

[Speech: Mr. Allain Volcere, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth, Seychelles]

Madam Regional Director
Members of the Regional Youth Caucus for Africa
Facilitators, Friends and Colleagues of the CYP

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here at the Commonwealth Youth Programme's Regional Centre for Africa, on the occasion of the closing ceremony of this capacity building workshop, which has been organised for the benefit of Youth Caucus members of our region.

Over the last three days, the RYC members have had the opportunity to share knowledge, ideas and experiences on critical leadership functions which are considered to be paramount in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities as Commonwealth Youth representatives of their respective countries. It is to be noted that if the numerous challenges facing young people within our regions are to be adequately dealt with, youth leaders need to be suitably equipped to spearhead the various programmes, projects and initiatives which are aimed at providing the solutions and improving the quality of life in those needs and problem areas specific to our region.

And so, in the face of limited resources, emerging conflicts and other leadership challenges, I am confident that after today, you, the RYC members, who have gone through this training experience, are now in a better position to form meaningful alliances and build fruitful partnerships with donor agencies and other organisations of goodwill. Do make use of your acquired skills to enhance networking opportunities, to communicate plans and strategies more effectively in your continued effort to make a difference in the communities you serve.

It is noticeable that your desire and determination to accomplish good things, are there and I would like to encourage the Secretariat of CYP Regional Centre for Africa to continue providing you with the necessary tools, the know how and the enabling conditions for you to better perform.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and appreciation to the Regional Director and her team from the Secretariat, as well as all the facilitators and organisers for the wonderful job at bringing this special opportunity to the RYC members.

To you RYC members, I say 'Congratulations' and keep up the optimism and hard work.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Seychelles next year for the Regional Advisory Board meeting.

Thank You.