



MGCY Global Focal Points (GFPs) - Global Youth Caucus on Decent Work and Sustainable Economies

Global Focal Point Organisation	Women Economic Empowerment Africa Youth Organisation	Yange Africa	Canadian Federation of Engineering Students
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Experience with SDG 8 / Employment Issues	<p>In my capacity as the Executive Director of Women Economic Empowerment Africa (WEEAfrica), I've actively contributed to SDG 8 on Employment through various channels. Our organization champions human and economic rights, with a specific focus on empowering women economically. Through strategic policy advocacy, I've worked towards creating an environment that fosters employment opportunities, particularly for vulnerable groups.</p> <p>On the ground, I've spearheaded campaigns and community-based actions to address employment challenges. Whether through supporting local agribusinesses to enhance food security or collaborating with reusable pad manufacturers to create sustainable employment in the production sector, my efforts are geared towards advancing SDG 8.</p> <p>Furthermore, my role as a youth delegate at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the World Bank 2023 Youth Summit has allowed me to actively engage in discussions and initiatives that address employment issues on a global scale. By bridging continents and fostering collaborations, I aim to contribute to the creation of meaningful employment opportunities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.</p>	<p>I co-founded Yange Africa (legally registered as Yange Cultural & Creative Hub Africa), a non profit organization dedicated to empowering grassroots communities through cultural tourism and impacting livelihoods in Uganda through the celebration of Ugandan/African culture. Yange Africa originally started way back in 2019 when I had a dream of changing people's lives in Uganda through showing them the beauty of Ugandan culture through visual content. But I saw that wasn't enough, so I talked to two of my closest friends to join me in establishing something bigger that could create a bigger positive impact specially to the underprivileged, and then we started. Right now my team holds 13 youth/employees who most of are still on a volunteer basis. Working with people from different tribes/cultures of Uganda had taught me a lot as far as leadership and governance is concerned. I also learnt that diversity in work is one of the key successes of long term employee retention and United teamwork.</p>	<p>My engagement with SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth, has been diverse and multi-faceted, highlighting a blend of advocacy, policy-influence, and on-the-ground research. As the thematic focal point for SDG 8 in 2018-2019, I leveraged this platform to champion the integration of youth perspectives into global discussions on employment, notably contributing as a speaker and session moderator at the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum 2019. Collaborating with the then GFP, Peter Loewi, I contributed to the Youth Caucus on Decent Jobs and Sustainable Economies, fostering dialogue on the imperative of job creation in tandem with economic sustainability.</p> <p>In my current role as an environmental analyst at the Canada Energy Regulator, I work at the nexus of energy policy and environmental sustainability. Here, I am deeply involved with Canada's Net Zero Plan, orchestrating strategies for the transition to green energy, which includes devising GHG emissions mitigation plans and shaping regulatory frameworks. This role is a continuation of my previous work with Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada, where I focused on the ecological impacts of urbanization and economic expansion, particularly on at-risk species. My field research during my bachelor's in Geography at McGill University, conducted over two years in Barbados, examined the socio-ecological effects of long-term tourism on public land use, specifically analyzing systemic impacts on human-ecological system: from coral reefs, community gatherings, fishermen's livelihoods to real estate prices. This research, along with other field work on related topics I conducted in marginalized communities across Canada's Arctic, Switzerland, and Taiwan, has provided profound insights into the complexities of balancing socioeconomic development and environmental conservation. Looking ahead, I am poised to commence a Master of Urban Planning and Regional Development in Winter 2024. My focus will be on the sustainable economic development of smaller cities, suburban, and rural areas, as well as in vulnerable communities. These academic and professional pursuits will further equip me to contribute meaningfully to the objectives of SDG 8, ensuring economic growth that is both inclusive and environmentally sustainable.</p>



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<p>Bio</p>	<p>I'm Mahlet Zeleke Redi, serving as the Executive Director of Women Economic Empowerment Africa. Armed with a degree in Economics and International Trade, I delve into global development through business consultancy and leadership certificates. My role extends beyond borders as a UN HLPF youth delegate, World Bank 2023 Youth Summit Delegate, and AUDYI representative on the Policy Forum of Development in Brussels, Belgium.</p> <p>I passionately advocate for policies that uplift vulnerable groups, with a keen focus on women. Bridging continents, I cultivate collaborations for a shared future aligned with SDGs and the advancement of Agenda 2063. Committed to breaking barriers for women's equal economic participation, I lead the icare_power_period campaign under @WEEAfrica and co-founded Birqe Dignity Bucket with Marakie Tesfaye. This initiative addresses period poverty, impacting 50,000 female students and 80,000 women while contributing to sustainability.</p> <p>In my consultancy roles, I work with local agribusinesses to enhance food security and collaborate with reusable pad manufacturers to ensure quality, affordability, and sustainability for women. As the Executive Director at WEEAfrica, I accelerate the realization of SDGs and Agenda 2063, breathing life into a vision of a more equitable, empowered future. Each step I take contributes to a continent where every woman has the opportunity to thrive.</p>	<p>In my organization, we launched two projects, one in September called Yange Communities Initiative (YCI) - a project through which we are to empower grassroots communities in Uganda through Cultural Tourism, and the second project launched in October called Go Cultural! Under this project, we plan to advocate for and address the challenges that the youth and children have through Ugandan/African culture; putting an emphasis on mental well-being, emotional support, trauma, bipolar, lack of self and belonging, etc. we have program currently running called Go Cultural! Kids where we are to empower children through Ugandan/African Culture. Then for the youth, we are taking Go Cultural! to radio and later on TV, to create a platform through which they can express their cultural self, get to know about their culture history and values, get inspiration from the different guests we are to interview and also celebrate through different Go Cultural! events, and get skilled through Go Cultural! Workshops.</p>	<p>My journey with the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) has been a cornerstone of my advocacy efforts, where I have served as a thematic focal point for SDG 8 from 2018-2019. If elected to the position of GFP for the next two years, I aim to spearhead initiatives across Policy & Advocacy, Capacity Building, Youth Action, and Knowledge, while fostering a strategic vision aligned with MGCY's ethos.</p> <p>I currently serve as an environmental analyst at the Canada Energy Regulator, where my work underpins Canada's Net Zero Plan through strategic GHG emissions mitigation. As a public servant, my active participation in youth and data feminism groups within my organizations reflects my commitment to inclusivity and empowerment. My experience spans previous roles at Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada, where my work delved into the interplay between urbanization and species at risk, while my fieldwork during my bachelor's extended from Barbados to the Canadian Arctic, Switzerland, and Taiwan, focusing on sustainable tourism, the geography of care, and socio-ecological resilience in marginalized communities. I received my undergraduate training in geography, geomatics engineering and urban sociology at McGill University, Université Laval, and EPFL and am currently completing my master's of urban planning and regional development with a focus on post-carbon socioeconomic resilience in suburban/rural and post-disaster communities.</p> <p>Outside my professional sphere, I sit on the Board of Directors for Interligne, the largest mental health</p>
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