

## **Call for Candidates**

### **Malawi - Youth Sounding Board (MW-YSB)**

The EU developed a Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU External Action for the period 2022-2027<sup>1</sup>. It aims at promoting meaningful youth participation and empowerment in EU external action for sustainable development, equality and peace.

With this Youth Action Plan in EU external action, the EU recognises the essential role of young people 'as dreamers and makers' to address complex global challenges and sets the framework for a strong partnership between them and the EU.

Through its implementation, the EU will support youth engagement in its external action, offer an enabling environment and opportunities for child and youth empowerment and participation, and promote building bridges among young people across the globe.

The Youth Action Plan embodies at the same time a genuine political commitment to the voice of children and young people in the world and an operational roadmap to contribute to building more democratic, equal, sustainable and peaceful societies for present and future generations.

In Malawi, the European Union Delegation is launching a call to set up a Youth Sounding Board (YSB) to carry forward this commitment and increase its engagement with the country's young population.

#### **What is the Youth Sounding Board?**

The Malawi Youth Sounding Board (MW-YSB) is an opportunity for young Malawians to be closer to the European Union cooperation policy, to make it more participatory, relevant and effective for young people. The YSB is a space for creativity and exchanges that will allow members to provide their perspectives and contribute to the work of the European Union in Malawi.

The MW-YSB will offer an opportunity to young people in Malawi to express their views, connect with other youth organisations and YSB across the world and advise the European Union Delegation on their engagement with Malawian youth.

The Youth Sounding Board will:

- Make EU action more participatory: young people want to participate actively in decision-making
- Make EU action more relevant: nearly all policy decisions have an impact on youth and the YSB will help to make EU action more relevant to youth
- Make EU action more effective: the YSB will help to design actions that really support young people
- Empower youth to speak up: the YSB allows young people and youth organisations to express their views, connect and exchange
- Create real partnerships of the EU and partner country youth: YSB members will have the possibility to build links with similar structures and existing youth initiatives at international, regional and country level, both in the EU and in the partner countries

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<sup>1</sup> JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL, Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action 2022 – 2027

The participation to the MW-YSB is on a voluntary basis and no payment is envisaged. Still, the EU Delegation will reimburse costs incurred by MW-YSB members in the implementation of the activities organised in the context of the YSB.

The MW-YSB will, among others:

- Advise the EU Ambassador and the EU Delegation on the design and implementation of selected development cooperation initiatives, especially on their impact on youth
- Contribute to the monitoring of EU projects, by participating in field visits organised and sponsored by the EU Delegation, and interacting with implementing partners and beneficiaries
- Support the EU Ambassador and the EU Delegation to organise activities addressing young people and to increase outreach and dialogue with Malawian youth
- Disseminate and share relevant knowledge with other young people in Malawi
- Participate in networking activities with other YSB and youth organisations across the world.

The MW-YSB members will:

- Participate in a short training and orientation to become an effective board member
- Hold, at least, two meetings a year
- Discuss issues and themes proposed by the EU Delegation, through online platforms and tools
- Participate in activities and field visits organised by the EU Delegation.

**How to become a member of the MW-YSB:**

The MW-YSB will be composed of maximum 15 members who shall:

- Be Malawian nationals, between 18 and 30 years of age
- Be creative, motivated and ready to contribute to a good functioning of the Board
- Have a keen interest in development cooperation and specifically in those areas prioritised by the EU in its partnership with the Government of Malawi
- Have good communication skills
- Have a good command of spoken and written English.

No specific experience is required.

Selection Criteria

The MW-YSB will ensure diversity and inclusion in terms of gender and cultural background. Girls candidates, youth with special needs, disabilities, or in situation of vulnerability are encouraged to apply.

Priority will go to candidates who do not already sit in similar positions on advisory boards for other organisations or embassies.

In the course of the selection process, the EU Delegation may ask from the shortlisted and selected candidates further documentation and proof of information provided in the application form (e.g. social media handles, CV, etc.). The selected candidates will have to provide a copy of their identity document to prove they meet the eligibility criteria.

The EU Delegation will draw up a reserve list of candidates.

### **Tenure**

MW-YSB members will serve an unpaid mandate of maximum 24 months. If a member ceases tenure before the expiration of the 24 months period, the vacant position will be filled with a candidate from the reserve list or, in absence of suitable candidates, re-advertised.

### **Application and selection process:**

Applications can be submitted until 16 April 2023 (11:59PM, Malawi time) online through the EU Survey link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/82700fff-e24e-84d6-ecac-5dddbf7b854e> ;

or delivered by hand or by ordinary mail utilising the word version available at [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/malawi\\_en?s=107](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/malawi_en?s=107) :

Delegation of the European Union to Malawi  
For the attention of the Malawi Youth Sounding Board team  
Petroda Building, Area 18 Interchange, Presidential Way,  
P.O. Box 30102, Capital City,  
Lilongwe  
MALAWI

The selection process will be conducted in two stages:

- First stage: only shortlisted candidates will be informed on the outcome of the first stage (shortlist) of the application by mid-May 2023 (tentative).
- Second stage: shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews by end May 2023 (tentative).

All shortlisted candidates will be informed of the final results by the end of July 2023 (tentative).

For any queries, write to: [DELEGATION-MALAWI-YOUTH-SOUNDING-BOARD@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:DELEGATION-MALAWI-YOUTH-SOUNDING-BOARD@eeas.europa.eu)