

# The EU Youth Sounding Board: Nigeria's journey so far.

---

WYNYFRED ACHU-EGBUSON, YOUTH FOCAL POINT

*EU DELEGATION TO NIGERIA AND THE ECOWAS*

ATABO DAVID

*CHAIRPERSON, YOUTH SOUNDING BOARD- NIGERIA*

# Context

---

- Nigeria's population = 206,139,587
- Nigeria has a vibrant youth population. Over 60% of the population are under 25 years – 43% of the population are under 14 years
- Youths are disproportionately affected by chronic economic, political, cultural and social exclusion with limited opportunities to realise their potentials.
- Youths are largely affected by sexual violence and conflict (as victims and prepertrators)
- Youth participation in governance and youth empowerment is a key priority to the European Union.
- At international, regional and national levels, there are policy and legal frameworks that guide youth engagement in governance. These include:

# Selection Criteria of YSB members

---

- Youths aged between 18 – 30 years
- Experience and/or demonstrated interest in one or more of the following areas - women rights, gender equality, youth inclusion, climate change, agriculture, environment, new technologies, sustainable livelihoods, food and nutrition, health, education, human rights, democracy, arts, and culture.
- Representation drawn from Nigeria's 6 geopolitical areas
- Socially inclusive and diverse

# The Progress so far

---

- YSB launched in September 2021.
- Four committees – Human Development, Green and Digital Economy, Governance, Peace and Migration and Communication - formed to advise, influence, inform and monitor the work implemented by different sections of the EUD.
- Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary and Spokesperson were elected. YSB leadership established for the committees.
- Participation at the last National Youth Conference.
- Meetings held with the Head of Delegation and different sections within the EUD: first introduction (Sept) and follow up on work plans (Nov)
- Online campaigns and awareness raising on the EU's interventions via the YSB Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/EU.YSBnigeria/>).
- First draft of committee work plans submitted and undergoing review by different sections within the delegation.

# Some lessons learned so far

---

- Engage colleagues from EUD sections to help them understand the role of the YSB.
- Build team cohesion and common objectives across the different YSB committees.
- Identify, encourage and utilise opportunities for inter-committee/inter-section engagements.
- A lot of enthusiasm: Routinely clarify expectations and reiterate the objectives of the YSB.
- Set realistic expectations of what can be achieved by and with the YSB.
- Increase the minimum number of days expected from YSB members and set a limit for the maximum number of days.
- Provide capacity building sessions for YSB members on project management, public speaking and reporting early in the engagement process.

# Some lessons learned so far (contd)

---

- Learning process for all – no one size fits all approach for engagement within the different sections.
- Need to have clear, sector –specific indicators for measuring success of engagement between the YSB and different sections within the delegation.
- Connect YSB members to youth policy processes at local and national levels
- Identify and utilize opportunities for peer learning by different YSBs.

# A YSB member's experience engaging with the EU





A word cloud featuring the phrase "Thank You" in multiple languages: English, Spanish (Gracias), French (Merci), Italian (Grazie), German (Danke), and Japanese (Thank You). The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with "Thank You" in English being the most prominent in the center. Other words like "Gracias", "Merci", "Grazie", and "Danke" are also visible in various sizes and colors (red, blue, green, yellow, orange). The background is a light gray with a subtle circular pattern.