



**Law and Inclusive
Development Summit**

FEATURING



FOR



LAW AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT (LIDS) 2025

COMMUNIQUE

HOST:



**Nigerian Bar Association,
Garki Branch (Liberty Bar)
Young Lawyers Forum (YLF)**

CONVENER:



**Citizens Initiatives
for Rights and
Empowerment**

Background

On June 4, 2025, the Young Lawyers Forum (YLF), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Garki Branch, in partnership with Citizens Initiatives for Rights and Empowerment (CITIZINRE), convened the inaugural Law and Inclusive Development Summit under the theme “Setting the Pace: Young Lawyers as Drivers of Transformative Change.”

The Summit was chaired by the Honourable Minister of Youth Development, Engr. Ayodele Olawande, and featured a compelling keynote address by Sa’adatu Falila Hamu, Managing Partner at Hamu Legal. It brought together legal professionals, policymakers, academics, civil society leaders, development practitioners, and justice sector stakeholders to explore how young lawyers can be repositioned as frontline agents for national development, legal reform, and inclusive governance.

Two robust panel sessions were held, moderated by respected facilitators and enriched by insights from notable speakers such as Moyosore Onigbanjo SAN, Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro SAN, Lucy James Abagi, Rinsola Abiola, and other distinguished contributors. Discussions centered around youth legal participation, policy influence, and transforming traditional legal careers to meet development challenges.

Key Insights & Themes

Panel Session 1:

“Institutionalizing Youth Legal Participation: Bridging the Gap Between Legal Training and Policy Influence”

This session examined the disconnect between legal education and real-world policy engagement, offering concrete ideas to reposition young lawyers within policy and governance spaces. Key insights included:

- i. The urgent need to reform the Nigerian Law School and university legal curricula to incorporate governance, policy advocacy, and legislative drafting.

- ii. The importance of creating structured pipelines from law faculties and the Law School into public institutions and policy roles.
- iii. Calls for the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) to support more young lawyers' inclusion in NBA committees, especially those that address policy reform.
- iv. The need for institutional collaboration between legal education bodies and professional associations to prepare students for real-life law practice.
- v. The promotion of mentorship systems that guide young lawyers toward broader, development-focused legal careers.

Panel Session 2:

“Law Meets Development: Disrupting Traditional Legal Careers for Social Change”

This session explored how young lawyers can reposition themselves as change-makers by embracing innovative and non-traditional roles in development, governance, and social impact. Key insights included:

- i. A challenge to rethink the conventional definition of legal success, moving beyond litigation and courtroom practice.
- ii. Emphasis on digital literacy, entrepreneurial thinking, and cross-sector collaboration as essential skills for modern legal practice.
- iii. Encouragement for young lawyers to operate in interdisciplinary spaces - including policy reform, technology, and civic advocacy.
- iv. Recommendations for clinical legal education models and hands-on learning experiences to be mainstreamed in law faculties.
- v. The need to integrate young lawyers into public governance processes to increase legal influence in development policy.

Recommendations to Stakeholders

To the Council of Legal Education:

- i. Revise the Law School curriculum to include governance, legislative drafting, policy engagement, and hands-on legal practice.

To the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA):

- i. Establish structured mentorship platforms between senior and young lawyers.
- ii. Facilitate legal career pathways that go beyond litigation, particularly in public service, development, and policy spaces.
- iii. Encourage law school-to-public sector pipelines and appoint more young lawyers to NBA and reform committees.

To Law Faculties and Legal Institutions:

- i. Promote interdisciplinary legal education and practical learning through legal clinics and internship models.
- ii. Partner with the Nigerian Law School to create annex centers that support mentorship and program coordination.

To Government and Development Partners:

- i. Expand transparent and inclusive institutional entry points for young legal professionals.
- ii. Collaborate with legal networks like YLF to strengthen legal empowerment and community-based justice initiatives.

Call to Action

The Summit calls on the Nigerian Bar Association, law faculties, legal institutions, public sector agencies, and development partners to work together in building a legal ecosystem that empowers young lawyers to be agents of social justice, governance reform, and national development.

Issued this 16th day of June, 2025

Young Lawyers Forum (YLF), NBA Garki Branch

In partnership with Citizens initiatives for Rights and Empowerment.