

# AYA RESEARCH LAB CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATION ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



## KEYNOTE SPEECH BY

**CHANCELLE BILAMPASSI MOUTSATSI,  
FORMER SPECIAL ADVISER OF THE  
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSIONER FOR  
HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY, AND PAN AFRICAN  
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATION  
OFFICER (AU)**

First Batch of AYA Research lab "Create and Innovate in SDG4 Program."

**THEME:** If the future is to be sustainable, it must be planned collaboratively.

**14TH MAY  
2022**

**VIRTUAL**

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[www.africanyoutharchitects.org](http://www.africanyoutharchitects.org)







## **AYA Research Lab Class of 2022 Graduation Accomplishment Report**

“Education is the most powerful weapon  
which you can use to change the world.”  
——Nelson Mandela

### **Report compiled by AYA Research Lab**

Abdullahi Mohammed Hussein, President

Emamsy R. Mbossa, Board Chairman

Fatou Hydra, Executive Director

Aisha Fatty, Head of Finance

# AYA RESEARCH LAB brief History

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AYA Research Lab First launched in 2021, Create and Innovate in SDG4 to enhance creativity and innovation in achieving the United Nations SDG4 2030 targets and commitments, is its first program run by African Youth Architects. Its first-batch graduates officially celebrated their newly-acquired prestigious AYA professional Certificate on 14th May, 2022.

AYA Research Lab was founded from the recommendations raised during the Students Speak Out Summit, organized by African Youth Architects in 2020. Nearly 3000 participants from colleges, high schools, youth activists, educators, parents, and the community representatives attended the intensive five days of discussions about the global crises caused by the pandemic of COVID-19 and its threats to achieving the United Nation SDG4 2030 targets and commitments.

AYA Research Lab is a project of African Youth Architects that spotlights promising approaches to persistent challenges in Africa's education systems. Testing technologies that help innovate teaching methods, focusing on an inclusive approach, that can take into account, the needs of every student, boost teamwork and problem solving.

Our goal is to create a new conversation that connects parents, students and educators to drive innovative solutions.

We analyze policies and identify evidenced-based solutions to tackle today's most pressing educational challenges in Africa, through collaborations with students and teachers at leading institutions around Africa.



14th May 2022 marked a very important day for the first Batch of AYA Research lab, 38 students as they graduated from AYA Professional Certificate Program in Educational Research "Create and Innovate in SDG4 Program." and are on the brink of joining a dynamic network of accomplished scholars and professionals around the world.



37

38



The ceremony host Dr Busaina Nazzal was introduced by Mrs. Aisha Fatty, AYA Head of Finance. Dr Busaina kickstarted the event with her welcome address, presentation of the graduates, wishing them a bright future and setting the lively event for the rest of the day.

# Message from Dr. Busaina

"I embrace this great opportunity-with all the great challenges- that go with it to be part of this remarkable event that I believe will put to the test mine as well as other respectable colleagues' expertise in the field of education.

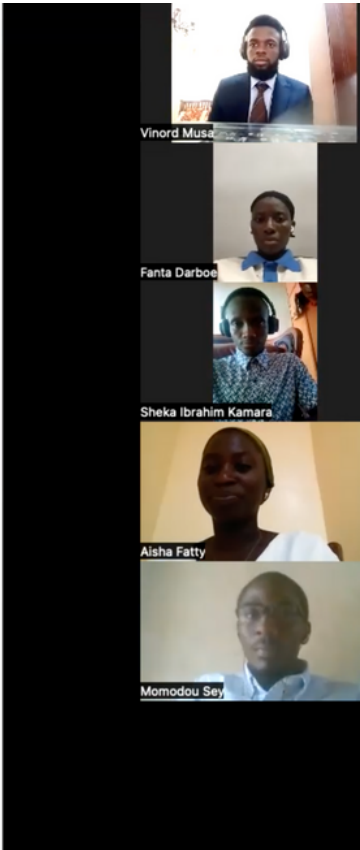
My credentials" that I would like to emphasize in this brief note stem from the fact that of all the areas I have involved myself in my one and a half decade of work experience, education has always truly been my other life."

## AYA NOW



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### PROGRAM FLOW

4.00 PM	<b>VIDEO INTRO OF AYA RESEARCH LAB</b> Dr Busaina Nazzal
4.05 PM	<b>PROCESSIONAL</b> Presentation of the graduates
4.10 PM	<b>NATIONAL ANTHEM</b> The Gambia, Sierra Leone, and AU
4.20 PM	<b>WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS</b> Abdullahi Mohammed Hussein, President AYA Research Lab
4.30 PM	<b>GRADUATION KEYNOTE</b> Chancellor Blampassi Moutsatsi
4.40 PM	<b>GUEST SPEAKERS</b> Muhammet Aydin Saikou Camara Hillary Innocent Taylor Seguya Ahmed Barrani
4.47 PM 4.53 PM 4.59 PM	
5.06 PM	<b>AFRICAN STORY TELLING (KORA PERFORMANCE) BY</b> Yahya Sanku
5.11 PM	<b>MESSAGE FOR THE GRADUATES</b> Mohamed Omer Osman
5.18 PM	<b>RESEARCH LAB TESTIMONIES/AWARDS</b> Abdullahi Mohammed Hussein, President AYA Research Lab
5.30 PM	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> Kaddy Momoh, AYA Education Director

### AYA RESEARCH LAB BRIEF HISTORY

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We analyze policies and identify evidenced-based solutions to tackle today's most pressing educational challenges in Africa, through collaborations with students and teachers at leading institutions around Africa such as Fourah Bay College, University of The Gambia, The Gambia College, University of Management and Technology, Institute of Public Administration and Management, Crown Technical University College, and Milton Margai Technical University.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Excellencies, Members of AYA, our graduates, All Protocols duly respected, Ladies and Gentlemen, a very good afternoon!

As the president of AYA research lab and member of AYA Board of Management, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to you all, at this wonderful milestone in AYA's calendar, we celebrate the achievements of our students of the first batch of create and innovate SDG4. I am dissatisfied that we cannot gather today in person – something we took for granted but not anymore. This is an unusual ceremony in an extraordinary time, which reminds us of the simple joy of being together.

AYA colleagues requested me to express our thanks and gratitude to each of you for your presence, your presence with us today means the world.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, I once read a beautiful piece that said the “the most valuable currency that exist is the effect you have on others; because if you can help enough people get what they want you can have everything that you want”. I am because you are. On this solemn occasion it is about the Spirit of Ubuntu that I want to share with you all.

In a changing global context, in a globalized and interconnected world with increasing manifestations of both solidarity and intolerance, food insecurity, rising poverty and unemployment, climate change, incurrent educational systems in developing countries, escalating incidents of violent extremism and acts of terrorism, xenophobia, deficiency in leadership it is becoming indeed critical that educational systems not only equip learners with the values, knowledge and skills to address today's challenges but institutions; Government institution, National and International institutions, Religious institutions, Corporate bodies must as a matter of necessity not only engage young people and women in development



*Abdullahi Mohammed Hussein, Ph.D. Candidate*

*President of African Youth Architects Research Lab*

processes but ensure that today's growth initiatives represent the Spirit of the People, the Spirit of Ubuntu. Only such prerogatives will determine the prospects for sustainable development and global peace.

Congratulations to you all. You have customized your degrees and your pathways to express who you are and what is meaningful for you. To prepare yourselves for a future that matters to you and to the world. We celebrate your commencement knowing that as your journey begins,



whether in graduate of AYA research lab as advocates for social justice and the environment, information technologists, healthcare professionals, researchers, performers, public servants, economists, entrepreneurs or business leaders, you will continue to serve and empower others in your own distinctive way, and to live in the spirit of AYA and this education as unravelers of complexity, responsible fact-checkers, open-minded knowledge bearers, and most of all, persistent truth-tellers.

You have shown us that you challenge boundaries, break out of them and redefine them. That you are individuals committed to each other, to social change and to the planet. You are always connected, and you use that connectivity to change things for the better, and you are intrinsically a part of the global community. Today is a moment to reflect on how you spent your time here as the world has changed around us. To celebrate your engagement with facts, opinions and interpretation, in all that you do. Today is a day to acknowledge and celebrate your unwavering commitment to advance the causes and the knowledge that matter most in this time and to you.

Excellences, ladies and Gentlemen; **With your permission may we give them a round of applause!**

This distinction you are receiving today comes with the privilege to stand out as a star that will not only shine for itself but shine for truth, shine for equality, shine for justice, shine for proficiency, shine for innovation, shine for persistence most importantly shine for positive impact on Mother Africa and the World at Large.

Yours is the first generation in many decades that can take such individual and collective pride in your achievements in the face of adversity. In a fast-changing world, be confident, expect the unexpected, embrace new challenges and opportunities. AYA education certifies that you are ready for anything.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, as inspired by our brother, my good friend John Legend "If you hear this message, wherever you are, I am calling every woman, I am calling every man, I am calling every young person, we are a generation, we can't afford to waste the future started yesterday we are already late".

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, no one can win a war individually, no one will win the war against poverty alone, no one will win the war against unemployment alone, no one will win the war against violence and extremism, xenophobia alone, no one can win the combat against climate change and gender base violence alone. All this takes the wisdom of the elders with the young people's energy.

As I look out at you, I see both great accomplishment and great hope. I see a student body that has challenged and livened and emboldened this college and each one of us, to live up to its promise, to your promise. I see one of the greatest incubators of intellectual and social progress, and a collective comprising extraordinary individuals, accomplished graduates and mature thinkers who will make that progress their imperative. In the coming years I am certain you will hear more about their achievements in due course, but taken together, they have the potential to promote civil rights, equity and opportunity, to eradicate systemic discrimination, to empower all Africans, to ensure access to education and create a pave the way to the Africa we want.

Last but not least, today is your day. It is a time for you, friends and loved ones to enjoy and to celebrate your achievements. To conclude, I will end with the following quotation by the world-renown self development guru Mr. Brian Tracy. He once wrote the following:

*" Those people who develop the ability to continuously acquire new and better forms of knowledge that they can apply to their work and to their lives will be the movers and shakers in our society for the indefinite future."*

Do reflect upon the wise words of Mr. Brian Tracy and apply them in your lives.

**ASANTE SANA! SEEYA BONGA, SHUKRAN, TEŞEKKÜRLER, THANK YOU VERY MUCH GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AFRICA.**

# Keynote Speaker



During her keynote address, **Chancelle Bilampassi Moutsatsi**, former special adviser of the African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, and Pan African University Communication Officer (AU) lauded graduates for their “monumental” achievements in AYA Research Lab and encouragement to young people taking leading role in the AU theme of the year, “Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on The African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development.”

Her words were deeply appreciated to not only the graduates but to all the families and representatives who were in attendance. She has everyone's gratitude, respect and deep admiration.

**Her speech can be viewed here**

[https://youtu.be/9\\_mMsMITb3E](https://youtu.be/9_mMsMITb3E)

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**CONTINENTAL  
EDUCATION STRATEGY  
FOR AFRICA**  
2016 – 2025

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# THE GUEST SPEAKERS

The Guest speakers, Muhammet Aydin, Saikou Camara, and Hillary Innocent Taylor Seguya, also took to the floor to congratulate the graduating batch. They shared their invaluable insights and inspirations to pupils, educators, parents and the African community representatives during the ceremony.



**SPEAKER 2**

## **Muhammet Aydin**

2022 Outstanding Teacher of the year in Turkey, Award-winning teacher of eTwinning, Europe's largest education community, and Global Teacher Prize Top 50 Finalist

**SPEAKER 3**



**SPEAKER 3**

## **Hillary Taylor**

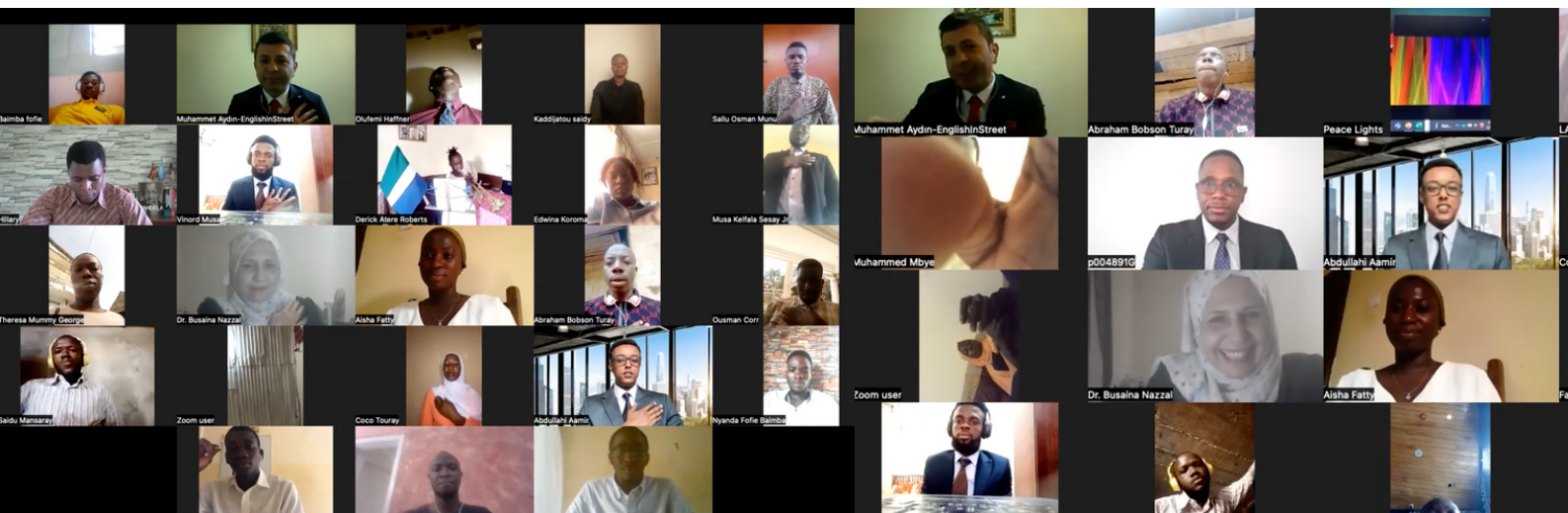
Graduate student of International Relations at Harvard University



**SPEAKER 4**

## **Saikou Camara**

Author, International motivational speaker and a seasoned storyteller.



**Author of “Testimony of An African Immigrant – A Promise to My Father”, “Testimony of An African Immigrant II – Relentless Audacity”, and “Africa Through a Mirror – We have a Continent to Build”. International motivational speaker and a seasoned storyteller.**

*Guest speaker, Saikou Camara*



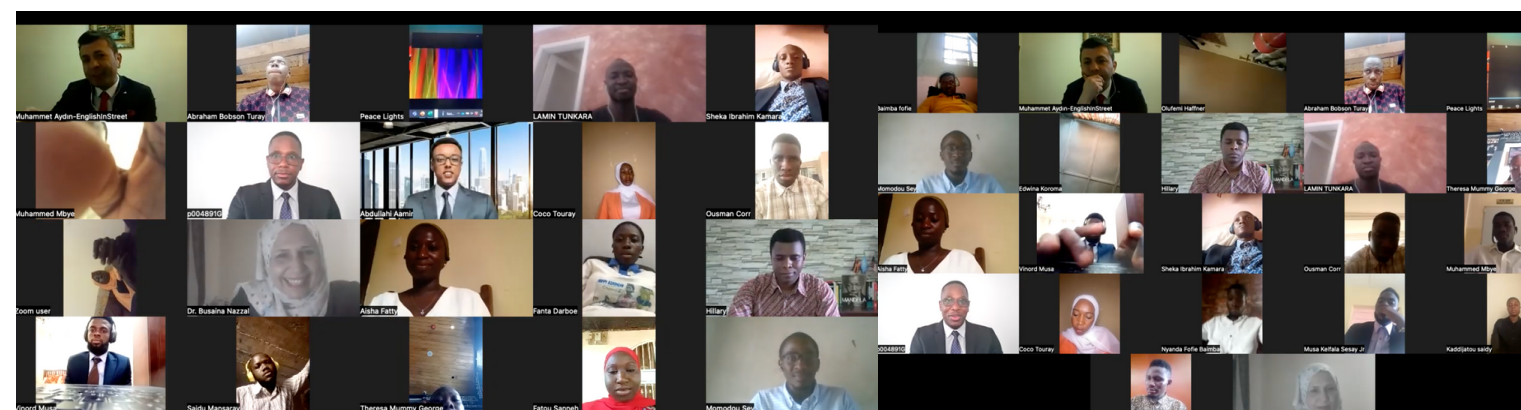
As an African, storytelling is part of his culture and it plays an instrumental part in his life. He perceives storytelling as an art form that links us to our past and gives us foresight into the future. He has been invited to speak at the White House, the United Nation, De Montfort University (Leicester City, UK), Bowie State University, Virginia Tech, RightsCon (Brussels), Portland University, University of the Gambia, Omaha YP Summit, among others.

He was awarded the Superior Community Service award by the Black Employee Network (BEN) in 2014, and the Citizen of The Year award two years in a row, 2015-2016, by the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated. And in 2020 and 2021, he was awarded by the Pan-African Youth Leadership as one of the 100 most influential young Africans of 2019 and 2020.

Saikou is currently serving as a board member for the Simple Foundation incorporated in Omaha Nebraska. As an activist with a passion for youth empowerment, Saikou co-founded the Global Leadership Empowerment and Diversity Summit (GLEADS) in 2016, which brings together diverse groups of young leaders to discuss innovative ideas and find solutions to our everyday challenges facing our diverse communities.

Saikou now draws from his experience as a trained IT professional and president for non-profit organizations to provide Project Development Consultancy for many start-up businesses and entrepreneurs especially in the field of technology and not-for-profit.

Saikou is also an international motivational speaker and a seasoned storyteller.



**His speech can be viewed here**

<https://youtu.be/OJa4A-coM10>

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**Teacher at Mehmet Necati Vidinli Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School, Turkey. 2022 Outstanding Teacher of the year in Turkey, Award-winning teacher of eTwinning, Europe's largest education community, and Global Teacher Prize Top 50 Finalist.**

*Guest speaker, Muhammet Aydın*

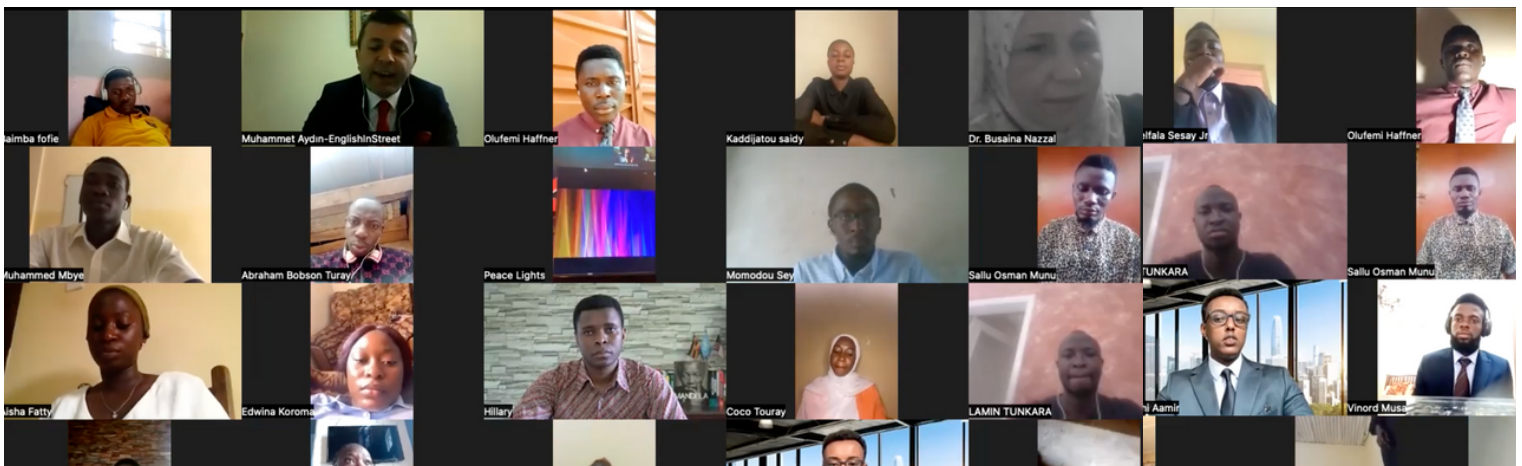


Also gained widespread media acclaim. Seeing its success, the Turkish Ministry of National Education implemented the project all over the country. To date, more than 50 schools in Italy, Poland, Romania, Albania, and Northern Macedonia have also adopted the scheme and gained Language Learning Centre status in their own right.

Muhammet volunteered at training camps for children and refugees in Ordu Province. He organized reading activities for children deprived of education and provided literacy training for illiterate parents.

Muhammet used five months' worth of his salary to fund the English In Street project. 50 students were accepted to the university, and over 550 learnt to speak English to grade B from this project

English In Street uses technology and role-play to take language learning beyond the classroom by placing students in real-life scenes at cafés, shops and hospitals. They work in small groups to draft scripts, prepare sets, act and record scenes. The approach embeds language in everyday life and gives students ownership of their learning, allowing them to gain the confidence to act out dialogues. Along the way, they have fun and grow in their enthusiasm to speak English.



**His speech can be viewed here**

<https://youtu.be/oQl1gyP2ECg>

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**Graduate student of International Relations at Harvard University. Hillary is a compassionate and seasonal human rights activist, a critical thinker and a young turk challenging the status quo in his home country Uganda and the world.**

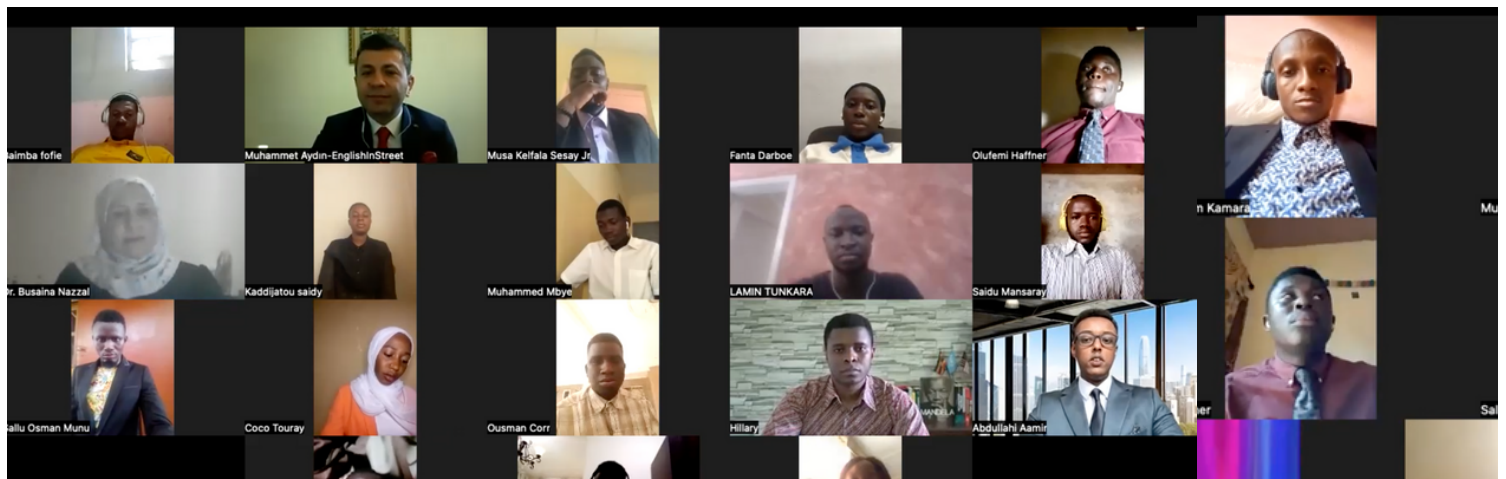
*Guest speaker, Hillary Innocent Taylor Seguya*



He has worked on several human rights projects with the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), the Commonwealth Secretariat-Human Rights Division, United Nations Association of Uganda (UNAU) and was among the contributors with Together UN in helping to localize the universal declaration of human rights. Hillary has participated in several UN General Assemblies, youth conferences and consultations on international development, education, human rights, climate change, youth empowerment and engagement.

Hillary is a Global Youth Ambassador at Their World, a children's charity launched in April 2014 by former UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and UN Special envoy for global Education, Gordon Brown the former Prime Minister of UK committed to ending the global education crisis.

Additionally, Hillary is a member of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MG CY) and founded Global Youth Act Now (GYAN) a youth led organization in Uganda aimed at creating awareness of human rights and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to youth.



**His speech can be viewed here**

<https://youtu.be/a4VFTd8Xm-I>

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## AYA Research Lab 2022 BEST PAPER AWARDS RECIPIENTS



**MAMUDU SUMBUNU**

**Paper entitled**

NEGOTIATION AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT

Which was presented at African Youth  
Architects Research Lab  
13th February 2022



**FANTA DARBOE**

**Paper entitled**

THE ROLE OF YOUTH  
IN THE AU THEME OF  
2021: ARTS, CULTURE,  
AND HERITAGE

Which was presented at African Youth  
Architects Research Lab  
5th February 2022.



**MUHAMMED B. BADJIE**

**Paper entitled**

SUSTAINABILITY OF  
PROJECTS IN AFRICA

Which was presented at African Youth  
Architects Research Lab  
15th March 2022

Congratulations to the recipients of AYA Research Lab 2022 Best Paper Awards.

These papers were selected as the result of groundbreaking research in their respective areas. By recognizing these selected papers for their ingenuity and importance, AYA Research Lab highlights some of the theoretical and practical innovations that are likely to shape the future of Africa's education systems.

Congratulations to the recipients of AYA Research Lab 2022 Best group Awards.

### Current Group Members

- Fanta Darboe
- Sallu Osman Munu
- Nyanda Fofie Baimba
- Ousman Jammeh
- Fatou Sanneh
- Vinord Musa
- Derick king Banjura
- Fatou B Bojang
- Micheal kelson kel-kessebeh
- Buba Darboe



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#createandinnovate

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