

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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10 YEARS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER

Accelerating youth development in Africa

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

(RECOMMENDATIONS)

**BANJUL +10
21ST TO 25TH MAY 2016
BANJUL, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

I. INTRODUCTION

The commemoration of the Tenth anniversary of the African Youth Charter (AYC) was hosted by the government of the Islamic Republic of The Gambia from 21st to 25th May 2016 in Banjul under the high patronage of the President of The Gambia represented by the Vice President.

Banjul+10 provided a high-level political platform for intergenerational discourse and advocacy, stakeholder's interaction, agenda setting and celebration of African youth initiatives. The meeting facilitated inclusive consultations that will set the baseline for assessing progress in the youth development targets of Africa's growth and development paradigm beyond 2015.

The outcomes of the event of Banjul+10 will feed into the second meeting of the African Union (AU) Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Youth, Culture and Sports also serving as the platform towards the preparation of the roadmap for the 2017 '*African Year for Harnessing Demographic Dividends for accelerated Youth Empowerment*'.

In this regard, based on the outcomes of the High-level ministerial panels, parallel working groups, as well as the youth pre-conference sessions, We the Ministers in charge of Youth affairs, the African Youth leaders and partners having met in Banjul, The Gambia from 24th to 25th May 2016 have agreed to recommend as follows:

II. THE AFRICAN YOUTH DECADE PLAN OF ACTION (2009-2018)

1. It is imperative that stakeholders in youth development (i.e. Member States, development partners, the private sector, civil society, youth led organizations and African Youth) strengthen their role in the implementation of the revised work plan of the Decade Plan of Action.
2. Continuous, purposeful and meaningful engagement of Africa's youthful population to be undertaken in the planning and implementation of all policies and programs, especially those that relate to youth development.
3. The African Union Commission (AUC) and partners should endeavor to strengthen the evidence base on adolescent and youth issues on the continent for policy making, programming, monitoring and evaluation as well as to facilitate decision making to include reporting to the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) and AU Assembly;

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER

4. Youth empowerment and development being at the core of Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AU Member States to leverage the Banjul +10 as a platform to recommit to the African Youth Charter by ensuring an hundred percent ratification by the end of 2016.
5. African youth through their various platforms and networks to commit to demonstrate ownership of the 2017 AU theme and constructively contribute to the realization of the goals and objectives.
6. Regarding the African State of the Youth report, and the African Youth Charter's accountability and reporting framework AU Member States and stakeholders to use existing mechanisms of reporting under the Charter and fulfill implementation of their obligations.
7. The Islamic Republic of The Gambia is called upon to continue championing the ratification of the Youth Charter through the President at the level of the AU.
8. AU Ministers in Charge of Youth Affairs in attendance of the Banjul+10 commemorations are requested to provide to the upcoming AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Youth, Culture and Sports a file on their respective country experiences in the implementation of the Charter.

IV. THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

9. The African Union Commission (AUC) and its key partners to step up efforts to disseminate information to various categories of stakeholders to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the concept of Demographic Dividend across Africa.
10. The AUC and its key partners to conceptualize and implement a capacity building initiative to strengthen the capacity of key institutions across AU Member States to undertake action to harness the demographic dividend.
11. With regard to the Road Map of the demographic dividend, strengthen and scale up affordable and youth friendly health services linked to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) programmes on family planning, HIV and harm reduction services as well as accelerate actions to end child marriage, female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices.
12. AU Member States with the support of their partners to deploy innovative strategies and optimal resources to enhance the implementation of the African Youth Charter through the revised Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018), especially in the face of the current socio-economic and demographic realities of the continent, taking due consideration of the lessons learned till date.

13. AU Member States to strengthen and revitalize civic education in school curricula from primary to tertiary education, whereby the AUC to take the lead to ensure that the African Youth Charter is integrated in school curricula, through the establishment of AU Youth Clubs.
14. To reiterate the call for the establishment of a continental Youth Development Fund stipulated in the African Youth Charter that will promote youth development in different areas including health, education, employment, good governance, youth participation and youth entrepreneurship. Development Partners are encouraged to support the Fund which will have an eco-system approach that will include:
 - i. Entrepreneurship Development to help young entrepreneurs to transforming their ideas into business. This may take shape through an incubation hub that provides capacity building and training on business development, access to markets, use of technology and innovation;

Grants provision to youth led organizations with development projects contributing to sustainable development in their countries and regions;
15. African Youth to be seen as equal partners in peace and security programs and hence to call on an all-inclusive and collective action for peace and security in Africa making use of existing mechanisms such as the African Young Peace builders Network to fight against extremism thereby giving adequate technical and financial support to Youth organizations involved in Peace building; and Youth representation from the Continent to be included in all delegations on peace, security and conflict resolution.
15. Strengthen youth mainstreaming at regional level through the establishment of youth independent commissions in regional economic communities to champion youth activities.
16. AUC to ensure that youth issues are taken into consideration during Monitoring and Evaluation measures of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).
17. Educational systems to focus on entrepreneurship-education reflecting the modern day job market and encourage youth to become job creators

V. THE AU THEME FOR THE YEAR 2017

“African Year for Harnessing Demographic Dividends through investments in Youth”

The participants called upon the AUC to work with the stakeholders mentioned in the Assembly/AU/Dec.591(XXVI) the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the NEPAD Agency,

the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other development partners to:

18. Ensure that the AU theme of the year 2017 is appropriately translated in French as well as the other AU working languages.
19. Organize sensitization campaign at the level of the AU Member States to ensure conceptualization and common understanding of the Demographic Dividend.
20. Propose strategic actions to promote investments in education and skills development; health; employment and entrepreneurship; and governance human rights and accountability.
21. Define and agree on innovative mechanisms for resource mobilization to increase investments in youth, including by AU member States and the prioritization of the establishment of the African Youth development Fund to support harnessing the demographic dividend at continental regional and national levels.
22. Recommend the organization of a multi-stakeholder AU Pre-Summit on “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”

VI. INTER-GENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

The Inter-generational Dialogue reinforced all recommendations and in addition called upon the following:

22. The need for facilitation of Inter-trade; Africa to be accessible to Africans and the need for African countries to trade within themselves;
23. The need for Job creation in non-traditional sectors such as Agri-business; in this light to look within the whole value chain of the sector;
24. The issue of freedom of movement of African people and the possibility of countries signing of MOUs to realize this aspiration. The AUC to ensure facilitation of dialogue on this matter and follow up on implementation on this at the level of the AU;
25. The need for integration of projects; i.e., to work across the board, up scale and coordinate common projects at the level of the continent;
26. Patronizing and consuming products made in Africa where markets search may be facilitated by governments;
27. The critical role of education in global competitiveness and the need for the youth to endure till the highest level also considering the virtual movement of people and the need for capacity building to develop key applications to enhance virtual movement beyond borders.
28. The need to review and institutionalize the format of the Inter-generational Dialogue to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.
29. Development of a guidance note on implementation of the African Youth Charter and the AU theme of the Year 2017 based on the role of each stakeholder.

VII. SIDE EVENTS

Outcomes of the various workshops held at the side-lines of the Banjul+10 and the emerging recommendations were considered the key of which have been included on the relevant sections of this outcome document. The detail report of the side events that includes the key outcomes and recommendation is attached to the report of the meeting.

VIII. CONCLUSION

1. The AUC is requested to submit this Outcome Document to the STC in charge of Youth, Culture and Sport for endorsement by the relevant AU Policy Organs.
2. The 2017 African Union Roadmap on “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth” should be further developed with the inputs from the Banjul+10 meeting and presented to the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) meeting of AU Ministers in Charge of Youth, Culture and Sports;
3. The STC in charge of Youth, Culture and Sports should deepen its deliberations in order to effectively contribute to the AU theme of the Summit for 2017 on “Harnessing Demographic Dividend through investments in the youth”, both in the context of the implementation of the roadmap on demographic dividend and Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda (SDGs).
4. It was unanimously agreed that with the assistance of AU Member States, each delegate reports back to the respective constituencies the outcomes of Banjul+10 using existing and innovative means and the media.
5. The AUC and partners extends gratitude to the UNFPA, for the multifaceted and dynamic support since the inception, and adoption of the African Youth Charter.
6. **The meeting EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the Government and the people of the Islamic Republic of The Gambia, and in particular H.E. Sheik Professor Alhaji Dr Yahya AJJ Jammeh, Babili Mansa the President, the hospitality of Hon Alieu K Jammeh, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Islamic Republic of The Gambia is highly acknowledged.

May 25th 2016, Banjul, Islamic Republic of The Gambia