



**Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) – Africa Region
Capacity Building workshop – Leadership skills
04 – 06 December 2006, Lusaka – ZAMBIA**

Session briefs

The Regional Youth Caucus initiative was borne out of a desire to promote, support and represent young people at all levels of decision-making, including a seat for the Pan-Commonwealth Youth Caucus Chair and a voice at the Ministerial table when Youth Ministers gather together for their periodic meetings.

The 2003 Commonwealth Youth Ministers' meeting in Gaborone, Botswana under the theme 'Young People: Development Partners Against Poverty and HIV/AIDS' noted the importance of governments incorporating into national policies the institutional frameworks that embrace youth participation, youth enterprise development and the provision of resources for strengthening youth governance and networks.

It is against this background that CYP RCA with input from the RYC representatives has organized this 3 day workshop to offer life skills in key leadership areas of effective communication, conflict management/negotiation skills, resource mobilization and planning.

This workshop hopes to support the RYC representatives effectively implement their individual plans of action and other equally important assignments. Following are the workshop session briefs:-

1.0 RYC Strengthening

The session on RYC strengthening is a further affirmation to the importance attached to young people actively participating in governance processes to add value to development efforts in their respective communities. This session will re-examine who RYC members are and their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the growing demand for young people's participation in national development. The session will further discuss the evolving structure of the RYC and hence the challenges and opportunities ahead in contributing to youth empowerment. Despite all these challenges and opportunities, how best do RYC members work with their respective governments and constituents and equally important is how RYC members work with CYP to synergise efforts towards youth development? The session will conclude by identifying how RYC members can level expectations in their collaborative efforts with Government, CYP and other development partners thus leading to more amicable relations as they articulate young people's aspirations.

The session hopes to develop operational guidelines and guiding principles for utilization of the RYC Chat Group.

2.0 RYC planned activities

This session will review the 2006 – 2008 RYC planned activities in order to draw important lessons from past experiences in the implementation process¹. The challenges and opportunities faced during the implementation of the planned activities will assist in prioritizing activities to be undertaken in the remaining RYC period. The session will offer opportunity for RYC members to develop simple but informative monitoring mechanisms to assist in measuring impact.

The session hopes to develop realistic activity plans for individual RYC members.

3.0 Effective Communication

The session will highlight on key forms of communication frequently utilized. The session will further examine key communication skills necessary for effective leadership and how RYC's can develop these skills for their own benefit and their constituents. This session will facilitate discussion on how to develop communication skills to enhance RYC members status and standing within their respective organization(s) and communities.

The session hopes to develop an indicative list on skills to build for effective communication.

4.0 Conflict management/negotiation

The session will look at causes of differences and disagreements. It will further examine how we can turn our differences and disagreements into opportunities by using the art of gentle persuasion. The session will introduce key skills in managing and containing conflict. The session will also look at different styles of negotiation, how to diffuse strained situations and to overcome barriers in order to negotiate for win-win situations.

This session hopes to develop a checklist on steps to manage/contain conflict situations.

5.0 Resource mobilisation

This session will look at the importance of resource mobilisation, the different strategies in resource mobilisation and further identify strategies that best suit the RYC situation. The session will also carefully examine opportunities available for RYC members to mobilize resources to facilitate implementation of planned activities.

The session hopes to develop a guide on steps to effective and successful resource mobilization.

¹ The session will also review the process of developing the RYC action plan.