



# INCLUSIVENESS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE: IMPERATIVE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Graduation Lecture Delivered by His Excellency, Brigadier General (Rtd)  
Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

**August 2019, National Defence College, Nigeria**



A youth leader always remains a leader.



1996



2018



# First, some definitions...

**“Youth”:** between the ages of 15 and 35



**Inclusiveness:** equally value, and take into account the views and contributions of every citizen



**“Good governance”:**

transparent,  
rule  
equitable, peaceful, legitimate,  
law, of  
accountable,  
fair, consultative,  
inclusive, representative,  
stability  
responsive,



**Regional development:** integrated and concerted effort by sub-regional states to develop and align sustainable youth-centred policies.





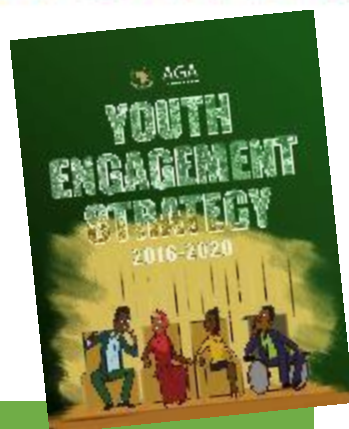
# The World and the region are acting for young people...



Africa-Europe Youth Summit  
Sommet Afrique-Europe de la Jeunesse

## Main course of action:

- Opportunity through ICT and education
- Social protection
- Integration and participation





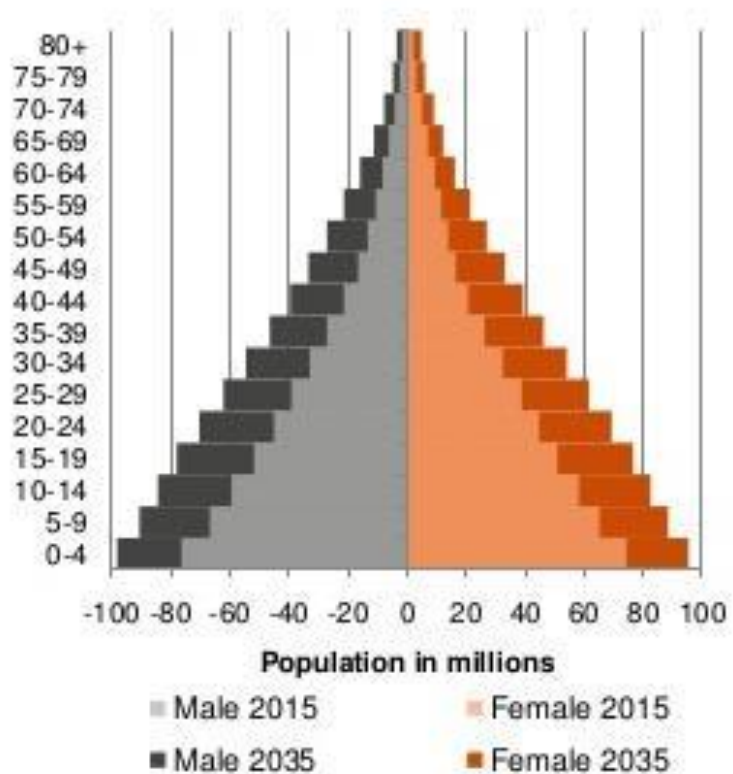
... and leaders are stepping up their support.



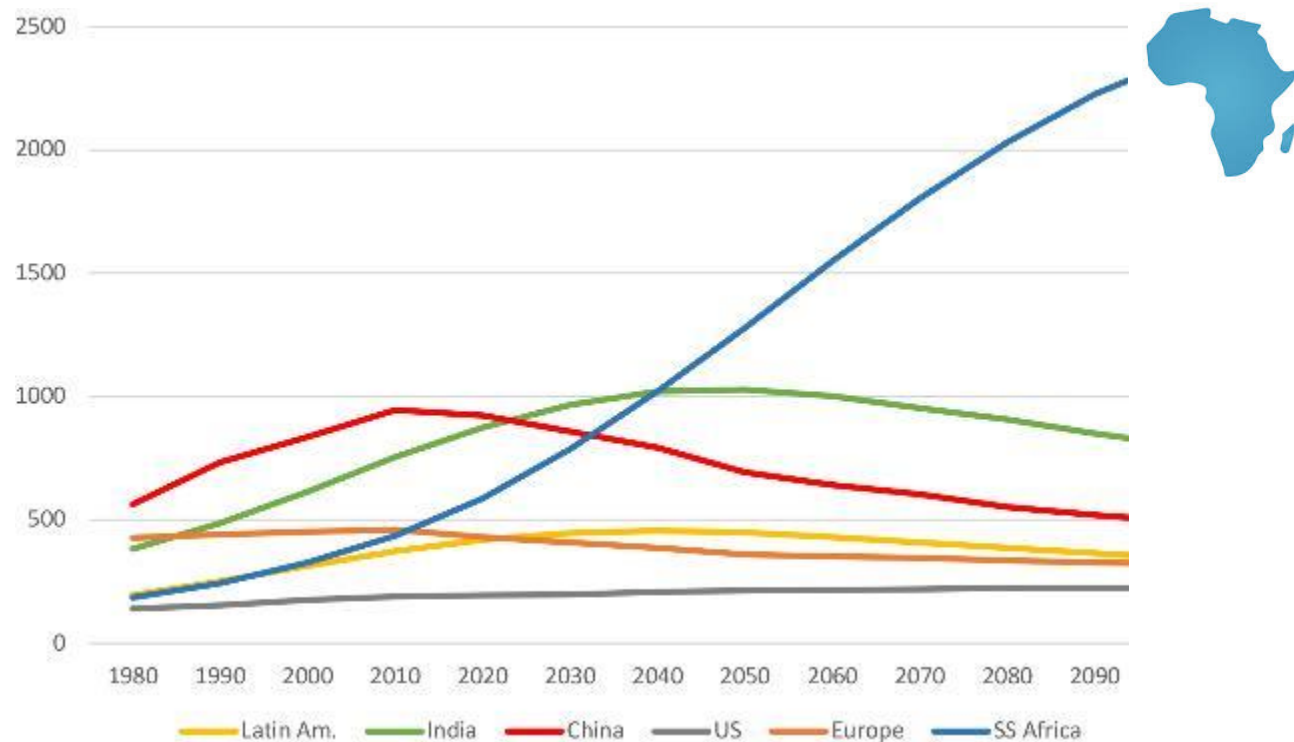


# Our youths matter: they represent a challenge but a great opportunity.

## Africa's demographic pyramid:



## Projected population growth:







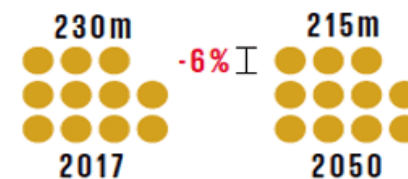
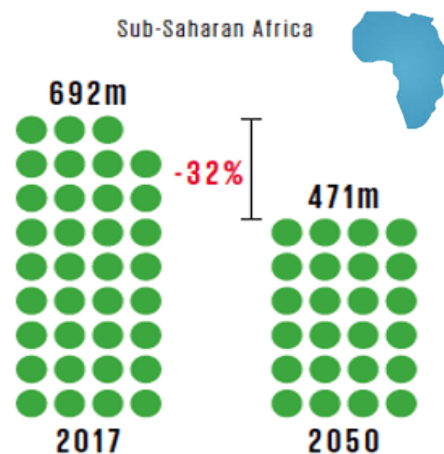
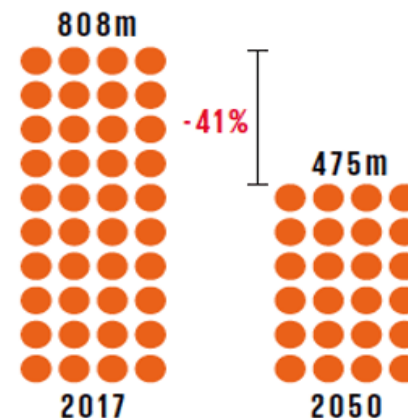
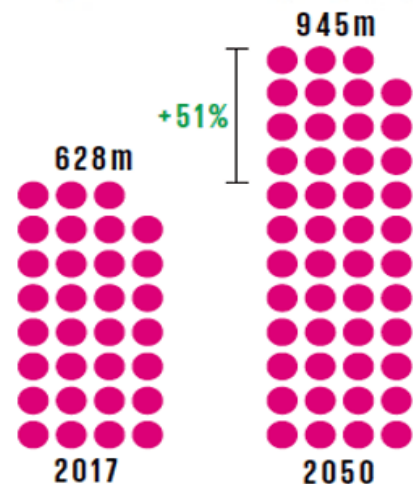
# What is the anxiety around the “youth” bulge?

**Youth bulge:** stage of development where a country achieves success in reducing infant mortality but mothers still have a high fertility rate. The result is that **a large share of the population is comprised of children and young adults**, and today's children are tomorrow's young adults.



Violence?  
Urbanisation?  
Unemployment?  
Lack of opportunity?  
Financial exclusion?  
Security?  
Birth control?  
Drug culture?  
Identity politics?

○ Equals 20 million people aged 0–24 years





Youths are part of a complex system, not the simple cause of poverty and violence.

**YOUTH  
BULGE**



**VIOLENCE**

Correlation  $\neq$  Causation

**We need to understand the real precursors to political instability and violence:**

- Fragile and weakened state institutions
- Corruption
- Nepotism
- Governance deficits and inefficiencies
- Uneven state resource distribution and management
- Lack of social services
- Poor infrastructure
- Etc.





# What are the main barriers to the participation of youths in good governance?

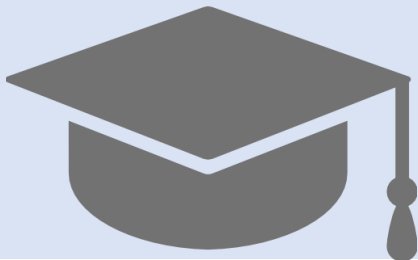
**Governance structures and weak to no political participation**



**Limited civic spaces and civic participation**



**Difficult access to quality education, vocational training, and opportunity**

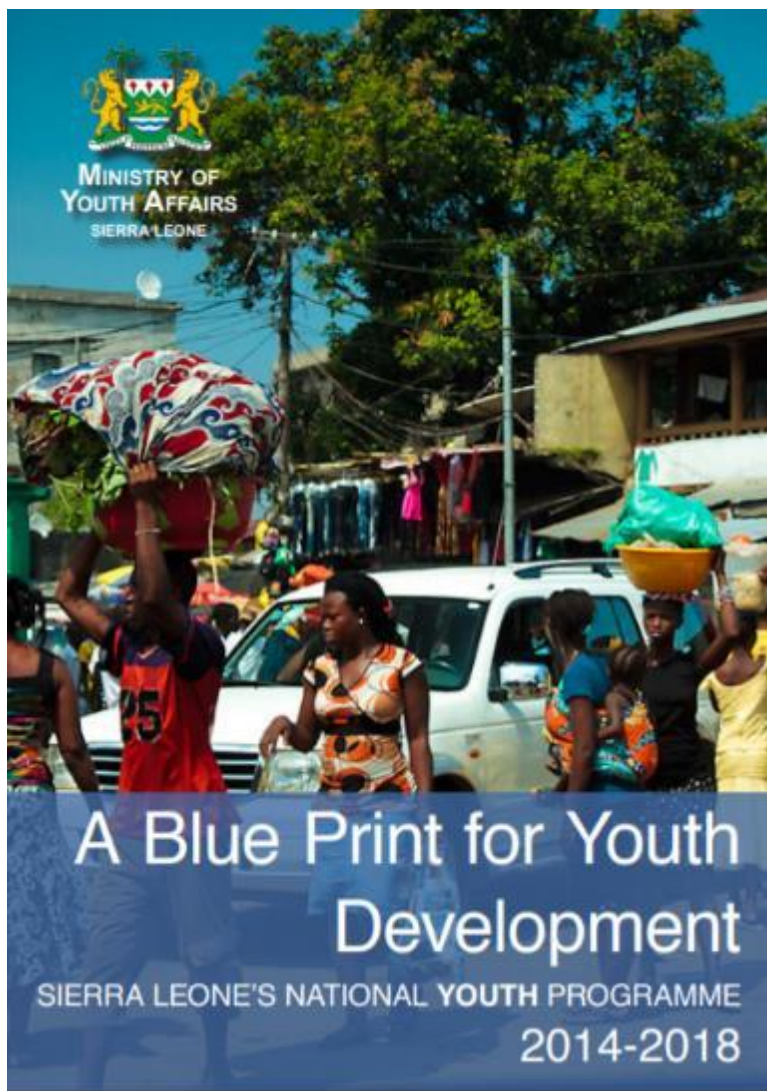


**Other structural barriers**





# What has been done in Sierra Leone?



ACT  
*Supplement to the Sierra Leone Gazette Vol. CXLVII, No. 17  
dated 24th March, 2016*

THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE ACT, 2016

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I-PRELIMINARY

SECTIONS

1. Interpretation.

PART II-ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE

2. Establishment of Service.
3. Common seal.
4. Members of Board.
5. Term of office of members.
6. Remuneration of members.
7. Functions of Board.
8. Meetings of Board.
9. Disclosure of interest.
10. Committees of Board.
11. Independence of Service.





# How can we put our youths at the center of governance and development?

**Democratic Inclusion, Governance, and Political Leadership**







Dr. Moinina David Sengh,  
Chief Innovation Officer



Nabeela Tunis,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation



Francis Ben Kaifala,  
Anti-Corruption Commissioner



Timothy Kabba,  
Director General, Petroleum  
Directorate





# How can we put our youths at the center of governance and development?

**Democratic Inclusion, Governance, and Political Leadership**



**Education and Skills Training**



**Entrepreneurship**



**Data and legal framework**



**Social Responsibility**





# Africa's youth are an asset. You are our future!

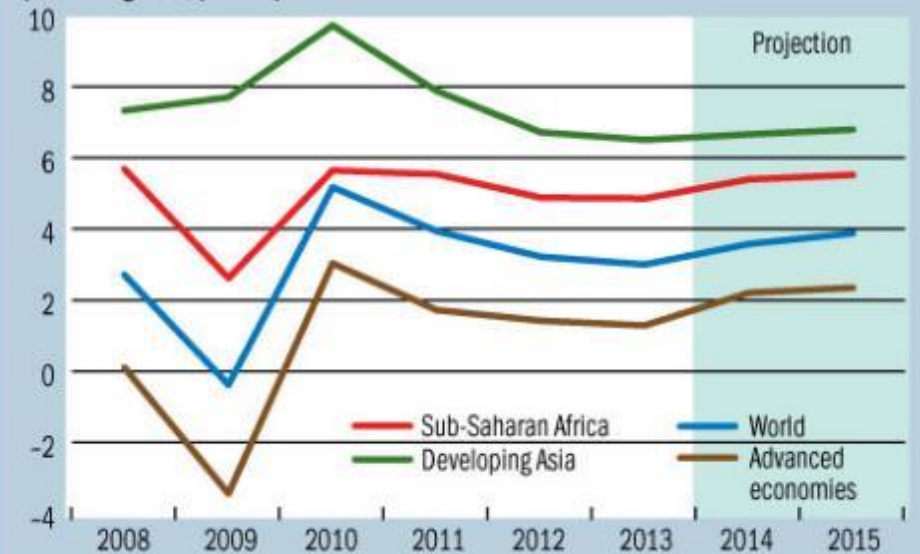


Chart 1

## A top performer

Underpinned by investments in infrastructure and mining and by a rebound in farm output, sub-Saharan Africa should rank among the world's top 30 fastest-growing regions.

(real GDP growth, percent)



Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook database.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION