



# Africa Youth Leaders Peace Summit

**THEME:** *The Achievement and Sustenance of Peacebuilding, Millennium Development Goals, and Regional Integration of Africa: the Role of Youths*

**DATE:** June 2 - 6, 2009; **VENUE:** ECOWAS Commission Conference Hall, Abuja - Nigeria

**SUMMIT SECRETARIAT:** The Peace Embassy, 25 Bujumbura Street, Off Aminu Kano Crescent, (By Mr. Biggs), Wuse II, Abuja, Nigeria.  
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## **BACKGROUND**

**ORGANISED BY:**



**IN COLLABORATION WITH:**



PEACE CORPS  
OF NIGERIA



**SUPPORTED BY:**

Economic Community  
of West African States  
(ECOWAS)



The necessity of involving young people in both conceptualising and implementing policies and programs is widely acknowledged. The dialogue on Youth Development, which only a few years ago was characterised by a top-down, adult-to-youth approach, has broadened and now encompasses more planned consultations with young people and youth organisations.

The commitment of the international community to addressing the problems experienced by young people around the world is now stronger than ever before. The international community as a whole has come to recognise the need for young people to be seen and heard in the development dialogue and is making a determined effort to involve them in global and regional meetings and to support them in leading roles in such contexts.

Youth Forums are always characterised by accusations and agitations against government and recommendations on what government should do for young people. This Summit, as the theme suggests, will therefore focus more on what young people and youth leaders can/should do to contribute to Achieving and Sustaining Peacebuilding, Millennium Development Goals and Integration of the African Region.

Reports show that active youth involvement will provide the longest and most effective dividend towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and the world. Indeed, without the involvement of young people, the full achievement of the MDGs will remain elusive and long-term sustainability will be compromised. Youth participation is currently quite varied, ranging from effective, to sometimes tokenistic, to often non-existent.

There are specific ways in which young people and youth organisations can contribute to the design and implementation of MDG-based strategies. Presentations during this Summit will unfold them. Recommendations on cross-cutting issues that permeate all eight (8) MDGs and that affect youth engagement and implementation of the goals will be made. Best practices will also be shared. A look will also be taken at whether the region (Africa) is on track to achieve the MDGS or not.

**Presentations on Strategies and Best Practices will be shared on how Young people can contribute to Achieving and Sustaining Peacebuilding, Millennium Development Goals and Regional Integration using the following tools:**

- ❖ *ICT*
- ❖ *Sports*
- ❖ *Media*
- ❖ *Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)*
- ❖ *Agriculture*
- ❖ *Tourism & Environment*
- ❖ *Education*
- ❖ *Transportation*
- ❖ *Entertainment*
- ❖ *Faith-Based Organisations*
- ❖ *Leadership & Good Governance*
- ❖ *Youth Service & Volunteerism*