



CONCEPT NOTE

AFRICAN YOUTH FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE (AY4TJ)

(VIRTUAL TRAINING)

31st~~H~~ MAY- 2ND JUNE 2021

1. Background

The African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP) was unanimously adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on 12 February 2019. The Policy defines Transitional Justice (TJ) as the various (formal and traditional or non-formal) policy measures and institutional mechanisms that societies, through an inclusive consultative process, adopt in order to overcome past violations, divisions and inequalities and to create conditions for both security and democratic and socio-economic transformation¹.”

The Policy recognizes that youth is one of the most vulnerable groups, and is disproportionately affected by conflicts and authoritarian regimes in Africa, including as direct targets of violence through killings, act of mutilation or torture, abductions, recruitment as well as enrolment as soldiers and sexual violence, unemployment and poverty. For a continent with the youngest population, the bulk of these numbers are undeniably, the youth. To this end, the Policy emphasizes participation of the African youth in all the TJ processes as one of the surest ways to guarantee sustainable peace, good governance and development in post-conflict and post-authoritarian regimes in Africa. Unfortunately, there is a huge knowledge gap among the African youth on transitional justice on the continent, making youth participation in TJ processes a serious challenge. For their participation to be meaningful, there is an urgent need for training and capacity building on transitional justice in general and AUTJP in particular, and establishment of a Continental Platform for experience sharing among the African youth on transitional justice.

Although there is no universal definition of youth, the African Youth Charter refers to youth as ‘any person between 15-35 years of age,’ making up a vast majority of Africa’s population. This project will adopt the definition of the African Union, which considers as youth on the continent, people between 18 and 35 years. With this definition, youth constitute 70% of Africa’s population. It is therefore imperative that African youth is included in the African transitional justice processes. To this end, the African Union Commission will commence a programme for African youth tagged “***African Youth for Transitional Justice***” (AY4TJ). The programme will encompass training of young peoples on transitional justice in general and the African Transitional Justice Policy in particular. The plan is to train hundreds of youth across the AU Member States, starting from post-conflict and post-authoritarian countries and those that are currently engage in TJ programmes². The overall aim of this project is to promote youth participation in TJ processes in Africa and to increase the number of TJ experts on the continent.

¹ See the African Union Transitional Justice Policy adopted in February, 2019, available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36541-doc-au_tj_policy_eng_web.pdf .

² The following are some of the AU Member States undergoing TJ programmes in Africa, Republics of The Gambia, Sudan, South Sudan, North-East Nigeria, Mali, Togo, Zimbabwe, Morocco, and Uganda etc.

Across the continent, the exclusion of young people from key governance decisions that affects their lives creates huge deficits in democratic governance, threatens social order, and exacerbates generational tensions. Africa's youths have become increasingly disenchanted with authoritarian leaders and ineffective governance structures thereby leading to popular uprising in several African countries, including Egypt, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Libya, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe etc. The role of the youth in the uprising in these countries speak volumes.

2. Project Objectives

The Overall goal of the project is to promote youth participation in the conceptualization and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms in AU Member States. Specific Objectives include:

1. Promote Youth understanding of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy;
2. Increase the numbers of TJ experts in Africa through training of youth on transitional justice;
3. Establishment of a continental Youth Platform on transitional justice for experience sharing and capacity building;
4. Strengthen youth participation in ongoing transitional justice programmes in AU Member States;
5. Operationalize the African Union's Youth for Transitional Justice in Africa (AU-YTJ)

3. Project Outcomes

1. Increased number of youth with understanding of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy;
2. Establishment of a Continental Youth Platform on Transitional Justice in Africa (AY4TJ);
3. Increased TJ experts and practitioners and expanded TJ space in Africa.
4. Database of trained African youth for implementation of transitional justice processes by African member states at national level

4. Methodology

The Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission had officially opened a month long call for applications from all qualified young Africans and astonishingly received 841 applications from more than 41 African countries for the planned TJ training. The organising committee conducted a mini-research on need assessment of Transitional Justice Implementation in AU Member States and developed evaluation criteria for shortlisting of candidates.

5. Participation

One hundred successful applicants from all AU Member States would be brought together virtually for three consecutive times for a three-day training on the AUTJP. Special consideration will be given to youth from countries that are currently implementing transitional justice programmes.

6. Venue and Language(s)

Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its serious challenges, this year's training will not take place in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya as initially planned. Hence, the very first round training will be hosted virtually through zoom platform from 31st May to 2nd June 2021 in a plenary and group sessions in the English and French languages.

7. Contact Details

For further information about the African Youth for Transitional Justice programme, the following personnel can be contacted:

- John Ikubaje, Senior Political Officer, DPAPS, AUC at GbodiJ@africa-union.org
- Ms. Tsion Hailemariam, Project Officer, DPAPS, AUC at Tsionh@africa-union.org

Draft Agenda

Date/Time	Modules and Focus of the Training Trainers/Facilitators			
31 May 2021 2:00 – 2:30 pm (EAT)	Module One Day one (30 Minutes)	Opening Remarks		By Amb. Bankole Adeoye Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security
31 May 2021 2:30 - 3:30 pm (EAT)	Module One Day one (95 Minutes)	Introduction to Transitional Justice	What is and why TJ. The experiences of TJ in Africa and in other continents, success stories and why TJ succeed or fail. How do we make TJ a success in Africa and what has been the roles of youth in past TJ processes.	Mr. Andrew Songa
31 May 2021 3:30 - 4:30 pm (EAT)	Module Two Day One (95 Minutes)	Introduction to the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP)	Introduction, Goal and Objectives of the AUTJP	Anna Moyo/Makmid ATJLF
1st June 2021 2:00 – 3:00 pm (EAT)	Module Three Day Two (60 Minutes)	Definition and Principles of the AUTJP		Brian Kagoro
1st June 2021 3:00 – 5:00 pm (EAT)	Module Four Day Two (120 Minutes)	Indicative Elements of the AUTJP	This will bring out the roles of the youth in each of the Indicative Elements of the AUTJP.	Prof. Tim Murithi
2 nd June 2021 2:00 – 3:00 pm (EAT)	Module Five Day Three (60 Minutes)	Cross-Cutting Elements in the AUTJP		Ms. Annah and Ms. Sufiya
2 nd June 2021 3:00 -3:45 pm (EAT)	Module Six Day Three(45 Minutes)	Actors, Processes and Implementation of the AUTJP	Actors at the National, Regional Continental, and international levels. Roles of Regional and CSOs institutions	John Ikubaje
2 nd June 2021 3:45 – 5:00 pm (EAT)	Module Seven Day Three (75 Minutes)	Establishment of the AY4TJ Platform and Way Forward.		Ambassador Salah Hammad.