

THE ACCOUNTABILITY BRIEF



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2ND YOUTH PUBLIC FINANCE INDABA 2026

The Indaba reaffirmed the importance of transparency, accountability and meaningful youth participation in shaping Zimbabwe's future.



Regional Policy Lab: The Youth Accountability Roundtable

The Youth Accountability Roundtable will bring together young people and key stakeholders to strengthen youth participation in governance and public policy. The dialogue will explore the proposed Youth Bill and create space for meaningful engagement on policies that shape young people's future.



Campaign Spotlight: #PayTheHarm

The Youth Accountability Initiative (YAI), in partnership with ActionAid Zimbabwe, joined the #PayTheHarm campaign to demand accountability for the harms caused by critical mineral extraction.

The campaign calls for government and mining companies to uphold the polluter pays principle, protect community rights and ensure a just, inclusive and people-centred energy transition. It is a call for justice before transition.



EDITORIAL NOTE

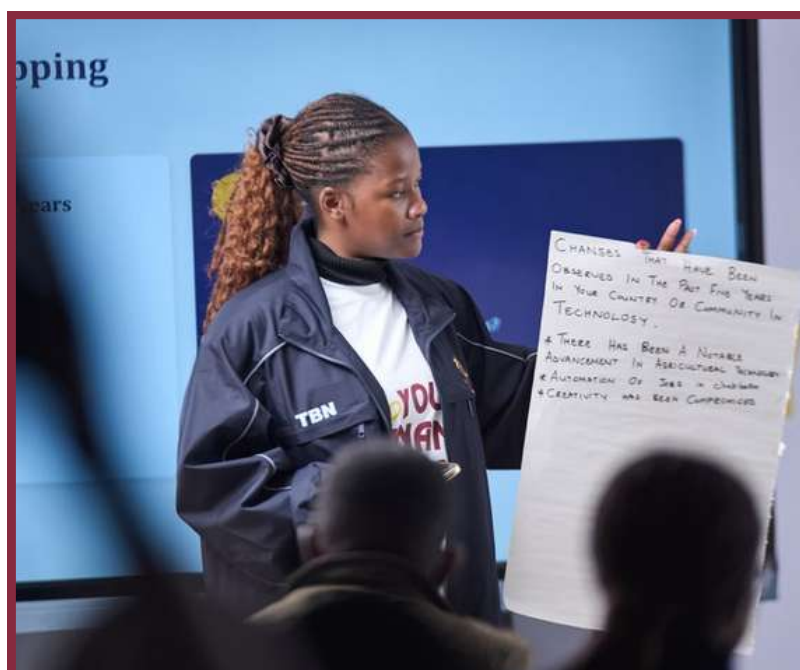
This month, the Youth Accountability Initiative (YAI) deepened its commitment to advancing accountability, economic justice and youth participation through dialogue, advocacy and regional partnerships.

A major highlight was the successful hosting of the 2nd Youth Public Finance Indaba in Bulawayo under the theme “Reclaim. Rethink. Reimagine: Zimbabwe’s Resources and Economic Sovereignty Futures.” The Indaba brought together young people, policymakers, civil society, academia and development partners to challenge dominant narratives on Africa’s resource wealth and explore how public resources can be governed transparently and equitably.

YAI also partnered with ActionAid Zimbabwe to launch the #PayTheHarm campaign, advocating for mining justice and a feminist just transition. The campaign seeks to hold governments and mining companies accountable for the social, environmental and health impacts of critical mineral extraction while amplifying the voices of women, youth and mining-affected communities in demanding community reparations, fair benefit-sharing and a just energy transition.

As we continue to create spaces for meaningful engagement, YAI remains committed to ensuring that young people are not only part of the conversation but are actively shaping policies and systems that promote accountability, justice and economic sovereignty.

YAI continues to bring conversations that matter — conversations on accountability 🗣️





2ND YOUTH PUBLIC FINANCE INDABA |BULAWAYO



Building on the success of its inaugural edition, the 2nd Youth Public Finance Indaba, convened by the Youth Accountability Initiative Africa in partnership with Hivos, TrustAfrica, Zimbabwe Institute and ActionAid and Embassy of Ireland, brought together young leaders, policymakers, civil society organisations, development partners, academics and governance practitioners for another impactful platform dedicated to advancing public finance accountability and strengthening youth participation in governance.

Convened under the theme "Reclaim. Rethink. Reimagine.", the Indaba challenged participants to rethink traditional approaches to public finance while exploring innovative, transparent and inclusive systems that place citizens particularly young people at the centre of decision-making. The conversations highlighted the importance of transparency, responsible resource management and meaningful civic engagement in promoting sustainable development.

As the Youth Public Finance Indaba continues to grow, it remains committed to equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to engage in public finance processes, advocate for accountability and contribute to building a more transparent, equitable and prosperous future.

Together, we reclaim our voice, rethink our systems and reimagine the future of public finance.



REGIONAL POLICY LAB: THE YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY ROUNDTABLE



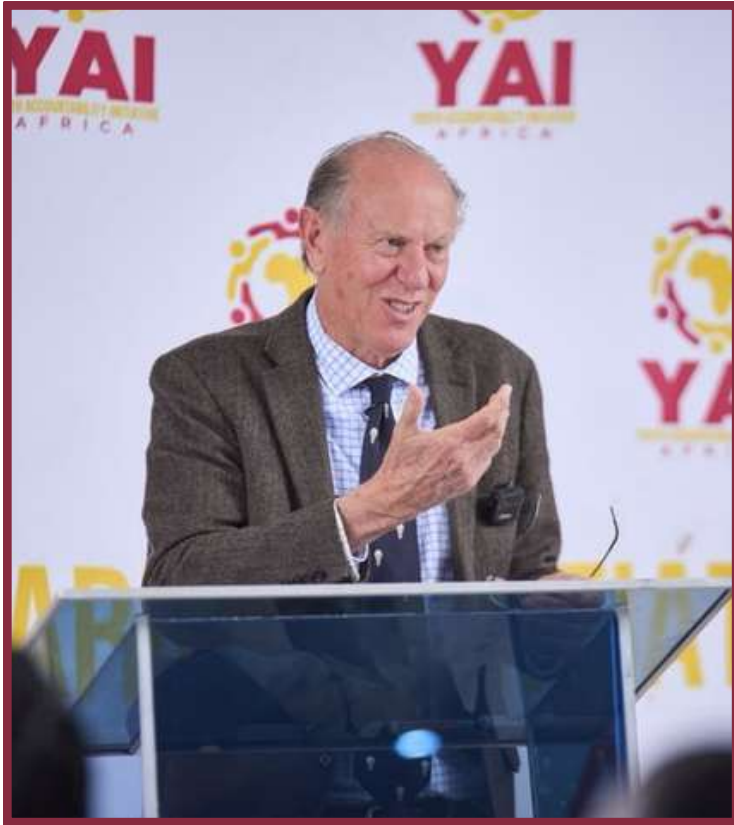
The Youth Accountability Initiative (YAI), in partnership with the Impact Center for Policy Research supported by Youth Democracy Network, will host the Youth Accountability Roundtable on 4 August 2026 under the Regional Policy Lab.

The dialogue will bring together young people, policymakers, civil society organisations and development partners to explore practical ways of strengthening youth participation in governance and public policy in Zimbabwe. A key focus of the discussions will be the proposed Youth Bill and its potential to advance youth rights, representation and meaningful participation in decision-making.

The Roundtable will provide a platform for dialogue, collaboration and policy engagement, ensuring that young people contribute to shaping laws and policies that affect their lives.

Through this initiative, YAI and the Impact Center for Policy Research continue to promote accountable governance and create opportunities for young people to influence Zimbabwe's democratic and development agenda.

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT: INSIGHTS FROM THE 2ND YOUTH PUBLIC FINANCE INDABA



David Coltart | Mayor of Bulawayo

Bulawayo Mayor David Coltart challenged youths to rethink Zimbabwe's path towards economic sovereignty, stressing that natural resources alone cannot guarantee development. He highlighted the need to confront public debt, environmental degradation and economic uncertainty through accountable leadership and strong institutions. While acknowledging these challenges, he also pointed to Zimbabwe's immense potential, urging young people to reject propaganda, demand accountability and actively shape the country's future.

Denis Gyeyir | Open Society Foundations

In his keynote address, Denis Gyeyir called on Africa to move beyond exporting raw minerals and instead invest in value addition as a pathway to economic sovereignty. He emphasised that development must not come at the expense of communities or the environment, advocating for Value Auditing to assess both the economic and social impacts of mining. His message underscored the importance of responsible natural resource governance to ensure that Africa's mineral wealth delivers lasting and equitable development.

