**UNITED NATIONS**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights**

**STATEMENT**

**Session 2: Challenges and discrimination faced by young people in the realization of their rights**

**BY**

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**ASHIA International**

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**Mister President,**

Africa is home to the largest demographic on the planet, and its population is growing rapidly.

However, the African continent remains resolutely inhospitable towards young people, whether politically, economically or socially. The efforts made by African governments to remedy this problem will determine Africa's future in the decades to come.

The status quo would risk exposing Africa to economic underperformance, brain drain, but also crime, political and social unrest, and even armed conflict. It is time for African policymakers to do more to harness the energy and dynamism of their youth.

In order to overcome certain obstacles, African leaders must treat the issue of generational inequality with the same acuteness as other forms of inequality and accelerate their efforts to introduce quotas allowing the integration of young people into political parties, parliaments and other decision-making institutions.

**Mister President,**

Much remains to be done economically as well; millions of young people find themselves without prospects in the economy.

Africa does not have a large labor-intensive manufacturing sector, which would allow it to absorb its expanding youth. Faced with this lack of opportunities, many young people see migration as a chance for social and economic achievement.

**Mister President,**

**ASHIA International** suggests the creation of a **Youth Rights Committee** within the Human Rights Council with a specific mandate.

**Finally Mr. President,**

There is a category of young people whose situation particularly worries **ASHIA International**, it is that of internally displaced girls left to themselves and facing the vicissitudes of society.

In this regard, **ASHIA International** is working on the development of a program relating to the education, training and complete socio-professional integration of internally displaced girls from Cameroon.

We call for technical and financial support for the finalization of this program but also much later, for the financing of the said program.