

“BEYOND BORDERS: WOMEN, POLICY VISION, GLOBAL IMPACT”



“At the Doha World Summit: a distinguished exchange with the President of the United Nations General Assembly”

THE WORLD IN CONVERSATION



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**THE
ILLUMINATOR'S
MAGAZINE**

**BOUNDLESS
POSSIBILITIES**

LETTER FROM



Yejide Aina
Architect of Global Empowerment.
Founder, The Illuminator's Academy

“In these pages, you will find more than photographs—you will witness moments where vision met leadership, and dialogue shaped destiny. From Doha to the halls of the United Nations, these encounters remind us that the pursuit of equality is not confined to speeches or summits; it is carried forward by those who dare to stand at the table of nations.

This magazine is a testament to that journey, and an invitation to join in shaping the future.”

THE ILLUMINATOR

“INSPIRATION IS THE BRIDGE
BETWEEN POSSIBILITY AND
REALITY.”



“Greetings, As you turn these pages, may you be reminded that inspiration is the true currency of leadership. Power may open doors, but it is inspiration that moves hearts, builds bridges, and shapes futures. My hope is that every story, every image, and every reflection here will spark within you the courage to dream boldly and act with purpose. May you leave these pages not only informed, but inspired to carry forward the light of change.”

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Yejide Aina

PROFILE

Yejide Aina is a global development leader, UN speaker, author, and pioneering advocate for girl-child empowerment whose influence spans diplomacy, policy, innovation, and international development. With over 18 years of multinational leadership experience, she is recognized for shaping bold, human-centered solutions for girls, women, youth, and emerging African leaders across continents.

Yejide holds visibility at the highest levels of global diplomacy and policy, with proven credibility and institutional legacy. She was featured by UN News at the United Nations General Assembly, where she addressed world leaders at UNGA80 on social justice and girl-child empowerment solidifying her voice among global decision-makers.

In 2025, she participated significantly at the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, engaging directly with the Executive Director of UN Women, global CEOs, Ministers, development leaders, and the President of the UN General Assembly. She contributed significantly to the High-Level Private Sector Forum, aligning private sector action with global social development priorities.

Her global thought leadership also extends to Unstoppable Africa the flagship platform of the UN Global Compact and Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI) where she was interviewed on Africa's innovation and leadership potential, alongside development influencers.

In 2025, Yejide forged a groundbreaking collaboration with Sheraa Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center (UAE), amplifying the transformative ASC2025 initiative across Africa, the African diaspora, and the Caribbean. Through this collaboration, she connected African growth-stage startups to world-class resources, visibility, and global influence, strengthening the bridge between Africa's emerging innovators and the global entrepreneurship ecosystem.

PROFILE

Yejide is the Founder of PHD4Girls Global Initiative and the creator of the Girl-Child Letter Mug Movement (GCLMug) a revolutionary empowerment model available in 11 languages and now impacting 17 countries. Written to the over 600 million adolescent girls worldwide, the GCLMug has become a global symbol of identity, possibility, and transformative leadership.

A chartered accountant and former Country Finance Director at Etihad Airways, she is also the Founder of The Illuminator's Academy, a leadership and access platform empowering next-generation change-makers.

Her work has been featured globally including The New York Times, UN platforms, and international media.

She is honored as one of the Top 50 African Women in Development and is a recipient of the Global Recognition Award for Entrepreneurship and Social Impact.

In 2024, she was invited by the Nigeria Governors' Forum to the Presidential Villa, Aso Rock, where she participated significantly in shaping national and global strategies for girl-child education.

As an author, Yejide published *5 Tips on Personal Agility for Today's Girl*, an internationally embraced leadership tool for young women, available in French and Swahili, and used in leadership training programs around the world.

Yejide Aina stands as a bridge between nations, institutions, and generations carrying the voices, dreams, and futures of girls and young women to the world's most influential stages. Her mission is simple yet transformational: to build boundless and borderless possibilities for girls, youth, young women, and nations.



A MOMENT IN HISTORY

With Annalena Baerbock, President United Nations General Assembly

“Deeply honoured to share dialogue with the President of the UN General Assembly at the Doha World Summit.”

A PROMISE TO FIGHT POVERTY WHEREVER IT EXISTS, TO OPEN DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY THROUGH DECENT WORK, TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TO ENSURE THAT JUSTICE AND EQUALITY ARE NOT IDEALS, BUT REALITIES.



A story of the Doha Declaration

In the city of Doha, leaders from every corner of the world gathered with a single purpose: to place humanity at the heart of progress.

Thirty years ago, in Copenhagen, the world made a promise. Leaders gathered at the first World Summit for Social Development and signed the Copenhagen Declaration, committing themselves to fight poverty, promote full employment, and build stable, just societies. It was a groundbreaking moment—the first time nations came together to say that social progress must stand alongside economic growth.

The Doha summit was not just about speeches or signatures—it was about a vision.

From the podiums and roundtables came a shared pledge, now known as the Doha Declaration. It was more than an agreement; it was a promise. A promise to fight poverty wherever it exists, to open doors of opportunity through decent work, to protect human rights, and to ensure that justice and equality are not ideals, but realities.

The Declaration spoke of a world where social development is not an afterthought, but the very foundation of peace and stability. It reminded governments that fairness must guide policy, citizens that their voices matter, and future generations that equality is the path to lasting progress.

Doha became a symbol—a moment in history when nations agreed that building a better world begins with putting people first.



MY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DOHA DECLARATIONS



The Doha Declaration is not only a pledge made by nations—it is a call to action for individuals and movements. For me, that call found its answer in two initiatives: [PhD4Girls](#) and the [GCLMUG](#) Movement.

Through PhD4Girls, I work to break barriers and open doors for young women, ensuring that education is not a privilege but a right.

Every scholarship, mentorship, and opportunity offered is a step toward reducing inequality and empowering the next generation of leaders. This is how we fight poverty—not only with policies, but with knowledge and the courage to dream.

Through the GCLMUG Movement, I amplify voices and create platforms where inclusion and justice are not abstract ideals, but lived realities. By fostering dialogue, building networks, and championing equality, the movement embodies the spirit of the Declaration: putting people first, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Together, these initiatives are my way of carrying the Doha Declaration forward—transforming its words into action, and its vision into reality.

BY YEJIDE AINA



THE GIRL-CHILD LETTER- MUG

EMPOWERMENT DELIVERED WITH EVERY SIP

You are becoming a girl who dreams with her eyes open and walks toward those dreams, one small brave step at a time.

Even when you're unsure.

Even when it's slow.

Even when no one else can see the growth yet.

Something beautiful is unfolding in you — new confidence, new courage, new understanding of just how much you carry inside.

Your voice is finding its strength.

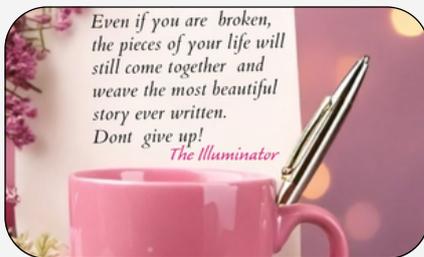
Your heart is learning its power.

Your future is stretching wider than you imagined.

So keep going. Keep dreaming. Keep believing that your life can be bright, meaningful, and full of joy.

Because you are not just growing up.

You are becoming someone the world will be glad you became.



The Girl-Child Letter Mug (GCLMug) is the **world's first empowerment innovation tool** that transforms an everyday activity into a daily practice of belief, delivering identity, confidence, resilience, elevated thinking and leadership mindset to girls worldwide.”
—Yejide Aina

<https://theilluminatorsacademy.com/girl-child-letter-mug/>

[Click this link](#)

To over 600 million girls.
Available in 11 languages
17 Countries.
No girl left behind.

PUSHING

Social Development

IN EVERY SOCIETY, PROGRESS IS MEASURED **NOT** ONLY BY ECONOMIC GROWTH BUT BY THE DEPTH OF ITS COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. WHEN EDUCATION, EQUITY, AND EMPOWERMENT ARE PLACED AT THE CENTER OF POLICY AND PRACTICE, NATIONS THRIVE.



to the

FOREFRONT

GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS



"Giving Girls a Place — Breaking Barriers and Building Opportunities" is not just a phrase; it embodies a transformative vision that I carried to the global stage at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the State of Social Justice in the World.
Yejide Aina

UN NEWS UNGA80

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

MAKING HISTORY AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNGA80



WHEN A GIRLS MIND IS ENLIGHTENED , SHE ELEVATES HER OWN LIFE !

Stepping into the UN News studio at the iconic United Nations Headquarters during the 80th UN General Assembly (UNGA80) was more than just an interview, it was a defining moment of purpose. I had the honor of being invited by UN News to share my voice after participating in the High-Level Special Event on the State of Social Justice in the World—a powerful gathering co-organized by the State of Qatar, International Labor Organization (ILO), African Union, European Union, International Organization of Employers (IOE), and UNDESA, alongside UN partners and member states.

This high-level meeting convened global leaders to shape the future of social justice ahead of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha 2025, a critical milestone for humanity's shared commitment to equity, dignity, and inclusion.

 In the UN studio, I spoke from the heart. The statistics were already known. What I offered was a message to world leaders that was simple, clear, and deeply relevant:

Yes, you heard that right. To educate a girl-child is to love the girl-child. And when a girl's mind is enlightened, she elevates her own life.

This message is more than a statement, it is a call to action.

As one of the Top 50 African Women in Development, a Global Recognition Award recipient, and Founder of The Illuminator's Academy, I remain deeply committed to ensuring that girls everywhere are seen, heard, and empowered to thrive. Through the PHD4Girls Global Initiative and the Girl-Child Letter Mug Movement now translated into 11 languages. We are building a global symbol of empowerment and a revolutionary tool for advocacy.

Our work continues to bridge global gaps, drive inclusion, and inspire bold solutions—especially as we look ahead to Doha 2025. I will be sharing more moments from this unforgettable experience, from the UN News studio to the halls of the UN Headquarters, and the high-level meetings that remind us: Every girl's dream is worth fighting for.

UNSTOPPABLE AFRICA 2025



With Director General World -Trade Organisation

Unstoppable Africa stands as the premier African-convened business forum outside the continent, hosted by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union. Took place on 21–22 September 2025 during the 80th UN General Assembly in New York, it will unite African and global heads of state, business leaders, and top investors. This convergence of voices signals Africa’s determination to lead—not follow—in shaping the markets of tomorrow.

Innovation

Africa is uniquely blessed. Innovation is taking root across the continent, from fintech revolutions in Lagos to renewable energy breakthroughs in Nairobi, agritech advances in Accra, and creative industries flourishing in Johannesburg. Among these, GCLMUG shines as a bold innovation—a global symbol of empowerment and interactive artifact designed to empower the girl-child and young women globally.

By creating platforms for youth, women, and cross-border partnerships, **GCLMUG** demonstrates how African ingenuity can solve global challenges. It is a movement that embodies Africa’s unstoppable spirit of creativity, resilience, and transformation.



With Nigerian Former Vice President Professor Yemi Osibajo

UNSTOPPABLE AFRICA 2025



Live interview about transforming Africa's future with Stephanie Busari at the Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI) during *Unstoppable Africa*. A high-level UNGA80 parallel event in Newyork.



With Sanda Ojiambo
Ass. Secretary-General
of United Nations
Global Compact



With Tolu Lewis Tamoka
Chief of Government
Relations and Africa at UN
Global Compact

SHARJAH ENTREPRENEURSHIP FESTIVAL



Photos with CEO of Sheraa H.E Sara Al Nuaimi



Honored to have been part of the Sharjah Entrepreneurship Festival 2025, where innovation, creativity, and impact truly came alive.

One of the highlights for me was engaging with the incredible leadership team from Sara Al Nuaimi (CEO) to Najla Al-Midfa the Vice chairman, to Abeer Al Ameerri Director of Ecosystem, to Lubna Sohraab to Mishal Tassadaq.

Each conversation was inspiring, elevated in vision, resilience, and building communities that empower global entrepreneurs.

Later during the year, I also had the privilege of an iconic collaboration with Sheraa by amplifying Sheraa's flagship initiative #ASC2025 Access Sharjah Challenge to Africans, Africans in diaspora and the Caribbeans bringing boundless possibilities to high-potential African startups and exploring how entrepreneurship can solve real-world problems.

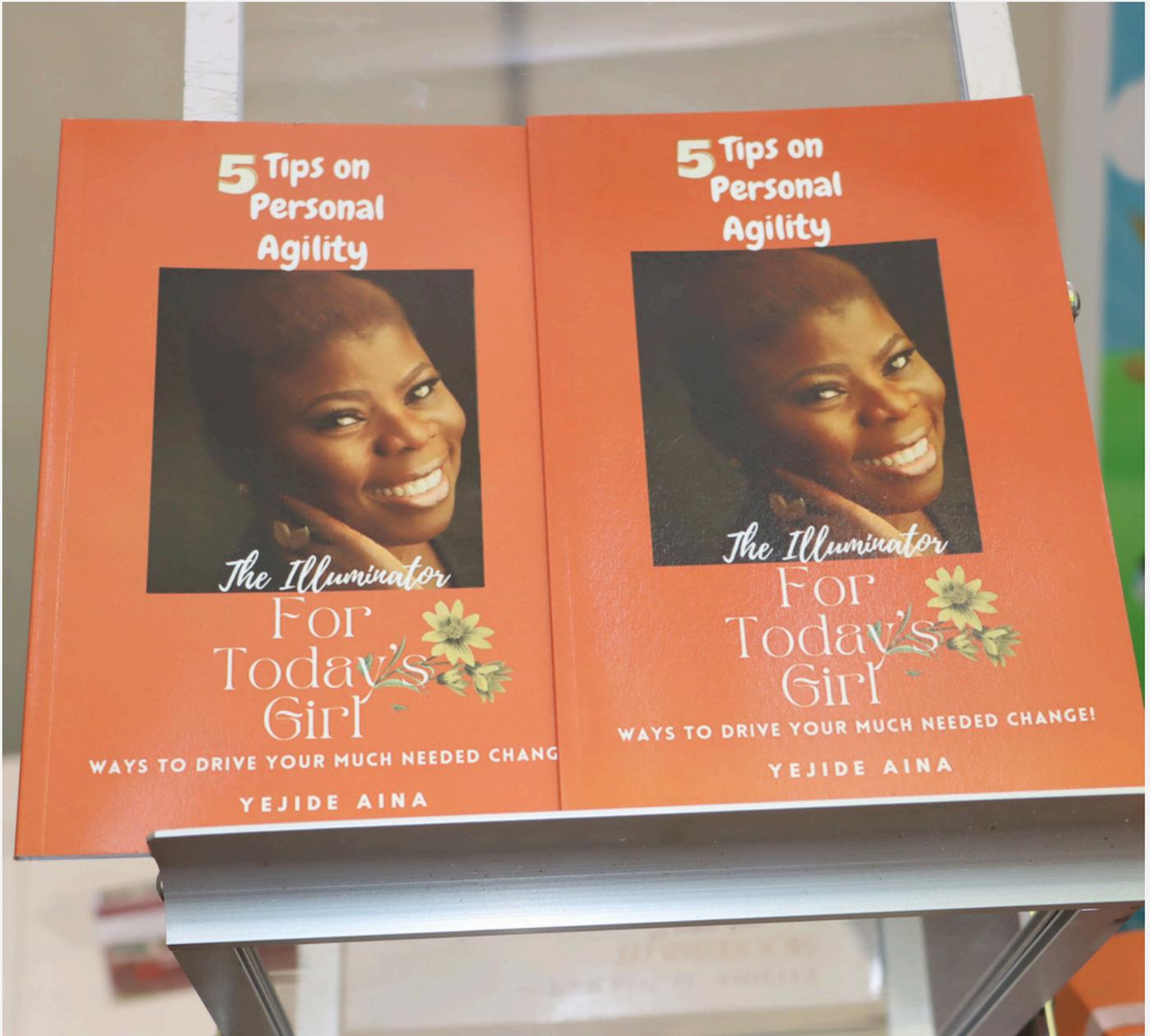
PHD4GIRLS

Transformation

FOR TODAY'S GIRL



5 TIPS ON PERSONAL AGILITY FOR TODAY'S GIRL



[CLICK HERE TO GET IT FOR HER](https://a.co/d/0cwwndho)
[HTTPS://A.CO/D/0CWWNDHO](https://a.co/d/0cwwndho)

Ways to drive your much needed change



AMAZING REVIEWS

Outstanding Book Review



**This book made a
captivating handout for a
training of young female
leaders. Well-done**

Dr Khetsiwe Dlamini
**Former Chief of Staff, UN Women, United
Nations, New York**



www.theilluminatorsacademy.com

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Solving World Challenges! A defining moment for Africa



The Doha Declaration was a truly recognizable milestone. During Second World Summit on Social Development #WSSD2025, I presented my solution to the world, amplifying the voice of transformation. Sitting alongside Muhammad, this moment symbolized Africa's unstoppable role in shaping humanity's future.

The Power of Dialogues in Shaping Futures



With Deemah Alyahya, Secretary General of the DCO Digital Cooperation Organization

"Sharing insights with Deemah Alyahya, Secretary-General of the DCO, (Digital Cooperation Organisation)

I emphasized the role of digital cooperation in advancing girls' leadership and transformation.

This moment reflected the power of dialogue in shaping inclusive futures."



Photo with Executive Director of UN Women Sima Bahous holding my book

A proud moment with the Executive Director of UN Women as we hold (my book) **Personal Agility for Today's Girl**, championing a global vision for empowering the next generation of girls to lead with resilience, purpose, and possibility.

Fascinating Conversations



"A fascinating conversation with

Sana de Courcelles of the ILO's Global Coalition for Social Justice and Folly Bah, senior presenter at Al Jazeera.

This moment captured the delight of engaging with women shaping global narratives and advancing social transformation."

Left - Folly Bah, Senior Presenter at Al Jazeera.

Middle- Sana de Courcelles of the ILO's Global Coalition for Social Justice



Connecting vision with action at the Private Sector Forum — engaging global businesses and international institutions to accelerate social development outcomes.

With distinguished representatives from the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), United Nations Global Compact

5 Tips On Personal Agility For Today's Girl

Copies at the House of Wisdom, Emirates of Sharjah UAE, Futuristic Library, Cultural Hub and UNESCO World Book Capital.



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★ **“YEJIDE, YOU CAN REALLY
MAKE A BIG IMPACT ON
THIS GENERATION”**

*Brenda Rademeyer
Divisional Vice President Emirates Group*



Global Impact

**Your message on agility and 5 easy to remember tips
can apply to all ages!**

Well done again

**You doing an amazing job motivating a generation that
need to get back to the basics and work on their life
skills of which agility is super important. You can really
make a big impact on this generation !**

PHD1GIRLS
...transforming the mind



Brenda Rademeyer

**Divisional Vice President
Emirates Group UAE** 





EMPOWERING A GENERATION OF GIRLS



**EMPOWERMENT
DELIVERED WITH
EVERY SIP**

yejide aina

GIRL-CHILD LETTER
GCLMug 

THE GIRL-CHILD LETTER- MUG

**11 LANGUAGES
17 COUNTRIES
1 GLOBAL SYMBOL**

Created by Yejide Aina



THE GIRL-CHILD LETTER- MUG



EMPOWERMENT DELIVERED WITH EVERY SIP

At the World Summit on Social Development, I engaged with distinguished global leaders, including Singapore's Minister for Social Development, the Chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Ambassador of Seychelles to Abu Dhabi, Denmark's Minister for Social Development, and other international stakeholders.

These moments reflect the strength of global collaboration advancing inclusive and sustainable transformation worldwide.



With Singapore's Minister of social development, Masagos Zulkifli



With IMF Chief -Special Representative of the IMF to the United Nations



In conversation with Jessika Boje Auken Head of Denmark's Delegation



With the Ambassador of Seychelles to UAE

Engaging in high-level dialogue with global industry leaders, including Dr. Gilbert F. Hougbo, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Director of the IMF New York Office and Special Representative to the United Nations.

Advancing conversations on inclusive growth, economic empowerment, and sustainable social development at the World Summit in 2025



Dr. Gilbert F. Hougbo, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO)



***Leading an elevated conversation with global economic and development leaders**



With Nigeria's ILO representative to the United Nations



Photo with Honourable Ayo Federal Minister of Youth and Social Development in Nigeria

FEATURED IN US TIMES NEWS

Yejide Aina Shines at Global Entrepreneurship Festival, Receives Global Recognition Award. [SCAN TO READ FULL STORY](#)





UNITED NATIONS HEADQUATERS, NEWYORK

I am glad you found this a great read

Collaborate With Me !





**BEYOND
BORDERS:
WOMEN
POLICY
VISION, GLOBAL &
SOCIAL IMPACT**

