

SADC CONFERENCE ON VOLUNTEERISM AS TOOL FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH DECLARATION

INTRODUCTION

We as the SADC youth, representing South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe have decided to play a vital role in promoting volunteerism in our respective countries, through the organisations we represent.

We represent a variety of socio-economic backgrounds. Majority of us are the first generation to obtain qualifications in Institutions of Higher Education and Training.

We are products of communities that still lack basic needs and are overwhelmed by the increasing percentage of unemployment, especially amongst the youth.

We are volunteers who believe that volunteerism will play a vital role in ensuring Africa develops into an economically stable and independent continent.

WHAT WE NEED

- A conducive environment for volunteers e.g. African passport to facilitate moving between countries
- Dissemination of information to the youth- access to funding and policies which are being adopted to assess what impact this will have on our daily lives
- Recognition of youth volunteer efforts in the form of research opportunities, scholarships, funding for programmes, awards and employment
- Facilitation of a good structure for youth volunteerism e.g. a body that coordinates volunteer action in each country and a regional structure
- Document how much voluntarism is contributing to the economy – rands and cents
- More platforms for youth private sector and government meet to strategize re voluntarism and include youth in the formulation of policies and planning
- Monitoring and evaluation of the volunteer organizations by government to ensure they are delivering on the mandate
- Equality between sponsors and benefiting communities – mutually agreed agenda
- Government and private sector to provide youth opportunities for learnerships and internships

CONCLUSION

Impact of voluntarism on communities and us as young people and reduction of poverty in the communities. Produces a calibre of selfless leaders, networks are built. Informal education.