



Partner Update

One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026 | 3 - 6 November 2026

Our mission is to
create a world where
leaders with integrity
are empowered to
**build a fair,
sustainable future
for all.**

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2026 Key Dates and Timeline

Subject to change

March 2026	May 2026	July 2026	September 2026	October 2026
<p>16 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop host applications open <p>30 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Partner Update 	<p>18 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Summit Delegate inductions begin <p>28 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Leadership Programme session one 	<p>6 July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegate Speaker applications open <p>30 July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Leadership Programme session three <p>31 July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda Update Workshop Host applications close 	<p>1 September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker and Session title submission Partner logo submission deadline Interactive stage names and branding confirmed Successful workshop hosts announced <p>7 September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit agenda update Autumn Partner Update <p>15 - 24 September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Leadership Programme session five <p>25 September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content submitted for Exhibition area on the Summit app Summit registration closes* Workshop list available 	<p>2 October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition booth branding and activities submitted to One Young World for approval Purchasing of additional hotel nights closes All content submitted for Workshops and Action Sessions <p>9 October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full agenda released One Young World Summit app and digital platform launched Supplier health and safety submission for exhibition and interactive stages Workshop registration open for Delegates <p>15 October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Leadership Programme session six <p>Throughout October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cape Town Delegate send-off event(s)
April 2026	June 2026	August 2026		
<p>24 April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview agenda Registration opens 	<p>24 June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Leadership Programme session two <p>29 June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer Partner Update 	<p>26 August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Leadership Programme session four <p>28 August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegate Speaker applications close Exhibition sales close 		
			November 2026	
			<p>3 November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026 begins! 	

* Summit Registration closes 25 September 2026

Registrations received after 11:59pm GMT on 25 September 2026 will be processed on a strictly availability-based basis. As a result, we cannot guarantee

- The option of being in the same hotel as the rest of their delegation
- The option to book pre/post nights in the same hotel they are staying in for the core nights of the Summit
- Airport transfers
- Catering that take into account dietary requirements
- Their choice in workshop allocation
- The opportunity for exclusive invitations to mentoring sessions and meet and greets
- The opportunity to be a Flag Bearer at the Opening Ceremony
- The opportunity to apply to be a Delegate Speaker

Confirmed Counsellors

We are thrilled to be welcoming global icons Graça Machel and Justice Albie Sachs to the One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026.



Graça Machel

A freedom fighter and nation-builder, Graça played a defining role in Mozambique's transition to independence and later made history as the first Minister for Education and only woman in the cabinet at the time.

Graça previously served as Chancellor of the University of Cape Town and President of the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, and is currently serving as Chancellor of the African Leadership University.

Her global influence extends far beyond formal roles. Through her landmark United Nations Children's Fund report, *The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children*, she reshaped how governments and institutions respond to children affected by war.

She is also a founding member of influential movements, including *The Elders*, which she co-founded with her late husband, Nelson Mandela, advancing peace and gender equality worldwide.

Her leadership exemplifies the values at the heart of One Young World - accountability, ethical leadership and impact at scale.



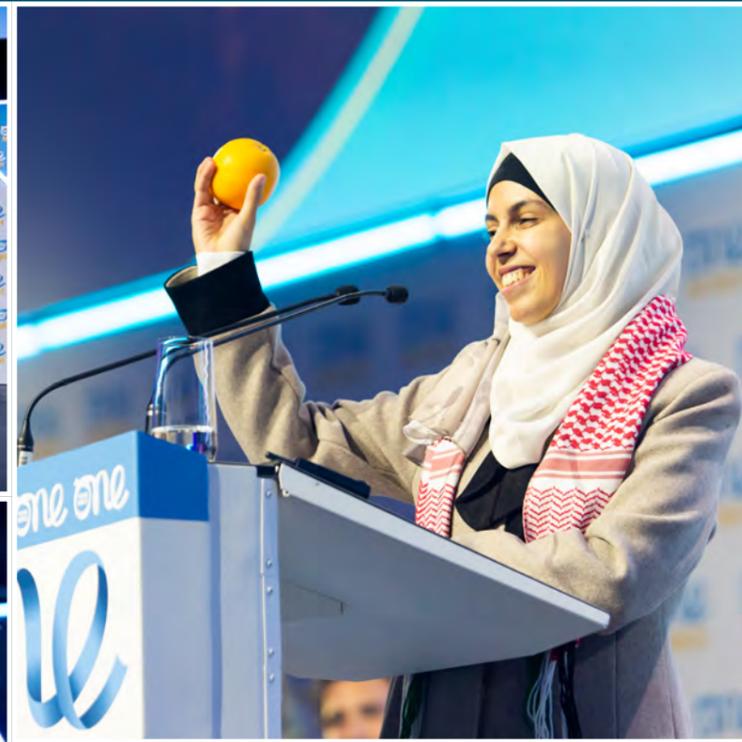
Justice Albie Sachs

A lifelong activist, writer and human rights lawyer, Albie has played a defining role in shaping South Africa's constitutional democracy. Active in the Anti-Apartheid Movement from the age of 17, he spent more than 20 years in exile in the United Kingdom and Mozambique, where he taught law and contributed to the African National Congress's legal and constitutional work, and survived a targeted attack that almost cost him his life.

In 1994, he was personally appointed by Nelson Mandela as a founding judge of South Africa's Constitutional Court, on which he served until 2009, where he helped draft one of the world's most progressive constitutions. His rulings include landmark contributions to the abolition of capital punishment and the 2005 judgment that legalised same-sex marriage in South Africa.

Albie's work reflects the principles One Young World seeks to instil in its Ambassadors - leaders who use power responsibly and deliver measurable impact for society.

Plenary Challenges and Global Consultation Process Reporting





Introduction from our Founders

It gives us immense pleasure to introduce the five Plenary Challenges for the One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026.

The reason why One Young World continues to be such a powerful force for change is because we are driven and inspired by our global Community of young leaders. This is why our Global Consultation Process (GCP) is such an important tool in the development of our Plenary Challenges, and we are hugely grateful to the more than fifteen hundred young leaders from over 150 countries who took part in this year's consultation.

The results of this year's GCP demonstrate clearly the concerns of our next generation of leaders. From their thoughts on existential threats, to the development of AI, from their opinions on the state of human rights to the performance of our global leaders to uphold human rights in conflict zones, the data from this survey provides us with an invaluable insight into the minds of tomorrow's leaders.

After careful analysis of the data from this year's GCP we have settled on the five plenary themes for this year's Summit, namely the Agriculture and the Food Crisis, Intelligent Jobs, Gender-Based Violence, the Future of Africa and Peace and Security.

Whilst these themes form the bedrock of the content of the Summit, they are by no means the only global, regional and national challenges which will be addressed over the course of the four days. Moreover, with the 2026 Summit legacy being focused on youth employment in South Africa, we will be delivering content focused on programmes that address the full employment ecosystem, from job creation, to job access, to strengthening grassroots delivery.

We hope you enjoy reading more about our Plenary Challenges for the 2026 Summit and we look forward to seeing you in Cape Town.

Kate Robertson
Co-Founder

David Jones
Co-Founder

Agriculture and the Global Food Crisis

What will it take to achieve food security for all?



Key GCP Data:

- 72% of young leaders are concerned about food security in their country
- 88% of young leaders in Africa are concerned about food security in their country
- Nearly 1 in 10 consider a global famine to be humanity's greatest threat

Agriculture lies at the heart of global food security, yet the world is still far from ensuring that everyone has enough to eat.

According to the most recent United Nations data, between 713 million and 757 million people were undernourished in 2023, that's roughly one in 11 people globally, and one in five in Africa.

Moreover, about 2.3 billion people faced moderate or severe food insecurity, meaning they lacked reliable access to sufficient, nutritious food.

Multiple interconnected challenges drive this crisis. Conflict, climate change and economic shocks have repeatedly disrupted food systems, pushing millions deeper into hunger; for example, in 2024 more than 295 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger, with the number rising for the sixth consecutive year.

Meanwhile, food prices remain high in many low-income regions, and extreme weather events undermine agricultural productivity.

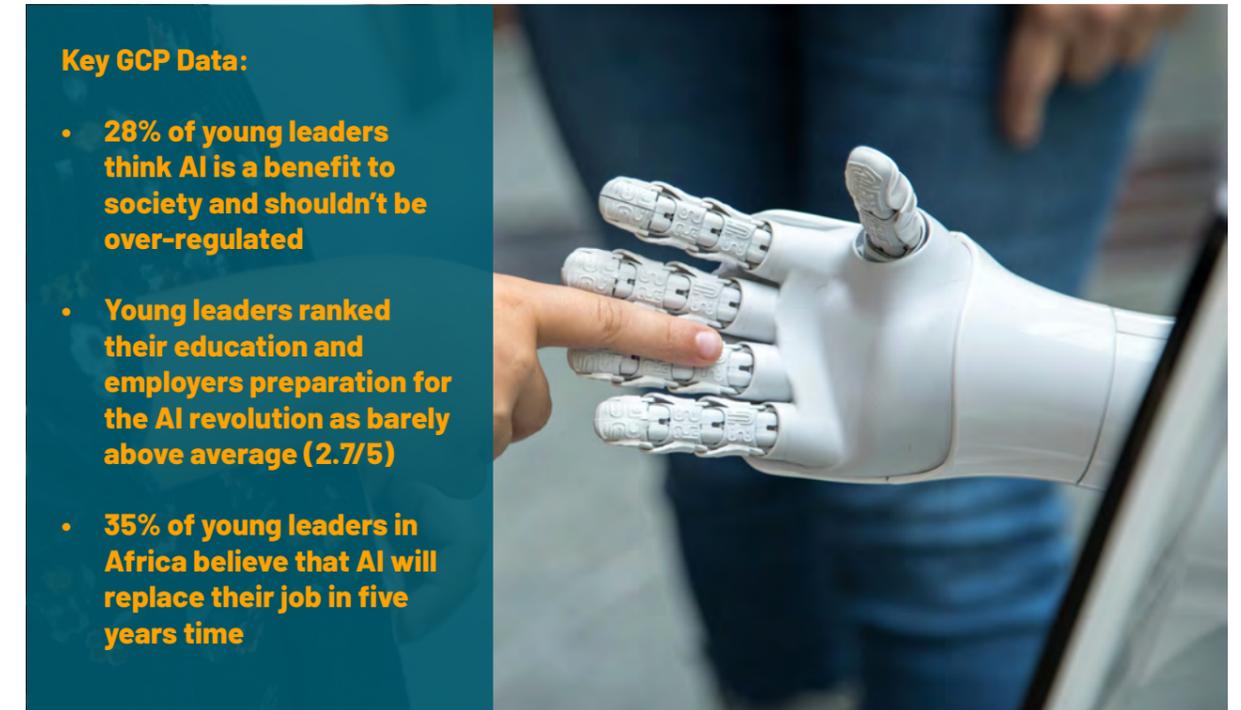
Achieving food security for all will require strengthened agricultural systems that can absorb these shocks. This includes greater investment in sustainable farming practices, support for

smallholder farmers, climate-resilient crops, and policies that ensure fair access to markets and nutritious diets.

Without such coordinated action, right from local to global levels, reaching Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger, by 2030 remains a significant challenge.

Intelligent Jobs

How can ai power opportunity for the next generation?



Key GCP Data:

- 28% of young leaders think AI is a benefit to society and shouldn't be over-regulated
- Young leaders ranked their education and employers preparation for the AI revolution as barely above average (2.7/5)
- 35% of young leaders in Africa believe that AI will replace their job in five years time

Artificial intelligence is reshaping the world of work, offering both challenges and opportunities for the next generation. According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs analysis, AI and related technologies could lead to the creation of 170 million new jobs globally by 2030, while displacing an estimated 92 million roles – resulting in a net gain of about 78 million jobs.

This shift highlights that AI has the potential to expand employment, particularly in roles that require technical skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Furthermore, demand for AI-complementary skills is growing fast, with employers increasingly willing to pay a wage premium for roles requiring AI expertise.

On the African continent, AI is already reshaping the world of work and offering both risks and opportunities for young jobseekers. A 2025 PwC Africa workforce survey found that 64 % of African workers reported using AI tools at work in the past year, outpacing the global average of 54 % and many workers see AI improving the quality of their work and boosting productivity.

However, the rapid spread of AI also poses challenges: research suggests that up to 40 % of

tasks in Africa's tech outsourcing (BPO) sector could be automated by 2030, with entry-level work and lower-paid roles most at risk unless workers gain new skills.

To ensure that AI drives job creation rather than displacement, investment in skills training, including programmes like Microsoft's initiative to train 1 million South Africans in AI and cybersecurity by 2026 will be critical for enabling young people across Africa to participate in higher-skilled, better-paid roles in an AI-powered economy.

Equipping the next generation with digital literacy, critical thinking, and AI-related competencies can help them thrive in jobs that are newly created and evolving in an AI-driven economy.

Gender Based Violence

How do we prevent the physical, sexual, and mental abuse of women and girls?



Key GCP Data:

- **62% of young leaders worldwide believe that women live under the persistent threat of gender-based violence in their country.**
- **For young leaders in South Africa this figure rises to 91%**

Gender-based violence remains a pressing global human-rights issue that affects women and girls of all ages. According to a 2025 United Nations report, around 50,000 women and girls were killed by intimate partners or family members in 2024, which equates to an average of 137 victims every day.

This means roughly one woman is murdered every ten minutes worldwide. Violence can also take physical, sexual, or psychological forms and often occurs in private spaces where reporting and help are hardest to access.

In South Africa, the crisis is especially severe. UN Women data show that the femicide rate there is one of the highest in the world, significantly above global averages, and activists have highlighted that about 15 women are killed daily because of Gender Based Violence.

A South African Human Sciences Research Council survey also found that approximately one in three women experiences physical violence in her lifetime. These stark realities led the government to declare GBV a national disaster in late 2025, enabling increased funding and coordinated action.

In Italy, lawmakers have taken a different legal approach. In late 2025 the Italian Parliament passed a landmark law making “femicide” a distinct crime in its criminal code, punishable by life imprisonment and accompanied by expanded support services and funding for anti-violence centres. In 2024, Italy recorded 106 femicides, most committed by intimate partners or former partners.

Preventing GBV requires a multi-layered strategy: strong legal frameworks, accessible reporting and support services, education and cultural change to challenge harmful gender norms, and community-level prevention programmes that empower survivors and reduce stigma.

Delegate Speaker Spotlight

Hauwa Ojeifo first spoke at the One Young World Summit in 2018 as a Delegate Speaker and part of the Young Leaders Against Sexual Violence.

As an active member of our Community, she received funding and support to accelerate her work at She Writes Women. She Writes Women is an award-winning movement that gives mental health a voice in Nigeria.

Hauwa grew the organisation to the level that she was selected as one of the recipients of a \$20 million fund managed by Melinda French Gates to advance women’s health and well-being globally.

In 2025, Hauwa returned to the Summit as the sponsor of her own programme with One Young World, the Hauwa Ojeifo Scholarship, and shared her journey, impact, and advice in an Ambassador Masterclass on stage.

Future of Africa

How do we make this the 'African century'?



Key GCP Data:

- 1 in 7 young leaders in Africa consider a collapse in the global economic system as the greatest threat facing humanity.
- Young African leaders rate the quality of existing leadership particularly on issues pertaining to the climate emergency as below average (2.3 / 5)
- 57% of young leaders in Africa are more optimistic for peace in their region compared to this time last year.

Africa stands at a pivotal moment where its demographic dynamism and economic potential could define the African Century. The continent's working-age population is rapidly expanding; by 2043 Africa's labour force is expected to nearly double from current levels, making youth employment creation critical for sustained growth.

Economic expansion is underway: Sub-Saharan Africa's GDP growth is projected to reach 3.8 % in 2025, above many other regions, despite global uncertainties.

A key driver of future opportunity is trade and integration. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), consisting of 55 countries with 1.3 billion people, could increase intra-African trade by over 50 % by 2025 and add an estimated \$450 billion to GDP by 2035, boosting manufacturing and services.

Job creation through emerging sectors is essential. Research forecasts that Africa's green economy could generate up to 3.3 million direct jobs by 2030, especially in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable manufacturing – with South Africa alone projected to gain up to 275,000 green jobs.

Yet structural issues remain, notably in South Africa, where unemployment is persistently high with more than 40 % of adults unemployed. Addressing this requires investment in skills development, digital infrastructure, and policy reforms that enable private sector growth.

Prioritising education aligned with market needs, strengthening institutions, and fostering innovation can help Africa translate its youth-led workforce into a competitive, equitable economy, making the African Century a reality.

Peace and Security

How can young leaders restore diplomacy to end the cycle of violence?



Key GCP Data:

- 16% of young leaders believe that nuclear war remains the greatest threat to humanity.
- 46% have confidence in global leadership to prevent human rights abuses in conflict zones, 42% do not.
- 1 in 8 young leaders do not consider peace can ever be possible.

Peace and security remain central challenges in a world where violence and conflict affect millions, especially young people. Today's generation is the largest in history, with over 1.2 billion individuals aged 15–24, and in regions like Africa around 60% of the population is under 25.

When provided with opportunities to participate in peacebuilding and diplomacy, young people can shift from being seen as passive victims or security risks to becoming active agents of peace and change.

The United Nations' Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda recognises that meaningful youth participation in diplomacy and conflict prevention helps break cycles of violence. These frameworks call for young people to be included in decision-making, prevention efforts, community dialogue, and reintegration processes after conflict.

Globally, more than 600 million young people live in fragile or conflict-affected contexts, and many face violence, displacement, or lack of education and jobs, factors that can fuel instability if left unaddressed. Empowering youth with political voice, diplomatic skills, and access to economic opportunities not only reduces incentives to join

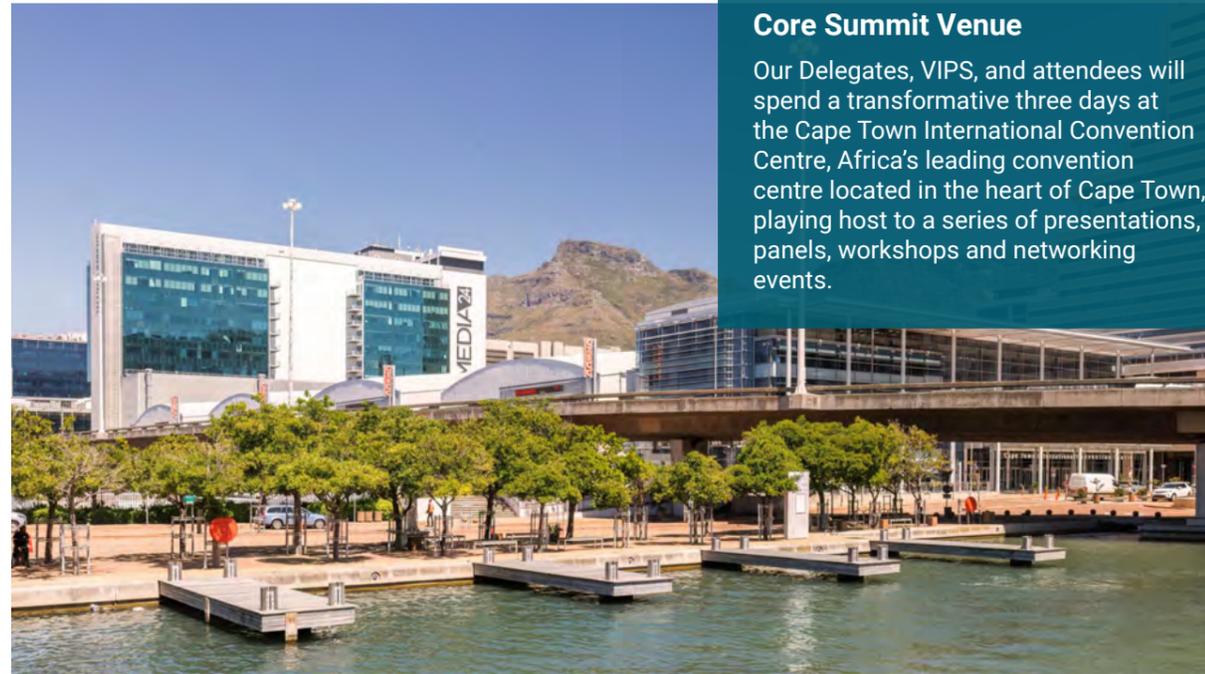
violent movements, it also builds bridges between divided communities and fosters sustainable peace. Initiatives that support young mediators, include youth voices in negotiations, and leverage technology and grassroots networks are already showing promise in preventing violence and strengthening peace processes.

Ultimately, restoring diplomacy and ending cycles of violence requires intergenerational dialogue, investment in youth leadership, and shifting narratives so that young people are partners in peace rather than bystanders.

Summit Venues

The One Young World Summit Cape Town, 2026 will be held across multiple venues throughout the city.

An exciting venue will be announced soon for the Opening Ceremony, setting the tone for a powerful and memorable start.



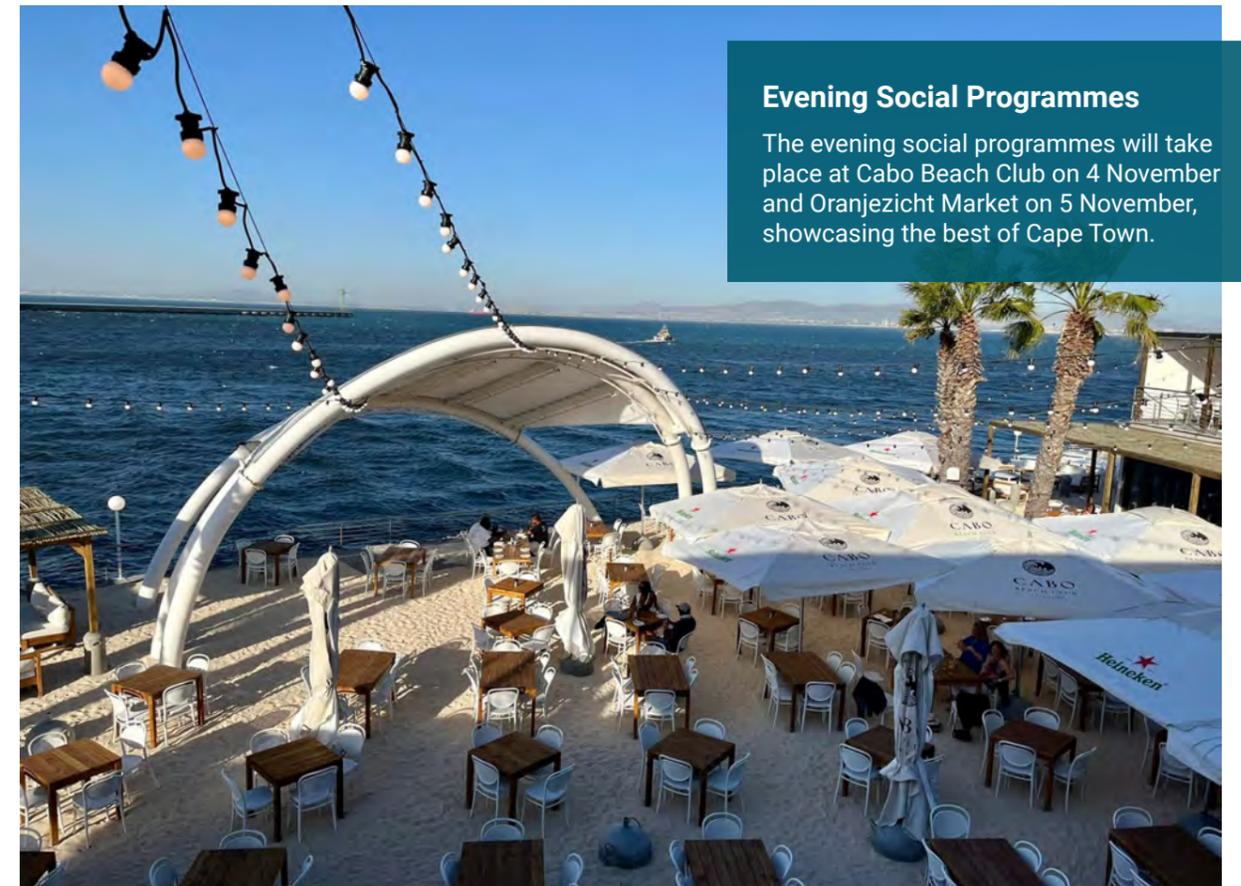
Core Summit Venue

Our Delegates, VIPS, and attendees will spend a transformative three days at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, Africa's leading convention centre located in the heart of Cape Town, playing host to a series of presentations, panels, workshops and networking events.



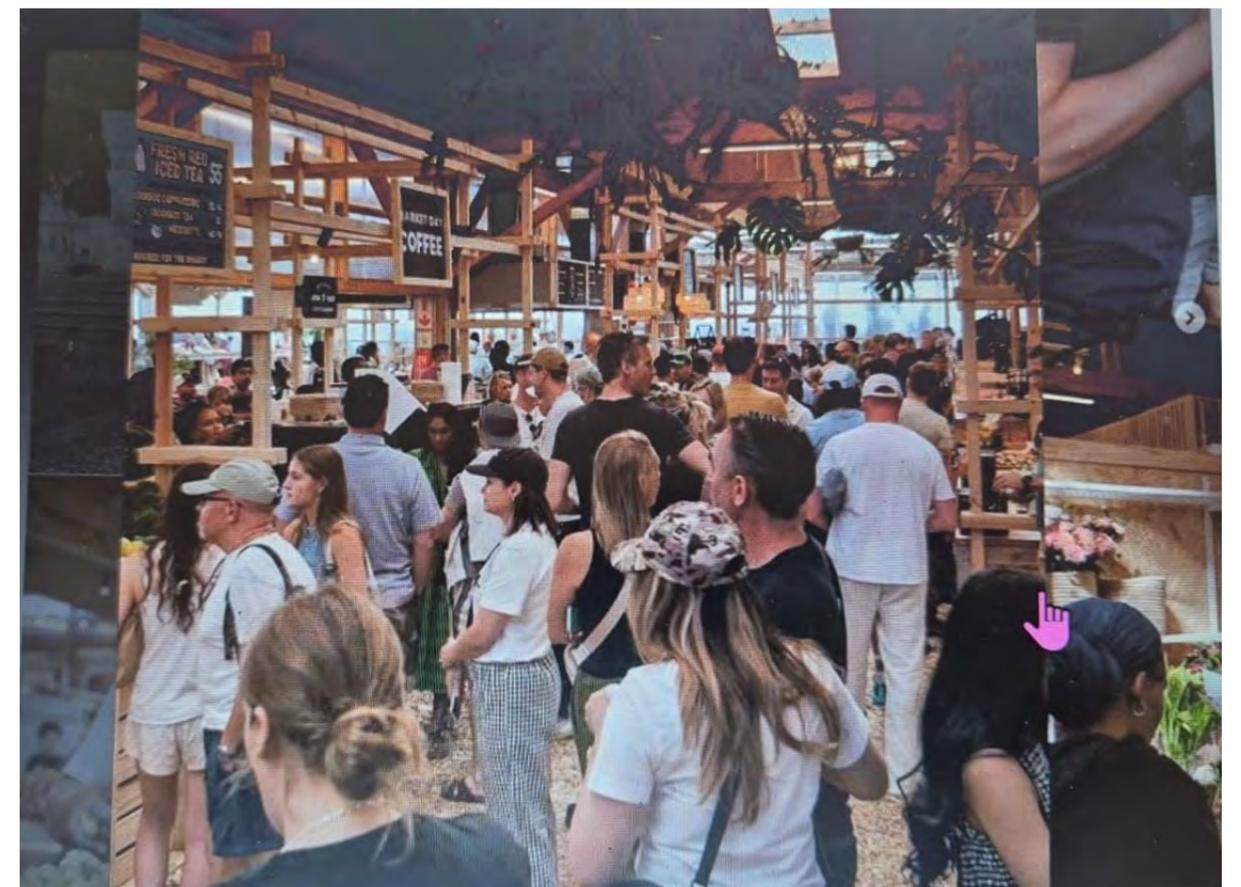
Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony will be at the Castle of Good Hope, the oldest surviving colonial building in South Africa and a key landmark in Cape Town's early history.



Evening Social Programmes

The evening social programmes will take place at Cabo Beach Club on 4 November and Oranjezicht Market on 5 November, showcasing the best of Cape Town.



Scholarship Highlights

In addition to providing access for their employees, our partners bring the most impactful young leaders from around the world to the One Young World Summit through bespoke, branded scholarship programmes suited to their sustainability goals.



Our scholarship programmes in 2025 attracted:

- 70,000+ applications from more than 190 countries
- 450+ scholarship places awarded to attend the Summit in Munich
- 53 One Young World Partners who supported scholarships

We have a number of scholarships that are currently open and accepting applications, including:

Enterprising Futures Scholarship 2026

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Closes 9 March 2026

For 40 young entrepreneurs who are leading scalable start-ups and small to medium-sized enterprises, with social or environmental impact. Selected scholars will participate in an exclusive two day pre-programme.

Full details of this scholarship can be found on our website.

Generation Regen Challenge

Presented by BMO



Closes 23 February 2026

Announced at the One Young World Summit 2025, the Generation Regen Challenge will provide \$200,000 to accelerate non-profits or social enterprises in Canada and the U.S. in the field of regenerative and sustainable agriculture.

Full details of this scholarship can be found on our website.

Capital City of Podgorica Scholarship 2026

The Capital City of Podgorica, Montenegro



Closes 23 March 2026

Launched in partnership with the Capital City of Podgorica, the scholarship will provide one exceptional young leader from Podgorica with the opportunity to attend the One Young World Summit 2026.

Full details of this scholarship can be found on our website.

Know a young leader in your network who should apply? Encourage them to submit an application, or share our scholarships in your networks. For more information about all our scholarships visit our website.

Interested in supporting a scholarship delegation? Contact us at partnerships@oneyoungworld.com.

Sending a Delegation to the Summit



Here are your next steps:

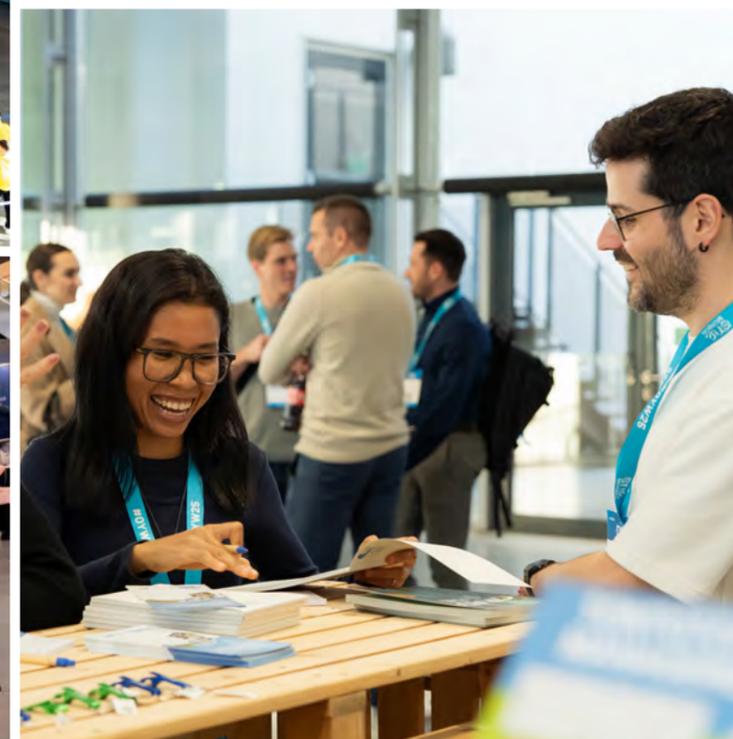
1. Confirm your participation with your Account Manager and introduce them to your Accounts Payable team
2. Select and notify your Delegates that they will be attending the Summit in November (your Account Manager will support with registration and onboarding)
3. Organise your Delegates' travel (eg. flights) and visas for South Africa

Brand Opportunities at the Cape Town Summit

If you are interested in having your brand visible at the Summit and have Delegates know more about the work you do and the impact you have, our Exhibition Area is the best place for you! Every year, we have attendees engage directly with our Partners and learn more about the messaging behind their work.

If you think your senior Executives would be interested in speaking on stage why not explore sponsoring an Interactive Stage?

Reach out to any of our Account Managers and discuss how to best position your brand at the Cape Town event!



2025 Corporate Partners



2025 Government Partners



2025 University Partners



2025 Host City Partners





YOUNG
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