



Engage, Innovate, & Shape

The Africa We Want



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Thank you for your interest in the Yale Model African Union. YMAU is a leading student-led pan-African simulation conference, convened annually in Africa and open to delegates from across the continent and beyond.

We are home to delegates from across Africa and beyond, preparing to engage, negotiate, and lead on the issues shaping the continent's future – from trade and governance to health, technology, and regional integration.

At the Yale Model African Union, we sustain a rigorous and welcoming simulation environment that enables students to grow as diplomats, policymakers, and advocates in community with one another. Since our founding, we have prioritized the caliber of our delegates' experience, maintaining our commitment to substantive debate and world-class facilitation, whether in Accra, New Haven, or Addis Ababa. Our delegates develop deep knowledge of African Union institutions and a practical command of diplomacy, enabling them to be uniquely prepared to meet the complex challenges facing the continent.

Over the last six years, we have made a remarkable transition from a campus initiative to a premier pan-African simulation, now drawing delegates and ambassadors from across the continent and its diaspora. Since our founding, YMAU has been deeply committed to our pan-African identity and to welcoming students and young leaders who believe in the promise of a borderless, integrated Africa. Today, this commitment has never been stronger – with an alumni community of over 1,000 students spanning 40 countries and 50 institutions, a growing Ambassador Programme across regional hubs, and an expanding network of institutional and corporate partners carrying the spirit of the AU into careers across business, policy, and civil society.

As a pan-African institution, we are committed not only to sustaining a diverse and engaged delegate community but also to confronting Africa's most pressing challenges and pursuing debate, research, and advocacy from a truly continental perspective. Whether you are joining us as a delegate, an ambassador, or a partner, you will be members of a pan-African community and will have opportunities to be deeply engaged in issues shaping the continent's future.

We invite you to learn more about our conference programming, our pan-African character, and the experience of convening in Addis Ababa this March.

Sincerely,



Abyssinia S. Haile
Secretary-General of the Yale Model African Union VI





Yale Model African Union

Across the Continent

1

YMAU I & II: Kigali, Rwanda

The inaugural two editions of YMAU took place in Kigali in 2022 and 2023 – the first Ivy League-hosted Model African Union Simulation on the African continent – drawing 276 students combined.

2

YMAU III: Johannesburg, South Africa

YMAU III marked the conference's first expansion beyond Kigali, extending its presence into southern Africa, with 151 students in attendance.

3

YMAU IV: Nairobi, Kenya

YMAU IV marked the conference's first engagement with an African Union-affiliated body, partnering with the youth division of the Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate, and drew 325 students.

4

YMAU V: Accra, Ghana

The most recent conference set new records for YMAU, drawing over 350 students from 30+ countries and securing the conference's first major corporate partnership, with Ecobank Ghana as a diamond sponsor.

5

YMAU VI: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

YMAU's 2027 conference returns to the diplomatic heart of the continent, Addis Ababa, home to the AU headquarters and a dense concentration of diplomatic missions and international organizations.

FAST FACTS



1200+ DELEGATES
ATTENDED



50+ INSTITUTIONS
REPRESENTED



40+ NATIONALITIES
PRESENT

A woman with glasses and a patterned top is speaking and gesturing with her hands. She is wearing a red lanyard. The background is a blurred conference setting with a red wall and white columns.

Continental Diplomacy

Conference Programs

YMAU VI is home to a vibrant community of accomplished delegates, distinguished speakers, and committed conference staff. Together, we bring African diplomacy to life through committee sessions modeled after the African Union, speaker series with CEOs and heads of state, and hands-on leadership workshops. Programming at YMAU is shaped by our commitment to developing the whole delegate: as a negotiator, a leader, and a changemaker.



Committee Sessions

YMAU's committees are the cornerstone of the conference experience, giving delegates a structured space to debate, negotiate, and draft resolutions on Africa's most pressing issues. Committees function around three principles: (1) They are about truth – delegates conduct thorough research into their assigned country's positions before arriving, grounding debate in substance; (2) They mirror the actual organs and procedures of the African Union, from the General Assembly to the Pan-African Parliament, following real parliamentary process and rules of procedure; (3) They are guided by trained chairs in the spirit of the AU itself, ensuring every delegate is heard and outcomes reflect the Pan-African spirit of cooperation the Union was founded to embody.



Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOC)

Delegates in ECOSOC will focus on strengthening civil society participation in governance by enhancing collaboration between the African Union and non-state actors in AU countries to ensure inclusive policy-making, with particular attention to empowering marginalised voices and increasing transparency and accountability in development processes.

Peace and Security Council (PSC)

Delegates in the PSC will focus on stabilising political institutions to prevent uprisings by strengthening governance, promoting credible and inclusive elections, encouraging political participation, and supporting peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms.



African Commission on Human and People's Rights

Delegates in the ACHPR will focus on the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights across the continent, engaging with mechanisms such as state reporting, urgent appeals, friendly settlement of disputes, and missions by special rapporteurs and working groups. Delegates will also interpret and expound upon the provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

STC on Health, Population and Drug Control

Delegates in the STC on Health, Population and Drug Control will focus on capacity building for healthcare systems, with an emphasis on affordability and quality of care, discussing healthcare infrastructure, equitable access, and the financing of public health.



STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment

Delegates in the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment will focus on enhancing agricultural systems and improving market access for farmers through sustainable practices, infrastructure development, and rural support mechanisms.



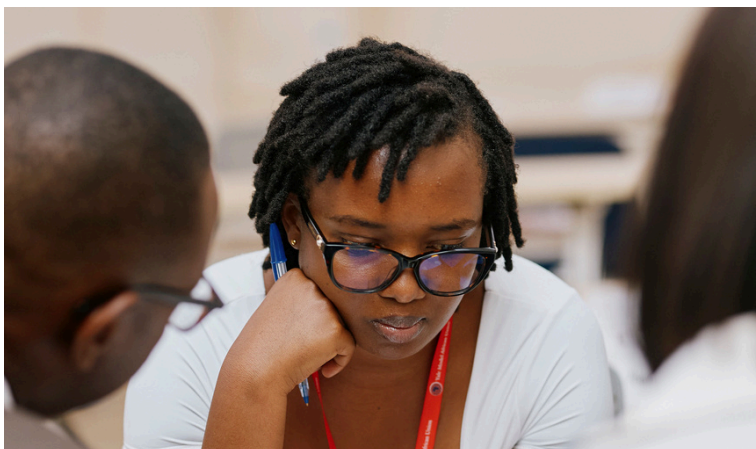


STC on Communication and Information Communications Technology

Delegates in the STC on Communication and ICT will focus on expanding digital infrastructure and access across the continent, strengthening the capacity and independence of African media, and harmonising ICT policy and regulation, with attention to freedom of expression and information access as pillars of Africa's knowledge economy.

STC on Gender and Women's Empowerment

Delegates in the STC on Gender and Women's Empowerment will focus on advancing gender equality across the continent by strengthening legal protections, increasing women's participation in leadership and peacebuilding, and promoting economic and educational empowerment, with an emphasis on implementation of the Maputo Protocol, addressing gender-based violence, and integrating gender-responsive policies into all levels of governance and development.



STC on Education, Science and Technology

Delegates in the STC on Education, Science and Technology will focus on advancing continental education strategy and technical and vocational training, alongside implementation of Africa's science, technology, and innovation agenda, discussing curriculum development, research capacity, and resource mobilisation to strengthen African-led education and innovation systems.





STC on Transport, Infrastructure, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism

Delegates in this committee will focus on expanding continental energy corridors for sustainable and reliable power in order to achieve energy independence, while boosting sustainable tourism by improving infrastructure and promoting Africa's cultural heritage for economic growth.

STC on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Delegates in the STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs will focus on strengthening Africa's humanitarian response to displacement, improving protection and assistance for refugees, IDPs, and other vulnerable populations, and advancing continental frameworks for disaster management and epidemic response, alongside the free movement of people across the continent.



CRISIS SIMULATIONS

YMAU V saw its first-ever **crisis simulation**, which is a smaller, fast-paced simulation where delegates represent individuals – not full countries – responding in real time to an evolving scenario. We simulated the pursuit of a rare mineral found in Northern Ghana, masked in a guise of terror and chaos across our venue.



Speaker Programming

Engage with keynote addresses from heads of state shaping continental policy. Debate alongside CEOs steering Africa's largest industries. Hear panel discussions on trade, technology, and governance from voices actively building the continent's future. In no other conference do African leaders and youth collide like at YMAU.

More than just a simulation, YMAU is a platform for real dialogue — bringing together policymakers, business leaders, and changemakers who engage delegates around the pressing issues facing Africa today. YMAU's speaker programming combines the expansive reach of continental leadership with the intimacy of a community of delegates who care deeply about the future of their continent.

PAST YMAU SPEAKERS

YMAU is proud to have welcomed over 40 speakers to our conference in its last six iterations.



KUMI NAIDOO

Former Secretary-General of Amnesty International



ADELLE ONYANGO

Kenyan media personality and social activist



HON. GEORGE OPARE-ADDO

Minister of Youth Development and Empowerment of Ghana



TARA SQUIRE

Executive Director of Consumer Banking at Ecobank Ghana



AMB. PETER OGEGO

Kenya's Ambassador to the United States

Networking Exhibition

YMAU's career fair connects students directly with over 20 sponsoring organizations – corporate partners, nonprofits, businesses, and academic institutions and programmes – offering a rare chance to network, explore opportunities, and build relationships with leaders shaping Africa's future.

PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS

Ecobank Ghana

TGI Group

Deloitte Ghana

Kenya Airways

Yale Univeristy African Studies Programme

Africa Night Soirée

The annual Africa Night Soirée offers students a chance to unwind after a day of committee sessions, dressed in cultural attire that celebrates the continent's diversity, and connect with peers in a relaxed, festive setting. Vendors are also on hand, selling a range of goods for students to browse and buy.



Mandate-to-Market Pitch Contest

The Mandate to Market Pitch Contest challenges students and young professionals across Africa and the diaspora to turn policy ideas into market-ready solutions. Developed with Yale's Tsai CITY, it pushes delegates beyond debate – toward action, ownership, and solutions that shape the Africa We Want.

PAST FINALISTS

Light4Refugee

The Mutoko Origin Node

Skillbridge

Heritage Haven

The Green-Charcoal Collective

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

In its first edition, Mandate to Market Pitch Contest winners received:

- Roundtrip flight voucher from Kenya Airways to pilot their venture in any African country of their choosing
- Year-long mentorship with a Yale School of Management student or YMAU investor partner

Stay updated on our social channels (@yalemodelau) for news on this year's contest, including applications and eligibility.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Our Host City



Located in Africa's diplomatic capital, YMAU VI offers delegates access to leaders across government and continental institutions. As home to the African Union, Addis Ababa brings pan-African diplomacy directly to conference participants. Delegates convene at the AU Commission's headquarters, gaining rare access to the halls where continental policy is shaped, and can connect with the diplomats and institutions defining Africa's future.

Fast Facts on Addis

Before you arrive, get to know the city you'll be calling home for the conference — Addis Ababa isn't just a host city, it's the political capital of Africa and a place unlike any other on the continent.

GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

Elevation: ~2,355m, making Addis one of the highest capitals in the world!

Weather: Mild and temperate – pack light layers for daytime activities, but be prepared for chilly evenings.

HISTORY

Never Colonized: Ethiopia is the only African nation to have never been colonized by a European power.

Lucy the Skeleton: Home to one of the oldest hominid fossils ever discovered, housed at the National Museum of Ethiopia

CULTURE

Birthplace to Coffee: Ethiopia is widely regarded as the origin of coffee cultivation, and there's a huge coffee-drinking culture here, too!

Cuisine: *Injera* (spongy, sourdough flatbread indigenous to Ethiopia & Eritrea) and *wot* (stew that is eaten with injera).

PRACTICAL INFO

Currency: Birr (ETB)

Languages: Amharic, Afaan Oromo, Tigrinya, & English

Time Zone: East Africa Time (UTC +3)

VENUE

To be announced on our website by mid-November!

Growing Our Community

Delegate Registration



YMAU VI welcomes delegates from every corner of the continent and its diaspora, regardless of financial background. Registration is structured across flexible tiers – from fee waivers to accommodation and travel support – ensuring cost is never a barrier to participation. Financial aid is awarded through a transparent review process, reflecting our commitment to building a delegate body as diverse and representative as Africa itself.



THE YMAU DELEGATE

The ideal YMAU delegate is curious, driven, and eager to engage with the issues shaping Africa's future — across policy, business, diplomacy, and beyond. You don't have to be African or have prior Model AU experience to belong here; what matters most is a genuine interest in African affairs, a willingness to learn, and the leadership to bring a fresh perspective to the table. Delegates come from a wide range of academic backgrounds, countries, and levels of experience, united by a shared commitment to debate, negotiate, and grow as changemakers on the continent's biggest stage. Whether you're a first-time delegate or a returning veteran of Model AU conferences, YMAU is built to challenge and elevate every participant who walks through its doors.

ELIGIBILITY:

16-25 YEARS OLD

**HIGH SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY, OR
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

**PASSION FOR AFRICAN
AFFAIRS, LEADERSHIP, AND
DIPLOMACY**

Frequently Asked Questions with the Recruitment Team

REGISTRATION

What are the different ways I can register for YMAU VI?

You can register as an Individual Delegate (traveling independently), as part of a School/University/Organization Delegation (2–25 members from the same institution), or as an Advisor/Chaperone accompanying delegates.

Do I need an advisor or chaperone?

If you're an individual delegate under 18, you must have an individual advisor. If you're attending as part of a delegation, your delegation leader may serve as your chaperone as long as they're over 21.

Is there a registration fee for advisors?

No, advisors are not charged a registration fee — but they are responsible for covering their own accommodation and travel, even if their delegates are on financial aid.

Is there a minimum or maximum delegation size?

Yes, delegations must include a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 25 members from the same institution.

FINANCIAL AID

Who is eligible for financial aid?

Financial aid is only open to applicants based in Africa.

When should I apply for financial aid?

Applications are reviewed in two batches: Priority Review (due November 16, 2026) and Regular Review (due December 31, 2026).

Can I get help with flights or visa costs?

Flight and visa financial aid are only available to applicants who submit during the Priority Review period, by November 16, 2026.

How are financial aid decisions made?

Aid is awarded through a competitive batch review process based on demonstrated financial need and fund availability. Submitting an application does not guarantee an award.

Can I appeal my decision?

No, all financial aid decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

FINANCIAL AID

80%

of YMAU delegates receive a financial aid package

Participation fee waivers allow students to attend the conference free of charge.

Accommodation bundles offer a fee waiver and accommodation, including room, breakfast, airport transfer, ground transportation to/from conference venue.

Full financial aid packages provide flight and visa stipend in addition to the accommodation bundle benefits.

Learn More

Registration Timeline

YMAU VI welcomes applications from delegates around the world who wish to join our conference. In order to fulfill our commitment to accessible, transparent registration, YMAU utilizes its own registration platform, made available this October ahead of the conference.

YMAU offers delegates the opportunity to register across three windows: Early Bird, Regular, and Late Registration.

Early Bird – Opens October 5, 2026, 9:00 AM EAT

- Deadline: November 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM EAT
- Fee: \$60

Regular Registration – Opens November 16, 2026

- Deadline: January 10, 2027 at 11:59 PM EAT
- Fee: \$80

Late Registration – Opens January 11, 2027

- Deadline: February 1, 2027 at 11:59 PM EAT
- Fee: \$100

Delegates are encouraged to register early, both to secure the lowest rate and to ensure timely consideration for financial aid.

Our full registration platform and all deadlines can be found on the YMAU VI website: www.yalemodelau.org

Financial Aid Timeline

This year, YMAU VI will review financial aid applications in two batches to ensure timely, thoughtful consideration for every applicant. Applications will open during Early Bird registration on October 5, 2026.

- **Priority Review Deadline:** November 16, 2026
- **Regular Review Deadline:** December 31, 2026

Delegates seeking assistance with flight or visa expenses *must* apply during the Priority Review period, as this support is only available to that batch.

Note: Financial aid is awarded through a competitive review process based on demonstrated need and the availability of funds – submitting an application does not guarantee an award.

Contact Us

Have a question about registration, financial aid, or programming? Reach out to the relevant department below, and our team will be happy to assist.

Registration and Financial Aid

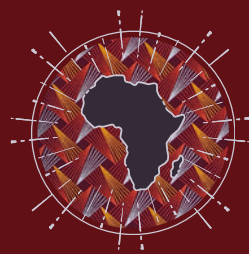
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Version: August 2026