



CONSULTANCY ASSIGNMENT REPORT ON THE REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRAT UNION OF AFRICA DRAFT CONSTITUTION

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INTRODUCTION

WHO IS YOUNG DEMOCRAT UNION OF AFRICA?

YDUA is an alliance of youth wings of all the centre-right political parties across the African continent. The Young Democrat Union of Africa brings together a wide range of members with amiable histories, diverse culture but comparable political ideologies and traditions, unified by a collective commitment to freedom and to fight for social democracy. The union has over 22 member political parties spread out across the African region.

The Union's vision is to be the leading youth front committed to promoting the centre-right ideology and democratic rule geared towards sustainable development in Africa.

The YDUA was founded in 2019 and has since then held only one election.

The objectives of the Young Democrat Union of Africa include;

- To promote centre-right ideologies through carefully planned projects and programmes.
- To enhance support for democratic rule and respect for human rights
- To build a coalition of support for members to ensure the success of member political parties
- To build capacity of members
- To promote unity among member parties.
- To be fully engaged in the struggle against discrimination, exploitation and domination which inhibits socio-economic development.

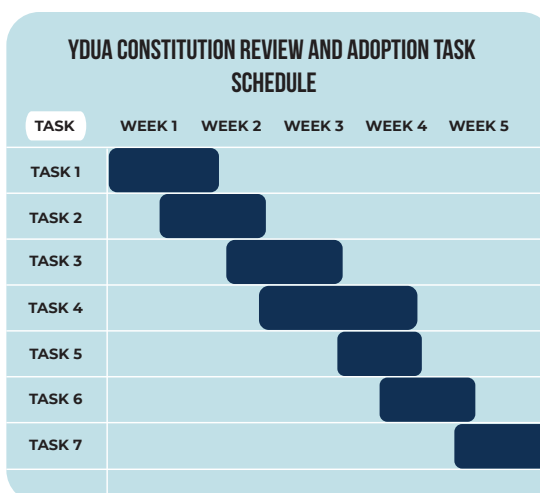
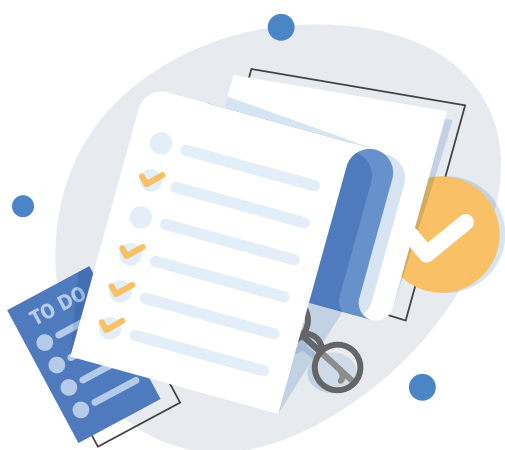
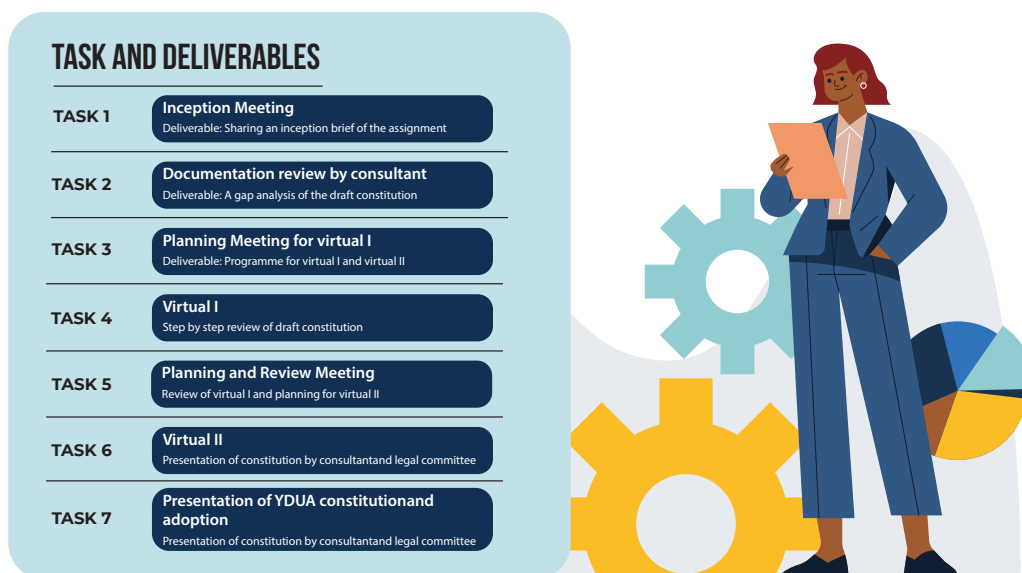
WHO IS SIASA PLACE AND WHAT WAS THEIR ROLE IN THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION REVIEW AND ADOPTION PROCESS?

Siasa Place is a youth-led non-governmental organization (NGO), established in 2015 that specializes in working with youth and building institutional structures that support youth. Since its inception, the organization has been working with young people aged between 18 and 34 years. SP has focused on youth expertise in policy review and youth participation in decision making processes.

In line with its mandate and support towards institutionalization of youth organizations across the region, Siasa Place supported YDUA. In particular, the assignment focused on the institutionalization of the Young Democrat Union of Africa. This meant that Siasa Place assigned a consultant to aid in the draft constitution review.

THE PROCESS

In line with the Terms of Reference of the consultant, the deliverables were outlined in the Gantt chart as follows;



The review process was scheduled to take place in the course of five weeks as detailed in the Gantt chart above and involved an inception meeting, documentation review by the consultant, planning meetings, two main virtual sessions and finally a handover of the final document.

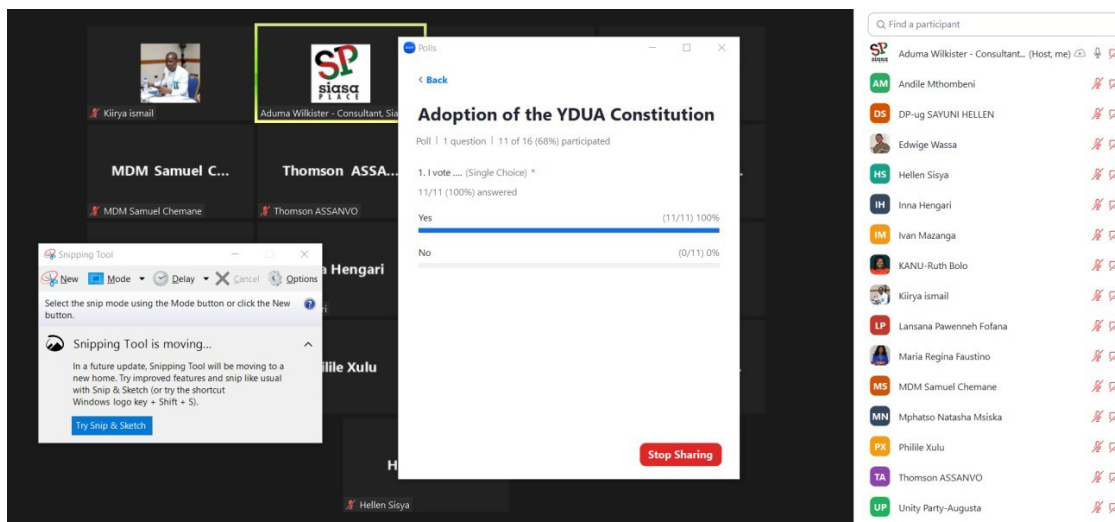
During the two virtual sessions with the members of the YDUA, they were able to give their views and debate reasoning in support of the proposal given as proposals to be included in or removed from the draft constitution. The process was participatory and upheld the tenets of democracy. On issues of contention where consensus was not applicable, a zoom poll was used to get the majority decision on such matters. Markedly, best practices from across the continent were shared and some adopted as YDUA's mode of operation.

THE CHALLENGES

- On the issue of membership, two political parties registered their concern. This was because the majority voted in favor of the membership age being between 18-35 years. The other two political parties posited that their individual party constitutions had the age of their youth leagues being between 18-40 years.
- Limited resources on the side of Siasa Place as the support offered was not based on a budget line. This meant that the planning operated on a financial tight rope.
- Language barrier on the part of none English speaking participants. Inasmuch as two translators for French and Spanish were hired to ease this burden, some meanings were lost through translation.

THE OUTCOMES

The complete constitution of the Young Democrat Union of Africa to be presented at the YDUA Biennial Congress in May 2023 for a vote. Markedly, the members all voted in favour of the constitution to be presented at the Biennial Congress as worked on and presented by the consultant during the hand over and sign off.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The YDUA leadership requested that Siasa Place support with the creation of info graphics that are youthful and vibrant to be used for a soft-launch in YDUAs online platforms.
- Additionally, the YDUA leadership thought it wise to extend an invitation to Siasa Place to their Biennial Congress in May 2023, so as to have a representative moderate the discussions that will take place there.