



African Young Leaders Foundation – AYLF



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IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Registration Stage: Qualifying Round

The registration stage serves as the qualifying round for the Change-Makers Debate Competition. All applicants must carefully review and adhere to the strict rules and guidelines set forth by the African Young Leaders Foundation. Failure to comply with any of the rules, including but not limited to:

1. Incomplete or inaccurate registration forms
2. Late submissions
3. Failure to meet eligibility criteria may result in immediate elimination from the competition. Only successful applicants who meet all the requirements will be invited to proceed to the next stage of the competition.

Qualifying Teams: Honoring African Legacy

The teams that successfully qualify for the next stage of the Change Makers Debate Competition will be named after prominent African leaders, in solidarity with their contributions to the continent's development. This gesture pays tribute to the vision, courage, and wisdom of iconic figures such as Nelson Mandela, Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, and Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, among others. By revisiting their ideas and ideals, we aim to reignite the spark of Pan-Africanism and inspire a new generation of leaders to carry the torch of progress and development for Africa.



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AYLF Changemakers Debate

Competition, 2024/25

Debate Background

The African Young Leaders Foundation is proud to present the Change-Makers Debate Competition, a platform designed to support and empower young leaders who are driving social impact activities or research focused on the youth in Africa. The debate is an annual competition that brings together young leaders from across Africa to discuss pressing issues affecting the continent. Inspired by the principles of Pan-Africanism as one of our core pillars, the debate emphasizes unity, solidarity, and collective progress among people of African descent, this debate aims to foster a spirit of collaboration and critical thinking among young African leaders. Visit <https://aylffoundation.net/> to know more about us.

We seek to promote a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our continent, and to empower young leaders to become active participants in shaping Africa's future. Through this debate, we hope to inspire a new generation of Pan-Africanists who will work together to build a more united, prosperous, and peaceful Africa.

By engaging in constructive dialogue and debate, participants will develop their critical thinking, research, and public speaking skills, as well as their ability to work together to find solutions to complex problems. The debate will focus on topics that are critical to Africa's development, such as economic integration, political unity, social justice, and cultural exchange and many more.



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Eligibility

- a) Must be between the ages of 18 – 35.
- b) Must be African.
- c) Must be a professional, student, youth led organization, entrepreneur, or social activist.
- d) Teams shall consist of 2 members and one contingent member (Individual or Organizational Teams)
- e) Letter of authorization from organizational Heads (Organizational Teams)
- f) Letter of interest (Individual Teams).
- g) Proof of a valid government issued ID card for age verification.
- h) Must have a stable internet connection throughout each debate session.

Registration

- a) Participants must register online via <https://forms.gle/2UegWxexxVon49iMA> through the AYLF website.
- b) Registration period: **29th July 2024 - 29th August 2024**
- c) Registration fee:
AYLF Members Team = \$0.00
AYLF Non-Members Team = \$50.00 (payable via credit card, PayPal, or bank transfer)
- d) Teams must submit a completed registration form, including a valid photo IDs and contact information.
- e) Teams will receive a confirmation email upon successful registration.

Debate Format

- a) The competition will consist of qualifying round, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals.
- b) Each debate will be approximately 50 minutes long, with 20 minutes for each Team and 10 minutes for the judges.
- c) The debate will be conducted in a virtual format, using a platform designated by AYLF.

Debate Rules

- a) Debate will be conducted in English language.
- b) Speakers will be assigned a topic and a position (for or against).
- c) Speakers must address the topic and position assigned.
- d) Speakers may use notes and evidence to support their arguments.
- e) Rebuttals are allowed but must be respectful and professional.
- f) Time limits for each debate round will be strictly enforced.



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Judging Criteria

- a) **Content** (relevance, depth, and coherence of arguments), 40%.
- b) **Delivery** (clarity, confidence, and public speaking skills), 30%.
- c) **Rebuttal** (effectiveness in responding to opponents' arguments), 20%.
- d) **Overall Impression** (overall impact, persuasiveness, and leadership potential), 10%.

Conduct

- a) Participants must conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner.
- b) No personal attacks, insults, or disrespectful language will be tolerated.
- c) Participants must adhere to the time limits and format of the debate.
- d) No plagiarism or intellectual property theft.

Prize Packages

- a) Winning Team: **\$300.00** grant to support their changemaking project, AYLF Souvenirs, and certificate of participation.
- b) 1st Runner-up: **\$200.00** grant to support their changemaking project, AYLF Souvenirs, and certificate of participation.
- c) All other Participants: **Certificate of participation.**

Dispute Resolution

- 1. Any disputes or concerns will be addressed by the AYLF team.
- 2. Decisions by the judges are final.

Debate Competition Benefits

- 1. Develop critical thinking and public speaking skills.
- 2. Enhance knowledge on youth development and leadership.
- 3. Networking opportunities.
- 4. Build confidence and leadership skills.
- 5. Exposure to international audience.
- 6. Opportunities for future collaborations.