



# MEET THE AFRICAN YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE

## Introduction

In September 2018, the Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the African Union Commission (AUC) launched the Youth for Peace (Y4P) Africa program with the primary objective of facilitating the meaningful participation of African youth in all spectrums of Peace and Security and dissuading their participation in violence. At the 807th meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), which doubled as the inaugural open session on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) in November 2018, the PSC requested the Commission to appoint five (5) regional African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP) to work with the AU Youth Envoy in championing the promotion of peace and security on the continent. In tandem with the communiqué of the 807th meeting of the PSC, the Y4P Africa program in collaboration with the RECs/RMs and the AU Youth Envoy launched a call for application to all African youth and afterwards shortlisted 15 applicants, three (3) from each of the five (5) regions of Africa for a training and assessment workshop in November 2019. The training and assessment workshop provided a platform to sensitize the 15 applicants on the AU normative frameworks and operations on peace and security and also accorded an opportunity for the RECs/RMs, AUC and development partners to assess the capacity and competence of the youth, a development that facilitated the selection of one AYAP per region. The selected AYAPs were presented to the PSC at its second open session on YPS in November 2019 for consideration and approval. Subsequently, on recommendation by the PSC, the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments held in February 2020 endorsed the appointment of the AYAPs. In collaboration with the relevant RECs/RMs and AU, the AYAPs are elected for a two-year non-renewable tenure and are mandated to advocate and promote the mainstreaming and inclusion of young Africans in peace and security by amplifying their contributions and resilience, challenges and encouraging policy and programmatic actions to address the challenges and enhance their contributions.



## Alhafiz Hassan Ahamat – AYAP Central Africa


Alhafiz Hassan Ahamat is a Chadian youth volunteer and member of several civil associations. He is one of the founding members and the current Secretary-General of “Action Pour la Solidarité et le Soutien aux Couches Vulnérables” (Action for Solidarity and Support for Vulnerable groups), an association that works to assist those who are morally, physically and technically deprived of guidance. He is also Country Director of Global Peace Chain in Chad. He was awarded the best Country Director of the Global Peace Chain in Johannesburg, South Africa, during its Global Peace Summit from 24 to 25 April 2019. Alhafiz is also the Coordinator of the global youth program within the Youth Section of the United Nation Association in Chad, which promotes the values of the UN. During his time at the University of N’Djaména, Alhafiz Hassan was the Coordinator of the national union of Chadian students within the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, as well as a member of the Faculty’s Disciplinary Council. He is current-

ly pursuing his Master’s Degree in Basic Public Law and working in the General Direction of Chadian National Company of Mines and Geology. Mr Alhafiz Hassan Ahamat is actively engaged in awareness raising, conference debates, philanthropy and capacity building of young people on leadership and personal development. He has attended several conferences and trainings on the continent, including the Central Africa regional consultation on the roles and contributions of Youth on peace and security in Africa organized in Libreville, Gabon, by the Peace and Security Department of the African Union; the Forum of African Youth on Peace in Muhammedia, Morocco, organized by YOUYA Foundation; the training (Phase 1 and Phase 2) of the Afresist Youth Leadership Program organized in Nairobi, Kenya, by the Special Youth Envoy of the African Union, Miss AYA Chebbi; the 2nd edition of YouthConnekt Africa Program organized by the government of Rwanda in Kigali ; and, the 7th All African Students Union in Kigali in Rwanda.



## Emma Ng’ang’a – AYAP East Africa

Emma Ng’ang’a is a young African woman who is passionate about promoting gender equality, peace and security. Her passion for peace and security began while she was an intern/volunteer at the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management in Kenya, where she was exposed to the nexus between gender and peace and security. In line with her interest in this tripartite sphere, she has done courses in conflict prevention, Multi – dimensional peace support operations, child protection, sexual and gender-based violence and women leadership for peace and security, at the International Peace Support Training Centre, Kenya and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana. She is passionate about the socio-economic development of vulnerable populations, specifically street children and conflict related sexual violence.




Emma contributes her skills and knowledge through volunteerism in socio-economic development and peace-building. She is currently engaged in crime prevention and recidivism focusing on drugs and substance abuse, sexual and gender-based violence, rehabilitation and economic empowerment of offenders as a Probation Officer at the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government in Kenya. Her background experience has exposed her to the vulnerability element of youth in situations of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, drugs and substance abuse and the threat they pose to peace and security; where she strives to provide sustainable avenues for socio-economic empowerment.

Emma holds an M.A in Gender and Development from Kenyatta University and a B.A in Sociology & Anthropology from Catholic University of Eastern Africa. She envisions Africa as a continent with positive peace and economic prosperity.



## Mohamed Edabbar – AYAP North Africa

Mohamed is a passionate creative social activist, and works widely to promote sustainable development and youth development. He is a Regional Focal Point for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY). Mohamed has worked on domestication of UNSCR 2250 at the national and regional levels. He is an Alumnus of North-South Centre (NSC) of the Council of Europe (CoE) on Strengthening of youth capacities on Peace and Security, as well as the 20th University on Youth and Development at area (Youth and Justice), Molina/Spain. He has worked on many projects, launched initiatives and collaborated to organize/facilitate several conferences, forums at different levels that include a wide spectrum of national, regional, continental and international stakeholders. Mohamed has been selected as one of 75 youth champions at the first ever Committee of Disarmament, Peace and Security - coinciding with the UN74 General Assembly which co-organized by Peace Boat and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) under the initiative “Youth4disarmament”.





## Karabo Mokgonyana – AYAP

### South Africa

Karabo Mokgonyana is a young South African woman who has committed her career to advancing social justice and socio-economic freedom through groundwork, research, advisory and high-level project coordination. She was raised in a rural village in South Africa that exposed her to the realities of insecurity, poverty, inequality and social ills - which ultimately led to her interest in Peace and Security.

She is a graduate of Bachelor of Commerce in Law and Marketing from the University of Witwatersrand and a final year Bachelor of Laws student with the same institution. Karabo has had the opportunity to work with organizations such as UNESCO, the British Council, Mandela Institute of Development Studies and Transparency International in social development work. She contributed to the development of the UN Security Council's Independent Progress Study report on Youth, Peace and Security. Karabo is currently serving as a Youth Advisory Panelist

for UNFPA and is one of 25 Cosmopolitan Magazine's Next Generation Voices in Africa. Her peacebuilding journey began with her service as a community worker, educator, mobiliser and mentor through Civil Society engagements- in which she delivered on activities relating to poverty, education, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and corruption. She continues to steer youth empowerment through her work with Shaping New Minds, gender equity with Sesi Fellowship and Skill Hub and independent research on social justice issues.



## Moctar KANE -AYAP

### West Africa

Moctar KANE is a young Malian citizen with an extensive living and working experience in West Africa and the Sahel region. Passionate about conflict prevention, stabilisation, development, good governance, and youth engagement issues, he spent the past 8 years in programme and project management, coordination, advisory, and research; focusing on helping governments and other public and private institutions translate their vision into meaningful solutions.

He currently serves as Mali Adviser for the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, after spending three years within the United Kingdom's Conflict, Security, and Stability Fund (CSSF), where he managed the stabilisation portfolio for the Sahel region. Moctar is multilingual with fluency in spoken and written French, English, and Russian. He holds an M.Phil in Development Studies from the University of Oxford.



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