

Hesed World Official Launch Report



"From Vision to Impact: Building
a Generation of Change Makers"

*Tuesday, November 25, 2025 |
Hybrid (Geneva and Virtual)*

Generations united.
Change ignited.

Executive Summary

The Official Launch of Hesed World took place on 25 November 2025 as a hybrid event that brought together 83 participants—33 in person in Geneva and 50 online from Switzerland, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Côte d'Ivoire, the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy, and Cameroon.

The launch was a pivotal moment that formally recognised Hesed World as an international organisation dedicated to empowering youth leadership, mentoring emerging leaders, enhancing digital skills, and fostering intergenerational collaboration across Africa and beyond. Hesed World promotes global intergenerational engagement by bringing together young people and experienced leaders to work collectively toward shared goals and lasting impact.

Participants from diplomacy, academia, philanthropy, youth networks, civil society, foundations, and the private sector joined the event. The programme highlighted Hesed World's strategic plans, partner projects, youth perspectives, and findings from the first African Youth Mentorship Survey conducted in Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria.

Key highlights included consolidated commitments to expand youth mentorship programming, strengthen gender-balanced leadership pathways, formalise multi-sectoral partnerships, and embed technology and AI literacy into youth empowerment initiatives. These discussions and recommendations form a substantive foundation for Hesed World's 2026 programme implementation.

The official announcements outlined a roadmap for 2026 that emphasises stronger partnerships, deeper youth involvement in decision-making, and sustained efforts to bridge generational divides. Hesed World reaffirmed its commitment to building an inclusive, youth-centred movement that equips and elevates young changemakers across Africa—**not only in the future, but today.**

The launch concluded with a celebration of collective achievements and a shared vision for ongoing impact, grounded in the ethos of empowering one student, one dream, and one life at a time.



Our Speakers

Host & Co-Host



Kiki Rebecca Lawal
Founder & President of
Hesed World



Ambassador Yvette Stevens
Executive in Residence,
GCSP | Vice President,
Hesed World



Hans T. Sy
Chairman, Executive
Committee — SM Prime
Holdings, Inc.



David Chikvaizde
Vice President, Swiss Forum on
International Affairs; Associate
Fellow, GCSP
Former Chef de Cabinet, UNOG
Director-General

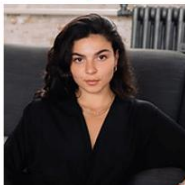
Special Keynote Address and Keynote Address

Panel Session

Youth Segment: Voices of a Rising Generation



Margareta Wahlström
Former Special Representative
of the UN Secretary-General for
Disaster Risk Reduction |
Former President, Swedish Red
Cross | President, Swedish
Committee for Afghanistan



Chara Bergamin
Switzerland/Italy |
International Relations
& Political Science |
Global Development



Olive L. Kinga
Cameroon – USA –
Switzerland | National
Security, Governance &
AI | Young Global
Leader



Andrew Heaton Travis
United States | International
& Development Studies |
Peace & Security

Intergenerational Dialogue Panel: Bridging Wisdom and Innovation for Sustainable Development



Dale Sands
United States | Hesed
World Advisory Group |
Disaster Risk Reduction,
Climate Resilience,
Sustainability



Bola Sarah Adedimeji
Côte d'Ivoire / United
Kingdom | Women's
Empowerment, Faith
Leadership, Social
Reintegration, Philanthropy



Ghislaine Keiser
Switzerland / Uganda |
Hesed World Board
Member | Humanitarian
Action, Community
Health, Social
Empowerment



Professor Patrick Maluki
Chairman of Department of
Diplomacy and International
Studies at the University of
Nairobi, Kenya



**Dr. Amjad Mohamed
Saleem (PhD)**
Sri Lanka / Switzerland |
IFRC | Youth Engagement,
Conflict Resolution,
Interfaith Dialogue, Policy
& Advocacy

Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable "Working Together for Transformational Impact"

Moderator



Dr. Fulata Lusungu Moyo Dr.
Founder, Thimlela-STREAM
| Gender, Ethics & Human
Rights Specialist, Malawi



Debra A.K. Johnson
Risk & Resilience
Advisor, Co-Founder &
Director Emeritus,
ARISE, USA



Olive L. Kinga
Cameroon – USA –
Switzerland | National
Security, Governance &
AI | Young Global
Leader



Vivienne Talsma
Switzerland | Vice
President, NIDO Swiss



Harry Leefe
Retired International Civil
Servant & Humanitarian
Professional Executive in
Residence, Geneva Centre
for Security Policy
United Kingdom and
Switzerland

Background & Context

Hesed World is a Swiss-based youth empowerment organisation established to address growing mentorship, leadership, and opportunity gaps facing young people across Africa. Against a backdrop of increasing youth populations, rising unemployment, limited access to global networks, and widening technological divides, Hesed World aims to:

- Strengthen intergenerational dialogue
- Expand structured mentorship opportunities
- Build digital and leadership competencies
- Foster globally exposed, ethically grounded African leaders

The official launch was convened to formalise this mission, present emerging evidence from youth surveys, showcase partnerships, and mobilise stakeholders for the next phase of organisational growth.

The hybrid model was selected to maximise reach, accessibility, and inclusion, allowing participation across continents and reflecting Hesed World's ethos of participatory engagement and global connectivity.





Objectives of the Launch

The overarching objectives of the Hesed World Official Launch were to:

1. Introduce Hesed World globally and present its mission, vision, and framework for impact.
2. Present the Africa Youth Mentorship Survey findings from Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria.
3. Elevate youth voices through storytelling, testimonials, and a youth mini-panel.
4. Foster intergenerational dialogue on mentorship, ethics, and sustainable development.
5. Facilitate a Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable with representatives from pilot countries and Switzerland.
6. Announce partnerships, commitments, and next steps for scaling youth empowerment initiatives.



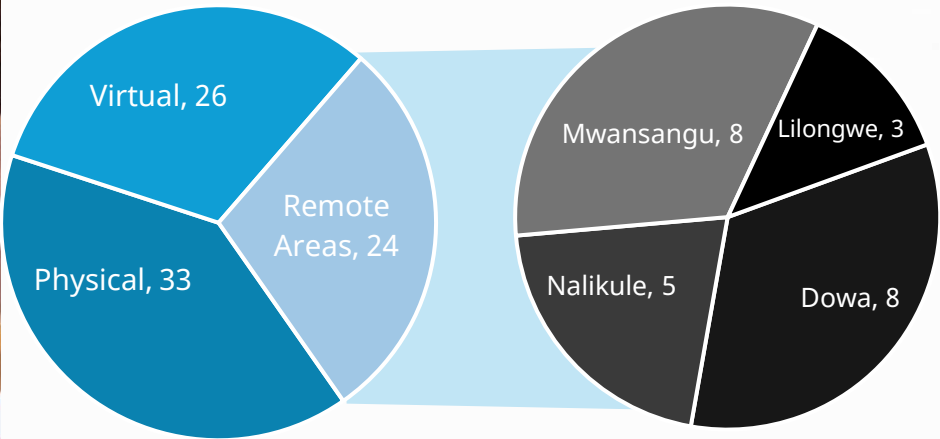


Attendance Breakdown

A total of **83 participants** joined the launch: **33 in person** and **50 virtually**, reflecting strong engagement from diverse sectors. Among the virtual participants were **24 young people joining from rural areas in Malawi** — 8 from Dowa, 5 from Nalikule, 8 from Mwansangu, and 3 from Lilongwe—showing meaningful outreach beyond urban centres.

Participants included diplomats, former UN officials, academics, youth leaders, civil society and faith-based organisations, private-sector partners, philanthropic foundations, diaspora networks, and development specialists. Attendees connected from Switzerland, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Côte d’Ivoire, the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy, and Cameroon, demonstrating broad and international interest.

The hybrid format ensured inclusive participation for those unable to attend in person.





Detailed Session Summaries

Opening & Youth Impact Spotlight

The reception and networking session opened the event, followed by a Youth Impact Spotlight featuring three partner organisations:

- **La Route à Bout de Bras (Switzerland/Guinea):** disability inclusion and resilience
- **Fonsa Foundation (Côte d'Ivoire):** reintegration, women's empowerment, community transformation
- **Keiser Initiative Association (Uganda/ Switzerland):** humanitarian action and community health

The formal opening included remarks by Ambassador **Yvette Stevens**, Vice President of Hesed World, and **Ms Kiki Rebecca Lawal**, Founder and President, who highlighted the organisation's vision rooted in dignity, opportunity, and intergenerational collaboration. A short documentary, "**From Vision to Impact,**" introduced Hesed World's origins and strategic direction.

Generations united. Change ignited.





Special Video Address:

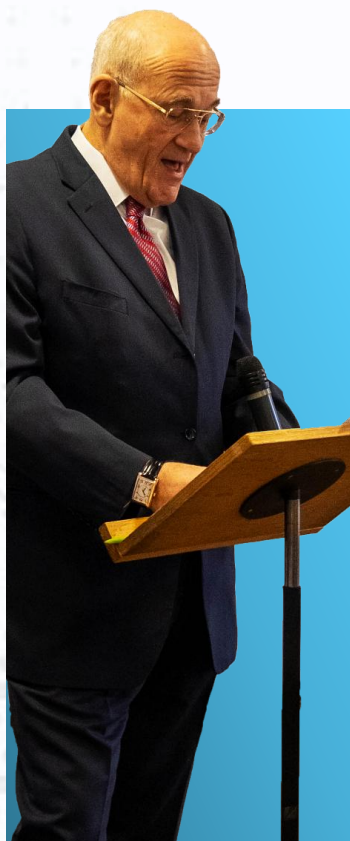
Mr. Hans T. Sy

Mr Hans T. Sy, Chairman of SM Prime Holdings (Philippines), emphasised education as “the greatest equaliser”, highlighting SM Foundation’s scholarship programmes and National University’s expansion to 20 campuses by 2028.

He linked these efforts to Hesed World’s global mentorship model, concluding:

“I look forward to seeing this initiative grow and thrive, empowering one student, one dream, and one life at a time.”

His message reinforced the ethos that guides Hesed World’s vision.



Keynote Address:

Dr. David Chikvaidze

Dr David Chikvaidze, Vice President of the Swiss Forum on International Affairs and former Chef de Cabinet to the Director-General of UN Geneva, delivered a keynote on ethical leadership, youth empowerment, and intergenerational collaboration.

He emphasised:

- Accountability as central to leadership
- The need to bridge generational divides
- Respect for youth voices in governance
- The role of mentorship in sustaining peace and stability

His message echoed UN principles of inclusion, collaboration, and responsible leadership.



Youth Segment: “Voices of a Rising Generation”



Speakers:



Chiara Bergamin –
Switzerland/Italy |
International Relations
& Political Science



Olive L. Kinga –
Cameroon/USA/Switzerland
| National Security,
Governance & AI



**Andrew Heaton
Travis** – United States
| International &
Development Studies

Key messages included:

- Youth must be recognised as current contributors, not only “future leaders.”
- Structured mentorship builds confidence, networks, and employability.
- AI and digital literacy should be integrated into youth development.
- Cross-cultural exposure accelerates growth.

The segment also introduced the **Hesed Youth Engagement Community**, a collaborative platform for African youth.



Intergenerational Dialogue Panel



Panelists:



Dale Sands –
USA | Disaster
Risk Reduction
& Sustainability



**Sarah Bola
Adedimeji** – Côte
d'Ivoire | Women's
Empowerment &
Faith Leadership



Ghislaine Keiser –
Switzerland/Ugan
da | Hesed World
Board Member



**Dr Amjad
Mohamed Saleem
(PhD)** – Sri Lanka /
Switzerland | IFRC |
Youth Engagement
& Interfaith
Dialogue

Key reflections:

- Mutual respect between generations is essential.
- Young people must be engaged as co-creators, not beneficiaries.
- Gender-sensitive approaches improve outcomes.
- Intergenerational partnerships foster resilience and continuity.



Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable

Speakers included representatives from academia, gender advocacy, diaspora leadership, AI governance, and risk resilience:



Prof. Patrick Maluki –
Kenya | University of
Nairobi



**Dr Fulata Lusungu
Moyo** T– Malawi |
Founder, Thimlela
STREAM



Debbra Johnson –
USA | Risk &
Resilience Specialist



Olive L. Kinga –
Cameroon/USA/Switz
erland | Governance
& AI



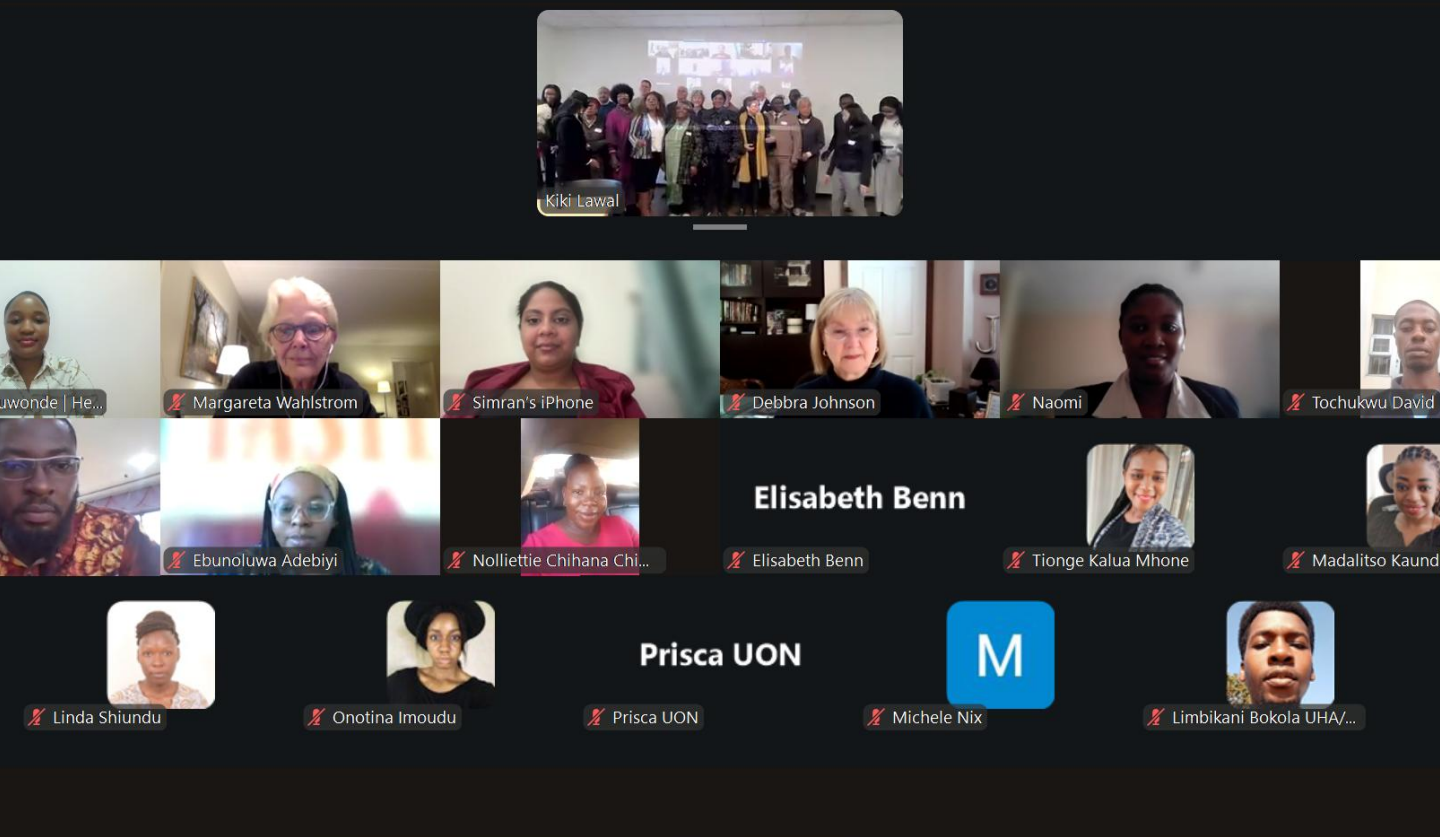
Vivienne Talsma –
Switzerland | Vice
President, NIDO
Swiss

Key discussion points:

- Youth face uncertainty, unemployment, and emotional strain.
- Mentorship provides direction and psychosocial support.
- Digital and AI literacy are essential competencies.
- Partnerships must be intentional, equitable, and purpose driven.
- Gender balance must underpin leadership pathways.

Generations united. Change ignited.





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Presentation of the Africa Youth Mentorship Survey

Madalitso (Malawi), Monitoring & Evaluation Lead, presented the survey covering Kenya, Nigeria, and Malawi.

Key Findings:

- High interest in structured mentorship and skills development
- Broad mentor expertise in governance, ICT, health, business, and education
- Strong mentee-mentor alignment in entrepreneurship, peacebuilding, and digital skills
- Persistent barriers: financial limitations, limited exposure, mental well-being challenges
- 35% of respondents were from rural communities

Implications & Recommendations:

- Strengthen mentor capacity and training
- Clarify guidance and communication frameworks
- Expand career development pathways
- Promote linguistic and cultural inclusivity
- Integrate robust monitoring and evaluation systems



Official Launch Announcements

Margareta Wahlström, former UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction and President of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, officially launched Hesed World and presented the 2026 roadmap, calling for:

- Stronger partnership networks
- Deeper youth participation in decision-making
- Sustained intergenerational dialogue
- Reduction of hierarchical barriers



Speaker Analysis

Senior Leaders

Highlighted ethical leadership, partnerships, and the structural inclusion of youth—aligning with global governance principles.

Youth Speakers

Amplified aspirations, technological shifts, and the need for representation in decision-making.

Experts & Panellists

Emphasised cross-sector collaboration, trauma-informed approaches, and gender-responsive programming.

Survey Analysis

Strengthened the credibility of Hesed World's approach through evidence-based insights.



Impact & Outcomes

1. Strengthened Institutional Credibility
2. Validated Mentorship Framework
3. Expanded Partnerships
4. Evidence-Driven Programme Priorities
5. Activated Youth Participation Structures



Recommendations

1. Operationalise a Structured Mentorship Pilot (Q1 2026)
2. Strengthen Digital & AI Capacity-Building Pathways
3. Formalise Strategic Partnerships
4. Embed Gender & Inclusion Principles
5. Establish a Robust Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) System



Next Steps

1. Form a working group to develop the mentorship pilot framework.
2. Use survey findings to strengthen donor engagement.
3. Expand partnerships across targeted regions.
4. Develop the 2026 strategic and implementation plan.

Acknowledgements

Hesed World extends appreciation to: Moderator Harry Leefe, all speakers, partner organisations, donors and supporters, Virtual and in-person participants and the entire Hesed World team. We extend special appreciation to **Hans T. Sy**, Chairman of the Executive Committee of SM Prime Holdings, Inc., Philippines, for his generous support and partnership

Conclusion

The Official Launch of Hesed World marked a defining moment in our mission to uplift and empower young people across the continent. It strengthened the organisation's credibility, expanded partnerships, and highlighted the urgent need for structured mentorship and meaningful intergenerational collaboration.

By bringing together global leaders, youth innovators, private-sector champions, academic experts, and development practitioners, the event laid a bold foundation for transformative programming in 2026 and beyond.

With renewed commitment to empowering young people—**one student, one dream, and one life at a time**—Hesed World stands ready to inspire possibility, unlock potential, and champion the voices of Africa's changemakers shaping their communities today, while paving the way for an even brighter tomorrow.





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