



Partner Update

One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026 | 3 - 6 November 2026

Our mission is to create a world where **leaders with integrity** are empowered to **build a fair, sustainable future for all.**

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2026 Key Dates and Timeline

Subject to change

April 2026

24 April

- Overview agenda
- Registration opens

May 2026

18 May

- Pre-Summit Delegate inductions begin

28 May

#OYW26 Kickstart Series Launch

Our pre-Summit programme has been revamped for 2026.

Launching on 28 May, the Kickstart Series will prepare Delegates for the life-changing Summit experience through six monthly online sessions led by global leaders and One Young World Ambassadors.

The sessions will provide leadership lessons, interactive skills development, and networking opportunities.

Delegates will finish the Kickstart Series fully equipped to maximise their impact at the Summit and beyond.

June 2026

TBC June

- #OYW26 Kickstart Series session two

29 June

- Summer Partner Update

July 2026

6 July

- Delegate Speaker applications open

TBC July

- #OYW26 Kickstart Series session three

31 July

- Agenda Update
- Workshop Host applications close

August 2026

TBC August

- #OYW26 Kickstart Series session four

28 August

- Delegate Speaker applications close
- Exhibition sales close

September 2026

1 September

- Speaker and Session title submission
- Partner logo submission deadline
- Interactive stage names and branding confirmed
- Successful workshop hosts announced

7 September

- Summit agenda update
- Autumn Partner Update

TBC September

- #OYW26 Kickstart Series session five

25 September

- Content submitted for Exhibition area on the Summit app
- Summit registration closes*
- Workshop list available

October 2026

2 October

- Exhibition booth branding and activities submitted to One Young World for approval
- Purchasing of additional hotel nights closes
- All content submitted for Workshops and Action Sessions

9 October

- Full agenda released
- One Young World Summit app and digital platform launched
- Supplier health and safety submission for exhibition and interactive stages
- Workshop registration open for Delegates

TBC October

- #OYW26 Kickstart Series session six

Throughout October

- Cape Town Delegate send-off event(s)

November 2026

3 November

- One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026 begins!

* Summit Registration closes 25 September 2026

Registrations received after 11:59pm GMT on 25 September 2026 will be processed on a strictly availability-based basis. As a result, we cannot guarantee

- The option of being in the same hotel as the rest of their delegation
- The option to book pre/post nights in the same hotel they are staying in for the core nights of the Summit
- Airport transfers
- Catering that take into account dietary requirements
- Their choice in workshop allocation
- The opportunity for exclusive invitations to mentoring sessions and meet and greets
- The opportunity to be a Flag Bearer at the Opening Ceremony
- The opportunity to apply to be a Delegate Speaker

New Counsellor Announcement

We are thrilled to be welcoming global icons John Kani and Dia Mirza to the One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026.



John Kani

John Kani is one of South Africa's most revered actors, playwrights and cultural figures, with a career spanning more than five decades across theatre, film and television. Internationally recognised for his roles in major productions such as Disney's *The Lion King* and Marvel's *Black Panther*, Kani has brought powerful African narratives to global audiences, cementing his place as a leading voice in the creative industries.

He first rose to prominence during the apartheid era through his groundbreaking work in political theatre, co-creating and starring in seminal plays such as *Sizwe Bansi Is Dead* and *The Island* alongside Athol Fugard and Winston Ntshona. These works, which confronted the injustices of apartheid head-on, earned him both Tony Award and Obie Award recognition, and remain landmarks in global theatre history.

Beyond his artistic achievements, Kani has been a steadfast advocate for social justice, education and the preservation of South Africa's cultural heritage. His contributions to the arts and society have been recognised with numerous honours, including honorary doctorates from institutions such as University of Cape Town and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

A powerful storyteller and moral voice, John Kani continues to inspire new generations through his commitment to truth, creativity and the enduring role of the arts in shaping a more just and inclusive world. We are incredibly honoured to welcome him to the Summit to inspire and guide the brightest young leaders from all over the world.



Dia Mirza

Dia Mirza is an award-winning actor, Green Entrepreneur, Founder of One India Stories, UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador, and United Nations Secretary-General's Advocate for Sustainable Development Goals. With a career that spans film, social impact, and environmental leadership, she has consistently used her platform to champion causes that matter most to people and the planet.

She has tirelessly leveraged her global reach to tackle urgent challenges, including pollution, climate change, wildlife conservation, and gender rights, translating awareness into concrete action and inspiring communities, policymakers, and audiences worldwide. Through her entrepreneurial and creative work, Dia has built bridges between storytelling, advocacy, and sustainable solutions, highlighting the power of individual and collective action.

Her inclusion in the BBC 100 Women list underscores her dual impact in entertainment and activism. As a constantly evolving actor, leader, and bold voice for sustainability, she has become a trailblazer, mentor, and role model for countless people across the globe.

We are honoured to welcome Dia to the Summit, where she will energise, challenge, and empower this year's Delegates to drive meaningful, lasting change on a global scale.

We are deeply honoured to welcome **Vladimir and Evgenia Kara-Murza** to the Summit this year - two of the most courageous voices for democracy, human rights, and freedom in the world today.

Together, Vladimir and Evgenia embody extraordinary resilience, moral clarity, and an unshakeable commitment to freedom. We are honoured to have them at the Summit, where their story and their message will inspire this year's Delegates to stand up and speak out.



Evgenia Kara-Murza

Evgenia Kara-Murza is a Russian human rights advocate, democracy campaigner, and public speaker. When Vladimir was imprisoned, Evgenia led a relentless global campaign for his release and for the rights of all Russian political prisoners. She is President of the 30 October Foundation, which she and Vladimir founded to support the families of political prisoners in Russia, and continues to champion solidarity with anti-war and pro-democracy activists both inside and outside the country. Her tireless advocacy has been recognised with the Democracy Service Medal from the National Endowment for Democracy, the Lantos Human Rights Prize, and the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Award from the International Republican Institute.

Vladimir Kara-Murza

Vladimir Kara-Murza is a Russian politician, author, historian, and documentary filmmaker who paid an extraordinary personal price for speaking truth to power. A close colleague of slain opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, he was twice poisoned by FSB officers and left in a coma, before being arrested in Moscow in 2022 and sentenced to 25 years for publicly condemning Russia's war in Ukraine. Freed in August 2024 as part of the largest East-West prisoner exchange since the Cold War, Vladimir is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist - his winning columns written from solitary confinement in a Siberian prison - and a recipient of the Council of Europe's Václav Havel Human Rights Prize. He continues to advocate globally for democracy, human rights, and the release of political prisoners.

Confirmed Counsellors

We are also thrilled to confirm global icons Graça Machel and Justice Albie Sachs will be Counsellors at the One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026.



Graça Machel

A freedom fighter and nation-builder, Graça played a defining role in Mozambique's transition to independence and later made history as the first Minister for Education and only woman in the cabinet at the time.

Graça previously served as Chancellor of the University of Cape Town and President of the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, and is currently serving as Chancellor of the African Leadership University.

Her global influence extends far beyond formal roles. Through her landmark United Nations Children's Fund report, *The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children*, she reshaped how governments and institutions respond to children affected by war.

She is also a founding member of influential movements, including *The Elders*, which she co-founded with her late husband, Nelson Mandela, advancing peace and gender equality worldwide.

Her leadership exemplifies the values at the heart of One Young World - accountability, ethical leadership and impact at scale.



Justice Albie Sachs

A lifelong activist, writer and human rights lawyer, Albie has played a defining role in shaping South Africa's constitutional democracy. Active in the Anti-Apartheid Movement from the age of 17, he spent more than 20 years in exile in the United Kingdom and Mozambique, where he taught law and contributed to the African National Congress's legal and constitutional work, and survived a targeted attack that almost cost him his life.

In 1994, he was personally appointed by Nelson Mandela as a founding judge of South Africa's Constitutional Court, on which he served until 2009, where he helped draft one of the world's most progressive constitutions. His rulings include landmark contributions to the abolition of capital punishment and the 2005 judgment that legalised same-sex marriage in South Africa.

Albie's work reflects the principles One Young World seeks to instil in its Ambassadors - leaders who use power responsibly and deliver measurable impact for society.

Young Leaders in Action: Driving the UK's National Youth Strategy



The UK Government's National Youth Strategy is a significant opportunity to reset how young people are engaged in shaping policy, with a focus on improving life chances, strengthening wellbeing, and embedding youth voice in decision-making. Realising these ambitions, however, requires coordinated action across government, businesses, the education sector and civil society.

One Young World, with our global network of young leaders and a strong track record of fostering cross-sector collaboration, is uniquely positioned to support the Strategy's objectives. On Tuesday 24 March, we brought together a senior, cross-sector forum of policymakers, funders, employers, education establishments, charities and young leaders to examine how the Strategy could be delivered to truly support young people.

With incredible passion and enthusiasm, the morning was made up of a series of panel discussions and expert-led sessions that helped participants examine key priority areas aligned with the Strategy, including mental health, employment, regional inequality, and sustainable funding. The programme provided a platform not only to highlight emerging best practice, but also to challenge systemic barriers and identify opportunities for coordinated action.

Our opening keynote was delivered by Mete Coban (MBE), Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy and a One Young World Ambassador from 2019. Mete set the strategic context for the day, highlighting the importance of embedding youth leadership within national and local policy frameworks.

The event fostered candid dialogue, shared learning, and collective reflection, with a clear emphasis on translating policy intent into tangible outcomes for young people across the UK. Overall, the conference demonstrated the critical role that organisations such as One Young World could play in supporting the successful delivery of the UK's National Youth Strategy, by connecting stakeholders, amplifying youth voice, and driving coordinated, cross-sector action.

Our role as a global convener of young leaders, combined with its ability to connect youth perspectives with senior decision-makers, positioned it as a valuable delivery partner. Its model enables organisations to engage directly with diverse young leaders, co-create solutions, and translate national strategy into tangible, local impact.

Organisations interested in exploring how they can partner with One Young World to support delivery of the UK's National Youth Strategy, through strategic collaboration, funding, or programme development, are encouraged to get in touch to discuss how they can contribute to driving meaningful, system-level change for young people across the UK.

Summit Overview

Subject to change

Tuesday 3 November

Morning

- Registration
- Exhibition Area Open
- Partner Executive Brunch

Evening

- Welcome Dinner
- Opening Ceremony

Wednesday 4 November

Morning

- Plenary Challenge: Peace and Security

Networking Break

- Interactive Stages
- Workshops
- Action Sessions
- Exhibition Area

Afternoon

- Plenary Challenge: Gender Based Violence

Evening

- Social Programme

Thursday 5 November

Morning

- Plenary Challenge: Intelligent Jobs

Networking Break

- Interactive Stages
- Workshops
- Action Sessions
- Exhibition Area

Afternoon

- Plenary Challenge: Agriculture and the Global Food Crisis

Evening

- Social Programme

Friday 6 November

Morning

- Theme throughout the day: Future of Africa

Networking Break

- Interactive Stages
- Workshops
- Action Sessions
- Exhibition Area

Afternoon

- Plenary Challenge: Future of Africa

Evening

- Closing Reception and Ceremony

Summit Venues

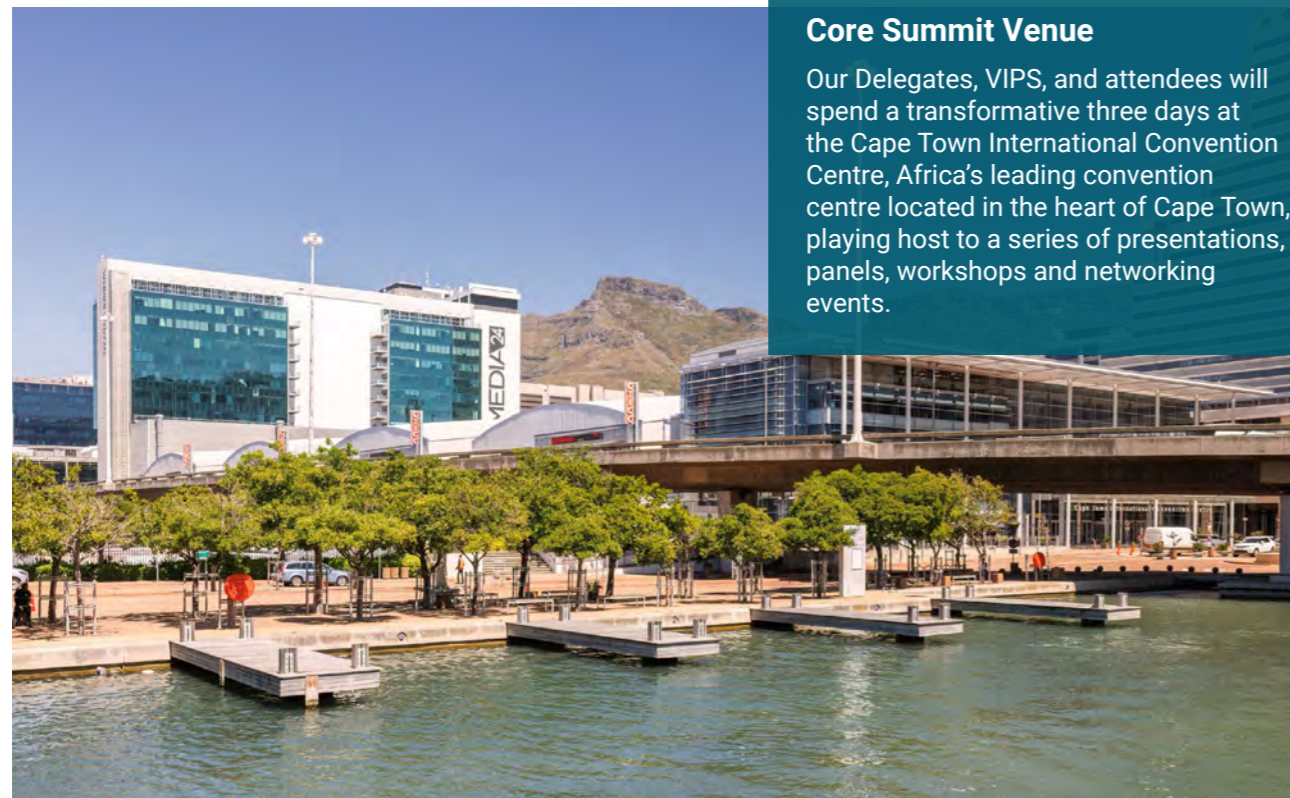
The One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026 will be held across multiple venues throughout the city.



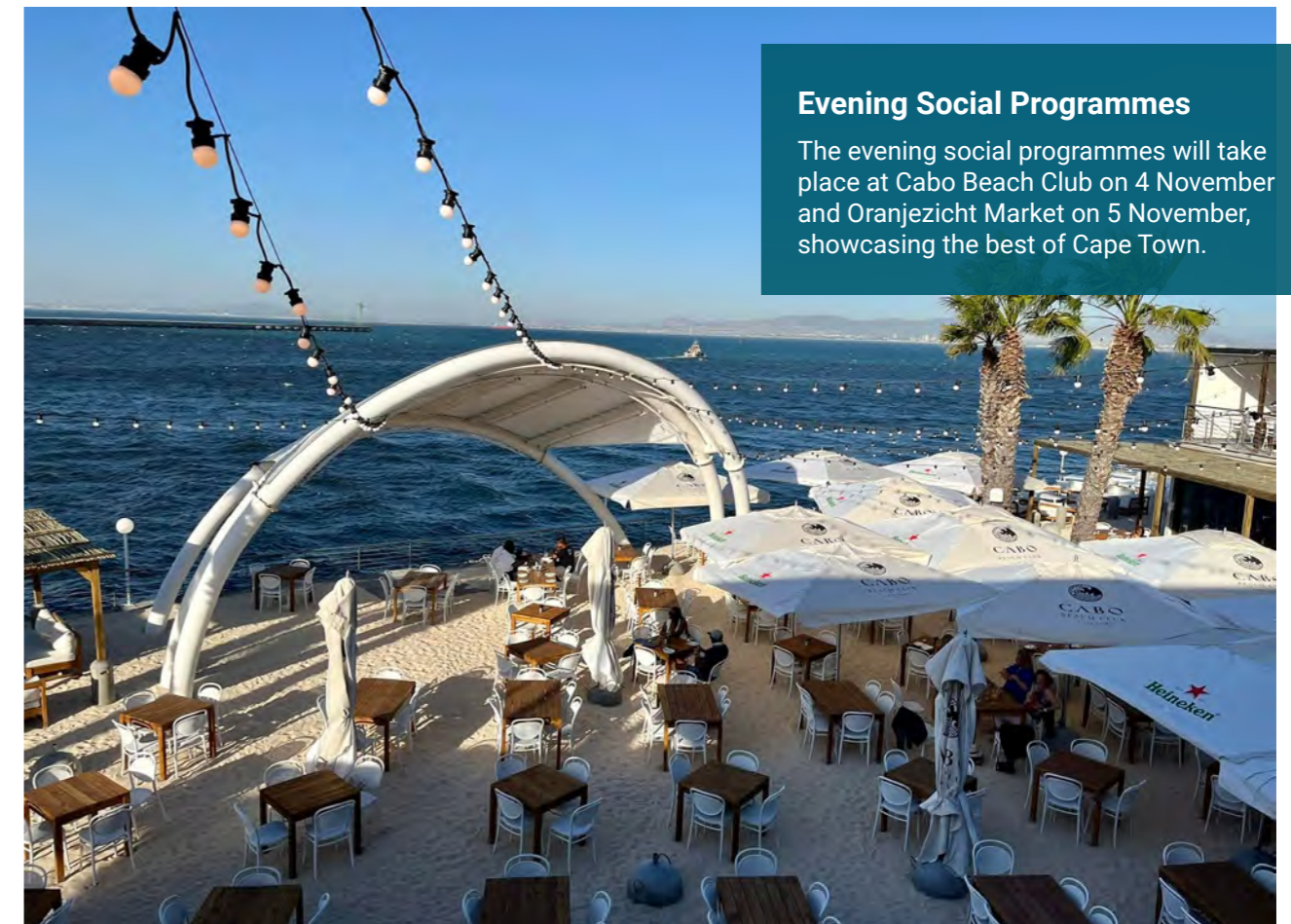
Opening Ceremony
The Opening Ceremony in 2026 will take place at an iconic venue in Cape Town, the Green Point Athletic Stadium. It will serve as the perfect stage to showcase the talent and diversity of the One Young World Community.



Closing Ceremony
The Closing Ceremony will be at the Castle of Good Hope, the oldest surviving colonial building in South Africa and a key landmark in Cape Town's early history.

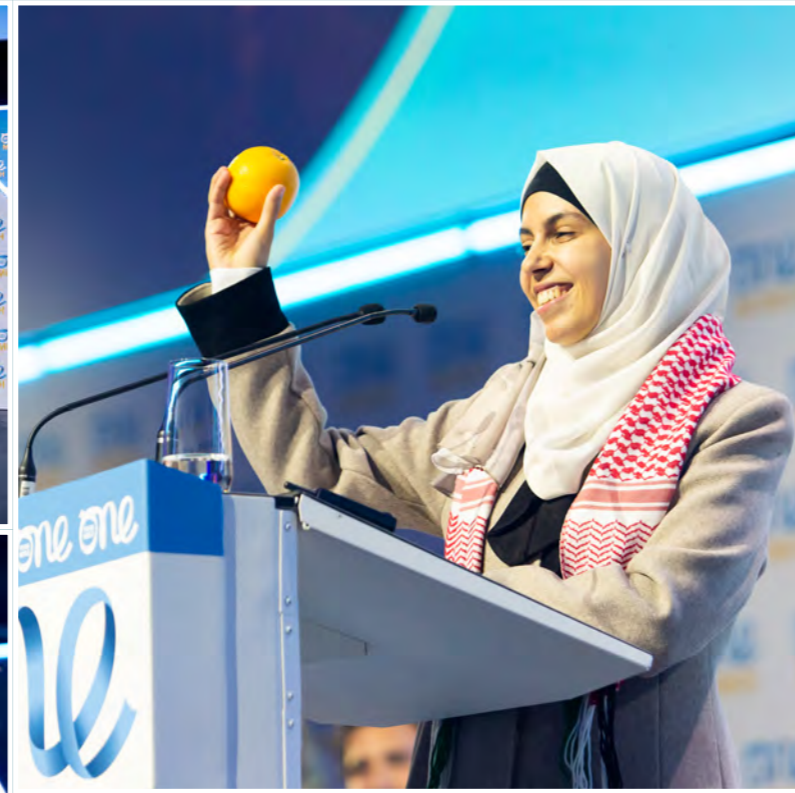


Core Summit Venue
Our Delegates, VIPS, and attendees will spend a transformative three days at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, Africa's leading convention centre located in the heart of Cape Town, playing host to a series of presentations, panels, workshops and networking events.



Evening Social Programmes
The evening social programmes will take place at Cabo Beach Club on 4 November and Oranjezicht Market on 5 November, showcasing the best of Cape Town.

Plenary Challenges and Global Consultation Process Reporting





Introduction from our Founders

It gives us immense pleasure to introduce the five Plenary Challenges for the One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026.

The reason why One Young World continues to be such a powerful force for change is because we are driven and inspired by our global Community of young leaders. This is why our Global Consultation Process (GCP) is such an important tool in the development of our Plenary Challenges, and we are hugely grateful to the more than fifteen hundred young leaders from over 150 countries who took part in this year's consultation.

The results of this year's GCP demonstrate clearly the concerns of our next generation of leaders. From their thoughts on existential threats, to the development of AI, from their opinions on the state of human rights to the performance of our global leaders to uphold human rights in conflict zones, the data from this survey provides us with an invaluable insight into the minds of tomorrow's leaders.

After careful analysis of the data from this year's GCP we have settled on the five plenary themes for this year's Summit, namely the Agriculture and the Food Crisis, Intelligent Jobs, Gender-Based Violence, the Future of Africa and Peace and Security.

Whilst these themes form the bedrock of the content of the Summit, they are by no means the only global, regional and national challenges which will be addressed over the course of the four days. Moreover, with the 2026 Summit legacy being focused on youth employment in South Africa, we will be delivering content focused on programmes that address the full employment ecosystem, from job creation, to job access, to strengthening grassroots delivery.

We hope you enjoy reading more about our Plenary Challenges for the 2026 Summit and we look forward to seeing you in Cape Town.

Kate Robertson
Co-Founder

David Jones
Co-Founder

Peace and Security

How can young leaders restore diplomacy to end the cycle of violence?



Peace and security remain central challenges in a world where violence and conflict affect millions, especially young people. Today's generation is the largest in history, with over 1.2 billion individuals aged 15–24, and in regions like Africa around 60% of the population is under 25.

When provided with opportunities to participate in peacebuilding and diplomacy, young people can shift from being seen as passive victims or security risks to becoming active agents of peace and change.

The United Nations' Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda recognises that meaningful youth participation in diplomacy and conflict prevention helps break cycles of violence. These frameworks call for young people to be included in decision-making, prevention efforts, community dialogue, and reintegration processes after conflict.

Globally, more than 600 million young people live in fragile or conflict-affected contexts, and many face violence, displacement, or lack of education and jobs, factors that can fuel instability if left unaddressed. Empowering youth with political voice, diplomatic skills, and access to economic opportunities not only reduces incentives to join

violent movements, it also builds bridges between divided communities and fosters sustainable peace. Initiatives that support young mediators, include youth voices in negotiations, and leverage technology and grassroots networks are already showing promise in preventing violence and strengthening peace processes.

Ultimately, restoring diplomacy and ending cycles of violence requires intergenerational dialogue, investment in youth leadership, and shifting narratives so that young people are partners in peace rather than bystanders.

Gender Based Violence

How do we prevent the physical, sexual, and mental abuse of women and girls?



Gender-based violence remains a pressing global human-rights issue that affects women and girls of all ages. According to a 2025 United Nations report, around 50,000 women and girls were killed by intimate partners or family members in 2024, which equates to an average of 137 victims every day.

This means roughly one woman is murdered every ten minutes worldwide. Violence can also take physical, sexual, or psychological forms and often occurs in private spaces where reporting and help are hardest to access.

In South Africa, the crisis is especially severe. UN Women data show that the femicide rate there is one of the highest in the world, significantly above global averages, and activists have highlighted that about 15 women are killed daily because of Gender Based Violence.


A South African Human Sciences Research Council survey also found that approximately one in three women experiences physical violence in her lifetime. These stark realities led the government to declare GBV a national disaster in late 2025, enabling increased funding and coordinated action.

In Italy, lawmakers have taken a different legal approach. In late 2025 the Italian Parliament passed a landmark law making “femicide” a distinct crime in its criminal code, punishable by life imprisonment and accompanied by expanded support services and funding for anti-violence centres. In 2024, Italy recorded 106 femicides, most committed by intimate partners or former partners.

Preventing GBV requires a multi-layered strategy: strong legal frameworks, accessible reporting and support services, education and cultural change to challenge harmful gender norms, and community-level prevention programmes that empower survivors and reduce stigma.

Intelligent Jobs

How can AI power opportunity for the next generation?



Key GCP Data:

- 28% of young leaders think AI is a benefit to society and shouldn't be over-regulated
- Young leaders ranked their education and employers preparation for the AI revolution as barely above average (2.7/5)
- 35% of young leaders in Africa believe that AI will replace their job in five years time

Artificial intelligence is reshaping the world of work, offering both challenges and opportunities for the next generation. According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs analysis, AI and related technologies could lead to the creation of 170 million new jobs globally by 2030, while displacing an estimated 92 million roles – resulting in a net gain of about 78 million jobs.

This shift highlights that AI has the potential to expand employment, particularly in roles that require technical skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Furthermore, demand for AI-complementary skills is growing fast, with employers increasingly willing to pay a wage premium for roles requiring AI expertise.

On the African continent, AI is already reshaping the world of work and offering both risks and opportunities for young jobseekers. A 2025 PwC Africa workforce survey found that 64 % of African workers reported using AI tools at work in the past year, outpacing the global average of 54 % and many workers see AI improving the quality of their work and boosting productivity.

However, the rapid spread of AI also poses challenges: research suggests that up to 40 % of

tasks in Africa's tech outsourcing (BPO) sector could be automated by 2030, with entry-level work and lower-paid roles most at risk unless workers gain new skills.

To ensure that AI drives job creation rather than displacement, investment in skills training, including programmes like Microsoft's initiative to train 1 million South Africans in AI and cybersecurity by 2026 will be critical for enabling young people across Africa to participate in higher-skilled, better-paid roles in an AI-powered economy.

Equipping the next generation with digital literacy, critical thinking, and AI-related competencies can help them thrive in jobs that are newly created and evolving in an AI-driven economy.

Agriculture and the Global Food Crisis

What will it take to achieve food security for all?



Key GCP Data:

- 72% of young leaders are concerned about food security in their country
- 88% of young leaders in Africa are concerned about food security in their country
- Nearly 1 in 10 consider a global famine to be humanity's greatest threat

Agriculture lies at the heart of global food security, yet the world is still far from ensuring that everyone has enough to eat.

According to the most recent United Nations data, between 713 million and 757 million people were undernourished in 2023, that's roughly one in 11 people globally, and one in five in Africa.

Moreover, about 2.3 billion people faced moderate or severe food insecurity, meaning they lacked reliable access to sufficient, nutritious food.

Multiple interconnected challenges drive this crisis. Conflict, climate change and economic shocks have repeatedly disrupted food systems, pushing millions deeper into hunger; for example, in 2024 more than 295 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger, with the number rising for the sixth consecutive year.

Meanwhile, food prices remain high in many low-income regions, and extreme weather events undermine agricultural productivity.

Achieving food security for all will require strengthened agricultural systems that can absorb these shocks. This includes greater investment in sustainable farming practices, support for

smallholder farmers, climate-resilient crops, and policies that ensure fair access to markets and nutritious diets.

Without such coordinated action, right from local to global levels, reaching Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger, by 2030 remains a significant challenge.

Future of Africa

How do we make this the 'African century'?



Key GCP Data:

- 1 in 7 young leaders in Africa consider a collapse in the global economic system as the greatest threat facing humanity.
- Young African leaders rate the quality of existing leadership particularly on issues pertaining to the climate emergency as below average (2.3 / 5)
- 57% of young leaders in Africa are more optimistic for peace in their region compared to this time last year.

Africa stands at a pivotal moment where its demographic dynamism and economic potential could define the African Century. The continent's working-age population is rapidly expanding; by 2043 Africa's labour force is expected to nearly double from current levels, making youth employment creation critical for sustained growth.

Economic expansion is underway: Sub-Saharan Africa's GDP growth is projected to reach 3.8 % in 2025, above many other regions, despite global uncertainties.

A key driver of future opportunity is trade and integration. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), consisting of 55 countries with 1.3 billion people, could increase intra-African trade by over 50 % by 2025 and add an estimated \$450 billion to GDP by 2035, boosting manufacturing and services.

Job creation through emerging sectors is essential. Research forecasts that Africa's green economy could generate up to 3.3 million direct jobs by 2030, especially in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable manufacturing – with South Africa alone projected to gain up to 275,000 green jobs.

Yet structural issues remain, notably in South Africa, where unemployment is persistently high with more than 40 % of adults unemployed. Addressing this requires investment in skills development, digital infrastructure, and policy reforms that enable private sector growth.

Prioritising education aligned with market needs, strengthening institutions, and fostering innovation can help Africa translate its youth-led workforce into a competitive, equitable economy, making the African Century a reality.

Scholarship Highlights

In addition to providing access for their employees, our partners bring the most impactful young leaders from around the world to the One Young World Summit through bespoke, branded scholarship programmes suited to their sustainability goals.




Our scholarship programmes in 2025 attracted:

- 70,000+ applications from more than 190 countries
- 450+ scholarship places awarded to attend the Summit in Munich
- 53 One Young World Partners who supported scholarships

We have a number of scholarships that are currently open and accepting applications, including:

SANDOZ **Sandoz Scholarship 2026**
Application deadline: 27 April 2026
For young leaders tackling systemic barriers to healthcare in their communities, countries, or the world at large.
Full details of this scholarship can be found on our website.

 **Z Zurich Foundation Scholarship 2026**
Application deadline: 4 May 2026
For African young leaders leading initiatives that support young people who face the greatest barriers to move from learning to earning, through education, employment, and entrepreneurship.
Full details of this scholarship can be found on our website.

 **Roche Scholarship 2026**
Application deadline: 6 May 2026
For young leaders in the NHS working to promote sustainable innovation or health equity.
Full details of this scholarship can be found on our website.

Know a young leader in your network who should apply? Encourage them to submit an application, or share our scholarships in your networks. For more information about all our scholarships visit our website.

Interested in supporting a scholarship delegation? Contact us at partnerships@oneyoungworld.com.

Summit Workshop Facilitator Applications are Open



Workshops are a crucial part of the One Young World Summit, providing Delegates with practical insights into the issues and topics they are most passionate about. All workshops hosted during the Summit deliver immediately applicable skills, techniques, ideas and processes which Delegates can implement in their projects and initiatives later on.

Through scenario-based challenges, problem-solving, goal-setting, and interactive discussions, participants share personal experiences and testimonies, driving impact through collaboration.

Workshop host applications are now open, and you can apply [here](#).

To support your application we have created a comprehensive workshop guide and outlined the application criteria, available [here](#). We strongly recommend reviewing this guide carefully to ensure your application is considered.

The deadline for applications is 31 July 2026.

Sending a Delegation to the Summit



Here are your next steps:

1. Confirm your participation with your Account Manager and introduce them to your Accounts Payable team
2. Select and notify your Delegates that they will be attending the Summit in November (your Account Manager will support with registration and onboarding)
3. Organise your Delegates' travel (eg. flights) and visas for South Africa

Brand Opportunities at the Cape Town Summit

If you are interested in having your brand visible at the Summit and have Delegates know more about the work you do and the impact you have, our Exhibition Area is the best place for you! Every year, we have attendees engage directly with our Partners and learn more about the messaging behind their work.

If you think your senior Executives would be interested in speaking on stage why not explore sponsoring an Interactive Stage?

Reach out to any of our Account Managers and discuss how to best position your brand at the Cape Town event!



One Young World Partners

2025 Ribbon Partners



2025 Civil Society Partners



2025 Corporate Partners



2025 Corporate Partners



2025 Government Partners



2025 University Partners



2025 Host City Partners





The Global Community for
Young Leaders