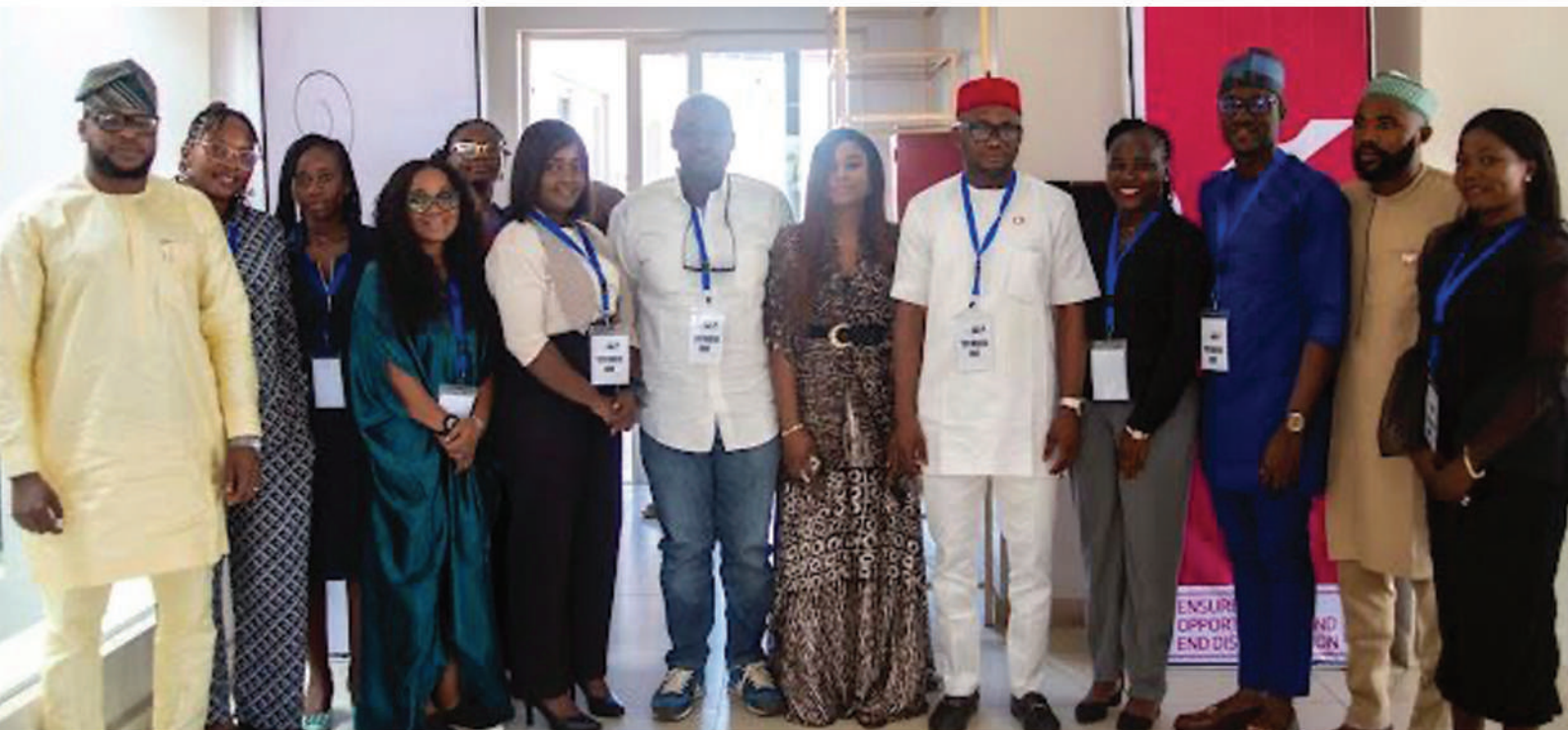
Chief Obinna Nwaka FCAI

*The Director General, Committee of Youth on
Mobilization and Sensitization (CYMS)*



Uche Theoda Junior
Senior Youth Development Officer

The representative of the Hon. Minister of Youth, Uche Theoda Junior – Senior Youth Development Officer, delivered a welcome address highlighting the significance of the forum, noting that youth are the energy and legacy of society. He commended the convener, Migration Moments with May, for organizing the event and emphasized that the Ministry of Youth is fully committed to supporting initiatives that address national development and youth empowerment. He expressed the Ministry's full backing for the forum and encouraged participants to engage actively to ensure the achievement of the forum's objectives. On behalf of the Minister, he officially declared the Youth Migration Forum open.



PART B



The Youth Forum featured two impactful capacity-building sessions designed to deepen participants' understanding of migration governance at both national and global levels. The session on National Migration Governance was facilitated by the Migration Moments with May Global Empowerment Initiative, highlighting the frameworks, policies, and opportunities available for youth involvement in Nigeria's migration governance landscape.

The Global Migration Governance session was led by Nelson Chege, the GCM Regional Project Lead for Africa at the Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP), a key component of the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY). This session explored the interconnectedness of migration governance on the global stage, emphasizing how international frameworks such as the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) influence and support youth engagement in shaping migration policies and programs across the globe

These sessions aimed to:

- A. Equip participants with practical knowledge of migration governance structures at both national and global levels
- B. Highlight opportunities for youth participation in migration-related decision-making processes
- C. Foster collaboration among young change makers, empowering them to advocate for inclusive, youth-driven migration policies

By bridging the gap between national and global perspectives, the sessions laid a solid foundation for active youth engagement in migration governance, reinforcing the forum's overarching goal of empowering young voices in shaping migration discourse.

PART C



Migration moments with May

Dialogue session

The dialogue session was structured around five key focus areas of discussion, which were:

1. Dialogue Focus 1: To Understand the Current Landscape of Youth Engagement in Migration Governance
2. Dialogue Focus 2: To Understand the challenges Faced by Youth in Migration Governance
3. Dialogue Focus 3: To identify the opportunities for Youth in Migration Governance
4. Dialogue Focus 4: Policy and Structural Changes for Greater Youth Inclusion
5. Dialogue Focus 5: Developing a Roadmap for Future Engagement

Dialogue Focus I:

To Understand the Current Landscape of Youth Engagement in Migration Governance

The first dialogue focus centered on understanding the current landscape of youth engagement in migration governance. It explored the level of awareness among young people regarding migration policies, programs, and initiatives, and examined how well youth voices are represented in migration policy decisions. The discussion also highlighted examples of successful youth involvement in migration-related initiatives within Nigeria, providing insights into the impact and opportunities for further engagement.

A key observation from Dialogue Session I was the lack of awareness among youths regarding the National Migration Policy (NMP) and other government initiatives aimed at managing migration. Furthermore, it was noted that youth voices are often excluded from policy decision-making processes related to migration in Nigeria. To address these challenges and bridge the existing gap, the following strategic recommendations are proposed:

1. ESTABLISH A STRATEGIC ADVOCACY FRAMEWORK:

Develop a comprehensive and systematic advocacy structure through partnerships with youth organizations. These organizations should be actively involved in sensitizing the youth on migration governance, ensuring that information reaches a wider and more diverse audience. By utilizing existing networks, we can create a sustained outreach effort to raise awareness and generate interest in migration-related policies.

2. ESTABLISH A STRATEGIC ADVOCACY FRAMEWORK:

Leverage Social Media and Influencers: Harness the power of social media platforms by using targeted sponsored ads and collaborating with youth influencers to spread awareness on migration management activities. Social media offers a unique opportunity to reach specific populations, making it an ideal tool for enhancing knowledge and fostering informed youth participation in migration governance.

3. HOLD BIENNIAL YOUTH MIGRATION FORUMS:

Organize the Youth Migration Forum at least twice a year to ensure continuous engagement, dialogue, and knowledge sharing among youth. These forums should serve as platforms for youth to discuss pressing migration issues, contribute to policy discussions, and provide feedback on ongoing initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards migration governance.

Dialogue Focus I:

To Understand the Current Landscape of Youth Engagement in Migration Governance

4. SUPPORT YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS:

The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) can replicate or collaborate with initiatives like the Migration Moments with May Mentorship Programme to organize or support mentorship programs that connect experienced migration professionals with young people. These programs can facilitate the transfer of knowledge, build leadership skills, and empower youth to actively engage in migration management processes.

Successful Youth Migration Governance Initiatives in Nigeria

Several impactful initiatives have emerged in Nigeria, demonstrating the potential of youth involvement in migration governance. These initiatives contribute significantly to addressing migration challenges and fostering youth leadership in this sector:

5. MIGRATION MOMENTS WITH MAY MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME:

This annual, one-year initiative serves as a powerful platform for empowering youth by connecting them with experienced mentors in the migration field. Through this program, young participants receive comprehensive guidance and leadership development, gaining valuable insights into migration governance at global, regional, and national levels. The mentorship experience equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary to actively engage in migration governance, advocacy, and policy discussions, fostering the next generation of leaders in the migration sector.

Dialogue Focus I:

To Understand the Current Landscape of Youth Engagement in Migration Governance

6. LAW CLINIC SYSTEM WITHIN UNIVERSITY LAW FACULTIES:

The Law Clinic system, particularly the *University of Abuja Law Clinic's 2023 event on Safe Migration*, plays a critical role in educating and engaging students on migration issues. By focusing on social development projects, these clinics provide legal insights and practical solutions to the challenges of safe migration, while promoting awareness among law

7. YOUTH-LED FEMALE RETURNED MIGRANT NETWORK:

This network is dedicated to addressing the challenges faced by female returnee migrants, with a particular focus on combating human trafficking and irregular migration. By amplifying the voices of young women, the network empowers them to advocate for safer migration practices and supports reintegration efforts for returnees.

Dialogue Focus 2:

To Understand the challenges Faced by Youth in Migration Governance

The dialogue underscored that youth engagement in migration governance in Nigeria remains limited. Several factors contribute to this minimal participation. They include:

LACK OF AWARENESS:

Many youths are unaware of the existing frameworks and structures designed to govern migration in Nigeria, which limits their involvement.

APATHY AND DISINTEREST:

Even those who are aware of the migration processes often show a lack of interest, further reducing youth participation.

LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT:

There are few platforms or opportunities for youth to actively contribute to policy discussions or decision-making processes.

INSUFFICIENT FUNDING:

Youth-led migration initiatives often struggle to secure the necessary funding, hindering their growth and impact.

SYSTEMIC BARRIERS:

Hierarchical structures and systemic limitations often prevent youths from leading migration-related initiatives, sidelining their voices in governance processes.

LACK OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

There is a deficiency in evaluating and monitoring youth-focused programs aimed at reducing irregular migration, which makes it difficult to assess their effectiveness.

DATA GAPS

There is a lack of comprehensive data on youth-led initiatives, which impacts the design and development of programs that aim to foster greater youth involvement in migration governance.

Dialogue Focus 2:

To Understand the challenges Faced by Youth in Migration Governance

RESOURCE GATEKEEPING:

Essential information needed to facilitate youth engagement is often withheld, limiting access and participation in important initiatives.

INACCESSIBLE LOCATIONS:

Migration dialogues and forums are frequently held in locations that are not easily accessible to youth, reducing their ability to engage.

LACK OF YOUTH OWNERSHIP:

Youth-oriented programs are often implemented by others, rather than by youths themselves, leading to ineffective execution and missed opportunities.

TIMING CONFLICTS:

Many migration-related programs are scheduled at times that are inconvenient for young people, limiting their ability to participate.

LACK OF PASSION AND COMMITMENT:

Youth-led initiatives are sometimes entrusted to individuals who lack the experience or passion for the cause, which undermines the program's effectiveness.

EXCLUSION FROM IMPLEMENTATION:

Despite expressing eagerness to participate, youths are often excluded from implementing their ideas due to favoritism, leading to poorly executed initiatives that fail to meet their intended goals

In conclusion, Dialogue 2 underscored the structural challenges hindering meaningful youth engagement in migration governance. These challenges are deeply embedded in the systems that govern migration in Nigeria and will persist unless foundational changes are made.

“Good governance is a product of good policies and good policies are a product of good politics”
– Sulaiman Mande

Dialogue Focus 2:

To Understand the challenges Faced by Youth in Migration Governance

To achieve good governance in migration management, it is essential to ensure that policies are not only well-designed but also politically driven to include youth perspectives. The National Migration Dialogue must serve as a truly inclusive platform, where all stakeholders, especially youth, are given a voice in shaping the migration discourse. Furthermore, it is imperative for young people to develop the courage and confidence to challenge existing systems diplomatically, advocating for a shift away from prevailing norms. By empowering youth to actively engage and advocate for change, we can create policies that reflect their needs and contribute to a governance system that is fair, inclusive, and effective.

Ultimately, the path to effective migration governance lies in fostering good politics — where youth are actively involved in decision-making — to produce policies that serve the best interests of all Nigerians. Only then will we achieve a governance framework that is truly inclusive, sustainable, and impactful for future generations.



Dialogue Focus 3:

To identify the opportunities for
Youth in Migration Governance

Migration governance presents numerous opportunities to enhance youth contributions to national development. One key opportunity is the strategic use of technology to foster youth involvement in migration governance. These opportunities include:

Digital and Social Media Campaigns: Harnessing platforms like Facebook, TikTok, and other online channels to run advocacy and awareness campaigns on migration, which empowers youth to engage in discussions and raise awareness on critical issues.

Support Services: Establishing a toll-free helpline to provide a safe channel for youth migrants to seek assistance, especially in situations where protection and support are lacking.

The dialogue further explored these opportunities, highlighting the significance of aligning migration policies and programs with strategies that actively promote and support increased youth engagement in migration governance.

The words of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill during World War II when he said “Give us the tools, and we will finish the job” resonate with the focus of these discussions. The youth platforms already exist and simply need empowerment to create a meaningful impact. By fostering partnerships and collaboration, ideas can be developed to improve the implementation of existing policies and when those ideas are generated by youths, they should be properly credited for their contributions.

The ongoing review of the National Migration Policy and its action plan is a crucial aspect of this discussion, as attention must be given to how effectively it addresses current migration issues, particularly those concerning youths. The policy should be strengthened to incorporate emerging issues related to youths and migration, including the role of technology and the use of social media for enhanced youth engagement.

Youths can play a pivotal role in designing and implementing migration-related projects, but their capacity to engage meaningfully in migration governance in Nigeria is a critical concern. To address this, it is essential to focus on training programs that enhance their skills, particularly in areas like proposal writing. These programs will empower youths to develop and lead migration-related initiatives, providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to make a significant impact in the governance process.

The dialogue underscored the pivotal role of technology and social media in fostering youth participation in migration governance. The Youth Migration Forum exemplified this by leveraging technology to invite participants, facilitate online participation from various locations, and ensure the event was stored online for future access and continued engagement.

The strategic focus of discussions under Dialogue 4 included exploring effective ways to sustainably integrate youth perspectives into national migration policies, identifying how young people can actively participate in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of these policies, and defining the roles of government and non-governmental organizations in institutionalizing youth participation.

A critical question was raised during Dialogue 4 concerning the ongoing migration policy review: How intentional was the process in including youth participants—not merely as representatives symbolically assigned by their organizations, but as active contributors selected specifically for their demographic relevance? The ongoing and future reviews of National Migration Policies must be strengthened to include youths and address emerging youth-related issues comprehensively.

Engaging youth in these processes is not a complex task, given that a significant portion of social media users are young people. Governance structures can leverage social media platforms to conduct online polls and gather opinions on specific topics, providing valuable youth perspectives and insights for the formulation, implementation, or review of policies. This approach effectively incorporates young people's voices into decision-making.

Government and non-governmental organizations can take deliberate steps to institutionalize youth participation by enabling young individuals within their organizations to develop proposals in response to project grant calls. While supervisory support can be provided, these calls should remain youth-centered and youth-led, fostering a sense of ownership and boosting young people's confidence.

Additionally, during the proposal development process, youth-led organizations can be actively involved to contribute their perspectives, ensuring that initiatives effectively address youth-related concerns. This collaborative approach not only strengthens the outcomes of such projects but also empowers youth to see themselves as drivers of positive change. As John F. Kennedy aptly said, “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”



Migration moments with May

Partnerships with Young Innovators: Foster strategic partnerships between Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and young innovators to support youth-driven solutions in migration governance. By actively engaging with emerging youth talent, MDAs can tap into fresh perspectives and innovative approaches, empowering young people to play an active role in shaping migration policies, developing initiatives, and addressing key migration challenges.

Youth Quotas in Governance: The inclusion of at least 30% youth quotas in migration governance structures, ensuring that youth voices are not only heard but also have a defined role in decision-making. This quota system will eliminate any legal or institutional barriers to youth participation, ensuring their representation in the formulation and implementation of migration policies and strategies that directly impact their future. These quota systems should be implemented across migration governance platforms, including Technical Working Groups and the National Migration Dialogue, to ensure that youth representation is an integral part of these decision-making processes.

Transparent Selection Processes: Champion openness and transparency in the selection of youth participants for migration governance initiatives. This will help to eliminate tokenism or selective involvement, ensuring that youth engagement is meaningful and accessible to all, rather than benefiting only a select few. Transparent processes will ensure that young people are truly empowered to contribute to migration governance.

Dedicated Funding for Youth-Led Projects: Dedicated funding for youth-led migration projects enabling young people to bring their ideas to life, is encouraged. By investing in youth-driven initiatives, we can unlock their potential to lead impactful solutions to migration challenges, ensuring that their voices shape policies that directly affect their lives and communities.

Support for Youth Ideas and Innovations: Actively promote and nurture the innovative ideas that youth bring forward, particularly in migration governance. Instead of discouraging or sidelining their proposals, platforms should be created where their ideas can be celebrated, refined, and implemented. Encouraging youth-driven innovation ensures that migration policies remain relevant, adaptable, and forward-thinking.

Youth in Strategic Leadership Roles: Assign young people to strategic leadership roles within migration governance bodies, ensuring that their opinions and expertise are central to the policy-making process. By positioning youth in key roles, we create opportunities for them to directly influence migration policies and contribute to the development of sustainable, youth-centered solutions.

Harnessing Existing Youth Platforms: Leverage established youth platforms, such as the Youth Migration Forum, to amplify youth voices in migration governance. These platforms provide a space where youth-led organizations can share insights, discuss migration issues, and actively contribute to policy-making, creating a robust mechanism for youth engagement.

Independent Review of Policies: Conduct independent reviews of the impact of migration policies on youth to assess their effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. Such reviews will ensure that youth-centric policies are not only created but are also continuously evaluated, ensuring they meet the evolving needs and aspirations of young people.

PART D

Conclusion and recommendation

The inaugural Youth Migration Forum was a significant milestone, signaling a promising step toward more inclusive and youth-centered migration governance. It is essential that this momentum is sustained, as the mantra "Nothing about us without us" underscores the critical importance of involving young people in shaping migration policies that directly affect them.

The level of youth involvement in migration governance activities serves as a key indicator to measure the success and impact of such forums. Moving forward, we recommend a progressive increase in youth participation, ensuring that youth voices are consistently integrated into decision-making processes.

Immediate action should be taken to ensure that the outcomes of the Youth Migration Forum influence the ongoing and future review of the National Migration Policy, as well as the upcoming review of the action plan. This will guarantee that the perspectives and needs of young people are reflected in the strategies and frameworks designed to address migration challenges and opportunities. Additionally, efforts should be made to formalize youth representation within migration governance structures, making it a permanent and prioritized aspect of policy development.

PART E

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

The Youth Migration Forum successfully engaged a wide range of participants through a hybrid format, allowing both in-person and virtual attendance. The diverse participation reflects the collaborative efforts in promoting youth involvement in migration governance. Below is a breakdown of the attendance:

Total Attendance:

30

Categories of Participants:

16

Virtual Attendance:

14

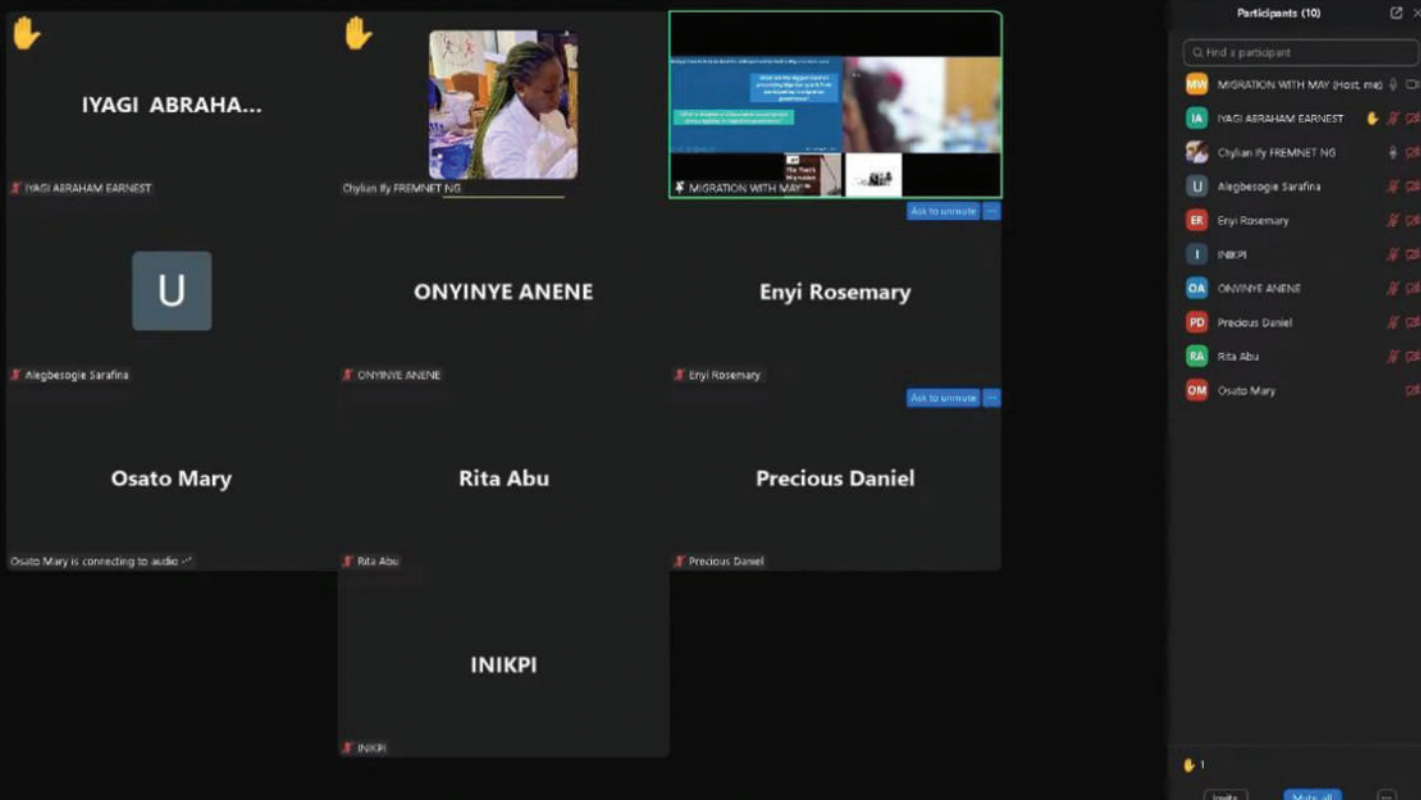
In-Person Attendance:

Participant Breakdown

Government Representatives:	3
Non-Governmental Organizations:	8
Youth Participants (In-person and online):	22
Experts/Academics (virtual):	1
General Public/Other Stakeholders:	2

DIALOGUE LEADS

- Dialogue Focus 1: Agwu Joy
- Dialogue Focus 2: Justina Isaac
- Dialogue Focus 3: Ernest Abraham Iyagi (*Virtual Participant*)
- Dialogue Focus 4: Samuel C. Chukwu
- Dialogue Focus 5: Osatohanmwun Mary Igbinosun



Snapshot of some virtual participants

ANNEX 1:

PAPER DELIVERY: ROLE OF YOUTHS IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A PAPER PRESENTATION ON THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE COMMITTEE OF YOUTH ON MOBILIZATION & SENSITIZATION (CYMS) CHIEF OBINNA NWAKA ON SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2024.

Background of our organization:

Committee of Youth on Mobilization and Sensitization (CYMS) is an evaluation, monitoring and mobilization body engaged under the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation with the mandate of assisting the Federal government to promote its policies, programmes and activities.

Other activities include promotion of good governance, ensuring peaceful coexistence and facilitation of empowerment programmes & opportunities for young people.

Topic:

“The Role of Youth in National Development”

Who are the Youths?

The term 'youth' generally refers to individuals transitioning from adolescence into adulthood, typically between the ages of 15 and 30. This demographic is often seen as a source of potential, innovation and societal change representing a significant force in shaping the future. While according to United Nations, these are people between the ages of 15 and 24 as endorsed by the UN general assembly in 1981 in preparation for the International Youth Year in 1985. (Without prejudice to other definition by member states)

Understanding the Concept of Youth:

Youth is a critical developmental phase characterized by physical, emotional, and psychological growth. It is a period where individuals seek identity, pursue education, engage in social and community activities, and develop values and beliefs that will guide their future. This transitional stage plays a fundamental role in shaping not only the individuals themselves but also the society they belong.



Migration moment with May

OBINNA NWAKA
DIRECTOR GENERAL
CYMS

WHAT IS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

National development refers to the comprehensive process through which a country enhances the well-being of its citizens across various sectors, including economic growth, infrastructure, healthcare, education, and social welfare.

It aims to improve the overall quality of life, create opportunities, and ensure sustainability for future generations.

THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Youth have a crucial part to play in national development across several key areas:

1. Innovation and Creativity: The energy and fresh perspectives that youth bring can drive innovation in technology, business, and social projects. Their ability to think outside the box leads to new solutions for pressing societal issues.

2. Advocacy and Activism: Young people often spearhead social movements, advocating for human rights, environmental protection, and social justice. They challenge existing norms and demand progressive changes in policies and practices.

3. Political Participation and Governance: Youth involvement in politics allows them to influence policy decisions, push for reforms, and contribute to democratic governance. Their active participation ensures that governance reflects the needs and aspirations of future generations.

4. Education and Skill Development: By pursuing education and acquiring vocational skills, the youth contribute to the development of a skilled workforce. Their capacity to adapt and innovate is essential for meeting the challenges of an ever-changing job market.

HOW YOUTH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There are multiple avenues through which youth can contribute to the growth and prosperity of their nation:

1- Volunteering and Community Service: Youth can engage in social projects and volunteer efforts, addressing community-level challenges and promoting civic responsibility.

2. Entrepreneurship: Many young people are driven to start their own businesses, creating jobs, fostering economic growth, and addressing gaps in the market.

3. Education and Research: Through academic pursuits and involvement in research, youth can make valuable contributions to scientific, technological, and cultural advancements.

4. Social Change and Patriotism: The feeling of love, devotion and attachment to one's country helps to promote sustainable development initiatives because it is a social and moral principle that reflects a citizen's attitude towards their country.

This aspect is very important for young people because they will inherit the nation and pass it on to their children.

ADVANTAGES OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1- **Dynamic Workforce:** The youth represent a large, adaptable segment of the population, capable of responding to new economic demands and technological shifts.
2. **Technological Fluency:** Growing up in the digital age, young people are often more tech-savvy, which aids in driving digital transformation across various industries.
3. **Agents of Social Change:** Youth are typically more open to challenging outdated practices and pushing for more inclusive, progressive policies, fostering social reform.
4. **Recognition and Growth:** Involvement in youth engagement either by self or institutions enhances rapid recognition, advancement and exposure to unlimited opportunities in the society.
5. **Development of the nation:** Many countries or nation in the world have utilized the strength of the youth to develop their nation. Special Public Work (SPW) ILO initiative etc , N-Power etc

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1- **Limited Experience:** Due to their age, youth may lack the experience required to navigate complex socio-political and economic landscapes effectively.
2. **High Unemployment:** Many young people face difficulties finding stable, well-paying jobs, which can lead to disillusionment and social unrest.
3. **Brain Drain:** The migration of talented young individuals to other countries for better opportunities can lead to a loss of skilled labor, hindering national development.
4. **Deficiency of financial & Political autonomy:** Lack of economic power among the youth and proper legislative backup to ensure young people's involvement either selection or by election has become a great challenge.
5. **Bad governance:** Poor presence of the government at all level, lack of basic amenities, unemployment and high rate of corruption.
6. **Lack of mentorship and capacity building:** Some hindrances against the involvement of the youth have been lack of interest in self development, inability to serve, guidance and training.

SOLUTIONS TO EMPOWER YOUTH IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To maximize the role of youth in national development, several measures can be implemented:

1- Education and Training: Governments should invest in accessible education and vocational training programs that equip youth with the skills needed to succeed in the modern job market.

2. Youth Participation in Governance: Platforms for youth to engage in policy-making and political processes should be established to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are addressed.

3. Support for Young Entrepreneurs: Creating funding opportunities, mentorship programs, and resources for young entrepreneurs can stimulate business development and job creation.

4. Mentorship and Guidance: Establishing mentorship initiatives that connect young people with experienced professionals can help guide their personal and career growth.

5. Good governance: When government provides the basic needs of the people such as security, shelter and food it enhances and motivates contribution of youth in national development.



Having giving you insight on the role of the youth on national development, in conclusion, by recognizing the untapped potential of youth and addressing the challenges they face, nations can harness their energy and creativity, ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future for all.

However, let it be known that no nation can develop without the active participation and contribution of the youth in governance, policy formulation and decision making process.

Thank you for listening
God bless you all

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 CYMS Nigeria

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*A Game Changer in Migration
Governance in Nigeria*



*Scan to watch the
youth migration forum*