

CI LAA BOKK

UNITED IN ACTION: YOUTH LEADING SENEGAL'S FUTURE

In 2005, the CI LAA BOKK platform was created as a response to the striking underrepresentation of youth in Senegal's decision-making spaces. Despite making up 75% of the population, young people held only 2% of decision-making roles. This disparity led to the birth of CI LAA BOKK, which means "I'm part of it" in Wolof, with the aim of promoting meaningful and inclusive youth participation (MIYP) in governance. The platform emerged through a collaboration of young parliamentarians, elected representatives, and civil society leaders, setting the stage for youth to influence policies impacting their lives.

TRANSFORMING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN GOVERNANCE

CI LAA BOKK has grown from a grassroots initiative to a national movement, gaining support from ministries and fostering youth leadership across government. Through Power to You(th), the platform strengthens youth skills in leadership, advocacy, and MIYP, enabling them to influence national policy. One key achievement is advocating for a 30% youth representation law in the National Assembly, now under review. The platform ensures young people are involved in key discussions, influencing policies on education, employment, and healthcare.

CI LAA BOKK also builds professional skills, helping youth understand local authorities, laws, and policies. This approach has led to more youth leaders, like **Sokhna Ba**, the only female head of a parliamentary commission, and **Ibrahima Thiam**, now Secretary of State, showcasing the platform's success. By giving them the tools, confidence, and space to lead, we ensure a stronger, more dynamic future for all.

CI LAA BOKK has become a catalyst for change, proving that when young people are empowered and included in decision-making, society as a whole benefits. With more youth taking on governmental and leadership roles, their voices are reshaping public policies, ensuring that they address the real challenges faced by Senegal's young population. As the platform continues to expand across Senegal, its impact promises to further strengthen the country's governance and future development.



**We want to make sure
that the authorities
listen to what young
people are saying, and
that they are better
represented at
different levels.**

KEY LEARNINGS

- 1) Create Inclusive Platforms:** Foster spaces where youth can collaborate with adult leaders to ensure their voices are heard and integrated into decision-making processes.
- 2) Invest in Capacity Building:** Provide young people with training in leadership, advocacy, and governance to equip them with the skills needed to influence policy.
- 3) Promote Intergenerational Partnerships:** Engage both young and experienced leaders to create a unified approach to addressing societal challenges.
- 4) Champion Legislative Change:** Advocate for policies that guarantee youth representation, such as a minimum quota for youth in legislative bodies.