

**Remarks by Diana Chando, African Youth Ambassador  
for Peace on the Occasion of the 30th Anniversary of  
the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution  
of Disputes (ACCORD), Chief Albert Luthuli  
International Convention Centre,  
Durban, South Africa, 13 November 2022**

Good evening all,

Please allow me to stand on the protocols laid out by the previous speakers.

Honourable friends, we are here today to celebrate three decades of ACCORD, and to recognise the contribution that ACCORD has made to building peace on our continent.

As a young African and an African Youth Ambassador for Peace it falls to me to thank ACCORD for the profound impact they have had in the Youth Peace and Security Space. I have seen first-hand ACCORD's efforts to mainstream meaningful youth involvement in all its work. I have seen the proud young people who work at ACCORD push to ensure that the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda is at the forefront of continental and global peace and security discourse.

Through dialogues, seminars, webinars and trainings, ACCORD has not only helped provide young people with the skills and knowledge they need to fully realise our potential, but has also given us a platform where our voices can be heard, even by those in the corridors of power.

Programme Director,

Most recently, I had the pleasure of joining ACCORD as a panellist for the latest dialogue in a series they are hosting with the African Union Youth for Peace office. These Dialogues have unpacked the African Union's Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security, with the aim of celebrating the important role young people continue to play in peace and security, but more importantly driving the adoption and domestication of Youth, Peace and Security policies and national action plans among member states.

This year alone, ACCORD has partnered with the Youth Forum of the International Conference on the Great Lakes to host dialogues and trainings. With the Economic Community of Central African States, ACCORD hosted a webinar with the Youth

Volunteer Corps on regional integration. As well as co-hosting with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Southern African region's the Inter-ministerial Youth Conference – all these events, strengthening youth involvement at a regional level.

At a national level, ACCORD has worked with young people in Lesotho, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Malawi, Sudan, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola, Ethiopia, South Africa, The Central African Republic, Burundi, The Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and the DRC, thus ensuring that Conflict management skills and knowledge proliferate across the continent. As if that was not enough, ACCORD has mobilised youth across the world through the Global Peace Initiative, giving voice to young people to strengthen the conversation around international development and the future of our collective society that we shall inherit.

Indeed, while I am deeply grateful for the privilege I have speaking to you all this evening, I do not just find myself in Durban tonight to attend a dinner. Rather, starting tomorrow, ACCORD will be hosting my fellow African Youth Ambassadors for Peace and I for a training on election related conflict management. Our training this week is another important step in the process of ensuring youth take their rightful place at the forefront of conflict transformation and peacebuilding.

Honourable friends,

As we look to promote inclusive and meaningful involvement of young people in every aspect of our societies, we must acknowledge that youth in peace and security spaces cannot simply be included as token representatives, but rather they can and must contribute substantively to resolving conflict and building peace. This is the vision of the African Youth and I know it resonates with ACCORD.

Thank you.