



ECOSOCC
Economic Social & Cultural Council

The Voice of the
African Citizenry

YOUNG AFRICANS WRITING CONTEST YAWC2022

'MY AFRICA MY FUTURE'

A Day In The Life Of A Migrant Child.
(Second Edition)



Concept Note

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Economic, Social, and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) secretariat, which also serves as the organ's headquarters, was established in Lusaka, Zambia, in 2019. ECOSOCC is an African Union (AU) civil society advisory body that functions as a policy development interface, connecting civil society expertise with the work of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the AU at large. The distinctive character of ECOSOCC is exemplified and embodied in how the organ provides an opportunity for African civil society to play an active role in charting the future of the continent, organising itself in partnership with African governments to contribute to the African Union's principles, policies and programmes.

Since the establishment of the ECOSOCC Secretariat, ECOSOCC has built on this new momentum and, guided by its mandate, has been implementing a number of initiatives to connect Africans to the African Union. One of the most important aspects of ECOSOCC's work has been to ensure the realisation of the African continent's socio-economic transformation, which ECOSOCC does in part by championing the AU's Agenda 2063. Aspiration 6 of the AU Agenda 2063 is especially relevant to ECOSOCC's engagement with civil society because it aims to develop an Africa where development is people-driven, unleashing the potential of its women and Children. This is also clear as an AU priority, as the AU theme "***Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in Children***" was adopted in 2017 to highlight the importance of Children in Africa's development agenda. In this regard, ECOSOCC is the best channel for translating the AU's vision into reality and echoing the African citizenry's voice in the continent's development.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The population of young Africans is expected to double from the current **480 million** to **840 million** by **2050**, making Africa the world's youngest continent. In this context, ECOSOCC pioneered 'The **Young Africans Writing Contest**' (YAWC) in 2021 as an annual flagship project aimed at bridging the gap between African Children and the African Union with the theme "**My Africa, My Future,**" to articulate their aspirations and ideals for the type of future they want for the continent. The first edition of the contest was open to high school students in Africa and was purposely crafted to allow young Africans to freely express themselves on various themes related to the continent's future. With over 850 valid entries, ECOSOCC was overwhelmed by the quality and creativity of the young writers from across the continent. **The Young Africans Writing Contest (YAWC)** aims to encourage Children to reflect on the critical role they play in the advancement of the continent by providing a safe space for them to express themselves while also recognising the innovative thinking that they bring to the table.

3.0 THE 2022 YOUNG AFRICANS WRITING CONTEST

Today, **millions** of children are on the move, both within and across borders, with or without their parents or guardians. As a consequence, children contribute and are part of large-scale population movements that are currently taking place in many parts of the world. Migration and mobility research, as well as statistics shared by organisations such as Save the Children, have revealed that a variety of factors influence children's movements. When these children are on the move, they are exposed to harsh situations and are at greater risk to experience inadequate care, economic or sexual exploitation, abuse and neglect, whether voluntary or involuntary, within or between countries, and with or without their parents or other primary caregivers.

Against this backdrop, this year's theme is **Children and Migration**, specifically **Children on the Move**, and its connection to the AU's Free Movement Protocol (FMP), which was created with the goal of lowering, and eventually eliminating, barriers to Africans crossing regional borders to visit, trade, live, work, and establish businesses in other countries on the continent

The writing competition will be the first of its kind on the continent for the second edition, allowing young Africans to reflect on the weightiness of children and migration issues on the continent, ultimately defining the role of children and ECOSOCC in promoting free movement of people and contributing to policy implementation. This year, ECOSOCC is looking for innovative ideas and sustainable solutions on how to strengthen and popularise the FMP through the eyes of our future leaders.

4.0 GIZ PARTNERSHIP FOR YAWC 2022

ECOSOCC is an advisory organ tasked with popularising the AU and its policies, particularly Agenda 2063. To that end, ECOSOCC is always on the lookout for new and innovative activities with a continental appeal.

With the establishment of the African Union in 2002, the **Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** as an institution was given an extended mandate in managing issues related to migration. Through the Migration Policy Framework for Africa as well as the Free Movement Protocol, the AU Commission has developed crucial instruments on matters on migration, labour migration and free movement of persons. The GIZ Project "Support to the African Union on Labour Migration and Free Movement" supports the African Union Commission, represented in those topics mainly by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, Health and Social Development (AU HHS) and AU ECOSOCC, in its endeavour.

Because migration is a multi-faceted phenomenon, it requires the concerted efforts of different stakeholders at the continental, regional and national levels, including policymakers, legislators, academics, non-governmental, community and civil society organizations incl. representatives of women and Children organisations. Therefore, the partnership with AU ECOSOCC is vital for GIZ, in order to strengthen the involvement of civil society on the continental, regional and national level and therefore contribute to the agenda 2063 with the Free Movement of all Persons on the continent. The second edition of the YAWC will be fully sponsored by GIZ.

Collaborators/Supporters

Save The Children, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

5.0 ESSAY TOPIC

A Day in the Life of a Migrant Child.

6.0 ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS & SPECIFICATIONS

On the ECOSOCC website, a downloadable template will be made available for participants to use as a reference.

1. Essays must be typed in Microsoft Word (version 2003 or higher) and submitted on A4 paper in MS Word format.
2. All entries must include a cover page containing the following basic information:
 - Full Name
 - Country
 - Name of the educational institution and the year/grade level
3. Entrants should use a **12-point font (preferably Times New Roman or Arial)** and number their pages sequentially.
4. The essay should be **no longer than 1000 words**. There is no word limit, but essays of less than 500 words are discouraged.
5. **Languages:** Entries can be submitted in any of the official languages of the African Union (AU), including Swahili, English, French, Arabic, Spanish, and Portuguese.
6. All contestants must submit a completed and signed version of the participation form, which can be downloaded at <https://ecosocc.au.int/en/yawc22>. Please however fill out the participation form completely with your personal information in **English or French**.
7. Participants are encouraged to **keep a copy** of their essays for their own records because they will not be returned. Submissions must not contain obscene, violent, racist, religiously intolerant, or defamatory content.
8. Only original essays will be accepted for the contest. As a result, essays that have previously been published are not permitted. Any form of plagiarism will result in the essay being disqualified immediately and winning essays may be subject to additional verification of their originality.
9. Please note that the jury panel's decisions are final. Incomplete entries or entries that do not meet the formal specifications will be automatically disqualified.



7.0 CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

Essays will be evaluated based on their ability to engage readers, thoughtfulness, and rhetorical effectiveness. The clarity and coherence of the essays will be more important than the quality of the language.

- Content Originality 50%
- Relevance in terms of the continent's development 30%
- Structure 10%
- Overall impression 10%

8.0 SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

All entries must be submitted electronically to the email address essay.yawc22@aeecosocc.org The essay and participation form should be attached in MS Word format, and only **ONE** entry per participant will be accepted.

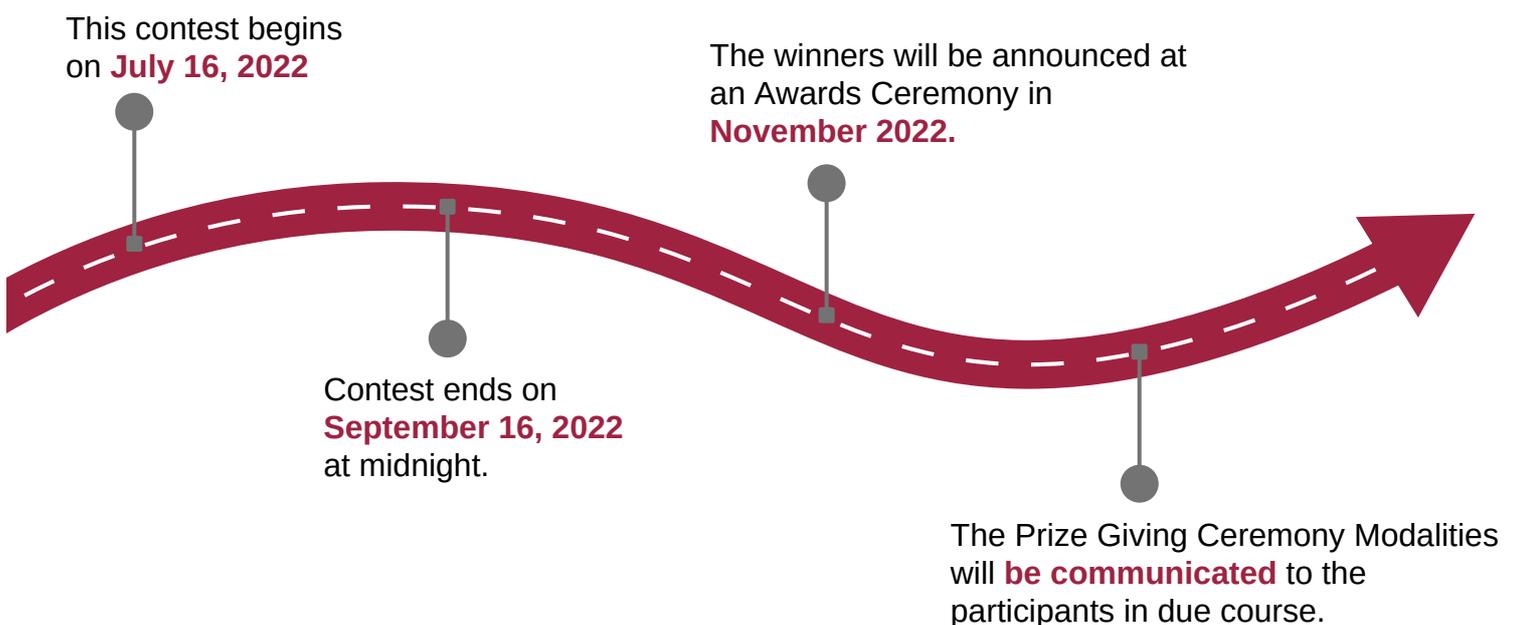
Participants will receive an acknowledgement email within one week of submitting their application. If no acknowledgement is received, participants are requested to write to the organisers with proof of submission.

9.0 ELIGIBILITY

The participant must meet all the criteria below:

- Citizen and resident of an AU Member State;
- Registered student in a secondary (high school) educational institution in an AU Member State;
- 12 - 20 years old;
- Can read, speak, and write in any of the official languages of the African Union (AU) - Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Kiswahili.

10.0 ENTRY DATES, DEADLINES & ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS





11.0 PRIZES

All participants will receive a digital participation certificate. The best entries in each of the six official AU languages will be rewarded as below:

- The Winner of the Overall Best Essay (amongst the 18 best entries all languages combined) will be rewarded with the 'Outstanding #YAWC22 Achiever Plaque' and a sponsored visit to the ECOSOCC Headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia
- The Top 3 "Winners in each linguistic category will be provided short virtual and/or physical training opportunities, possibly at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia or in another AU Member State"
- The Top 18 essays will be published in a special booklet entitled 'My Africa My Future,' Volume 2.
- List of Prizes will be officially communicated on the ECOSOCC website and to all entrants/participants electronically.

12.0 RIGHT OF PUBLICATION

All essay submissions will become the property of ECOSOCC. Winners' names, photographs, and essay content may be published in print and/or electronic media at the sole discretion of ECOSOCC.

13.0 JURY PANEL

An independent panel of judges will evaluate and score essay submissions. The panel will choose the top 3 submissions in each language, as well as the overall best essay.

14.0 METHODOLOGY & PROMOTION

Promotional materials and Concept Note of the essay competition in AU working languages will be sent through Note Verbale to relevant line Ministries in the African Union Member States

The YAWC will be promoted online through ECOSOCC's social media platforms (including paid advertisements), ECOSOCC's website, and the official African Union website.

15.0 LAUNCH EVENT

The launch event will be held on Friday 15th July from 16.00 UTC/18.00 CAT/19.00 EAT. The event will be streamed live on the following platforms:

- ECOSOCC's Facebook page # africanunion.ecosocc
- Zoom @ https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QJvk8pePSZyHUd9-tQpw9g

Simultaneous interpretation in AU working languages will be available on Zoom



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For more information,
Please visit www.ecosocc.aut.int/en/yawc22

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