

ALF – UN Global Compact 2016-2017

The Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) is pleased to carry on with our partnership with the UN Global Compact. In view of the principles and initiatives of the UN Global Compact, we have made concerted efforts to pursue the following principles through our entrepreneurship development programs, leadership and good governance, gender equality and sustainable development goals.

Enterprise and Youth Development

The ALF's Youth Engagement Project in Entrepreneurship (2008-2017) was developed in line with UNSC Resolution 2250 and seeks to advocate for youth inclusion in decision making affairs at all levels and to productively engage them in socio-economic activities that limits their susceptibility to violence and other social vices, but engaging them to become net-contributor to the national economy. The ALF has been the Implementing Agency for the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for nine years and in the process advocated for the creation of a special fund for the youth enterprise and job creation titled Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programme (YEDP), which allow young Nigerians trained by the ALF to access up to equivalent of US\$8000 to set up their business ventures.

The Africa Leadership Forum has taken on the battle against poverty and unemployment in Nigeria by harnessing lectures, radio broadcasts, the internet and social media as well as involvement of government representations in Southwest Nigeria. In the last two years (2015-2017), 4486 have been trained in entrepreneurship through the Entrepreneurship Development Centre, a project with funding from the Central Bank of Nigeria and in partnership with all states in Southwest Nigeria. Furthermore, more than 300 of the beneficiaries of the EDC training have accessed over ₦240million invested into their businesses through bank loans, personal savings, cooperative investment, and intervention funds. About 36% of the beneficiaries are into agro-allied businesses, 22% production/manufacturing, 24% in service-oriented businesses, and 12% in trading.

Agropreneurship

In our continued effort to also combat food shortages and create more employment, we partnered with Agro Nigeria Ventured Limited to train Agric Service Providers. These ASPs use power tillers to provide land clearing, land preparation, transportation and extension services to local farmers. So far 328 young people have been trained to provide these services in Nigeria and the capacity-building is still on-going.

Tech Hub

We have focused strongly on youth development in the year under review hence the integration of a tech-hub into entrepreneurship training to provide co-working space and incubation for startups that may have challenges with initial startup funds, working space and other fundamental inputs for tech-based and non-tech-based businesses. These young people

develop applications to solve problems, create solutions for agriculture, healthcare, education, and so on.

Currently, the hub has incubated several start-up businesses of which one of the incubatees, Helpmum, won first place and best performance award with cash prize of \$3000 and 3-month acceleration programme, out of 175 entries at the 2017 International Hackathon, Innovate4Life, in Nairobi, Kenya in February 2017. This same incubatee is also one of the 1000 awardees of the 2017 Tony Elumelu Entrepreneur, which comes with a business grant of \$5000 and mentoring.

Gender Equality

ALF's Commitment to Gender Equity and Equality: It is important to mention that the ALF is deeply committed to **gender equity and equality** as this is reflected in our employment and recruitment policy. Furthermore, the ALF contributed immensely into the drafting and advocacy document on gender equality in Africa which culminated to the creation of the **Solemn Declaration of Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) adopted by the Head of States and Government of the African Union in 2004**. This instrument is a tool used in measuring countries' adherence and compliance to gender equality statutes among African countries. The ALF is equally represented and sits on the executive committee/board of several gender advocacy agencies in Africa. One of such agency is Femmes Afrique Solidarité (FAS). The ALF in conjunction with Africa Leadership Centre, King's College, London, is on its final stage of preparation to launch Women Leadership and Governance Academy in West Africa (WOLEG), a training institute designed to prepare women to take leadership positions both in public and private sector institutions, especially in those areas where they have potential for ascendancy.