



DECISIONS OF AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

on

Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development

following the Debate between Youth and Heads of State during

17th Ordinary AU Summit

23 June - 1 July, 2011

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea



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Preface

The 17th Ordinary AU Summit held 23 June - 1 July, 2011 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea was the first of its kind. Then, this was the very first time in the entire history of the AU and its predecessor OAU that a summit has been dedicated to Africa's largest ever and most vibrant population group. The Youth.

In Africa, Youth make up roughly 40% of the population (age 15-35 as defined in the African Youth Charter), making Africa the most Youth-full continent. In his address to the summit Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin Executive Director, UNFPA stated, "... if youth make up 40% of the population, and people under the age of 35 make up over 65% of the entire population of the continent. Then 65% percent of the continent's resources, should be allocated to this age group".

Yet, "... African youths that constitute 37 percent of the working population, constitute 60 percent of the unemployed.. " - H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, President of the Republic of Tanzania

The 17th Ordinary AU Summit organized under the theme: "*Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development*" benefited from:

- The Pre-Summit African Youth Forum held 1-9, April 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with over 250 youth participants
- Training of Batch II African Union Youth Volunteers, (AU-YVC) - as an official side event to the summit (14 June - 2 July, 2011)
- Debate between Youth and Heads of State on the summit theme
- several youth meetings, and panels

This booklet aims at distributing the summit decisions amongst stake holders and proposes a follow up mechanism on the adopted decisions.

Acknowledgement

The 17th Ordinary AU Summit, and its Youth component in particular, was only made possible due to the countless support and contributions from partners, colleagues and the Youth at large who worked tirelessly to make this event a success.

A special thanks goes to our esteemed partners, UNFPA, UNECA, ILO, UNAIDS Open Society Foundation, CCP-AU, World Bank, USAID, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, AU/Dep. for Social Affairs, AU/Peace and Security, Ford Foundation and many countless partners and contributors at all levels.

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I. Summit Decisions on the Theme: “Accelerating Youth Empowerment For Sustainable Development”

Assembly/AU/Dec.363(XVII)

The Assembly,

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report on the outcomes of the Youth Forum and related meetings on „*Accelerating of Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development*” held from 1 to 9 April, 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and **APPROVES** the recommendations contained therein;

2. WELCOMES the Declaration of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC) on Youth Employment for Social Cohesion and Inclusive Growth adopted by the Eighth Session of LSAC held in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 11 to 15 April 2011;

3. WELCOMES on-going efforts by Member States to prioritize the youth agenda in their respective countries and in particular those which have included the African Union (AU) concerns, mainly, the ratification of the African Youth Charter as well as those that promote awareness and implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009 – 2018);

4. COMMENDS the Republic of the Sudan for hosting the Headquarters of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU), whose inauguration and official handover took place on May 25, 2011;

5. DECIDES THAT:

- (i) **All Member States should advance the youth agenda and adopt policies and mechanisms towards the creation of safe, decent and competitive employment opportunities by accelerating the implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018) and the Ouagadougou 2004 Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation;**

Explanatory The Youth Decade Plan of Action: *The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in (EXL.CL/Dec.468 (XIV)-2009) declared the years 2009 to 2018 as the Decade on Youth Development in Africa and endorsed the Youth Decade Plan of Action.*

Objectives of the Youth Decade Plan of Action are:

- 1. To serve as a road map on the accelerated implementation of African Youth Charter (AYC);*
- 2. To mainstream and operationalize the implementation of the AYC with a youth perspective in financing and monitoring African development goals and indicators;*

3. *To establish a benchmark of standards, indicative criteria's and accountability in design, implementing and monitoring of youth development policies, programmes and activities in Africa.*

Expected Outcomes of the Youth Decade Plan of Action

1. *Enhanced capacity of member states to develop and implement comprehensive, integrated and cross-sector Youth development policies and plans;*
2. *Youth perspectives are effectively mainstreamed in the design, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development goals and priorities;*
3. *Increased investment in youth development programmes and activities linked to the assessment of development targets;*
4. *Resource requirement and mobilization for Youth development at all levels is based on evidence and results;*
5. *The Youth Decade Plan of Action is adopted as framework for funding and evaluation of youth empowerment and development policies, programmes and activities in the continent;*

The full content of the Youth Decade plan of Action could be downloaded from the AU website (www.au.int).

The Ouagadougou Plan of Action: *In September 2004, at an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly, the Heads of State and Government adopted in Ouagadougou a Declaration together with a Plan of Action for the Promotion of Employment and Poverty Alleviation, with a Follow-Up and Evaluation Mechanism for its implementation.*

In 2011, the 8th session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission; Ministers committed to achieve accelerated reduction in youth unemployment by 2% per annum through the development, financing and implementation of Youth Employment Action Plans and a Youth Employment COMPACT. This should engender increased availability in domestic resources, Public Private Partnerships and Corporate Social Responsibility with youth focused investments.

Furthermore the Ouagadougou Plan of Action calls for increased productivity by improving occupational health, safety and hygiene, and partnership between the public and private sectors with a view to promoting productive employment in the modern sector. They also stressed that priority should be given to the development of productivity in activities of the informal and rural sectors in order to make these sectors competitive and capable of creating the largest number of productive and decent jobs.

(ii) The Commission in collaboration with its partners should elaborate a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) framework, addressing specifically the domains of Agriculture and ICT, while accelerating the implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action;

(iii) Member States should provide to the Commission adequate resources for the advancement of the Youth Agenda, including the funding of the Pan African Youth Union;

Explanatory *The Pan African Youth Union (PYU) is the apex body for National Youth Coordinating Bodies and Mechanism in Africa, known formerly as the Pan African Youth Movement (PYM) formed on April 26, 1962. It was transformed into the PYU at the organization's 2003 congress in Windhoek, Namibia. The Organization is the principal youth body in Africa and enjoys a special status within the African Union, (AU) and is accountable to respective National Youth Councils. Additional information available on the website (www.panafricanyouthunion.org)*

(iv)The Commission should organize on the margins of every June/July Summit a training programme for the Youth Volunteers;

Explanatory *The African Union Youth Volunteers Corps (AU-YVC) is a continental development program that recruits and works with youth volunteers, to work in all 53 countries in Africa. AU-YVC promotes volunteering to deepen the status of young people in Africa as key participants in the delivery of Africa's human development targets and goals. The concept is in line with the African Youth Charter as well as the Decision of AU Head of States and Governments in Assembly/AU/Dec.274 (XVI) January 2010.The programme recruits, trains and deploys youth volunteers on the continent and in the Diaspora to work in all 53 AU member states. AU-YVC was officially launched in December 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria. (www.africa-youth.org)*

(v) All trained Young Volunteers should be deployed as soon as possible after their training including through placement in the AU organs and the Regional Economic Communities as part of capacity building for young professionals;

Explanatory *Member States are required to provide concrete commitment to the programme in terms of:*

- *provide in-country support to volunteers coming to serve (AU Service Passports, tax-exemption, removing visa barriers, work permits etc.)*
- *Provide round trip ticket to site of deployment*
- *AUC shall facilitate recruitment, preselecting, training and deployment of volunteers fulfilling all necessary criteria*

(vi)The Commission should lead the organization of a Side event on “Accelerating youth empowerment for Sustainable Development” under the leadership of the Chairperson of the AU, during the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Youth in July 2011 at the United Nations Headquarters whose theme is “Cooperation towards Financing Youth Development and Empowerment in Africa”;

Explanatory *Within the frame of the international Year of Youth (IYY), African leaders are to promote the existing African Youth agenda on the*

international platform. In line with the adopted decision of the 17th ordinary Assembly of the African Union, the objective of this event will be on Building a Global Alliance and International Cooperation towards meeting the Resource Requirement for the African Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018) and calling for global alliance and cooperation on youth development which aligns the African Union Youth Decade Plan of Action with the youth indicators of global developments goals including the MDGs and NEPAD.

6. REQUESTS:

- (i) The Commission to report yearly on the *implementation* status of the youth development programmes, at all levels, with contributions from all Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the Pan African Youth Union and its organs;
- (ii) The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to incorporate the monitoring of the implementation of the African Youth Charter and the plan of Action of the Youth Decade with specific focus on youth social, political and economic development within Member States as also a basis for evaluation;

7. URGES Member States to develop and implement strategies and mechanisms for strengthening Public Private Partnership (PPP) in stimulating domestic resources for implementing Youth Programs, especially targeting employment creation;

8. CALLS ON all partners and stakeholders to align all youth-related development programs with the Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018).

II. Summit Declaration on: "Creating Employment for Accelerating Youth Development & Empowerment"

Assembly/AU/Decl.363(XVII)

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Seventeenth Ordinary Session in Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, from 30 June to 1 July 2011;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the rise in unemployment and under-employment in Africa, particularly among the youth and the serious threat they pose to social cohesion, political stability and the future socio-economic development prospects of our various countries;

RECALLING the African Youth Charter and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

ALSO RECALLING the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation; the AU Social Policy Framework; the AU Migration Policy Framework; the African Women Decade 2010-2020; the African Youth Decade Plan of Action, 2009-2018; and other related policy documents, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, all together aimed at improving the well-being of African people;

WELCOMING outcomes of the G20 Summits in London and Pittsburgh on strong, sustained and balanced global growth;

CONVINCED that employment promotion measures should be driven by interventions based upon solidarity and equality, transparency and accountability, and supported by the State, Private Sector, Employers and Trade Unions, and Civil Society Organisations to foster cohesion and social integration in African societies;

FURTHER CONVINCED that the promotion of productive youth employment is vital to youth empowerment;

Hereby COMMIT to the following:

1. REAFFIRM individually and collectively, our previous commitments aimed at accelerating job creation, reduction of poverty, social protection for our people and the social development of Africa. In this regard, we re-dedicate ourselves and commit our countries to accelerate efforts to reduce unemployment and under-employment of Africa's Youth and Women and thereby attain all MDGs by 2015;

- 2. REDUCE** Youth and Women unemployment by at least two percent annually over the next five years as contained in the Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018;
- 3. MAINTAIN**, extend and harmonize Labour Market Information Systems in support of employment policy formulation, implementation and evaluation;
- 4. IMPROVE** and increase responsiveness of the education and training systems to current and future labour market needs in order to address the pervasive and structural skills mismatch;
- 5. PROVIDE STEWARDSHIP** as national Governments and achieve policy coherence in National and Regional Certification Frameworks for Education and Vocational Training, as well as the development of integrated and cross-sectoral National and Regional Youth Employment Action Plans;
- 6. ACCELERATE** appropriate social protection coverage expansion for the youth, women, informal economy and rural workers and members of their families, in order to reduce poverty and vulnerability;
- 7. CALLS** on Member States which have not yet done so to sign, and ratify the African youth Charter;
- 8. REQUEST** the Commission to work with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the RECs and international partners, on a comprehensive youth employment pact, with mechanisms that will ensure its implementability at national level through strong ownership by the key Line Ministries, Employers and Trade union organisations, women and youth organisations and the Private Sector, with clear Monitoring and Evaluation system;
- 9. REQUEST** the Commission, in close collaboration with the AfDB, to advocate for effective implementation of the G20 commitments made on labour and social protection during the London and Pittsburgh Summits to the benefit of African countries;
- 10. URGE** the Commission, in close collaboration with the AfDB, to prepare and submit to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly, the modalities for funding of the Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation;
- 11. REQUEST** the Commission to annually report to this Assembly on progress made in the implementation of this Declaration.

III. Youth at the XVII Ordinary AU Summit

1. Debate on the theme “Accelerating youth empowerment for sustainable development”

On June 30th 2011, selected youth had the opportunity to engage in a debate with Heads of State at the XVII ordinary AU Summit. These youth had the chance to tell their story as well as make recommendations to Heads of State on methods to accelerate youth empowerment.

The debate was introduced by His Excellency Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. He declared that the problems of the youth are a reflection of the malaise that the societies are facing, and the only way to remedy them is to include the youth in the process of working on those malaises. He further noted that, youth lack political space to make their contribution to society and that it is political, social and economic alienation that is leading youth to social and economic problems. He concluded by stressing on the need “to remind ourselves of the need for a little more action and a little less strategizing”.

Youth debaters and Heads of State raised important issues related to youth employment and empowerment. There were 24 interventions by Heads of State present, all of whom shared on what their governments had done towards improving youth employability, entrepreneurship and accelerating development in Africa. The high importance of the summit theme was echoed throughout these interventions.

Apart from the panelists a total of ca. 250 Youth representing National Delegations, Youth Councils, Youth Organisations , Civil Society, and Batch II African Union Youth Volunteers were present as observers.

The debate initially planned for 3 hours lasted 6 hours in total.

The event concluded with volunteers from the African Union Youth Volunteers Corps singing the African Youth Anthem.

2. Brief Profile of Youth Panelists

Amr Awad is a young physician who is pursuing his passion that every African young person is living with good health and able to serve and develop his country. His dream is that all the youth in our continent have access to treatments and health knowledge. Amr was part of the Egyptian revolution led by youth and he believes that politics is about



being respected by the legal and institutional system in the country as a young person. He believes that political engagement means meaningful partnership between youth and adults based on mutual respect and independency. He is convinced, that Youth have the right to access knowledge especially when it comes to issues of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and in order to achieve this, youth have to be involved in the design and the implementation of all youth targeting health services at all levels.



Andy Roland NZIENGUI is a young Gabonese leader committed to the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Vice-President of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU) and Co-founder of the International Network of French-speaking volunteers, he is author of Strategic Planning Guide for a National Policy for the youth of Gabon.

In September 2004, with the support of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Andy has launched the project "Digital Campus for All" which has trained over 5,000 students and young leaders of youth associations in the initiation computer science, computer graphics, managing and creating websites.

Internationally, he has been distinguished by the United Nations Prize for Young Leaders Award (2008), and a few others. He believes the reaffirmation of granting the Pan African Youth Union (PYU) and its regional structures the status of specialized institutions of the African Union, both continental and national levels, would lead to increased Youth political participation at decision making levels.

Tendai Wenyika, is a young Zimbabwean. Currently she is the Deputy Secretary General of the Pan African Youth Union based in Khartoum, Sudan. Tendai believes that it is the youth of our continent who led a spirited campaign and became the lifeblood of our heroic struggles and that when those who came before us laid down their vision for a free and emancipated Africa, they did so with passion and determination to ensure that freedom was achieved in their lifetime. Today the Youth should continue to call and keep calling for public, free, quality and democratic education, dignified employment, democratic rights, the right to democratic access to health, sport and culture, for the protection of the

environment, for a decent life, for friendship, solidarity and peace among all peoples of the world.

Tendai believes, that continuous Youth capacitation would contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for meaningful participation in politics and decision-making by youth in general, because she believes today more than ever young people of Africa are taking up the responsibility of building Africa. She declares herself herewith as the Economic Freedom Fighter of the Youth-full continent.



Mosun Umoru is a Young Farmer and Entrepreneur from Nigeria and winner of Nigerian Youth Awards, best young woman in business category. Sge argues that people used to see farming as an oppression of those who live in the rural Africa. But today agriculture is way beyond that it is going to the whole food value chain production, processing, packaging and upwards distribution. Upon graduating, Mosun decided to follow her passion and become a female farmer - much to the shock of her relatives. Today she runs a successful business and has created employment for 30 young people.

On the down side, Mosun criticizes the education system on the continent arguing, that young people get out there without any formal training preparing the youth for the real world. Youth lack primarily entrepreneurial skills and spirit of competitiveness.



When it comes to supporting local business, Mosun argues that African governments are pre occupied attracting foreign investment and creating frameworks of cooperation. She asks, what is the framework of cooperation with its own people. As a young person and particularly a woman, the main challenge young farmers face is access to land and financial capital and skilled man power. Nevertheless, she encourages young people to go against the odds and follow their passion. She

concludes by saying if our elders won't take care of the youth, there may not be anybody to take care of them and quotes that if leaders cannot prepare the future for the Youth, the least they can do is to prepare the youth for the future (a quote by Emmanuel Etim).

Mehdi Ben Youssef is a law student from Tunisia. Mehdi believes that building a strong democratic space can only be achieved through meaningful youth participation at all levels of planning, decision making, implementing and follow-up. Referring to the Youth revolution that took place earlier in the year in his country Tunisia, Mehdi argues that today, involving the youth in decision-making, listening to their voices and taking their demands into account is no longer a choice but an obligation. The revolution - in his opinion has not only inspired youth in his region but across the entire continent and justifies that this may be



how response from young people may be like when frustration is accumulated upon more frustration. He calls upon Member States to respect their commitment in implementing the instrument expected to guarantee Youth rights on the continent-the African Youth Charter and fast track ratification in Member States that have not yet done so. He adds, in order to overcome the shortcomings in effectively implementing youth policies it is important to establish additional protocols and strengthen the capacity of ministries in charge of youth.



Kariuki Gathitu is a young technprenuer with a passion for technology and for Africa. The young Kenyan information technology expert is pursuing entrepreneurship with the same intensity that his father pursued politics while engaged in Kenya's liberation struggle. Having worked for a bank he was able to see the difficulties people face with electronic money transactions. This is when he decided to set up a software firm that primarily builds software for mobile payments. Through his innovation, businesses can now accept mobile money seamlessly integrated into their financial systems and in real time, which was a big problem with the mobile money services. He argues "Entrepreneurship is the most common form of innovation,".

Kariuki believes that Africa's problems are unique to Africa and can at best be solved by Africans - and particularly the youth. He urges Heads of State to ensure Youth access to information, promote public private partnership to create awareness of youth initiatives and rally support for these initiatives. Kariuki asks-if governments provide enabling environment that will allow young ideas flourish and built into working solutions that will eventually grow into businesses, "Why then can't I be the next Bill Gates of Africa?"

Clotilde Abesa is a young Student from Equatorial Guinea. She believes that education is the most powerful tool that shapes society. According to Clotilde, education should not only be limited to formal and non formal institutionalized education, but also enable youth to be aware of their cultural surroundings, their history and heritage. Educational institutions should also include mentorship, ethics education and Pan Africanism.

Clotilde argues that governments should boost quality and access to education to all. She notes that most of our educational institution do not produce the man power required on the job market, making most graduates automatically unemployable as their skills do not much requirements. She urges governments to create frameworks for educational institutions to work closely with the private sector, aimed at closing the gap. Clotilde appreciates the efforts of her government, who has invested a lot in education and urges other governments to do the same.

3. Key Recommendations and Requests from Youth to Governments and Stakeholders

These recommendations were made by Youth panelist during the debate at the XVII ordinary AU Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea and Youth Participants During the Pre-Summit African Youth Forum held 1-9, April 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

- AU Member States should accelerate the implementation of the African Youth Charter and fast track its implementation where not done so; ratify the African Youth Charter;
- Ensure harmonization between the African Youth Charter, National Youth Policies and national development plans and budgets;
- Establish a “Youth Fund” for the implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action and to provide support for the African Union Youth Volunteer Corp (AU-YVC), youth entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Establish a Directorate for youth development affairs in the AUC and a UN agency for Youth;
- Reaffirm that Pan-African Union (PYU) and its regional structures are accorded the status of AU special agencies at continental, regional and national levels as well as in the Diaspora;
- Create Mechanisms that will enable African youth in the Diaspora to effectively contribute to sustainable development in Africa;
- Establish a Ministry exclusive for youth development in all member states and strengthen the technical capacity of Youth Ministries;
- Prioritize quality and innovative education (formal and non-formal) such as internships, volunteering and e-learning programs for the acquisition of knowledge, life-skills, livelihood skills, entrepreneurship and facilitate the involvement of Diaspora youth;
- Prioritize and strengthen health systems to improve access to age and gender appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and care services including STIs, HIV and AIDS;
- Adopt economic and business policies to create and ensure an enabling environment for the private sector to invest in youth development;
- Implement the resolution calling on Member States to include youth as part of official delegations to relevant UN and AU General Assembly meetings and related activities;
- Develop strategies for strengthening Public Private Partnership (PPP) in stimulating domestic resources for implementing Youth Development Programs;
- Support youth with micro-finance and entrepreneurial skills development initiatives;
- Develop programs that address discrimination, marginalization, human

- trafficking, exploitation of refugees, internally displaced young people (IDPs) and other most at risk youth;
- Sign, ratify, domesticate and implement all treaties and conventions regarding climate change and sustainable environment and transit from brown economy to green economy based on green jobs and renewable energy (COP+17 and Rio+20);
 - All Actions and initiatives shall take into account the special needs of Youth with Disabilities, marginalized Youth, and minority groups
 - Call upon the Private sector to partner with Governments in supporting youth development interventions and prioritize youth development issues as part of private sector's corporate social responsibility leading towards youth innovations and entrepreneurship;
 - Call upon the Civil Society to partner with AUC, Governments, PYU and NYCs in rendering services to the youth; strengthening the capacity of youth led and youth serving organisations and implementation of the African Youth Charter;
 - Call upon the development partners to:
 1. Support African Union Commission, Governments, Pan African Youth Union, National Youth Councils and Non Governmental Organizations in implementing youth development and empowerment programmes;
 2. Align their development programmes with the targets of the Youth Decade PoA and allocate adequate recourses to meet its midterm priorities.

4. Training of Batch II African Union Youth Volunteers Corps

African Union Youth Volunteers Corps (AU-YVC) is a continental development program that recruits and works with youth volunteers, to work in all 53 countries in Africa. AU-YVC promotes volunteering to deepen the status of young people in Africa as key participants in the delivery of Africa's human development targets and goals. It brings



people together to share skills, knowledge, creativity and learning to build a more integrated Continent and by implication strengthen Africa's relevance in the globalized world. The concept is in line with the African Youth Charter as well as the Decision of AU Head of States and Governments in Assembly/AU/Dec.274

(XVI) January 2010, Decision EX.CL/Dec. 566 (XVII), February 2009 and Decision EX.CL 292 (IX), July 2006 by the Assembly and Executive Council.

The Programme was officially launched in Abuja, Nigeria in December 2010. Prior to deployment, youth volunteers attend a mandatory 2 weeks training on professional competency, performance enhancement and life skills. The training of Batch II of the AU-YVC was held from June 17th July 2nd in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The training was inaugurated by His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and Current Chair of the African Union. The training was held as an official side event of the XVII Ordinary AU Summit organized under the theme “Accelerating youth employment for sustainable development”.

In this batch of training a total of 130 participants coming from 27 different African countries took part. These participants were selected from a pool of over 1300 applicants with diverse academic and professional backgrounds. Eligible volunteers are set to be deployed to different parts of the Continent to serve as full professionals in various professional fields focusing mainly on, developing information and communication systems, post conflict reconstruction, HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and climate change mitigation.

The closing ceremony of Batch II AU-YVC Training was attended by Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin (Executive Director, UNFPA), Mrs. Obiageli Ezekwesili (World Bank Vice President for the Africa Region), Mr. Charles Dan (Assistant Director General), Ms. Rosemary Museminali (UNAIDS Rep. to the AU) representatives of the AUC, The Government of Equatorial Guinea and Partners.

Further information about the AU-YVC programme is available on the website www.africa-youth.org

5. Media Colloquium on Youth Employment

The media colloquium took place on June 29th 2011, at the African Union media center in Sipopo, Equatorial Guinea. It was organized as a side event to the XVII Ordinary African Union Summit by the Division for Capacity Building and Youth Development in partnership with Department of Social Affairs and the UN-AU Regional Cluster Mechanism on Social and Human Development. The media colloquium was organized so as to emphasize on issues of unemployment of youth in Africa. Its objective was to highlight the concrete actions recommended by the African Youth Forum held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2011. It also sought to implement the declaration of the 8th Labour and Social Affairs Commission's (LASAC) request for a participatory mechanism in follow-up and implementation of the Summit decision.

The purpose of this event was to dialogue and gain commitment from stakeholders on:-

- i. Rolling out the Global Initiative on an Africa Youth Employment COMPACT
- ii. Recommending a framework on the implementation and M&E of the summit decisions
- iii. Propose improved mechanism for partnering and cooperating on meeting youth employment targets of the Decade of Youth.

The panelists were:

- Mr. Charles Dan, Assistant Director General ILO
- Ms. Mosunmola Umoru, Youth Agro Entrepreneur from Nigeria
- Mr. Kariuki Gathitu, a young innovator from Kenya
- Mr. Ben Duntoye, president Pan African Youth Union (PYU) - represented by Andy Roland Nziengui
- Ms. Janah Ncube, Executive Director of the Centre for Citizen's Participation
- H.E. Commissioner Adv Bience Gawanas, AU Commissioner of Social Affairs represented by Mr. Oumar Diop
- Ms Rosemary Museminali, UNAIDS Rep. to AU and UNECA.

His Excellency Mr. Jean Pierre Ezin, the AU Commissioner Department for Human Resource opened the session and Dr. Raymonde Agossou moderated.

Mr. Ezin praised the entrepreneurial effort that some youth are doing in an effort to employ not only themselves but also to create employment for others. He declared that it is high time that youth should be encouraged to be creators and not simply seekers of employment. This statement was echoed by all the members of the panel. Mr. Oumar Diop added that youth empowerment and curbing the unemployment and underemployment of youth remains a high priority by the member states. Mr. Charles Dan gave the stand of the ILO on issues of youth employment stating that the ILO is in support of the youth; he said that the youth are not calling for charity, they are simply asking for opportunity to be sported to make a living for themselves and support their families. The two panelists who are young entrepreneurs emphasized on the fact that there are numerous obstacles that young entrepreneurs face. Young entrepreneurs face problems such as access to land, funds or loans. They highlighted that youth have passion and vigour and that they only need support.

Ms. Janah Ncube concluded the meeting by asserting the importance of empowerment of youth especially within Africa. She stressed that it is high time that African governments stop giving facts and figures and start putting their words and plans into action.

6. Harnessing the benefits of New Media

Starting from the Youth forum on April 1, 2011, young people at the summit have been connected live and in real time with others who were not able to attend the meetings by using new media technology (facebook, twitter, liveblog, flicker etc). A group of young journalists and media experts from Speak Africa were following meetings and simultaneously twitting and facebooking online for others - who are not in the room to follow and post their questions and comments. This was the first of its kind during any other AU events so far.

After the meetings, the young journalists prepared daily bulletins and news articles to be uploaded on scribid. Daily pictures can be found on flicker.

To follow the events on new media:

- Live posts on twitter.com/AYF2011 and facebook.com/AYF2011
- Daily bulletins and blogs scribd.com/ayouthprogram speakafrika.org/ayf2011
- Pictures: flickr.com/photos/61253729@N07/

IV. Post Summit

African Youth face a lot of challenges in the areas of education, entrepreneurship, skills development, sustainable livelihoods and youth unemployment, participation in decision making, health, gender inequalities, migration, conflicts and climate change.

In order to tackle these problems several decision (e.g. on education, employment, health, etc.) in which, broadly or restricted, young people are the target group have been adopted previously, but have not been affectively implemented. Amongst others the following reasons can be highlighted: lack of resources and capacity, limited commitment by Governments and other Stakeholders, lack of existence of such initiatives and lack of an effective follow-up mechanism for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

It is necessary to ensure that the outcomes of this Summit on Youth adopted by the Heads of State and Government be effectively implemented and followed upon. There is a need for an integrated, interrelated and coherent implementation and follow-up at national, Regional and continental levels of the Summit Decisions. While Member States and regional Economic Communities have the primary responsibility to ensure implementation, the African Union Commission and Cooperating Partners also have an important role to play in contributing to assist in reviewing progress of the implementation at all levels.

The operationalization mechanisms are guided by:

- (i) Summit approval for the Youth Decade Plan of Action to serve as indicative criteria in implementing the African Youth Charter (AYC);
- (ii) the existing African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM);
- (iii) and the role of young people participating Civil Society platforms in monitoring and contributing actively on the implementation of Decision.

Based on these, the following is proposed as the Follow-up and Evaluation Mechanism of the Summit Decision at National, Regional and Continental Levels.

1. Follow-Up Mechanism

Existing national institutions would be responsible for follow-up and implementation of the Summit Decisions and Declarations and the Youth Decade Plan of Action. Where these institutions do not exist, Member States are called upon to establish them.

▪ At national level

The functions of national follow-up institutions shall include:

- a) To develop and implement detailed plans of action with clear objectives, milestones, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and development partners and indicators using the Summit Decisions as an accountability framework. The plan must also indicate how resources will be mobilized.
- b) To disseminate and popularize the summit Decision including Youth friendly channels of communication;
- c) To prepare national country reports with wide consultation with relevant stakeholders (including National Youth Council, Civil Society and Youth-led Organization representatives) and submit them to the African Union Commission;

Modalities: The national follow-up institution responsible shall establish its own rules of procedure to enable it carry out its functions.

▪ At regional level

Each Regional Economic Community (REC) shall establish within its own structure a Regional Follow-up Institution where it does not exist. Each REC will be responsible for the coordination of the implementations of Summit Decisions, Declarations and the Youth Decade Plan of Action in its region. This shall include:

- a) To convene consultative meetings with national follow-up institutions;
- b) To follow-up on all Youth Development and Empowerment issues within the region;
- c) To disseminate the Summit Declaration and Youth Decade Plan of Action;

Modalities: The Regional follow-up institutions shall establish its own Rules of Procedure to enable it carry out its functions

▪ **At continental level**

The African Union will coordinate the follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the Summit Decisions and Declarations at continental and global level. The AU-HRST Department as the specialized Technical Committee dealing with Youth Development will provide the oversight for the follow-up and evaluation.

The AUC-HRST Department will perform the following actions:

- a) To review progresses in the implementations of the decisions of the 17th ordinary Summit of the General Assembly;
 - (i) Sensitizing African countries, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations about the need to initiate and coordinate actions and programmes to implement the Decision and Declaration;
 - (ii) Ensuring that all Member States and Regional Economic Communities establish the National and Regional Institutions and mechanisms to follow-up and evaluate the implementation of the Summit Decision;
 - (iii) Liaising with government of each Member State and each Regional Economic Community for monitoring the implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action;
 - (iv) Collecting and documenting information from counties, UN agencies, donors agencies, IGOs, NGOs commissioning interdisciplinary studies, research and evaluating the situation on youth empowerment and development;
 - (v) Develop standardized tools, indicators and mechanisms for mainstreaming youth issues and monitor progresses towards development targets;
 - (vi) Receiving and reviewing reports from the RECs and make recommendations on them;
 - (vii) Reviewing decisions, resolutions, and recommendations in youth development and empowerment issues and advise on their relevance and how they can be implemented at all levels in collaboration with all stakeholders;

- (viii) Providing advisory services to the follow-up institutions.
 - (ix) Provide technical assistance to Ministries (of Youth) and other institutions in Member States through the deployment of African Union Youth Volunteers (AU-YVs)
- b) Prepare relevant reports including:
- (i) An annual report on the follow-up activities of the commission;
 - (ii) Analytical report every two years to assess the status of the implementation including factors and issues contributing to, or affecting the implementation of the Plan of Action on Youth Development and empowerment and suggesting possible solutions to constraints and problems;
 - (iii) Comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of the Plan of Youth Development programs and plans, every two years (including a component on good practices).
- c) Cooperate with other African, regional, Continental and international organisations concerned with Youth development to mobilize resources and support from cooperating partners and UN agencies.

2. Reporting

Bi-annual reports on the status of the implementation will be submitted to the HRST Commission for its consideration and action and make recommendations to the relevant AU organs. The African Youth Charter should be a standard instrument for reporting and the Youth Decade Action Plan (2008-2018) should be an indicative criteria for monitoring by NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Comprehensive evaluation report will be prepared in 2013 and 2018.

3. Resource Mobilization

Due attention should be given to modalities for the funding activities of the follow-up process at national, regional and continental levels. It is hoped that appropriate measures would be taken at all levels to implement the declaration and the Youth Decade Plan of Action.

The Division for Capacity Building and Youth Development renews its efforts to establish a Youth Development Common Basket (African Youth Fund) to efficiently contribute to the continent-wide mobilization and deployment of youth as volunteers, through the AU Youth Volunteer Corps;

4. Development Partners And Stakeholders

All partners and stakeholders are requested to align all youth-related development programs with the Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018) and its Mid-Term Priority Actions. Development partners are requested to renew and scale up their commitment to support result based youth development programs and activities and renew their efforts to build the capacity of government institutions and youth led and youth serving organisations .

5. Private Sector

Member States, the African Union Commission and Economic Commissions shall develop and implement strategies and mechanisms for strengthening Public Private Partnership (PPP) and provide necessary incentives for Indigenous Corporate Social Responsibility and Philanthropy in stimulating domestic resources for implementing Youth Programs, especially targeting employment creation and youth focused human capital development.

The Private Sector is requested to improve collaboration in developing Human Capital in Africa by creating mechanism for research and innovation, providing internship and mentorship positions for Youth - including youth with special needs and disabilities, easing barriers for youth to join the labor market, targeting sustainable and progressive investment, collaborating with government institutions to improve the quality of education, health and other services.



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