



THE LEGON DECLARATION

ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM — “AFRICA’S FREEDOM IS IN OUR HANDS” — ACCRA, GHANA, 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

PREAMBLE

We, the youth of Africa – Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Ghana, together with our fellow comrades from across the African continent — gathered in Accra on this day, speak with one voice.

We are the generation that inherited a debt we did not create. We are the generation told that our resources belong to others before they belong to us. We are the generation asked to be patient while our continent's wealth leaves through the same ports our ancestors were once marched through in chains.

We refuse that inheritance. We reclaim our future.

We meet on the soil of Ghana, in the shadow of Kwame Nkrumah's unfinished vision of a free and united Africa. We meet as the children of nations that dared, once, to imagine an Africa that answered to no one but itself. Today, we renew that daring.

I. WHAT WE KNOW TO BE TRUE

1. Our debt is not of our making. The loans that strangle our national budgets were signed by colonial administrations and the regimes that inherited their structures — not by us, and not for us. A debt built on the extraction of our resources cannot be repaid through further exploitation. We say: audit it, expose it, and cancel what was not legitimate in the first place.

2. The CFA Franc is not a currency of convenience. It is a leash. A system that requires



African nations to deposit their reserves in a foreign treasury, that ties our economic decisions to arrangement made without our involvement. This is managed dependency dressed in the language of partnership. We say: monetary sovereignty is not radical. It is the bare minimum of nationhood.

3. The Alliance of Sahel States is not a threat — it is a signal to all progressive Africa.

What Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have begun — reclaiming control over their resources, their currencies, their security, and their narrative — is not an isolated experiment. It is proof that another way is possible. We do not need permission to believe that our nations can stand on their own feet.

4. Reparations are not charity. They are justice deferred. The wealth extracted from this continent — its people, its gold, its cocoa, its cotton, its uranium and other resources— built the very institutions that today lecture us on debt discipline. What we are owed is not a gift. It is an account still open.

5. We are not spectators in our own history. For too long, the future of this continent has been negotiated without our participation by people who will not live with the consequences. We are Ambassadors for the Future of Africa.

II. WHAT WE COMMIT TO DO

ON KNOWLEDGE AND CONSCIOUSNESS

- We will educate ourselves and our peers on the true history and mechanics of colonial debt, the CFA Franc, and the architecture of neocolonial extraction — because a people who do not see and feel their chains cannot break them.
- We will carry the lessons of this Forum back to our campuses, our communities, and our countries, and share what we have learned.



ON DIRECT ACTION

- We will organise peaceful demonstrations, flashmob actions, and public campaigns to put pressure on the institutions and interests that benefit from Africa's continued debt bondage.
- We will pursue all necessary actions to expose or challenge the mechanisms of colonial-era extraction, using every lawful tool available to us.
- We will establish a united network of youth movements committed to the struggle for Africa's independence and to carrying forward the unfinished work of Kwame Nkrumah.
- We will not wait for permission to be heard.

ON SOLIDARITY

- We commit to standing with the Alliance of Sahel States in its pursuit of sovereignty, and to building bridges between Ghanaian youth, AES youth, and all who share this cause.
- We reject any attempt to divide us by nationality, language, or origin. Our struggle is one.
- We extend this solidarity to youth movements across the continent and the diaspora who carry the same fight in their own nations.

ON BUILDING THE AGENDA

- We commit to translating the proposals generated in today's sessions into a living campaign, not a document that gathers dust. We reject empty roadmaps and declarations – we choose real struggle for the future of Africa.
- We will hold our own leaders, our institutions, and ourselves accountable to the commitments made here today.
- We will reconvene, report back, and measure our progress — this Forum is a beginning, not an end.



III. WHAT WE DEMAND

TO THE INSTITUTIONS THAT HOLD OUR CONTINENT'S DEBT

We demand a full and independent audit of Africa's sovereign debt, with immediate cancellation of all obligations rooted in colonial-era extraction and illegitimate lending. Governments and international organisations must engage with this matter as a continuous and permanent commitment.

TO FRANCE AND THE ARCHITECTS OF THE CFA FRANC SYSTEM

We demand an end to any monetary arrangement that requires African nations to surrender control of their reserves and their economic sovereignty as the price of stability.

TO THE LEADERS OF OUR OWN NATIONS

We demand transparency in how debt is contracted in our name, and a seat for youth at the table where our economic future is decided.

TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

We demand recognition that reparations for the wealth extracted from this continent — through slavery, through colonialism, and through neo-colonialism remain an unmet obligation, not a closed chapter.

IV. OUR CLOSING WORD

We are not naive. We know this struggle will not be won in a single forum, a single generation, or a single declaration. But we know this: Silence has never freed anyone, and patience has never cancelled a debt.

We leave this hall in Accra carrying more than a document. We carry a resolve — that the Africa we inherit will not be the Africa we hand to our own children. We will not be bystanders in the story of our own continent's liberation.

Adopted by acclamation of the youth delegates present, Accra, 5 September 2026