

COMMUNIQUE

DIALOGUE4CHANGE

Policy Roundtable on:

Youth Candidacy for Political Party
Parliamentary Primary Election 2026

Held on 15th April, 2026



PREAMBLE:

The participants at the **Dialogue4Change Policy Roundtable**, comprising Political Party stakeholders and Representatives, Youth Leaders, Civil Society Organizations, and Media.

The roundtable was convened to deliberate on the urgent need to advance youth inclusion in Nigeria's political and legislative processes as political parties geared up for party primaries.

Recognizing that over 60% of Nigeria's population are youth under the age of 35, yet remain significantly under represented in elective positions; Acknowledging the ongoing legislative process of the Youth Quota in Parliament Bill, sponsored by Hon. Olamijunwonlo Alao Akala, Chairman Committee on Youth in Parliament, the bill seeks to secure 30% quota for youth (including young women and Persons with Disabilities – PWDs) in both National and State Assemblies; Affirming guaranteed quota to inclusive governance, democratic consolidation, and equitable representation in the Nigeria parliament.

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KEY RESOLUTIONS

Acknowledging the critical under representation of youth (under 35) in elective offices, despite their demographic majority, the need for intentional inclusion in elective offices and party structures is in need of urgent attention. The Following Action plan and resolutions is hereby adopted;

- **Political party's chairmen** are demanded to ensure they sponsor, encourage and produce young candidates 25-35 years for both national and states assembly during the party primary exercise slated from April 23rd-30th May 2026, with intentional inclusion of young women and people with disabilities- to break the marginalization of under representation in parliament.
- **Youth Leaders of Political Parties** are hereby appointed as a liaison officer, to report the outcome of the parliamentary party primaries across the 36 states with focus to ensure that the demand for younger candidate for both national and state assembly is achieved. To strategically engage with their respective party chairmen and stakeholders for consideration and sponsorship of young people at the primary election.
- **IPAC** was urged to use their platform to secure commitments from political party's chairmen towards achieving the target objectives of youth representation in 11th Assembly
- **Civil society organizations** are called upon to support the movement and come onboard as partners in progress towards advancing youth representation in decision making.
- **Youth** are task to mobilize and ensure active participation in the political parties' primary election, leveraging on the youth quota in parliament advocacy, they are encouraged to demand for their equitable and fair representation right.



STAKEHOLDERS COMMITMENTS:

1. Political party's stakeholders present commit to support youth candidacy and work toward a minimum of 20% youth representation in 11th Assembly.
2. Stakeholders call on the leadership of the National assembly and the executive for unwavering support the acceleration, passage and implementation of the Youth Quota in Parliament Bill (30%), inclusive of young women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).
3. Political parties are task to adopt inclusive frameworks that eliminate structural and financial barriers to youth participation, and further implement additional 50% reduction in nomination form fees for youth under 35 (that brings the nomination form reduction for youth to 75%) to encourage greater youth candidacy in the upcoming elections.
4. Stakeholders commit to strengthening capacity development, mentorship, and accountability systems for young aspirants.
5. A collective commitment to peaceful, credible, and violence-free elections in 2027 was reaffirmed.
6. Representatives of People with Disabilities reaffirmed their support to the youth quota in parliament and reiterated that they will never succumb to the marginalization and intimidation that exists in the Nigeria political ecosystem.
7. Stakeholders commit to ensuring equitable representation of young persons in political processes and elective positions and to work towards achieving the set target for 2027 election year.
8. CSOs and development partners are also urged to provide technical, financial, and strategic support for youth candidates, especially those from marginalized groups.



VOICES FROM PARTICIPANTS:

Financial Barriers: The high cost of politics limits youth participation and creates dependency on political sponsors, undermining accountability.

Systemic Exclusion: Structural and institutional barriers within political parties continue to restrict youth access to candidacy opportunities.

Intergenerational Power Dynamics: Continued dominance of older political actors limits space for emerging young leaders.

Youth Readiness & Accountability: Participants stressed the need for youths to build credibility, demonstrate competence, and remain accountable to their communities.

Security & Civic Risks: Concerns were raised over intimidation and attacks on young political actors and advocates.

Participants further emphasized that youth must move beyond rhetoric to active participation, coalition-building, and strategic engagement across party lines, reinforcing the event's central theme: **“From Eligibility to Representation.”**

Participants reaffirmed their collective resolve to advance a more inclusive and representative democracy, where young people—across gender and ability—are empowered not just to participate, but to lead.



MORE CONTRIBUTIONS:

-**George martins** – due to lack of time, to make this roundtable discussion taken up to there should be an increase and legal adoption through the legislative arm to move this faster. Integrity and patriotism should be the watchword to guide the youths looking to be involved in politics.

-An **order of Mandamus** was asked to be obtained from the Supreme Court to compel the government and its institutional partners -political parties to ensure they meet the demand of the larger population of youth in decision making. However, the matter was referring to the legal department to look into the option and advise.



ADOPTION:

Amb. Dr. Duke Alamboye, President, Green Assemblies Initiative, moved the motion for the adoption of the communique.

Dr. Ogenna Ekwubiri, Founder, Motivating African Youth, seconded the motion.

Hon. Blessing Oyefeso, Convener, Youth Quota in Parliament, Adopts the communique

PHOTO GALLERY



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