

## **The Role of Youths in the Global Agenda: Case-studies from Africa**

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### **Abstract**

This paper examines the role of African youths in the global agenda. Youths are the powerhouse and future of any economy, so it is pertinent to explore the contributions of youth initiatives to achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). The paper adopts the Social Change Theory, which reveals the evolution of societies. Five underlying processes of this theory are developed to understand the SDGs: systems thinking, agency and structure, power and inequalities, social movements and collective action, and cultural change. Also, the paper evaluates the youth initiatives in Africa, from East Africa to South Africa. These initiatives include Youths for Green Action Kenya, Nigeria Youth SDGs Network, The Egypt Network for Integrated Development (ENID) project, and the South African Youth Council. The initiatives aim to reduce poverty and unemployment, improve healthcare access, and promote sustainable cities and communities. Finally, this paper reported the challenges hindering active participation by African youths. These include Gender inequality, Limited access to learning facilities and opportunities, and Political exclusion.