Special Olympics Leadership Academy Leader II workshop for Africa leaders took place on September 11-14, 2017, in Lusaka, Zambia. The Academy is a leadership development program aimed at engaging and inspiring emerging leaders to become brave, visionary, dynamic leaders that drive the development and growth of Special Olympics in their country or state.

32 leaders representing 17 countries of Africa Region.

Esteemed guest speakers and panelists added a lot of value to the Academy through sharing their expertise and advice:

- Esther Lungu, First Lady of Zambia
- Honorable Given Lubinda, Minister of Justice, Zambia
- Janet Deutsch, US Embassy, Spokesperson, Zambia
- Luis Gallegos, Ecuador Ambassador to the United Nations, Geneva
- Maureen Mwanawasa, Former First Lady of Zambia, Managing Partner at Levy Mwanawasa and Company
- Misan Eresanara, Africa Leadership Council, Chair, Nigeria
- Rajinder Semb, Past Council Chairperson & Constitutional Area Leader Global Leadership Team-Africa, Lions Clubs International

The following facilitators conducted the sessions:

- Annemarie Hill, SOI
- Brandon Pleaner, CEB
- Mabel Chileshe Luo Mung’Omba, Belcomm Ltd, UPSTART Skills Bank
- Olga Yakimakhó, SOI
- Denis Doolan, SOI
- Charles Nyambe, SO Africa

Just leaving Lusaka after a very successful African Leadership Academy. We had a great meeting with very powerful leaders from a very complex and challenging geopolitical region. The leadership of the Academy has been outstanding.

-Ambassador Luis Gallegos
Ecuador Ambassador to the United Nations

Thank you so much for the terrific workshop. It was very informative, very well presented, plus enjoyable. I have learned so much that will assist me in my workplace. I have already started to use some of the strategies and tools with our clients and they are working remarkably well.

-Tanyaradzwa Nzvengende
Youth Leader, Zimbabwe

I wish to thank you very much for the feedback. I really learned a number of good tips from the training and I am trying to implement some of those tips.

-Leonard Chiza Nkosi
Board Chairman, Special Olympics Malawi

I have developed like never before. I am now a better athlete leader with vision, with goals. The academy has changed my life. I know how to handle challenges that come along my way every day and how to be an effective leader who is humble and inspirational.

-Nyasha Derera
Athlete Leader, Zimbabwe
The workshop included the following sessions:

1. Enterprise Leadership
2. Emotional Intelligence
3. 360 Feedback
4. Dialogue Café
5. Global Development and Government Relations
6. Inclusive Leadership

The Leadership Academy workshop was delivered in a highly interactive manner: the participants actively engaged with facilitators and content, practiced new skills and planned for the application in the workplace. Every participant had a coaching session, which helped with reflecting on the learned material and planning for implementation of the new skills.

After the leaders returned home, they continued implementing leadership Action Plans, learning about leadership online and reporting to the Academy regularly on their progress.

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The average overall satisfaction rate was 4.6 out of 5.

The hosts of the Lusaka Academy, Special Olympics Zambia and the Olympic Youth Development Center (OYDC) made an incredible strategic outreach effort and secured guest speakers at the highest level possible. Every participating leader carried away messages shared by ministers, First Ladies and other government and business leaders.

The location of the workshop at an entrepreneurial and very innovative youth sports center located away from Lusaka downtown, created a special atmosphere of familiar comfort and young energy.

The workshop was made possible thanks to generous financial support of American Express Foundation, CEB, Lions Clubs International, Special Olympics Africa and donation of online learning licenses by SkillSoft. Course structure and content were designed in partnership with CEB and Goldman Sachs.