



Seventy-first session  
United Nations General Assembly

# Strengthening Partnership to Accelerate Africa's Demographic Dividend

This high-level dialogue will showcase the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend initiative. It will help reinforce political commitment and stakeholder support to **#PutYoungPeopleFirst** ahead of the 2017 Summits of the African Union Heads of States and Government, which will focus on the theme of ***"Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth"***.

Monday, 19 September 2016, 15:00 - 17:00  
Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters, New York



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# Program

In collaboration with UNFPA and the World Bank, President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré of Burkina Faso is convening fellow Heads of States from countries implementing the “*Sahel Women’s Empowerment and Demographic Dividend*” initiative together with other African leaders and influential stakeholders to put a spotlight on collaborative efforts to empower women, and broaden investments that leverage the potential of the continent’s biggest asset – its young people. This dialogue is building on previous events and looking toward future events.

**Moderated by** Folly Bah Thibault, Senior Anchor,  
Al Jazeera Media Network

**3:00 p.m. – 3:07 p.m.**

**Welcome and Opening by Chair:**

H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso

**3:07 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.**

**Setting the Stage:**

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA

Keith Hansen, Vice President, Human Development,  
World Bank Group

Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO

**3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Political Commitment and Actions for  
the Demographic Dividend:**

H.E. Patrice Talon, President of Benin

H.E. Faustin-Archange Touadéra, President  
of Central African Republic

H.E. Idriss Déby, President of Chad/Chair of AU

H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of Côte d’Ivoire

H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia/Chair of ECOWAS

H.E. Peter Mutharika, President of Malawi

H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of Niger

H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal / Chairperson of NEPAD

H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda



Former Presidents Armando Guebuza and Jakaya Kikwete,  
Representatives of Africa Forum of Former Heads of State and Government

Other Presidents or their Representatives

Youth Leader / Representative of ROJALNU and AfriYAN

Susan Mboya, President, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation

Mussie Hailu, Regional Director, United Religions Initiative-Africa  
and Representative to AU and UN in Africa

Other prominent invitees from the UN, private sector and women's networks

**4:30 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.**

**Moderated Q&A session with audience**

**4:40 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.**

**Stronger together, collaboration and action to accelerate the demographic transition and catalyze a demographic dividend in Africa:**

African Union Commission

H.E. Ibrahim Hassane Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency

H.E. Cheikh Hadjibou Soumaré, President, UEMOA Commission

Further contributions from Heads of State and Government

**4:50 p.m.- 4:57 p.m.**

**Closing Remarks:**

UN Secretary-General

**4:58 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Wrap-up**

# #PutYoungPeopleFirst



*"The creation of decent jobs for young people and women with support from the state and most importantly from the private sector is at the top of our priorities according to the National Economic and Social Development Plan."*

**H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré,**  
President of Burkina Faso



*"I prioritize the reorganization of the health system to provide citizens with a more effective and inclusive health coverage. I will focus on rebuilding the education system to ensure its relevance to our economic ambitions."*

**H.E. Patrice Talon,**  
President of Benin



*"To harness the demographic dividend, we need to put in place bold interventions to manage fertility and population growth to be able to accelerate demographic transition, economic growth and job creation."*

**H.E. Idriss Déby,**  
President of Chad/Chair of AU



*"Africa could benefit from the demographic dividend like Asia did three decades ago. Africa's population is estimated to be 1 billion people today. By 2050, it will reach 2 billion."*

**H.E. Alassane Ouattara,**  
President of Côte d'Ivoire



*"It is important that creating a sustainable and peaceful social environment is directly linked to how young people and women find their rightful place, with opportunities open to them."*

**H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf,**  
President of Liberia/Chair of ECOWAS



*"Another important dimension concerns the professionalization of our educational system. I am confident that we will perceive dividends in terms of employment. Facilitating access to health care and quality medicines is another way to improve the living conditions of our people, especially the poor."*

**H.E. Faustin-Archange Touadéra**  
President of Central African Republic



*"Youth can be critical agents for socioeconomic change if appropriate investments are made to unleash their promise."*

**H.E. Peter Mutharika,**  
President of Malawi



*"The creation of the conditions for the demographic transition is another aspect of cultural renaissance. We have to significantly change behavior on this important matter... our religion, Islam, does not constitute an obstacle in our effort to address the demographic challenge."*

**H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou,**  
President of Niger



*"We need to develop infrastructure and speed up regional integration as well as promote the employment and growth generating agricultural economy and reinforce human capital through the improvement of growth based on technology, innovation, know-how and access to quality health."*

**H.E. Macky Sall,**  
President of Senegal/Chair of NEPAD



*"Population per se is not the biggest problem, but rather the lack of economic growth, poor quality education, health. We need quality health services, education, infrastructure and investments."*

**H.E. Yoweri Museveni,**  
President of Uganda



*"... the world now has the largest generation of young people in history. They constitute a potentially major force for progress. To unleash their potential, we need to invest more in education, opportunities and services for youth."*

**Ban Ki-moon,**  
United Nations Secretary-General



*"... we know that educating adolescent girls and getting health services to women will lead to greater prosperity not just for individual families but also for entire economies. This link is even more critical when countries, such as those of the Sahel, have fast-growing youth populations and are trying to make timely investments to reap a major set of economic gains..."*

**Dr. Jim Yong Kim,**  
President, World Bank Group



*"Adolescent girls, in particular, if they can be ensured high-quality education and primary health care, and if they are no longer burdened by child marriage, gender-based violence, unplanned pregnancies, poor maternal and newborn health, or HIV, can generate a better future for themselves and their families – and a dividend for their country."*

**Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin,**  
Executive Director, UNFPA



*"Population growth will not contribute to economic growth as expected without the right investments in human capital. Entrants into the labor market must have the proper quality education and health care in order for Africa to fully realize its demographic dividend."*

**Makhtar Diop,**  
Vice President for Africa, World Bank Group



*"If I get the right information during this family planning fair, I will take it because I do not want to have more children right away."*

**Evelyne Yao N'dri**

*"My life and that of my baby are worth more than all the scolding from my family. I will continue to come to UNFPA clinic in Daresalem camp for my prenatal consultation until I give birth for the first time in a health facility under the care of qualified personnel. I am confident about my survival and that of my unborn baby."*

**Mariam Assafi,**  
Chad

*"By attending the Safe Space programme Illimin, I found the motivation to return to school. It helped me to gain confidence in myself. It has also re-awakened my lifelong dream to study and have a career. A dream that was shattered by my father who married me off."*

**Fati Yayé,**  
Niger



Join the online discussion: [#PutYoungPeopleFirst](#) [#DemographicDividend](#)

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