

# PYPA ADD-ON PROJECT



**A Journey into Regional Integration  
by Young Politicians**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abbreviations

Foreword

Who we are..... 1

Our partner..... 1

What is PYPA..... 2

About the Add-on Project ..... 3

Three Phase Training Program..... 3

Micro projects carried out by the training participants..... 4

Recommendations..... 12

List of Participants..... 13

# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AFORD</b>	Alliance for Democracy
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>COMESA</b>	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
<b>DP</b>	Democratic Party
<b>DPP</b>	Democratic Progressive Party
<b>FDD</b>	Forum for Democracy and Development
<b>FP</b>	Freedom Party
<b>MCP</b>	Malawi Congress Party
<b>MMD</b>	Movement for Multi-party Democracy
<b>NHP</b>	New Heritage Party
<b>PETRA</b>	People's Transformation Party
<b>PF</b>	Patriotic Front
<b>PNUP</b>	Party of National Unity and Progress
<b>PPM</b>	People's Progressive Movement
<b>PYPA</b>	Program for Young Politicians in Africa
<b>RECS</b>	Regional Economic Communities
<b>SADC</b>	Southern Africa Development Community
<b>SP</b>	Socialist Party
<b>STR</b>	Simplified Trade Regime
<b>UDF</b>	United Democratic Front
<b>UPND</b>	United Party for National Development
<b>UTM</b>	United Transformation Movement

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# FOREWORD

Welcome to our information brief! We are delighted to have you join us as we embark on this journey of sharing stories and insights from our young leaders on regional integration in Zambia and Malawi.

Our goal is to provide our readers with insights into our work in 2022, working on advancing a Pan-African approach to Democracy, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development.

A big thank you to the project team and our implementing partner, Green Forum (Sweden), that worked tirelessly to ensure that we delivered all planned training and learning sessions. A final special thank you to our young leaders who dedicated time and energy to learning and unpacking regional integration in their context.

We hope you will enjoy this issue and that it will spark conversation and inspire action. Thank you for being a part of this exciting experience!



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## WHO WE ARE

**Center for Young Leaders in Africa:** CYLA is a non-profit young political leader's volunteer organization established in Zambia in 2017. The Center is a platform that brings together young people from different political parties and other diverse backgrounds, to build capacity through interactive skill sharing in different aspects of life so that they can work together for a common purpose. CYLA's vision is to see a Zambia in which empowered young political leaders, advance social transformation, peaceful coexistence and the consolidation of a multiparty democracy.

## OUR PARTNER

**Green Forum Sweden:** Green Forum Sweden is a Swedish foundation that supports the expansion and development of the Green movement in Africa, South America and Eastern Europe. It is affiliated to the Swedish Green party and is based on the values of grassroots democracy, self-reliance and decentralization. Green Forum also collaborates with other party-affiliated organizations in Sweden to support the African regional training program, Program for Young Politicians in Africa (PYPA).

# PYPA

The Program for Young Politicians in Africa (PYPA) is a multiparty, transnational African capacity-strengthening programme for youth (18 to 35 years old) active in political parties representing different ideologies. PYPA aims at strengthening their capacity to contribute to a more democratic, representative, and non-discriminatory political system in 16 programme countries in East Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa. These countries include Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, Togo, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Zambia and Malawi. Together, the PYPA program has now trained more than 1300 young politicians across all regions.

The programme is jointly planned and implemented by four Swedish party affiliated organizations, the Christian Democratic International Center (KIC), the Olof Palme International Centre (OPC), the Centre Party International Foundation (CIS), and the Green Forum (GF), together with local partners. CYLA implements the PYPA training program in Zambia and Malawi.







## ADD-ON PROJECT

### Getting to know the AU, SADC, COMESA, and ECOSOC

The Add-on project was a specialized training on regional bodies that complemented the PYPA program in 2022. Its special focus was to increase knowledge among young politicians and activists on regional and sub-regional bodies and instruments.

#### Three phase training program

A total of 45 participants: 23 from Zambia and 22 from Malawi were selected to participate in the training program. The participants were PYPA Alumni, members of political parties inside and outside Parliament and Political Governance/Experts. The training was broken down into three phases:

**Phase 1:** Participants undertook an online course titled Leadership and Governance through Regional Integration that focused on introductory information of the regional bodies African Union (AU), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Southern African Development Community (SADC). Course content covered the history, goals, objectives, organs, protocols and youth initiatives of the regional bodies.

This course ran for three weeks from May 16 to June 3, 2022. The course content was developed through desk research that was carried out by the CYLA project team.

**Phase 2:** Two physical National Advanced Trainings were held in Zambia and Malawi. These were also focused on the three regional bodies as in phase one of the training program. Participants were given in depth knowledge on the regional bodies building on from what was covered in the online course.

**Phase 3:** The last phase of the training was a Joint Learning Conference that was held in Zambia in October for both Malawi and Zambia participants. The conference provided a learning platform for participants from the two countries to share their experiences and learn from experts from sub-regional organizations and other professionals.

**Participants' "micro" projects:** As part of the training, the participants designed and carried out small projects - micro projects - in order to explore regional provisions as political tools. The projects were funded by grants from Green Forum Sweden and all aimed at furthering the implementation of democracy and human rights in Zambia and Malawi. Here you will find brief descriptions of what the groups achieved with their projects.

Real life practice - projects carried out by the training participants

## I The Pioneers



### Better representation of youth in the African Union

The group entitled The Pioneers was formed to enhance the meaningful inclusion of youth in the African Union, in order to strengthen regional integration in Africa - a continent whose majority are youths. Targeting 20 local youth organizations and activists, African youth activists from around the continent and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Zambia, the group facilitated the formation of a proposal to the AU. First, a virtual meeting was held to assemble young participants from several countries to agree on a program that could transform youth representation at the AU to become more meaningful and truly participatory.

A physical meeting was also held to validate the proposal that has been named the Country Youth Representatives Program (CYRP) Campaign and pledged to support the campaign. The group currently plans to present their proposal of a program for youth representatives to the relevant ministries and media.





Real life practice - projects carried out by the training participants

## 2 Tiyende Pamodzi



### Small scale cross border traders at Chirundu border

At one of the busiest borders in Zambia, Chirundu border, many women, men and youth are struggling as traders on a daily basis, often without knowing about all the incentives that exist to support small scale traders. Oftentimes, they are also operating in the informal sector, which bereaves them of access to social protection, health coverage and other social security benefits. This is why the micro project group entitled Tiyende Pamodzi decided to hold a two-day training for a select number of youth and women at Chirundu border. A group of 30 cross border traders were acquainted with all relevant trade rules and customs procedures, special incentives to support small scale traders – such as capacity building programs offered by COMESA, as well as their rights and obligations they have as traders.

Recommendations from the traders on what might need improvement were then presented to COMESA trade information desk officers after the training. The recommendations included a need for awareness raising among traders on the benefits of the Simplified Trade Regime, easy access to information on e.g. trade procedures, documentary requirements, fees and taxes.

*“The goal of a successful trader is to make the best choices in cross border trading, money is secondary”.*

Quote by one of the small scale traders at the training

A small pilot project, it is hoped that the training will strengthen the participation of the target group in small-scale cross border trade initiatives as a way to lessen their marginalization and improve their living standards.



Real life practice - projects carried out by the training participants

## 3 The Councilor`s voice



### Training Youth Councilors in Lundazi, Lumezi and Chasefu

A lack of knowledge about regional initiatives and provisions in local and civic leadership undermines the democratic rights of youth and women in community development.

Youth members from the political parties Democratic Party and Patriotic Front and from the civil society organization United Nations Youth Association of Zambia collaborated in this group, to carry out a capacity building initiative for elected youth councilors in the eastern province of Zambia. 16 elected youth councilors from 3 rural constituencies were therefore invited to join a training on regional bodies that the group designed.

The councilors, from Lundazi, Lumezi and Chasefu found that the training gave them valuable orientation in the functions of the African Union (AU), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The Local Government Association of Zambia (LGAZ) and the Council Chairpersons for the 3 constituencies were also included in the planning of the event and supported the training.

The councilors were trained as trainers, so that they in turn can capacitate the ward development committees and community members about rights and obligations enshrined in the regional protocols that Zambia has signed. Furthermore, they now know the channels of communication in the regional governance system as a tool for youths to hold their leaders accountable, champion human rights, promote democracy and also leverage participation for the local youths. In this way, the group hopes that with time youth and women in this region will participate more actively in politics.

Real life practice - projects carried out by the training participants

## 4 Chachacha Movement



### The effects of COVID-19 on local traders' knowledge levels

How much knowledge do traders at the Lusaka COMESA market have on the COMESA objectives? This was investigated by the group called “Chachacha movement”. The Lusaka COMESA market is a physical market situated in Lusaka behind the COMESA secretariat offices.

The group, consisting of members from several political parties and civil society organizations in Zambia therefore assembled 22 traders from Zambia, Kenya, Congo Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Botswana, to share their experience with each other and to be updated on current legislation on exchange rates, border tariffs, visas, resident and work permits.

During two meetings in August and September, the group discussed their trade and were able to get updated information directly from the Zambia revenue authority, COMESA cross border trade officials, immigration officials, as well as officials from Ministry of commerce trade and industry, who were present and participated in the training.

An outcome of the training was a range of recommendations from the traders to the authorities. These included listing tariffs amounts at the border entries or even post them online so that all traders can easily access the information. Furthermore, the group urges the Zambia Revenue Authority in collaboration with the Immigration authority to take up their regular trainings for Lusaka COMESA traders on their rights and responsibilities and other relevant information. This used to be done before Covid -19. The lack of information has caused a gap, leading to misinformation and misunderstandings among traders. The Chachacha group hopes that once women and youths are fully aware of the COMESA objectives and how it can positively influence their business and make them gain economically, this will increase their rights and possibilities in life.

Real life practice - projects carried out by the training participants

## A Group I



### Football Bonanza for awareness on the African Youth Charter

Youth participation in the governance, leadership, and development agenda in Malawi is a right enshrined in the Constitution of Malawi and in the African Youth Charter. However most youth are not aware of this right.

Collaborating throughout with local youth network leadership and local chiefs in the Kaphaizi area in Kasungu West Constituency, the project group Youth for Democracy therefore arranged a day of Football and Netball games on 20th August, 2022 in the area to attract a big crowd of young women and men as a way to disseminate information on youth's right to participation in democratic processes.

The project members addressed the gathered crowd before the game and in the break, explaining key rights and responsibilities of young citizens set out in the African Youth Charter. A meeting with local leadership and politicians was also organized on 27th August, 2022 in Kasungu Central Constituency to discuss how youth could take a more active part in local governance.

The group established that the youth is both willing and interested in actively participating in leadership, politics, and development processes - if they are given the necessary information and paths for engagement.



# Micro Projects

# MALAWI

Real life practice - projects carried out by the training participants

## B Group 2



### **Strengthening Economic Opportunities or Youth through Regional Trade Agreements in Malawi**

This group focused on challenges faced by youth and women in Malawi who engage in cross border trade. Through a youth conference themed “Strengthening Economic Opportunities for Youth Through Regional Trade Agreements in Malawi”, a group of youth and women engaged in small to medium enterprises took part in a training on economic opportunities provided by regional trade agreements including those of AU, SADC, and COMESA. The training was held in Mzuzu on 7th September, 2022 and also included youth active in politics and in civil society organizations.

By also engaging the Malawi Ministry of Trade, the micro project group was able to analyze the level of implementation of regional trade regulations and current challenges, such as difficulties for the youth to acquire loans.

The group members stressed that increased youth participation in both trade and governance will help solve the economic challenges among the youth and other marginalized groups





Real life practice - projects carried out by the training participants

## C Group 3



### Using regional tools for youth and women's rights

What does the Maputo Protocol and the AU Youth Charter say about girls' and women's rights? What are the COMESA rules of Origin and how do they benefit traders in Malawi? This, among other issues, was highlighted at an event in the Southern Region District of Mangochi in Malawi on the 15-16 August 2022. The project group arranged the training to equip the participants with tools to participate meaningfully in development both at local and regional levels. Participants at the training were youth and women aged 18 - 35 years actively working in political parties; DPP, UDF, MCP, UTM, Freedom Party and AFORD at district level.

By dipping into the support that these regional treaties give for meaningful youth participation, the training provided fuel to the young politicians' struggles in becoming more engaged at all levels in their respective political parties. The training provided much needed capacity building on how politicians can use existing regional tools to fight harmful practices including female genital mutilation (FGM) in their societies, and to improve the fulfilment of human rights and equal participation.



# Micro Projects

# MALAWI

Real life practice - projects carried out by the training participants

## D Group 4



### Youth Awareness on AU's Protocol on the Abolition of the Death Penalty

The project aimed to equip young politicians with knowledge on the objectives of the African Union's protocol on the abolition of the death penalty on 18th August 2022 in Lilongwe. The purpose was to enhance awareness on the operation and activities of the AU and on the protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty and to equip young politicians to take an active role in lobbying for domestication of the aforementioned protocol in Malawi. It targeted young and active political leaders in the 15-35 years' age group from five main political parties i.e Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), Malawi Congress Party (MCP), Alliance for Democracy (AFORD), Umodzi Party and People's Party (PP).

The workshop assembled young women and men across party lines to exchange knowledge and contribute to the debate on the country's failure to domesticate the African Union's protocol on the abolition of the death penalty. It was a groundbreaking event that kicked off a crucial process for young and active political leaders to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to participate effectively and responsibly in this difficult discussion.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

The experiences made by the micro project groups have resulted in these recommendations, aimed at Regional Economic Communities and at the Zambian and Malawian governments. The groups have, through their project activities in various thematic and geographic areas, seen firsthand the consequences of the gaps that exist between regional provisions and government policies, and the reality on the ground. These are their recommendations on how to close the gaps.

- ❖ Information on activities of the African Union and international relations in general needs to be made available to the public through sensitization starting from the grassroots level.
- ❖ Popularize conventions on the rights of women and the youth such as the Maputo Protocol, to promote autonomy and freedom from discrimination including in political circles where women are either sidelined or marginalized, and the youth mostly used as instruments for perpetrating political violence.
- ❖ Encourage and enhance the establishment and full operationalization of bilateral Joint Border Committees (JBCs) across all borders.
- ❖ COMESA should take stock of the progress registered on the ground (at the project borders) in terms of actual implementation of the signed bilateral MoUs including on the Simplified Trade Regime, immigration challenges, customs issues, standards concerns and other Non Tariff Barriers.
- ❖ Traders should have easy access to relevant information about regulations, trade procedures, documentary requirements, duties, fees and taxes. Such information and any further change should be publicly available or displayed at the border and in languages that can easily be understood.
- ❖ COMESA through its trade information desk needs to do more awareness building and ensure that traders are aware of the list of goods that cannot be imported, exported or transited and on the benefits of the Simplified Trade Regime.
- ❖ The Zambia Revenue Authority, in collaboration with immigration, should conduct trainings for Lusaka COMESA traders to educate them on their rights and responsibilities, as well as other information that can benefit them and their trade, as this was done before Covid -19.

## ANNEX: LIST OF

# PARTICIPANTS

NO.	NAME	GENDER	DISTRICT OR TOWN/PROVINCE	POLITICAL PARTY /ACTIVIST	COUNTRY	MICRO PROJECT GROUP NAME
1.	Clement Ng'oma	Male	Chilanga	FDD	Zambia	The Pioneers
2.	Daniel Sichilongo	Male	Livingstone	Green Party	Zambia	The Pioneers
3.	Maninga Mwinga	Female	Lusaka	UPND	Zambia	The Pioneers
4.	Simon Chiwala	Male	Mambo	Activist	Zambia	The Pioneers
5.	Patrick Matanda	Male	Chembe	Activist	Zambia	The Pioneers
6.	Maximo Mutambo	Male	Kasama	SP	Zambia	The Pioneers
7.	Harriet Khanda	Female	Woodlands	PF	Zambia	Tiyende Pamodzi
8.	Adolf Phiri	Male	Chipata	FDD	Zambia	Tiyende Pamodzi
9.	Mudenda Nancy Siatwiko	Female	Mazabuka	UPND	Zambia	Tiyende Pamodzi
10.	Loretta Ching'andu	Female	Lusaka	Activist	Zambia	Tiyende Pamodzi
11.	Josphat Mutale	Male	Chirundu	PNUP	Zambia	Tiyende Pamodzi
12.	Doris Mweene	Male	Chipata	SP	Zambia	Tiyende Pamodzi
13.	Francis Caspian Sampa	Male	Chinsali	PF	Zambia	The Councilor's Voice
14.	Patrick Mweetwa	Male	Lusaka	Activist	Zambia	The Councilor's Voice
15.	Debra Chitaila	Female	Chisamba	DP	Zambia	The Councilor's Voice
16.	Alex Chikankatika	Male	Lusaka	DP	Zambia	The Councilor's Voice
17.	Chimwemwe Banda	Female	Chipata	Activist	Zambia	The Councilor's Voice
18.	Chrisencia Mapulanga	Female	Kitwe	MMD	Zambia	Chachacha Movement

19.	Prudence Sakala	Female	Ndola	New Hope MMD	Zambia	Chachacha Movement
20.	Anna Mulenga	Female	Kabwe	NHP	Zambia	Chachacha Movement
21.	Dalistani Ngulube	Male	Lusaka	Activist	Zambia	Chachacha Movement
22.	Taza Banda	Female	Kitwe	PNUP	Zambia	Chachacha Movement
23.	Chuma Sikazindu	Female	Kitwe	PNUP	Zambia	Chachacha Movement
24.	Beatrice Chitimbe	Female	Salima	MCP	Malawi	Group 1
25.	Dalitsio Magelegele	Male	Lilongwe	Activist	Malawi	Group 1
26.	Nelson Msimuko	Male	Mzimba	FP	Malawi	Group 1
27.	Alinafe Chipembere	Female	Blantyre	AFORD	Malawi	Group 1
28.	Ismail Milazi	Male	Zomba	DPP	Malawi	Group 2
30.	Maggie Dossi	Female	Blantyre	AFORD	Malawi	Group 2
31.	Stella Maraga	Female	Blantyre	Umodzi Party	Malawi	Group 2
32.	Chimwemwe Zindondo	Female	Lilongwe	Activist	Malawi	Group 2
33.	George Mvula	Male	Blantyre	PETRA	Malawi	Group 2
34.	Atupele Kachione	Male	Mzuzu	UDF	Malawi	Group 3
35.	Mercy Mbirintengelenji	Female	Blantyre	AFORD	Malawi	Group 3
36.	Clara Bandawe	Female	Lilongwe	FP	Malawi	Group 3
37.	Vitumbiko Lungu	Female	Chiradzulu	PETRA	Malawi	Group 3
38.	Charles Nkozomba	Male	Blantyre	UDF	Malawi	Group 3
39.	Harrison Aaron Kaunda	Male	Mzuzu	DPP	Malawi	Group 4
40.	Austin Nyirongo	Male	Salima	AFORD	Malawi	Group 4
41.	Samson Banda	Male	Lilongwe	Umodzi Party	Malawi	Group 4
42.	Jailos Waheka	Male	Mulanje	PPM	Malawi	Group 4



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