



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**CLOSING REMARKS OF H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH,
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA,
DURING THE YOUTHCONNEKT AFRICA SUMMIT, 2023,
AT THE KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
CENTRE, NAIROBI, ON DECEMBER 11, 2023**

The Heads of State and Government;
Heads of Delegations;
Ministers;
Heads of Missions;
Distinguished Partners;
Our Esteemed Youth;
Distinguished Delegates;

Today, we gather here to conclude a vibrant and insightful conversation of the very fruitful 6th Edition of the YouthConnekt Africa Summit, 2023.

We have ignited a flame of innovation, collaboration and partnership, propelling our continent to a rebirth. It is a proud moment for Africa.

Kenya is happy to host this distinguished event of high-spirited, sharp and focused young minds. We take pride in the outcome of this Summit.

It is with immense gratitude that we acknowledge the Government of Rwanda for pioneering and nurturing this visionary platform.

Indeed, since establishment, Rwanda, through President Paul Kagame, has fostered the spirit of Pan-Africanism, empowering young minds.

Kenya, under President William Ruto, pledges to carry forward the torch, with unwavering dedication in building upon the legacy you have established.

Already, Dr Ruto is championing a border-less Africa by, among other things, advocating for a visa-free Continent.

The theme of the Summit: "Youth Innovating a Border-less African Re-naissance," therefore, resonates deeply with Kenya.

Distinguished Delegates;

We live in an age where borders are becoming more and more irrelevant. Thus, technology allows us to connect and collaborate across countries and continents. This presents a unique opportunity for the youth of Africa to rise to the occasion, to be designers of our shared future.

The challenges we face are vast and complex, from Climate Change and unemployment to poverty, inequality, among others.

But within these challenges, lie opportunities. Opportunities for innovation, for entrepreneurship and for social change.

Your generation is armed with creativity, passion and advanced technology. You are well-equipped to tackle these challenges and build a better tomorrow.

Take your rightful place in innovation in all sectors and spheres of leadership.

Our Esteemed Youth;

To succeed, hard work, dedication, focus and a resolve to challenge the status quo is key. This will help you counter obstacles. You are not alone.

You have the support of your peers, the community, thought leaders and influencers, Governments and partners.

During this Summit, you have met and made friends and mentors.

This is one of the reasons that the YouthConnekt Africa Summit was established- to CONNECT you to the people who share in your dreams, ideas, business interests and innovations. It has become a game changer that we continue to build on.

We will work together in championing your dreams and propelling you to full potential for a prosperous Africa.

YOUNG LEADERS OF AFRICA, I take this opportunity today, to challenge you to unleash your inner innovator.

Do not think outside the box, tear and throw the box away. Let your creativity be bound-less. In your dreams, act big and decisively.

Further, as part of the strategies of securing funding, urge you to align your innovations to areas of interest to partners and States.

On the other hand, the conversation of this Summit has pulled down the borders. Henceforth, take the conversation forward with your peers.

Learn from each other, share your experiences and build strong networks of collaboration.

Take part in the rebirth of our great Continent of Africa, where the youth are not just the future, but also the driving force of progress.

Let us build an Africa that is:

- **A Continent of innovation and creativity, where ideas are nurtured and transformed into reality.**
- **A Continent of entrepreneurship and opportunity, where young people are empowered to create jobs and drive economic growth.**
- **A Continent of peace and security, where young people are agents of change, promoting understanding and tolerance across communities.**

- **A Continent of unity and prosperity, where young people are the engineers of a brighter future for all Africans.**

Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Youth;

On this note, allow me to conclude by welcoming our partners to work with us in supporting outstanding projects towards realising Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030 of the African Union alongside the National Development Blueprints.

On behalf of President Ruto, I invite you to take part in the Jamhuri Day Celebrations tomorrow.

I wish you Happy Holidays.

ASANTENI SANA