



COMPENDIUM OF LAWS, POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND PLANS ANCHORING THE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL (NYC) IN KENYA



Youth Friendly Public Explainer

"Know the Law, Shape the Future."

**SEPTEMBER
2025**

Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Forward	01
Acknowledgement	02
About this Compendium	03
Introduction	04
National Youth Council Legal Framework	05
Introduction to Other Laws	12
Special Section	14
Why the Election Matter	15
Frequently Asked Questions(FAQs)	17
Conclusion	21

FORWARD

Kenya's future is deeply intertwined with the power, creativity, and leadership of its youth. With the majority of the Kenyan population under the age of 35, young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the driving force of today.

Recognizing this, the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and subsequent laws and policies have deliberately placed youth at the heart of national development and governance. The establishment of the National Youth Council (NYC) in 2009 marked a turning point in how Kenya engages its young people. For the first time, there was a legally recognized body to unify youth voices, represent their interests, and serve as a bridge between government institutions and young citizens. The 2014 amendments strengthened this role, aligning the NYC with the values and structures of the Constitution.

However, the journey of NYC has not been without challenges. Elections have been delayed for long periods, and at times, the Council has struggled to remain visible and relevant in the eyes of young people. Many youths have found it difficult to place the NYC "on the radar" as an effective representative body. These gaps have led to frustration and reduced participation, even as the demand for youth inclusion in governance continues to grow.

It is precisely in response to these realities that this Compendium takes on such importance. Driven by CEFRESA's longstanding commitment to advancing youth rights and policy work, the Compendium seeks to simplify and connect the legal and policy frameworks that guide the National Youth Council. By doing so, it bridges the information gap, rebuilds trust, and empowers young people with knowledge.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the civil society organizations, government agencies, youth-led organizations, and individual young people whose insights and contributions have shaped this Compendium. Their collective voices, expertise, and lived experiences, combined with CEFRESA's leadership, have ensured that this resource is not only grounded in law and policy but also deeply reflective of the realities and aspirations of Kenya's youth.

This document, crafted through CEFRESA's dedication and enriched by the contributions of diverse partners, serves as both a guide and an invitation. It calls upon young Kenyans to engage actively, to organize, and to take ownership of their role in shaping the National Youth Council's elections, operations, and continued existence, and, by extension, Kenya's democratic and development journey.

The strength of Kenya's democracy will always reflect the strength of its youth voice. Through this work, CEFRESA reaffirms its mission of placing youth at the center of governance and development, ensuring that every young person sees themselves not as bystanders, but as active architects of Kenya's present and future.



Mary Maina
Executive Director
Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA)

About CEFRESA and Its Role in Developing this Compendium

The Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) is a non-profit organization committed to advancing inclusive development, strengthening participatory governance, and ensuring that youth voices shape policy across Kenya. CEFRESA believes that young people and communities are not merely beneficiaries but active drivers of change, bridging the gap between policy commitments and lived realities.

In developing this Compendium, CEFRESA plays a central role in guiding the entire process. From conceptualization to delivery, the organization provides both vision and technical leadership to ensure the resource remains youth-centered, practical, and empowering.

CEFRESA's role includes:

- **Convening dialogues and consultations** with youth, civil society organizations, government agencies, and youth-led groups to gather diverse insights.
- **Translating complex legal and policy frameworks** into accessible knowledge that young people can use to engage meaningfully with the National Youth Council (NYC).
- **Facilitating county-level engagements** to ground the Compendium in the lived realities of young people from different regions.
- **Coordinating and shaping the Compendium's structure and content** to reflect both evidence and the voices of youth.

Through this work, CEFRESA ensures that the Compendium is more than a legal guide; it is a platform for youth empowerment, inclusion, and accountability. It stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and CEFRESA's mission to place young people at the heart of governance and sustainable development in Kenya.

ABOUT THIS COMPENDIUM

This Compendium is designed as a youth-friendly reference tool that brings together the laws, policies, structures, plans and strategies that shape the work of the National Youth Council (NYC) in Kenya. It explains how NYC was created, how it operates, and how young people can participate in its processes, especially in elections, representation, and policy engagement. The document connects the dots between key legal and policy:

- [The Constitution of Kenya \(2010\)](#)
- [The National Youth Council Act, 2009 \(and its 2014 Amendments\)](#)
- [The NYC Election Regulations and Guidelines 2021](#)
- [The Kenya Youth Development Policy, 2019](#)
- [The NYC Strategic Plan \(2023/24–2027/28\)](#)

By bringing these instruments together, the Compendium makes it easier for young people, youth-led organizations, and the public to understand how the National Youth Council functions, what roles and responsibilities it carries, and how it connects with wider national governance.

This publication is not only about laws on paper, but also about youth agencies in practice. It shows how young people can use these laws and policies to organize, engage, and influence decision-making at local, county, and national levels.

Ultimately, the Compendium is meant to be a guide and resource that empowers Kenyan youth to take an active role in shaping the present and future of the country through their engagement with the National Youth Council.

INTRODUCTION

The story of youth participation in Kenya is one of resilience, aspiration, and ongoing struggle for meaningful inclusion. While the National Youth Council (NYC) was established to give young people a collective voice, many youths have found it difficult to connect with its processes, structures, and purpose. One reason is the limited access to information on the laws and policies and processes that guide the National Youth Council.

This Compendium responds to that gap. It brings together in one clear, accessible resource the key legal and policy frameworks that shape NYC's existence and operations. It unpacks how the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the National Youth Council Act (2009, as amended in 2014), the Kenya Youth Development Policy (2019), and other strategies and guidelines come together to define the Council's mandate, its governance structures, and its role in amplifying youth voices.

Unlike technical policy documents, this Compendium is written in a youth-friendly and public explainer model. It is not just about stating what the law provides; it is about translating these provisions into practical meaning for young people: How do elections work? What is the role of the NYC Board? How can youth engage and hold the institution accountable?

The timing of this Compendium is deliberate. As Kenya prepares for the 2025 National Youth Council elections, there is renewed energy and opportunity for youth to reclaim their space in governance. This document is therefore not just a reference tool; it is an invitation to action. It equips Kenyan youth with the knowledge they need to participate effectively, organize meaningfully, and strengthen the legitimacy of the National Youth Council as their representative body.



National Youth Council Legal Framework

1. Constitution of Kenya, 2010

The Constitution is the supreme law of Kenya. It lays the foundation for youth participation in governance, inclusion, and representation all of which give legitimacy to the National Youth Council

Key Provisions

Article 55: Requires the State to take measures, including affirmative action, to ensure that youth have access to education, training, employment, and opportunities to associate, be represented, and participate in political, social, and economic spheres.

Article 10: Establishes national values and principles of governance, including participation of the people, equity, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, and non-discrimination all of which anchor youth participation and strengthen NYC's advocacy role.

Article 27: Guarantees equality and freedom from discrimination. For NYC, this ensures inclusiveness in its elections and leadership - including gender balance and representation of marginalized youth.

Article 36: Protects the right to freedom of association, allowing youth to form groups, movements, or organizations, which then become eligible to register under the NYC framework.

Article 38: Guarantees political rights, including the right to free, fair, and regular elections. This gives legitimacy to NYC elections as a democratic process.

Article 174(c): Recognizes the role of devolution in enhancing the participation of the people. NYC's alignment with county structures (per the 2014 amendment flows directly from this principle.

Article 260: Defines a youth as a person between the ages of 18 and 35. This is the age bracket that NYC serves and represents.

Connection to NYC

Together, these provisions:

- 1 Give NYC its legitimacy by grounding youth representation in the Constitution (Art. 55).
- 2 Support inclusivity and equal opportunity in NYC elections and programs (Art. 27).
- 3 Allow youth groups to associate and register under NYC (Art. 36).
- 4 Protect democratic elections within the NYC (Art. 38).
- 5 Anchor NYC's devolution structures in the county system (Art. 174).
- 6 Clearly define "youth" as those aged 18–35, ensuring NYC's scope (Art. 260).

This makes the Constitution the bedrock of youth representation and the ultimate foundation on which the National Youth Council rests.

2. National Youth Council Act, 2009 (Amended 2014)

The National Youth Council (NYC) Act is the main law that establishes the National Youth Council, sets its mandate,

Key Provisions

Section 3: Establishes the National Youth Council as a corporate body representing the interests of Kenya's youth.

Section 4: Defines the mandate of the NYC to advocate for youth opportunities in governance, mainstream youth issues in policy, and promote youth participation in democracy and development.

Sections 5–7: Provide for youth membership in the NYC through registration of youth groups, associations, and individual youth representatives.

Sections 9–11: Create the NYC Board and outline its composition, including elected county youth representatives, youth organizations, and nominated members

Sections 17–18 (as amended 2014): Provide for regular youth elections from grassroots to national level, ensuring inclusivity of both genders and youth diversity.

2014 Amendment, Section 2A: Aligns the NYC with Kenya's devolved county structures and emphasizes gender balance and inclusivity.

Sections 20–22: Require the NYC to submit annual reports, ensuring transparency and accountability in its operations.

Connection to NYC

Together, these provisions:

- 1 Create the NYC (Sec. 3).
- 2 Define its purpose (Sec. 4).
- 3 Show how youth join and participate (Sec. 5–7).
- 4 Set up leadership and elections (Sec. 9–11, 17–18)
- 5 Ensure inclusivity and devolution compliance (Sec. 2A, 2014 amendment).
- 6 Make the NYC accountable to youth and the public (Sec. 20–22).

This Act is therefore the legal foundation of the NYC, giving Kenyan youth a democratic, structured, and legitimate voice in governance.

3. National Youth Council (Election of Certain Council Members) Regulations, 2021

These Regulations give life to the National Youth Council Act by setting out how NYC elections are to be carried out. They ensure that the Council's leadership reflects transparency, fairness, and inclusivity, while safeguarding the voice of young people across the country.

Key Provisions

Regulation 3 (Repeal of Old Guidelines):

NYC is guided by these Regulations, which replace the earlier 2011 Guidelines, giving the Council a stronger, updated, and legally grounded framework for its elections.

Regulation 4-7 (Electoral Units &

Representation): NYC elections are structured from the ward level upwards, moving through constituency youth congresses to the National Youth Congress and finally to the NYC itself. This allows the Council to mirror Kenya's devolved system of governance while simplifying the previous multi-layered approach.

Regulation 8-10 (Eligibility & Voter

Register): NYC's strength comes from credible voter and candidate registers. Only Kenyan youth aged 18–35 years who are duly registered at the ward level may vote or vie. This safeguards NYC's mandate as the authentic voice of young people while requiring aspirants to observe codes of conduct and lawful nomination procedures.

Regulation 11-14 (Nomination of

Candidates): NYC benefits from a transparent nomination process. These provisions lay down how aspirants present papers, the timelines to follow, and the authentication role of election committees. This structured process ensures fairness and prevents disputes within NYC's elections.

Regulation 15-19 (Representation & Inclusivity):

NYC is required to embody diversity. Elections must uphold the two-thirds gender principle, and mechanisms ensure the inclusion of marginalized youth and persons with disabilities. Corrective measures guarantee that no youth group is left behind in NYC's leadership.

Regulation 20-23 (Election Management & Dispute Resolution):

NYC elections are managed through National and Electoral Steering Committees that oversee the process, resolve disputes, and ensure accountability. This protects NYC's reputation as a credible and trustworthy body for youth representation.

Regulation 24-27 (Conduct of Elections):

NYC elections must follow clear procedures for voting, counting, result declaration, and public announcement. This uniformity upholds legitimacy and strengthens trust in NYC's leadership transitions.

Regulation 28 (Tenure and Transition):

NYC officials serve for a three-year term. The Regulations provide for an orderly handover from outgoing to incoming officials, ensuring continuity and avoiding leadership gaps within the Council.

Connection to NYC

These regulations:

- 1 Anchor youth democracy in practice by defining electoral units from ward to national level, ensuring NYC reflects Kenya's devolved governance (Regs. 4–7).
- 2 Safeguard fairness and inclusivity through voter eligibility rules, gender balance, and guaranteed space for marginalized youth and persons with disabilities (Regs. 8–10, 15–19).
- 3 Protect credibility and accountability by establishing steering committees to manage elections, resolve disputes, and oversee fair conduct (Regs. 20–23).
- 4 Guarantee continuity of leadership by prescribing clear tenure and orderly transition for NYC officials (Reg. 28).

In short, the Election Regulations transform NYC into a functioning democratic institution, giving structure and legitimacy to how youth elect their representatives nationally.

4. Kenya Youth Development Policy, 2019

The Kenya Youth Development Policy (KYDP), 2019, is the government's main framework for guiding youth empowerment, development, and participation in governance. It recognizes youth (18–35 years) as a key national asset and outlines strategies to harness their potential. NYC is identified in this Policy as the national coordinating agency for youth voices, representation, and leadership.

Key Provisions

Section 1.4 (Definition of Youth): Defines youth as persons aged 18–35 years, aligning with both the Constitution and the NYC Act. This provides legal consistency for who qualify to participate in NYC processes.

Section 4.3 (Institutional Frameworks): Recognizes the National Youth Council (NYC) as the statutory body mandated to represent youth, strengthen participation in governance, and provide a link between government and youth. This firmly roots NYC within Kenya's policy landscape.

Section 5.1 (Youth Empowerment): Calls for strengthening NYC and youth organizations to amplify youth voices in decision-making, especially at the country and national levels.

Connection to NYC

The Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019 makes the role of NYC central and indispensable in:

- 1 Defining youth (Sec. 1.4) so the NYC knows clearly who it represents.
- 2 Strengthening institutions (Sec. 4.3, 5.1) by positioning NYC as the statutory body to organize, mobilize, and represent youth.
- 3 Embedding participation (Sec. 6.2, 7.4) by mandating that youth have structured representation through NYC in governance and development processes.
- 4 Driving accountability (Sec. 9.2) by making NYC part of national monitoring and evaluation for youth programs.

In short, the Policy empowers NYC to be the “engine” of youth participation, while government provides the environment and support for it to thrive.

5. National Youth Council Strategic Plan (2023/24–2027/28)

The NYC Strategic Plan (2023/24–2027/28) is a five-year blueprint that guides how the National Youth Council (NYC) will deliver on its mandate. It translates the Constitution, National Youth Council Act, 2009 (Amended 2014), National Youth Council (Election of Certain Council Members) Regulations, 2021, and the Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019, into practical actions for youth empowerment, representation, and participation. It provides clarity on NYC's vision, mission, core values, strategic priorities, and implementation mechanisms for the period 2023–2028.

Key Provisions and Priorities

Priority Area 1: Strengthening Governance and Institutional Capacity

- Commits to regular and transparent NYC elections aligned to the National Youth Council (Election of Certain Council Members) Regulations, 2021
- Calls for improving NYC structures (Board, Secretariat, and County Youth Forums) to make them more youth-owned and accountable.

Priority Area 2: Youth Participation in Governance and Leadership

- Anchors NYC's role in ensuring youth are represented in public decision-making bodies at both national and county levels.
- Aligns with Constitution (Art. 55) and Policy (Sec. 6.2) by insisting that youth voices are institutionalized in governance.

Priority Area 3: Economic Empowerment and Opportunities for Youth

- While NYC is not an economic program implementer, the Plan positions NYC as a policy advocate and coordinator for youth access to opportunities under government programs (e.g., Ajira Digital, KYEOP, Hustler Fund)
- Ensure youth have a seat at the table where policies on jobs, enterprise, and innovation are shaped.

Priority Area 4: Youth Civic Engagement and Social Wellbeing

- Expands NYC's role in promoting civic education for youth on governance, rights, and responsibilities.
- Commits to mobilizing youth to participate in elections (both NYC and national), public debates, and democratic processes.

Priority Area 5: Partnerships, Research and Resource Mobilization

- Calls on NYC to build strategic partnerships with government agencies, development partners, the private sector, and civil society.
- Directs NYC to strengthen its research arm for data-driven youth advocacy and mobilize resources for sustainability.

Connection to NYC

This Strategic Plan is NYC's roadmap for the next five years. Its provisions are directly linked to NYC in the following ways:

01	Elections: Commits to making elections regular, transparent, and inclusive to restore the legitimacy of NYC.
02	Structures: Strengthens NYC at national, county, and grassroots levels, giving youth visible avenues for participation.
03	Mandate: Reinforces NYC as the statutory voice of youth in governance, aligned to the Constitution and Kenya Youth Development Policy
04	Relevance: Moves NYC beyond being just a board by ensuring it delivers tangible benefits, representation, advocacy, and accountability.
05	Vision: Positions NYC as a vibrant, credible, and youth-owned institution by 2028.



INTRODUCTION TO OTHER LAWS, STRATEGIES AND PLANS

Youth development and participation in Kenya are influenced by a broad framework of laws, policies, strategies, and global commitments that go beyond the National National Youth Council Act, 2009 (Amended 2014). These instruments touch on key areas such as employment, education, inclusion, innovation, governance, gender equality, and sustainable development.

Together, they form an ecosystem that supports youth inclusion, empowerment, and participation, ensuring that young people have access to opportunities, resources, and decision-making spaces. Their inclusion in this Compendium is important because they complement the mandate of the National Youth Council by holistically addressing youth issues and anchoring the Council's role within the wider national, regional, and global policy landscape.

6. Kenya Vision 2030 - Social Pillar (Youth Employment & Livelihoods)

Vision 2030 Social Pillar (Youth Employment & Sustainable Livelihoods):

Vision 2030 identifies youth employment, skills development, and social welfare as central to improving the quality of life and reducing poverty.

The Vision 2030 is Kenya's long-term development blueprint. The Social Pillar includes programs aimed at creating jobs, supporting youth enterprises, and improving livelihoods.

Link to NYC: NYC uses Vision 2030 as an overarching frame to push for youth-centered programs and hold the government accountable for employment and skills targets.

7. National Employment Authority Act (2016)

Section 6 (Functions of the Authority): The NEA is tasked with maintaining a database of job seekers, providing counselling, placement services, and coordinating employment policies.

The NEA is expected to help young people access job opportunities and get career support.

Link to NYC: NYC can partner with NEA to connect youth to jobs, internships, and training while using labor market data for advocacy.

8. The Employment Act, 2007 (Act No. 11 of 2007), as amended

Section 5(3)(a): The Act prohibits discrimination in employment on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, nationality, ethnic or social origin, disability, pregnancy, mental status, health status, HIV status, or marital status. The law therefore protects youth from discrimination and promotes fair treatment at work.

Link to NYC: This aligns with NYC's advocacy for decent work and fair hiring practices, ensuring young people enjoy equal rights and dignity in the workplace.

9. National Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Policy, 2019

Policy Objective 2.4 (Digital Skills & Innovation): The policy promotes ICT as a driver of youth employment, innovation, and inclusion in the digital economy. ICT is central to Kenya's development, and youth are positioned as key beneficiaries through training and entrepreneurship.

Link to NYC: NYC can push for youth digital literacy, innovation hubs, and greater access to digital opportunities.

10. Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) Program (2013)

Presidential / Treasury Directive (2013): At least 30% of all government procurement value is reserved for enterprises owned by youth (18-35 years), women, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Certification & Ownership Requirements: Youth enterprises can directly access government contracts through AGPO certification; to qualify,

an enterprise must have at least 70% membership of youth, women, or PWDs, and its leadership must be 100% from the respective group.

Link to NYC: NYC can mobilize youth businesses to apply for AGPO, ensure they meet the registration requirements, and advocate for transparent implementation and strict compliance of the 30% quota at both the national and county levels.

11. National Gender Policy (2019)

Section 4.1 (Gender Equality): The policy promotes equal access, participation and representation of men and women in all sectors. Young women must have equal opportunities in leadership, jobs, and participation.

Link to NYC: NYC applies gender mainstreaming to ensure fair representation of young women in council elections and programs.

12. African Youth Charter (2006)

Article 11 (Youth Participation): States must guarantee the participation of youth in decision-making processes at all levels. The Charter is a continental commitment to youth rights and inclusion.

Link to NYC: NYC aligns with the Charter when advocating for youth representation nationally and regionally.

13. Agenda 2063 (African Union)

Aspiration 6: An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its youth.

Agenda 2063 is the AU's 50-year development plan, with youth at its core

Link to NYC: NYC can link national advocacy to continental priorities and seek partnerships across Africa.

14. Sustainable Development Goals (2015–2030)

SDG 4, 8, 10 and 16: Commit to quality education, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, and peace, justice, and strong institutions.

The SDGs set global benchmarks that directly shape youth empowerment and inclusion in national development.

Link to NYC: NYC leverages the SDGs to track youth-focused progress, mobilize action, and hold Kenya accountable to its international commitments on education, employment, equality, and governance.

15. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015)

Pillars of Action (Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnerships, and Disengagement/Reintegration): Recognizes

youth as key agents of peace and security and calls on governments and international actors to ensure their meaningful involvement in decision-making, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding.

The Resolution is the first global framework that affirms youth as partners in peace and security processes.

Link to NYC: NYC draws on UNSCR 2250 to promote youth inclusion in governance, peace initiatives, and national security dialogues, positioning Kenyan youth as active contributors to peace and development.

SPECIAL SECTION

This special section goes beyond laws and policies to focus on the practical side of youth participation. It speaks directly to young people about how they can engage with the National Youth Council in their everyday lives. It highlights the NYC elections, explains why they matter, and shows how young people can take part, while also address common questions and share useful tips. Unlike formal laws and strategies, this section is about the real experiences, choices, and opportunities that young people encounter or will encounter as they participate in the council.



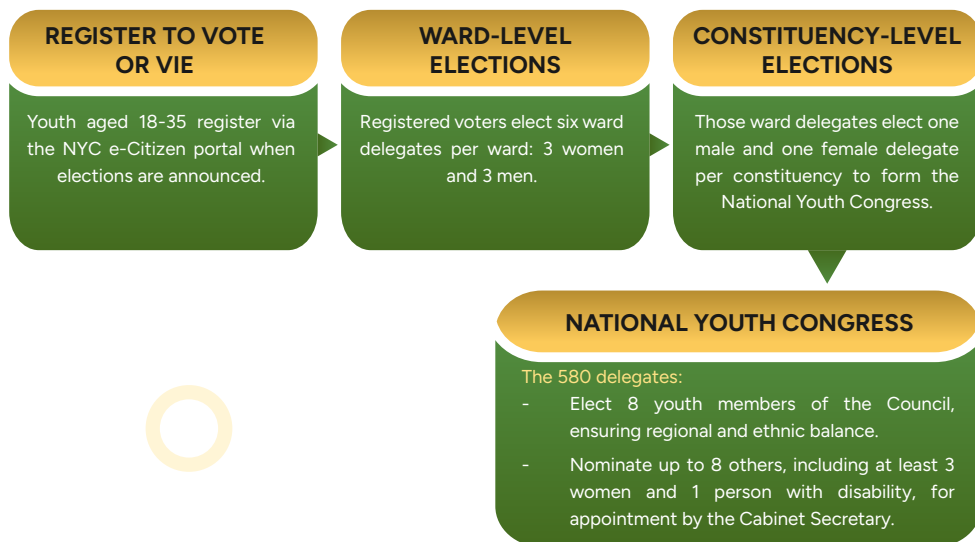
By including it here, the Compendium becomes not just a record of legal frameworks, but also a hands-on guide that equips youth to act and shape their future through the National Youth Council.

WHY THE ELECTIONS MATTER

The National Youth Council elections are more than just a process of choosing leaders; they are about giving young people a voice in Kenya's governance and development. Through these elections, youth representatives are chosen from the wards all the way to the national level, ensuring that the concerns of young people are heard and acted upon. Strong youth participation in these elections means:

- Better representation of youth interests in policy and decision-making.
- Opportunities for young leaders to emerge and influence change.
- A united youth voice that can hold institutions accountable.

Step-by-Step: NYC Election Process



Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

If PWDs don't make it to Congress naturally, 20 PWD delegates are added from the most-voted candidates or via NCPWD.

Substitute Member List

A list of 31 backup youth members (with specified gender, PWD, county, and age criteria) is created to fill any vacancies that arise.

Steering Committees & Oversight

A National Steering Committee and Election Steering Committees at different levels oversee registration, voting, dispute resolution, and adherence to an Electoral Code of Conduct. They also ensure digital integrity and record-keeping.

Eligibility Criteria for NYC Elections

To participate in the National Youth Council elections - whether as a voter or a candidate - you must meet the following requirements:

As a Voter:

- Be a Kenyan citizen.
- Be aged 18 to 35 years.
- Register online through the official NYC election platform (e-Citizen portal) within the set timelines.

As a Candidate:

- Be a Kenyan youth aged 18 to 35 years.
- Be a registered voter in the NYC elections.
- Have at least the minimum education qualification required (varies depending on the level of election, e.g., secondary school for constituency level).
- Be of good conduct, with a positive standing in your community.
- Be nominated by peers or recognized youth groups in line with the election guidelines.
- Uphold values of integrity, inclusivity, and fair leadership.

Rights and Responsibilities of Youth in the Elections

Every young person has both the right and responsibility to participate in the NYC elections.

Rights: to vote, to be voted for, to a fair and inclusive process, and to have their voices heard.

Responsibilities: to vote peacefully, respect diversity, uphold gender balance, promote inclusivity of youth with disabilities, and resist corruption or intimidation.

Active participation strengthens the credibility of the Council and ensures it truly represents youth voices.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS(FAQs)

Got questions about the National Youth Council elections? Here is a quick guide to what every young person needs to know, from who can vote to how the elections work, and why your participation really matters.

1. What is the National Youth Council (NYC)?

The NYC is the official platform that brings together youth voices in Kenya. It represents young people in decision-making, links them to opportunities, and ensures their concerns are heard at the national level.

2. Why do we have NYC elections?

Elections give young people the chance to choose their representatives from the grassroots all the way to the national level. This ensures the Council truly speaks for youth across the country

3. Who can register to vote in NYC elections?

Any Kenyan youth aged 18 to 35 years can register online when the elections are announced. You need to sign up through the official NYC platform and appear in the voter register.

4. Can I vie for a position?

Yes. If you are a Kenyan youth between 18 and 35, meet the education and integrity requirements, and are nominated by your peers, you can contest to represent youth at different levels of the election.

5. How do the elections work?

Elections start at the ward level, then move up through constituencies and finally to the National Youth Congress, which elects and nominates youth to the Council. This step-by-step process makes sure every region has a voice.

6. Why is gender balance important in these elections?

Because both young women and men must be equally represented. At each stage, rules ensure fair participation, so that no gender dominates the process.

7. How are youths with disabilities included?

Special measures are in place to make sure young people with disabilities are represented, even if they are not elected naturally at the earlier levels. This guarantees their voices are part of the Council.

8. Who oversees the elections?

The elections are organized and supervised by committees set up at different levels, supported by the NYC secretariat. Their role is to ensure the process is fair, peaceful, and credible.

9. What do elected youth representatives do?

They represent young people’s issues at local and national levels, influence policies, link youth to opportunities, and act as a bridge between young people and the government

10. Why should I participate in the NYC elections?

Because it’s your chance to shape the future. By voting or contesting, you make sure youth voices are heard, leaders are accountable, and opportunities for young people are expanded.

Tips for Young People

Participation in the NYC elections is not just about voting; it’s about being informed and engaged. Some practical tips include;

STEP	ACTION
Register Early	Sign up on the NYC e-Citizen portal as soon as the election opens.
Know the Dates	Stay updated via the NYC website to track your ward’s election schedule.
Mobilize Peers	Encourage others to register and vote. Spread the word!
Promote Inclusivity	Advocate for youth from all genders, regions, and PWDs.
Stay Informed	Follow NYC announcements, guidelines, and training opportunities.
Be Active Post-Election	Engage with your elected reps and stay part of youth-led dialogues.

Call to Action

The National Youth Council elections are more than a process; they are an opportunity for young people to shape Kenya’s future. By voting, contesting, or simply staying engaged, you make sure that the voices of youth are not just heard but acted upon in the highest spaces of decision-making.

This is your chance to step forward, to lead with integrity, and to hold those in leadership accountable. NYC is your platform, your bridge to government, and your voice in national development. Own it. Use it. Shape it. Your participation today will define the opportunities of tomorrow.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Understanding the language of laws and policies can sometimes feel heavy or technical. This Glossary breaks down the key terms used in the Compendium into simple, clear explanations. It is designed to help young people follow the discussions on laws, strategies, and the National Youth Council with ease, and to connect these concepts to their own participation and leadership journey.

- ◉ **Accountability:** The responsibility of leaders and representatives is to explain their actions, remain transparent, and be answerable to the people they serve.
- ◉ **Constitution:** The supreme law of Kenya that outlines the rights, responsibilities, and structure of government. All youth laws and policies, including the National Youth Council Act, 2009 (Amended 2014), draw their authority from it.
- ◉ **Delegates:** Youth representatives elected at the ward and constituency levels to participate in the National Youth Congress and vote for Youth Council members.
- ◉ **Devolution:** The system of governance in Kenya, where power, resources, and decision-making are shared between national and county governments, creates more opportunities for youth engagement at the grassroots.
- ◉ **Inclusivity:** The principle of ensuring all young people, regardless of gender, disability, region, or background, have equal access to opportunities and representation.
- ◉ **Mandate:** The official authority or responsibility given to an institution like the NYC to carry out its roles on behalf of young people.
- ◉ **National Youth Congress:** A national assembly of elected youth delegates from constituencies. It is a forum where youth elect and nominate members to the National Youth Council.
- ◉ **National Youth Council (NYC):** The official body established by law to represent young people in Kenya, coordinate youth programs, and amplify youth voices in national decision-making.
- ◉ **Participation:** The active involvement of young people in decision-making, governance, elections, and development processes. Participation means not just being present but influencing outcomes.
- ◉ **Policy:** A formal plan or set of guidelines by the government or institutions that shape decisions, actions, and opportunities, for example, the National Youth Policy or Vision 2030.
- ◉ **Representation:** The act of speaking or acting on behalf of others. In NYC, youth representatives are chosen through elections to represent their peers at different levels.

- ◉ **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** A set of 17 global goals (2015–2030) adopted by the United Nations, which guide Kenya and other countries in achieving inclusive growth, equality, and sustainability.
- ◉ **Youth Empowerment:** The process of equipping young people with the skills, resources, confidence, and opportunities they need to actively contribute to society and shape their future.



CONCLUSION

This Compendium stands as more than just a collection of laws, policies, and strategies; it is a bridge between information and action. For too long, the National Youth Council (NYC) has remained distant from many young people, partly because of limited access to simplified information. By unpacking the frameworks that anchor the NYC, this Compendium, developed under the leadership of the Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) closes that gap and places the tools of participation directly in the hands of the youth.

But laws and policies, no matter how progressive, remain only words on paper unless young people understand, embrace, and use them. The true power of the National Youth Council lies not in its statutes alone but in the energy, knowledge, and participation of the youth it represents. Through its convenings, dialogues, and research, CEFRESA has worked to ensure that this resource translates legal frameworks into practical tools for young people, enabling the Council to transform from a symbolic body into a living, youth-owned institution that champions representation, accountability, and leadership.

The National Youth Council stands at the center of this ecosystem as a unifying platform that amplifies the voices of youth, connects them to decision-makers, and safeguards their space in national development. Through NYC, young people can not only influence policies but also access pathways to leadership, enterprise, innovation, and civic opportunities that equip them to thrive and to serve.

This is, therefore, a call to action: Engage. Lead. Organize. Engage with the information in this Compendium, with your peers, and with decision makers. Lead in whatever space you occupy, recognizing that youth leadership is not a privilege for a few but a responsibility for all. With CEFRESA's continued commitment to strengthening youth participation, this Compendium stands as both a guide and an inspiration. The law is now in your hands; the next step is yours.

CONTACT AND ENGAGE

Stay connected with the National Youth Council to keep updated on elections, opportunities, and youth programs.

Website: www.nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke
eCitizen Portal (NYC Elections): nyc.ecitizen.go.ke
Email: info@nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke
Tel: +254 (0)20 240 0505
Location: Head Office: Nairobi, Kenya

Follow NYC on social media for real-time updates, youth opportunities, and calls for participation.

Twitter/X: [NYC_YouthVoice](#)
Facebook: [National Youth Council Kenya](#)
Instagram: [@nyc_kenya](#)

Engage. Participate. Lead. The Council is yours, make your voice count.

Support & Guidance from Center For Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) Our organization serves as a support hub for youth navigating the NYC process by offering guidance, training, and resources to help you participate effectively.

Reach out to us through:

Website: www.cefresa.org
Email: info@cefresa.org
Tel: +254 704194891
Location: Head Office: Pembeni Road, Off Links Road, Nyali
Address: P.O. BOX 42944-80100, Mombasa, Kenya

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Twitter/X: [cefresa_ke](#)
Facebook: [Center for resilience and sustainable Africa](#)
Instagram: [@cefresa.ke](#)