

## **TEMPLATE – SIDE EVENTS SUMMARIES**

***Summary of Side Event: 5<sup>th</sup> African Youths & Sustainable Development Roundtable:***

2 February 2022, 1: PM – 1:50 PM EST

**Organizers: Bright Light Projects & the Lady B Bless Humanitarian Foundation**

**United Nations 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum – Side Event**

**Theme: Building Back Better - The 2030 Agenda - Moving Forward after Covid-19**

### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

African Youths & Sustainable Development Roundtable is a platform for Young African Entrepreneurs, Social Entrepreneurs to network, share knowledge and opportunities collaborate on key economic and social issues driving local action towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda in sub-Saharan Africa. Started in 2018 in Maryland and now at its 6th edition. A forum for the African Youths in the continent and in the diaspora to engage in meaningful dialogue contributing to the economic transformation of the continent.

### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

- What factors to consider as we attempt at building back after Covid-19 - (economic & social, and environmental factors)
- Youth unemployment, entrepreneurship and innovation
- Revamping the education curriculum in Africa
- Difficulty in entrepreneurship Start Ups
- Localizing the SDGs and measuring local results
- Role of rural women and inequalities
- Information technology and the need for job hubs
- Lack of mentorship amongst the youths stifles innovation and creativity

### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- Changing the school curriculum in sub-Saharan Africa with emphasis on technical, vocational and technical education. This is the cornerstone of Africa's future economic transformation
- Building back better must be inclusive and provide equal playing field for all if not it feels like the winner takes it all scenario because women are always excluded. Disadvantaged community's especially rural communities must not be left out. To create new jobs and build a resistant local economy, we must revert to fair policies and trends in communities are key in the recovery process. Disadvantaged communities especially rural communities must not be left out
- Shifting youth efforts from seeking conventional jobs to creating marketable opportunities for themselves. Youths should be encouraged to look at what the society needs and create products around those needs
- Integrating entrepreneurship and innovation into our educational system is key. Entrepreneurship should and must be a basic Human Right for all of Africa's youths. Government should provide the enabling environment for youths in creating marketable opportunities to make sure education is tailored towards creating marketable opportunities
- Youth mentorship is key as we build back as the youths need mentors to take their ideas to the next levels. Creating job hubs will provide start up support leveraging the power of technology and innovation making information readily available for young entrepreneurs
- In order to address SDG4 and SDG8, we must ensure education leads to better Opportunities and better outcomes, it is difficult for young entrepreneurs to find information in one place and resources especially in remote local communities are scarce.
- Collaboration and partnership is key as we build back better after Covid-19. Involving local community stakeholders is key in the recovery process. Recovery must be inclusive and collaboration is key in building back better after covid-19.