OROMIA YOUTH FEDERATION

COMPREHENSIVE ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Vision • Mission • Goals • Thematic Areas • Services • Governance

Established: 04/05/2002 E.C. • Proclamation No. 321/59 • Reg. No. WB/03-0331 • Re-registered: 14/05/2016 E.C.

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION DETAILS

Full Name (English)	Oromia Youth Federation (OYF)
Date of Establishment	**04/05/2002 (Ethiopian Calendar)**
Establishing Proclamation	**Proclamation No. 321/59**
Registration Number	**WB/03-0331**
Re-registration Date	**14/05/2016 (Ethiopian Calendar) — Amendment**
Re-registration Legal Basis	**Oromia CSO Proclamation No. 254/2016, Article 87(2)**
Registering Authority	Oromia Attorney General Bureau
Amended Bylaws	January 2017 E.C. — pursuant to Proclamation No. 254/2016
Headquarters	Finfinne (Addis Ababa), Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia
Geographic Scope	Oromia Region — Kebele to Regional level;
Youth Definition	Any person aged 15–35 (male or female)
Membership Types	Full Members (registered youth organizations & CSOs) + Associate Members

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1. About the Oromia Youth Federation

The Oromia Youth Federation (OYF), is the apex youth federation of the Oromia Regional State of Ethiopia. The Federation was officially established on 04/05/2002 (Ethiopian Calendar) under Proclamation No. 321/59, with Registration Number WB/03-0331, registered at the Oromia Attorney General Bureau.

The Federation was subsequently re-registered on 14/05/2016 (Ethiopian Calendar) pursuant to Oromia Civil Society Organizations Proclamation No. 254/2016, Article 87(2), maintaining its Registration Number WB/03-0331. Its bylaws were further amended in January (2017 E.C.) in accordance with the same Proclamation.

The OYF is a legally registered, non-governmental, non-profit, and politically independent federation. It is a federation-of-organizations: its full members are legally registered youth organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), unions, and voluntary associations working on youth affairs across Oromia. It also welcomes associate members including youth groups in schools, colleges, and universities, as well as Oromo youth organizations in neighboring regions and the diaspora worldwide.

The Federation operates through a four-tier territorial structure — Region, Zone, Woreda, and Kebele — ensuring that its reach extends from the grassroots community level all the way to the regional capital and beyond. It is governed by a General Assembly, an Executive Committee, Centera Committee and an Audit Commission, with a professional Management Committee handling day-to-day operations.

> *The OYF exists to ensure that every young Oromo person — regardless of gender, location, or background — can organize freely, participate meaningfully, and benefit fully from the development and democratic transformation of Oromia and Ethiopia.*

2. Vision

> *An Oromia where every young person is organized, empowered, and actively participating in the democratic, social, and economic transformation of their community and region — contributing to a peaceful, prosperous, and united Ethiopia and Africa.*

The OYF's vision is rooted in the constitutional right of youth to organize freely and the belief that the power of organized youth is the most transformative force for sustainable development. Drawing on the rich democratic traditions of the Oromo people. the OYF envisions a future where:

- Youth organizations at every level, from the kebele to the region, are strong, independent, and effective.
- Young women and men participate equally and benefit equitably from all development processes.
- Oromo youth at home and in the diaspora are connected, coordinated, and contributing to the progress of their people.
- Democratic values, rule of law, good governance, and human rights are upheld and championed by youth.
- Youth are not merely beneficiaries of development — they are its primary drivers and leaders.
- The OYF is recognized as a model youth federation at regional, national, and continental levels.

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3. Mission

> *To organize, empower, and advocate for the youth of Oromia by building a strong, inclusive federation of youth organizations that ensures the full participation, equitable benefit, and democratic representation of young people in all spheres of life.*

The OYF fulfills its mission through five interconnected strategic pillars:

ORGANIZE	Build and strengthen a network of legally registered youth organizations from the kebele to the regional level, ensuring every young person has access to an organized platform for civic engagement.
EMPOWER	Strengthen the capacity, resources, and leadership of youth organizations and individual young people so they can effectively participate in and benefit from development, governance, and economic opportunities.
ADVOCATE	Serve as the collective voice of Oromia's youth in policy dialogue, government planning, and national and international forums — ensuring youth interests are reflected in laws, budgets, and programs.
CONNECT	Link Oromia's youth organizations with national, continental, and global youth networks, enabling knowledge exchange, partnership, and mutual support across borders.
SUSTAIN	Build a financially sustainable, transparent, and accountable federation through diversified income, lawful commercial activities, external audit, and strong governance systems.

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4. Core Goals

The Oromia Youth Federation pursues the following core goals as defined in its bylaws:

1. Create awareness, motivate, and facilitate conditions for regional youth to organize under lawful objectives using the constitutional right to organize, ensuring their participation and benefit.
2. Monitor whether government policies, strategies, plans, and programs ensure youth participation and benefit; advocate on behalf of youth and work in coordination with relevant bodies.
3. Provide support, organize, strengthen awareness, and create enabling conditions for youth to broadly participate in and benefit from development, justice, peace, good governance, democracy, and human rights.
4. Advocate as the collective voice of youth to ensure their participation and benefit in economic, political, and social spheres.
5. Create conditions that strengthen the overall political empowerment and decision-making capacity of youth.
6. Enable regional youth to network with counterparts at national and international levels and benefit equally from results through lawful means.
7. Identify the nature and extent of good governance violations against youth and work with legal and democratic bodies to eliminate them.
8. Protect the rights and interests of member organizations and strengthen their implementation capacity.
9. Support member organizations to collect resources in the manner legally permitted for their revenue collection.
10. Exchange ideas, information, and experiences with members.
11. Conduct research and studies on sectors, civil society organizations, and bodies working on youth affairs; carry out policy advocacy and support activities.
12. Promote a culture of generosity and voluntary community service among youth.

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5. Thematic Areas

The OYF organizes its work around eleven thematic areas that reflect the full scope of its mandate and activities:

01

Youth Organizing & Civic Engagement

Facilitate the legal establishment and strengthening of youth organizations, associations, unions, and networks from the kebele to the regional level, including in schools, colleges, and universities.

- Support youth organizations to register legally and become active members of the Federation.

- Ensure youth organizations maintain their independence while benefiting from Federation membership.
- Facilitate diaspora Oromo youth organizations to affiliate as associate members.

02 Democratic Governance & Political Participation

Promote youth participation in democratic processes including elections, people's councils, and governance structures at all levels.

- Advocate for proper youth representation in leadership bodies and elected positions.
- Observe national elections as a civil society observer on behalf of youth.
- Build a culture of democratic values, rule of law, and accountability among youth.

03 Economic Empowerment & Livelihoods

Support rural and urban youth to access economic opportunities, develop income sources, and engage in development activities.

- Implement programs that strengthen youth economic participation through skills and entrepreneurship.
- Monitor government development packages targeting youth and ensure equitable benefit.
- Conduct lawful commercial and investment activities to sustain the Federation's work.

04 Peace, Justice & Human Rights

Promote youth engagement in peace-building, justice system improvement, and human rights protection.

- Create awareness platforms for youth to play their role in conflict resolution and social cohesion.
- Identify and address good governance violations affecting youth.
- Promote the Oromo tradition of dialogue and peaceful dispute resolution

05 Capacity Building & Leadership Development

Strengthen the organizational, technical, and leadership capacity of member organizations and individual youth leaders.

- Provide training, mentorship, and knowledge exchange opportunities.
- Build a new generation of competent, ethical, and democratic youth leaders.
- Support member organizations in governance, financial management, and organizational development.

06 Research, Policy Advocacy & Communications

Conduct research and studies on youth affairs; engage in evidence-based policy advocacy with government and other stakeholders.

- Manage the Federation's communications, publications, and media relations.
- Amplify the voice of youth at regional, national, and international levels.
- Issue position statements and press conferences on matters of concern to youth.

07 Community Service & Volunteerism

Promote a culture of generosity, volunteerism, and civic responsibility among youth.

- Mobilize youth organizations and individuals to engage in community service activities.
- Recognize and celebrate exemplary community service contributions.
- Coordinate with civil society organizations on community development initiatives.

08 Education & Skills Development

Support youth access to quality education, vocational training, and skills development.

- Advocate for youth access to quality formal and non-formal education.
- Support vocational and technical training programs for youth.
- Promote lifelong learning and continuous skills development among members.

09 Youth Health & Wellbeing

Promote youth health and wellbeing, including psychosocial support and health rights awareness.

- Create awareness on youth health rights and available services.
- Support psychosocial wellbeing and mental health awareness among youth.
- Advocate for youth-friendly health services and policies.

10 Climate Resilience & Environment

Engage youth in climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and green enterprise.

- Mobilize youth for environmental conservation and climate action.
- Support green enterprise and sustainable livelihoods for youth.
- Advocate for youth inclusion in climate policy and decision-making.

11 Digital Innovation & ICT

Advance digital literacy, ICT skills, and innovation among youth to prepare them for the digital economy.

- Facilitate ICT-based communication between member organizations and the Federation.
- Support digital skills development and youth innovation programs.
- Connect Oromia youth with global digital networks and opportunities.

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6. What We Do

The OYF translates its mission and goals into concrete action across seven key areas of work:

6.1 Build and Strengthen Youth Organizations

- Work with relevant bodies to create awareness and fulfill prerequisites for youth to organize from the kebele level upward.
- Assist youth organizations, associations, unions, and networks to register legally and become members of the Federation.
- Support the establishment of youth organizations at kebele,woreda,zone and regional level and also in secondary schools, colleges, and universities.
- Ensure diaspora Oromo youth organizations can affiliate with the Federation as associate members.

6.2 Advocate for Youth Rights and Interests

- Monitor government policies, strategies, and programs to ensure they reflect youth participation and benefit.
- Present youth ideas, questions, and demands to government and other stakeholders on behalf of member organizations.
- Identify and address good governance violations affecting youth in coordination with legal and democratic bodies.
- Advocate for youth representation in elected bodies, councils, and leadership positions at all levels.

6.3 Promote Democratic Participation

- Observe national elections as a civil society observer and voter educations meeting all criteria set by the National Electoral Board.
- Work to ensure youth receive their deserved percentage of elected positions.
- Strengthen youth participation in people's councils and governance structures at all levels.
- Promote democratic values, rule of law, and accountability among youth organizations and leaders.

6.4 Support Economic Empowerment

- Monitor the implementation of government development packages targeting rural and urban youth.
- Strengthen youth awareness and motivation to develop income sources and engage in development activities.
- Coordinate with implementing bodies at all levels to ensure all youth benefit from economic programs.
- Conduct income-generating activities and commercial investments in accordance with applicable laws.

6.5 Build Capacity and Share Knowledge

- Lead, coordinate, and monitor capacity building and leadership development programs for member organizations.
- Organize experience and information exchange platforms at regional, national, and international levels.

- Conduct research and studies on youth affairs and use findings for policy advocacy and program improvement.
- Manage the Federation's communications, publications, and media relations.

6.6 Foster Partnerships and Networking

- Represent Oromia's youth at national, continental, and international platforms and forums.
- Negotiate and manage support and partnership agreements with government, NGOs, and international organizations.
- Enable regional youth organizations to work with counterparts at national and global levels in freedom and partnership.
- Connect Oromo diaspora youth with the Federation and facilitate their contribution to regional development.

6.7 Promote Education, Health, Climate & Innovation

- Advocate for youth access to quality education, vocational training, and skills development.
- Create awareness on youth health rights, wellbeing, and psychosocial support.
- Mobilize youth for environmental conservation, climate action, and green enterprise.
- Facilitate digital literacy, ICT skills, and innovation programs for youth.

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7. How We Work

The OYF operates through a set of core working principles and approaches that guide all its activities:

7.1 Democratic and Participatory Governance

All positions of authority within the OYF are held through free and fair elections by secret ballot. The General Assembly — the supreme body — meets every three years and makes decisions by majority vote. The Executive Committee meets quarterly, ensuring regular oversight and accountability. Decisions on membership affairs require supermajority votes (2/3 or 3/4), protecting the rights of all members.

7.2 Multi-Level Coordination (4-Tier Structure)

The OYF works through a four-tier structure — Region, Zone/City , woreda, and Kebele — ensuring activities are coordinated and implemented at every level of Oromia's administrative hierarchy.

Zonal representatives serve as coordination relays between the regional level and woreda, without duplicating governance structures. This design ensures both efficiency and grassroots reach.

7.3 Rights-Based and Inclusive Approach

The OYF grounds all its work in the constitutional rights of youth to organize, participate, and benefit. Special attention is given to youth organizations that include women and persons with disabilities,

ensuring that the most marginalized youth are not left behind. The Federation's emblem — featuring the women's staff — symbolizes its commitment to gender equality and peace.

7.4 Evidence-Based Advocacy and Research

The OYF conducts research and studies on youth affairs to inform its advocacy and programming. It monitors the implementation of government policies and programs affecting youth, identifies gaps and violations, and presents evidence-based recommendations to relevant bodies.

7.5 Partnership and Collaboration

The OYF works in coordination with government bodies, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and similar youth federations at national and global levels. It negotiates support and partnership agreements, participates in international youth forums, and facilitates knowledge exchange between its members and global youth networks. The Legal Affairs Committee ensures all partnerships are legally sound and aligned with the Federation's bylaws.

7.6 Financial Sustainability and Transparency

The OYF maintains financial sustainability through a diversified income base: membership dues, government and donor support, income from established enterprises, and lawful commercial and investment activities. All financial accounts are subject to external audit, and the Audit Commission provides independent oversight of financial management and membership affairs. Annual financial statements are submitted to the Oromia Attorney General Bureau within the end of each budget year.

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8. Our Services

The OYF provides the following services to its members and the broader youth community of Oromia:

8.1 Membership and Organizational Support

1. Guidance and advisory support for youth organizations seeking to register legally and join the Federation.
2. Assistance with organizational development, governance, and bylaw drafting for member organizations.
3. Facilitation of membership applications, renewals, and transitions at all levels.
4. Maintenance of a comprehensive and up-to-date membership register.

8.2 Capacity Building and Training

1. Leadership development training for youth organization leaders at all levels.
2. Training on democratic governance, rule of law, human rights, and civic engagement.
3. Financial management and organizational administration training for member organizations.
4. ICT and digital literacy programs to connect youth with global networks and opportunities.
5. Education, vocational skills, and entrepreneurship training for youth.

8.3 Advocacy and Representation

- Representation of member organizations' interests in government policy processes and planning.
- Advocacy for youth rights and interests before government bodies, courts, and international forums.
- Legal support through the Legal Affairs Committee for disputes and agreements involving member organizations.
- Election observation services in national elections on behalf of the youth civil society sector.

8.4 Information, Research, and Communications

- Regular publications, newsletters, and information bulletins on youth affairs and Federation activities.
- Research reports and policy briefs on issues affecting youth in Oromia.
- Press conferences and public statements on matters of concern to youth.
- Media relations and communications support for member organizations.

8.5 Networking and Partnership Facilitation

- Facilitation of partnerships between member organizations and government, NGOs, and international bodies.
- Representation of Oromia's youth at national and international youth forums and conferences.
- Connection of diaspora Oromo youth organizations with the Federation and regional development programs.
- Experience exchange programs between member organizations and counterpart youth federations.

8.6 Resource Mobilization Support

- Support for member organizations to access government incentive programs and development packages.
- Facilitation of income collection programs at regional, national, and international levels.
- Guidance on lawful commercial and investment activities for member organizations.
- Coordination with government and donor bodies to secure budget support for youth programs.

8.7 Health, Climate & Innovation Services

- Youth health awareness programs and advocacy for youth-friendly health services.
- Climate action and environmental conservation mobilization programs.
- Digital skills and innovation support programs for youth.
- Psychosocial wellbeing and mental health awareness initiatives.

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9. Organizational Structure

The OYF operates through a clear four-tier governance structure, ensuring democratic accountability from the grassroots to the regional level:

Governance Body	Composition	Key Role
General Assembly	Representatives from all woreda & city federations, youth organizations, Board members, associate members & guests	Supreme authority; meets every 3 years; sets policy, elects Board, ratifies major decisions
Centeral commitee	76 members at regional level (25–81 at woreda and kebele level)	Governing body; meets twice yearly; oversees Executive Committee; approves plans & budgets
Executive Committee	13 members at regional level (11 at woreda/kebele level)	Management body; meets quarterly; implements Board decisions; manages day-to-day governance
Audit Commission	5 members elected by General Assembly	Independent oversight of finances, membership affairs, and ethics; meets twice yearly
Management Committee	Hired professional staff (Director, Deputy Director, specialists)	Day-to-day operations; accountable to Executive Committee

The Federation operates at four territorial levels:

- Regional Level — Oromia Regional Federation (apex body)
- Zonal Level — Coordination representatives (no separate General Assembly or Board)
- Woreda / City Administration Level — Full federation structure and Executive Committee
- Kebele Level — Full federation structure with conferance, and Executive Committee

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10. Powers of the Federation

As defined in Article 7 of the OYF Bylaws, the Federation has the following legal powers:

1. Enter into agreements at regional, national, and international levels in the name of Oromia Youth.
2. Sue and be sued.
3. Acquire, transfer, dispose of, receive, and donate movable and immovable property.

4. Participate in lawful commercial and investment activities based on applicable laws to achieve the objectives of the Federation.
5. Establish new commercial enterprises, purchase shares in existing commercial enterprises, and independently operate private businesses under applicable laws.
6. Hold and transfer financial documents.
7. Borrow, lend, and provide mutual assistance.
8. Open and operate bank accounts.
9. Establish and implement organizational structures.
10. Collaborate with organizations, civil society organizations, and similar associations to achieve its objectives, and become a member of such organizations.
11. Hire and manage employees.
12. Represent Oromia Youth domestically and abroad and collect and manage resources in their name.
13. Organize, manage, and expand domestic and foreign organizations that support the achievement of the Federation's objectives.
14. Monitor, coordinate, organize, expand, and manage civil society organizations working on youth affairs in Oromia.

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11. Core Values & Principles

The OYF is guided by the following core values, drawn from its bylaws, its emblem, and the democratic traditions of the Oromo people:

Democracy & Participation	All decisions are made through free, fair, and transparent democratic processes. Every member has an equal voice.
Unity & Solidarity	The Federation's emblem — the circle and the hand — symbolizes the unity of Oromo youth across all backgrounds and locations.
Equality & Non-Discrimination	All members have equal rights. Special attention is given to women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized youth.
Rule of Law & Accountability	The OYF operates strictly within the law and holds all its bodies and leaders accountable through transparent governance.
Independence & Autonomy	The Federation is non-governmental, non-profit, and politically independent. Member organizations maintain their autonomy.

Transparency & Integrity	Financial management, decision-making, and operations are conducted with full transparency and integrity, subject to external audit.
Service & Volunteerism	The OYF promotes a culture of generosity, community service, and civic responsibility among all youth.
Innovation & Sustainability	The OYF embraces innovation, digital transformation, and environmental sustainability as pillars of long-term relevance and impact.

12. Unique Strengths of the OYF

The Oromia Youth Federation possesses a number of distinctive strengths that set it apart as a model youth federation:

★ **Over Two Decades of Legal Standing**

Established on 04/05/2002 E.C. under Proclamation No. 321/59 with Registration No. WB/03-0331, the OYF has over two decades of legal standing and institutional experience, making it one of the most established youth federations in Oromia. Its re-registration on 14/05/2016 E.C. under Proclamation No. 254/2016 demonstrates its continued legal compliance and institutional resilience.

★ **Deepest Territorial Reach**

The OYF's 4-tier structure (Region → Zone →Woreda → Kebele) ensures unmatched grassroots presence and legitimacy

★ **Unique Commercial and Investment Mandate**

The OYF Bylaws explicitly authorize commercial enterprises, share purchases, and private business operations to sustain the Federation's work. This gives the OYF a unique pathway to financial self-sufficiency.

★ **Diaspora Membership at Regional Level**

Associate membership for Oromo diaspora youth worldwide is a distinctive and forward-looking feature. The OYF connects Oromo youth at home and abroad, creating a global network rooted in regional identity and purpose.

★ **Cultural Identity Embedded in Governance**

The Gadaa democratic system are explicitly embedded in the OYF's emblem and bylaws. This cultural grounding gives the OYF deep legitimacy and a unique identity rooted in the democratic heritage of the Oromo people.

★ **Robust Governance Framework**

The OYF's governance framework — with a 76-member regional Central Committee, quarterly Executive Committee meetings, an Audit Commission with dual financial and ethics oversight, and a supermajority amendment threshold — is among the most detailed and robust of any youth federation in the region.

★ **Comprehensive Membership Framework**

The OYF's dual membership model — Full Members (registered organizations) and Associate Members (youth groups,) — ensures broad inclusivity while maintaining organizational integrity and democratic accountability.

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13. Sources of Income & Financial Model

The OYF maintains financial sustainability through a diversified income model as defined in Article 47 of its Bylaws:

- Permanent membership dues collected from member organizations.
- Donations from associate members.
- Support from government, community, domestic organizations, and similar associations.
- Income from organizations and enterprises established by the Federation.
- Profits from lawful commercial and investment activities conducted based on applicable laws.
- Income from income-generating activities: establishing new commercial enterprises, purchasing shares in existing enterprises, collecting public dues, or independently operating private businesses.
- Income from income collection programs conducted at regional, national, and international levels.
- Loans obtained by the Federation from various lenders by decision of the General Assembly.

All financial accounts are subject to external audit. Annual financial statements are prepared within three months of the end of each budget year and submitted to the Oromia Attorney General Bureau) pursuant to Proclamation No. 254/2016. The Audit Commission provides independent internal oversight of financial management, membership affairs, and organizational ethics.

> *The Oromia Youth Federation — established on 04/05/2002 E.C. under Proclamation No. 321/59 with Registration No. WB/03-0331, re-registered on 14/05/2016 E.C. under Proclamation No. 254/2016, and with bylaws amended in January 2017 E.C — stands as the premier youth federation of Oromia, committed to organizing, empowering, and advocating for every young Oromo person from the kebele to the regional level and beyond. Rooted in the democratic heritage of the Oromo people and guided by the principles of unity, equality, and service, the OYF is dedicated to building a generation of empowered, engaged, and responsible youth who will lead the development and democratic transformation of Oromia and Ethiopia.*