YOUTH EVENTS: YOUTH FORUM AND PLUG-IN INITIATIVE

Given previous experiences such as i) limited time for the preparation of the Youth intervention at the Africa-EU Summit as well as ii) lack of concrete follow-up after the last Summit, it is crucial to provide space and allow time for a more thorough preparation. Rather than the institutions and state leaders defining on their own the deliverables to address the challenges facing Youth on both continents, Youth representatives from Africa and Europe should themselves identify messages, recommendations and deliverables to be brought forward at the Summit.

Youth Forum:

Objectives, expected results and format have yet to be determined by the lead organisers.

The Youth Forum will be a key milestone in the preparation process and is a recurrent side-event for the Summit along with the Civil Society Forum and the Business Forum. The Youth Forum is traditionally organised by Youth Networks from both continents, including the European Youth Forum, the Pan-African Youth Union, and the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe. The date, venue, objectives and programme and sessions are determined by the organising Youth networks. Logistic constraints, the increased focus on Youth as the overarching theme for the Summit as well as the limited impact of and follow-up on the youth intervention at the previous Summits sustain the rationale for holding the Youth Forum well in advance of the Summit this year. This will allow time for a better preparation and consequently, a stronger impact of the Youth intervention at the Summit.

Logistics/Technical aspects

• 2.5-3 day event. Tentatively 5-7 of September
• Venue on the African continent, however, still to be determined. Responsibility of the Pan-African Youth Union to propose and decide.
• Participation of approximately 120 youth (potentially 30 from the Pan African Youth Union, 30 from the European Youth Forum, 30 diaspora from diaspora networks and 30 other youth voices). Selection process and calls still under elaboration.
• Leading organisers: Pan African Youth Union and the European Youth Forum. Technical Steering Committee for the organisation has been established. Other stakeholders also consulted and involved, including particularly the diaspora networks.
• Smaller, technical preparatory meeting potentially to take place beforehand.

EU-AU Youth Plug-In Initiative:

Objectives and expected results are to provide a platform and resources, together with AUC and EU services, for youth representatives from Africa and Europe to identify common messages, recommendations and deliverables, encompassed in an ambitious, yet realistic, Youth Agenda, to be brought forward to and endorsed by State and Government Leaders at the 5th Africa-EU Summit.

A bridge between the Youth Forum and the actual Summit would be put in place. A group of youth representatives will be provided with the resources (space, time, funds, access, expertise etc.) for working more intensively on the messages, recommendations and propositions i.e. sharing and producing joint ideas and bring their networks and contacts to help them materialise. The selected Euro-African Youth would gain knowledge of both continental institutions and become “plugged-in” to the decision-making process. Work for the two Euro-African groups, in Brussels and Addis, will be organised in clusters around a selection of 6 priority themes. The initiative will also involve a range of communication activities, raising awareness and obtaining inputs from youth on both continents.

Format and Logistics/Technical aspects

• 10 weeks. Tentatively 16 September to 24 November
  – 1 introduction week in Addis and Brussels, respectively
  – 1 week plenary in Brussels or vice versa
  – 1 week plenary in Addis or vice versa
  – 7 weeks working sessions in clusters
  – Potentially to be rounded of by final Youth Side Event (plenary) in Abidjan at the eve of the Summit if possible
• Participation of 36 (18+18 from each continent) selected among the participants at the Youth Forum
• Leading organisers: EU (EEAS, EU DEL to the AU and DEVCO) and AUC (HRST and Youth Department