



**SPEAKING NOTES BY THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NYDA) ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHINA MEDIA GROUP “GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: YOUTH ACTION” MEDIA EVENT**

11 November 2025

*Programme Director,*

*Representatives of the China Media Group,*

*Distinguished guests,*

*youth leaders,*

*Fellow colleagues from government and international organizations,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is an honour to join you today under the theme “Global Governance: Youth Action.”

Allow me to extend our appreciation to China Media Group (Africa Bureau) for convening this dialogue ahead of the G20 Summit.

The timing is significant, as the G20 remains a platform where decisive conversations about the global economy, digital transformation, and sustainable development take place. And as we have contended on numerous global stages, young people must not merely be subjects of these deliberations, but active participants shaping their outcomes.

This gathering underscores a fundamental truth: the future of global governance will be determined by our collective ability to empower, include, and equip young people and not only to participate in, but to redefine, the systems that govern their lives.

Ladies and gentlemen, the world today faces intersecting crises of economic inequality, climate change, unemployment, and rapid technological disruption. These crises are not



abstract; they are lived experiences for millions of young people, especially those in the Global South.

Yet, young people remain at the intersection of these realities not as passive victims, but as active agents of innovation, resilience, and transformation. Through the NYDA, South Africa continues to champion youth participation in governance and policy making, ensuring that young voices influence public decisions at every level of the state and society.

As the NYDA we believe that global governance must therefore evolve to reflect demographic and developmental realities for the Global South is young, dynamic, and ready to lead in reimagining the future.

Furthermore, the era of digital transformation offers immense opportunity, but it also deepens inequality when access is uneven. China's cooperation with Africa in digital innovation, ICT infrastructure, and skills development holds transformative potential but that transformation must be inclusive by design.

We must deliberately ensure that young women, especially girls in rural and under-resourced communities, are not excluded from the benefits of digital progress.

Ladies and gentlemen, inclusion means more than access to devices, rather it means access to education, connectivity, mentorship, and participation in the innovation ecosystem.

At the NYDA, we believe that digital innovation must advance social justice and equitable growth and ensure that rural and township youth, and particularly young women, are producers of knowledge and technology, not merely consumers of it.

As the world advances into the AI era, the challenge before us is to prepare the youth of the Global South to thrive within it. This requires reimagining our education systems, investing in digital literacy, and fostering an ethic of innovation that is grounded in African realities and responsive to global shifts.

Our youth must be trained not only to adapt to AI but to shape it, embedding human values, inclusivity, and ethics into emerging technologies.



Moreover, across the continent, entrepreneurship remains the heartbeat of youth economic participation. In South Africa, we pride ourselves in the NYDA because it implements programmes that promote youth-owned enterprises, green innovation, and social entrepreneurship, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

However, we are clear that our partnerships with international allies, such as China, are vital in unlocking finance, markets, and mentorship for young entrepreneurs, ensuring that innovation and enterprise are vehicles for shared prosperity.

We envision a world where every young person, regardless of geography or gender, has the means to innovate, employ, and contribute to building just, equitable societies.

As we reflect on "Global Governance: Youth Action," we must remember that governance extends beyond institutions, it is about responsibility, ethics, and solidarity across generations and nations.

Let us continue to create platforms where youth voices are not peripheral, but central instruments of global renewal.

And let us ensure that in the age of AI and digital modernization, no young woman in a rural village, no young innovator in a township, and no young thinker in the Global South is left behind.

Together, we can build a future that is prosperous, inclusive, and humane — a future defined not by exclusion, but by collective empowerment.

Thank you once again to China Media Group for this important platform, and to all partners working to ensure that young people shape the governance of our shared future.

Thank you.