

# **Democratic Alliance Submission to the 2025 P20 Youth Parliament**

*Submitted to the P20 Secretariat*

*Date: 9 June 2025*

---

## **1. Introduction**

The Democratic Alliance (DA) of South Africa welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the 2025 P20 Youth Parliament. As South Africa's second largest party, we are rooted in the values of Freedom, Fairness, Opportunity, and Diversity, we view this engagement as vital in strengthening democratic participation, amplifying youth, and shaping inclusive and sustainable global development agendas. The DA recognises the Youth Parliament as a platform to elevate progressive ideas and policies that can shape a fairer, more prosperous future.

This submission outlines our political and policy standing and details our recommendations and proposals aligned with the six key thematic areas of this year's P20 Youth Parliament.

---

## **2. Political and Policy Standing of the Democratic Alliance**

The DA stands as a centrist, liberal-democratic political party that champions constitutionalism, the rule of law, non-racialism, a capable state, and market-friendly policies.

We believe in a social market economy that provides the space for individual enterprise and initiative while ensuring a safety net for the most vulnerable.

In our governance role at provincial and local levels—most notably in the Western Cape, and numerous well-run municipalities across the country—the DA has consistently demonstrated clean governance, innovation in public service delivery, youth-focused initiatives, and pragmatic economic policy frameworks that prioritise both growth and inclusion.

---

## **3. Contributions Toward P20 Youth Parliament Priorities**

### **A. Inclusive Economic Growth**

#### **DA Policy Context:**

We promote an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, investment, and innovation, underpinned by regulatory reform, fiscal discipline, and support for small businesses.

#### **DA Proposals:**

- Implement youth wage subsidy and a Youth Employment Opportunity certificate (in DA manifesto - page 12)

- Establish national “Opportunity Zones” in rural and township economies to spur investment and inclusive growth.
  - Streamline business registration and reduce red tape for youth-owned enterprises.
- 

## **B. Industrialisation and Employment**

### **DA Policy Context:**

The DA supports re-industrialisation through a modernised, green economy approach, investment in infrastructure, skills development, and export-led growth.

### **DA Proposals:**

- Expand Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) with private sector partnerships for real-world skills alignment.
  - Support green industrialisation and circular economy models to future-proof jobs.
- 

## **C. Meaningful Youth Engagement**

### **DA Policy Context:**

We believe young people must be active agents in democratic processes and global decision-making structures. We advocate for participatory policy-making and digital platforms for youth expression.

### **DA Proposals:**

- Institutionalise Youth Parliaments at municipal, provincial, and national levels with real policy feedback loops.
  - Develop a National Youth Digital Democracy Platform for e-petitions, consultations, and policy reviews.
  - Ensure youth representation in all international and intergovernmental delegations on education, trade, climate, and innovation.
- 

## **D. Inclusive Social Development**

### **DA Policy Context:**

The DA champions non-racialism and inclusive development, prioritising human dignity, equal opportunity, and responsive governance.

### **DA Proposals:**

- Scale community-based interventions in healthcare, mental health, and addiction support tailored to youth.
  - Implement integrated housing, transport, and recreation infrastructure in marginalised communities to build inclusive, safe urban spaces.
- 

## **E. African Development & Agenda 2063 Alignment**

### **DA Policy Context:**

The DA supports deeper regional integration, infrastructure development, and intra-African trade as catalysts for continental growth and stability.

### **DA Proposals:**

- Champion youth-led African innovation hubs in collaboration with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) secretariat.
  - Advocate for cross-border student exchange programmes under the AU's Continental Education Strategy.
  - Promote a Continental Youth Charter to enshrine youth inclusion across AU organs and member states.
- 

## **F. Universal Access to Education**

### **DA Policy Context:**

We advocate for a foundational learning revolution, the depoliticisation of education systems, and the strategic funding of higher education that balances sustainability and accessibility.

### **DA Proposals:**

- Reconfigure higher education funding through a sustainable student loan-guarantee model supported by public and private financing.
  - Expand digital and blended learning platforms to increase access for rural and working students.
  - Reinforce early literacy and numeracy through performance contracts with provincial departments and transparent accountability systems.
  - Launch a National Skills Passport system that recognises informal learning and micro-credentials across the SADC region.
- 

## **4. Conclusion**

The Democratic Alliance remains committed to advancing policies which empower, include, and uplift the Youth. The P20 Youth Parliament represents an important

platform for constructive dialogue, innovation, and collaboration on global challenges. Our proposals are firmly rooted in our track record of governance and our vision for a prosperous, inclusive, and dynamic South Africa within a strong and thriving African continent.

We look forward to meaningful engagement with our international counterparts and pledge to work with the P20 Secretariat to ensure the success of this year's deliberations.