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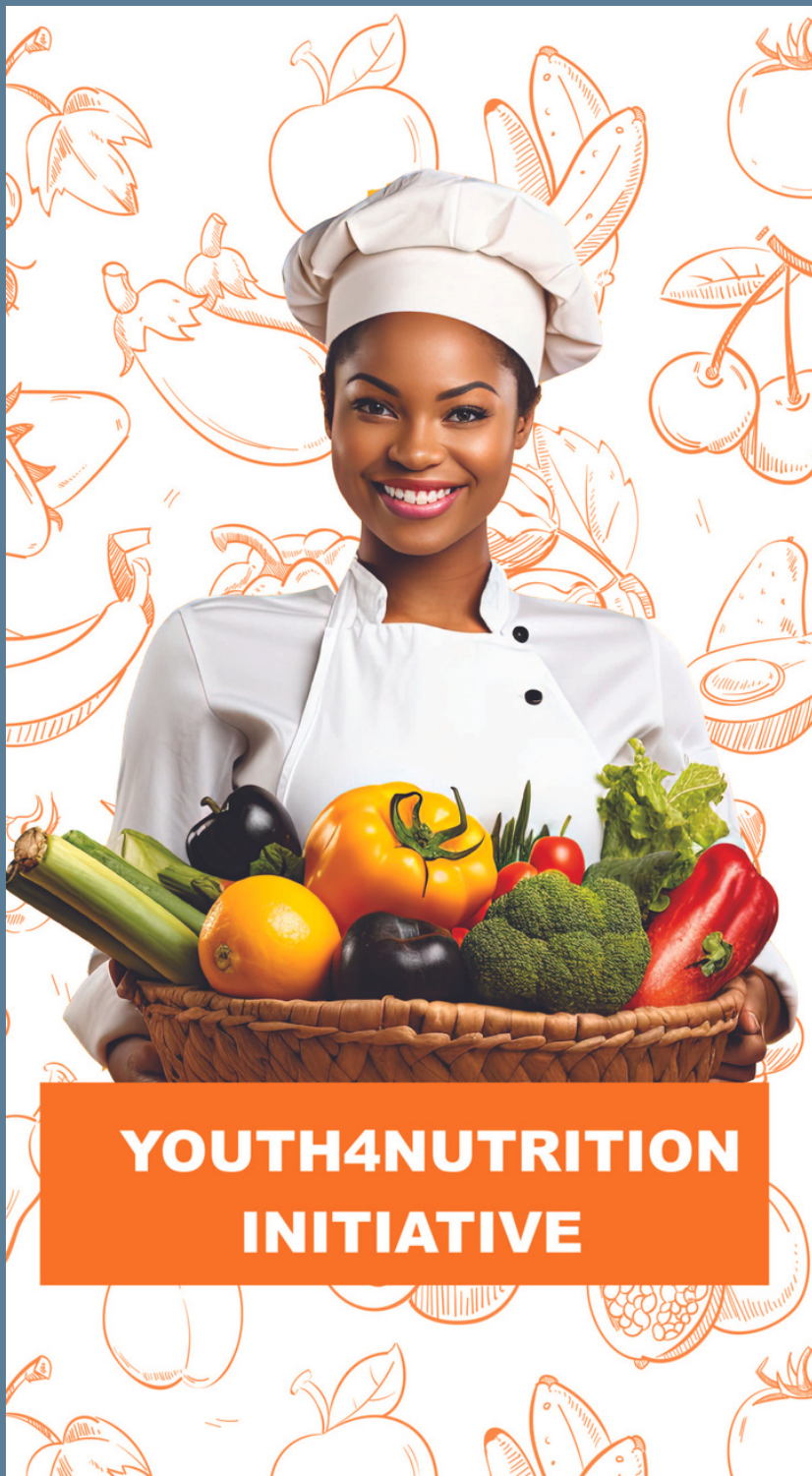
# A Call to Action for Youth4Nutrition

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**The 14th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS)  
Commemoration and 19th Comprehensive Africa Agricultural  
Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform**

**31 October 2023 - Lusaka, Zambia**





**YOUTH4NUTRITION  
INITIATIVE**

**A CALL TO  
ACTION  
FOR**

**YOUTH4NUTRITION**





## **Mrs. Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
All protocol Observed

Good afternoon,

It gives me great pleasure to address this audience on this occasion of the launch and commemoration of the 14th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security and 19th CAADP PP.

I want to thank the Government of the Republic of Zambia for hosting and convening this important High-Level Dialogue that will hopefully raise the awareness to the rest of world, of what is happening in this part of the world and hopefully come up with a meaningful solution. I look forward

to our engagement with all of you today. This Platform has provided a platform for policy dialogue and conversation essential for accelerating intra-regional food trade, food security and stimulating economic growth across the continent and to align and integrate individual nations efforts to achieve food and nutrition security outcomes.

The official commemoration of the ADFNS will explore the youth's involvement in promoting the preparation and consumption of local/indigenous food and food-based approaches to combat hunger and malnutrition in Africa. AUDA-NEPAD together within Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF) and other partners have organized the

**“Africa Youth Food Expo”** under the theme **Recipes for better nutrition.** This theme is built on the decision which was taken in the wake of unacceptably persistent level of food insecurity epitomised by chronic malnutrition on the continent.

We anticipate the food expo will explore our youth’s involvement in promoting the consumption of biofortified and fortified foods to combat chronic hunger and all forms of malnutrition in Africa. This will also raise interest of African youths in making small and medium scale investments in the nutrition and food sector.

Nutrition and food security are extremely fragile due to various vulnerabilities in the continent. These vulnerabilities include climate shocks, ongoing conflict, impact of global food prices and expensive supplements therefore furthering the

pervasive poverty in the continent. Adequate nutrition is essential for people and our planet’s wellbeing therefore, nutrition and food security are a cornerstone of human, social, political, and economic development. Every person on this earth and continent has a right to food that is safe, sufficient, and nutritious and to be free from hunger and malnutrition.

The Africa Youth Food Expo here in Lusaka will address some of the recommendations that came out from the Youth and Media session which took place in Accra, Ghana in 2022 which among other things recommended the effective role of young people in food systems, the value of indigenous foods to sustainable diets, and the promotion of nutrition through the **#Youth4Nutrition** Campaign.





Ms. Jessica Mmola, a youth activist read out the Call to Action: Youth4Nutrition at the 14th ADFNS commemoration and 19th CAADP PP Event.

**Ms. Jessica Mmola, a youth activist (SAYof SADC)**

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen

We need a paradigm shift in the way we do business: The political environment should be made conducive to reducing malnutrition through conducive policies and practices in the many sectors that intersect with nutrition – from education to agriculture to climate and the environment. Coordination, Collaboration, and harmonization of policies and actions are critical.

This **Call to Action for Youth4Nutrition** therefore seeks to engage multiple actors along the different development pathways including the following:

1. African Governments to provide full support to

continental youth institutions for food security and nutrition in execution of their mandate.

2. We invite African Union Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), youth, multilateral organizations, private sector, academia, and communities to support institutional capacity-building initiatives that support food security and nutrition at the continental, national and regional levels. Additionally, there will be the need to strengthen and expand in agrifood and nutrition financing youth programmes in Africa.

3. We invite Civil Society Organisations across Africa to engage in capacity building of communities, campaign on nutrition and

food security, support the implementation of governments' national nutrition programs, and advance the aspirations of Agenda 2063 on food security and nutrition. and accountability. We also call upon Civil Society Organizations to intensify consultations with the youth, youth forums in view of shaping national policies, monitoring and evaluation of government targets. To this effect, we encourage CSOs to make use of Nutrition Scorecard to promote transparency and accountability.

4. We call upon Young People, Women and Persons with Disability constituting the larger percentage of the population in Africa and being the key stakeholders and agents and leaders of transformation need to be nurtured and their potentials as innovators, inventors. We therefore call upon Youth Councils, Youth Organisations, Students, Women and People with Disabilities and Young Artists to get engaged and involved and mainstream Nutrition and Food Security in their strategies and programs, to make Africa a great and self-sustaining continent. This Call to Action also seeks to recognize and support the Africa Young Champions on Nutrition and Food Security.

5. African Governments, Regional Economic Communities, youth, multilateral organizations, private sector, civil society organizations, academia, and communities to support local production of products in Africa as well as show

support by creating awareness and advocating for the youth to assist in ending hunger and halving poverty by 2025.





6. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, with these few words, I thank you once again and I have no doubt encourage us all to do the right things for people and prosperity for the current and future generations of our youth and continent. It is a noble call for action! It is a call for survival! **Let us Act now, Let us Act Today!**

7. I also take this opportunity to launch the **AUDA-NEPAD Youth4Nutrition Initiative** which is aimed at:

- i. Deepening youth engagement across the African continent to act as promoters of nutrition in their communities,
- ii. Raising awareness and advocacy through campaigns and grassroots initiatives on the importance of good nutrition, and
- iii. Forging partnerships and collaboration among Governments, civil society, youth and women organisations, public and private sector in creating sustainable solutions to address hunger and malnutrition.

I thank you and good luck to our youth and the participants who will be showcasing their expertise this afternoon, outside marquee titled: **Africa Youth Food Expo: Recipes for Better Nutrition.**

**I thank you – ‘Zikomo’**





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**[www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org) | #Youth4Nutrition #ADFNS**