

National Youth Conference and Festival (NAYCONF)



The National Youth Conference and Festival is designed to be an appropriate and effective means through which young people can dilate on issues that affect them. It also opportune them to interact with each other and relevant Government authorities, take part in debates during the conference and also learn from the different cultures existing in our society through cultural shows, performances and drama competitions.

Objectives

The National Youth Conference and Festival is geared towards bringing young people (2000) together from all over the country and the world to enable them have a greater understanding of the issues affecting them, accept each other and explore means through which they can contribute to national development.

Ensured that Government, donor agencies, and civil society institutions are aware of and appreciate the problems affecting the youth.

Discussed and make recommendations on the National Youth Council Act and Youth Policy for recommendations and amendments of the instruments to the National Assembly. Increased representation and participation of youths in Government institutions agenda's, for the first time in the history of Gambia a Nominated Youth National Assembly Member out of NAYCONF recommendations.

Additional information

Today, more than ever before, the International Community is calling for greater youth's participation in national development efforts. Governments, the world, are being encouraged to develop National Youth Policy that will bear in mind that Youth are not only the future, but also the present. One cannot but hail the efforts of the Government of The Gambia for a well tailored National Youth Policy, formulated via a thorough consultation process between the Government, the Youths and organizations that represents them as well as stakeholders.

Ibrahim Ceesay

Children for Children Organization (CFCO)
The Gambia



Young people

The conference is an effective means through which young people from Gambia and other African countries participate actively in discussing issues that affects their lives, reaffirm their commitment to addressing these problems and also further solicit the support and commitment of Government, UN Agencies, Opinion and Religious Leaders, NGO's, Media and Civil Society Organizations in creating an enabling environment for the development of youth.

NAYCONF has been held on three occasions by The Gambia National Youth Council in 2001, 2004 and 2006 in the Upper River Region (Basse), Banjul and Western Region (Brikama) respectively through support from the Gambia Government, UN agencies, Private Sectors and civil society institutions. The idea of the NAYCONF is to enable young people from all over the country to come together, interact, share experiences and discuss issues that affect them. This will enhance the participation of youths in our national development efforts through harnessing their potentials. The youths form the bulk of our population and as such their involvement and participation is crucial towards the attainment of our national development goals particularly the vision 2020, the PRSP and the MDGs.

NAYCONF came up with recommendations that can influence the negative mentality, attitudes and behaviours of African Leaders towards African youths. NAYCONF encourage alliance building, networking and sharing of best practices among African Youths.

