

African Youth Day

November 1st 2024

“1 Million Next Level is Knocking: Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century”

November 1 to 4, 2024, in Oran, Algeria.

Concept Note

Introduction

The African Youth Charter adopted in 2006 proclaimed the 1st of November as Africa Youth Day. The African Youth Charter and the AU Head of States and Governments Decision in Assembly/AU/Dec.660 (XXIX) July 2017 mandates the African Union to institutionalize the Pan African Youth Forum on the Margins of the African Youth Day on November 01 annually. The Pan African Youth Forum is a dynamic and influential platform initiated by the African Union that aims to channel youth voices in shaping the continent's future by engaging youth in implementing Agenda 2063. It gathers young African leaders, activists, innovators, and change-makers from various backgrounds and countries. The forum provides a space for dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas, enabling young Africans to address pressing issues, share experiences, and propose innovative solutions to the challenges facing their communities and the continent. By amplifying the voices of the youth, the Pan African Youth Forum plays a crucial role in advocating for their inclusion in decision-making processes and policy development at local, national, and continental levels. Through its activities, the forum promotes a sense of unity, Pan-Africanism, and collective responsibility among young Africans, fostering a spirit of active citizenship and participation in shaping Africa's social, economic, and political landscape.

Executive Summary

The 2024 Pan African Youth Forum, under the theme “1 Million Next Level is Knocking: Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century”, will take place from November 1 to 4, 2024, in Oran, Algeria. The forum will serve as a platform for youth to engage in critical discussions, contribute to the development of robust educational systems, and strengthen Africa’s capacity for inclusive, equitable, and lifelong learning opportunities.

Building on the African Youth Charter and the AU’s Agenda 2063, this forum will empower young African leaders, equipping them with the tools needed to address current educational challenges, while reinforcing their roles in achieving sustainable development and peace across the continent.

One Million Next Level Initiative

To accelerate the continued development and empowerment of Africa’s youth, His Excellency Musa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, launched the “1 Million Next Level (1mNL)” initiative with aims to reach 300 million young people with opportunities in Health and Wellbeing, Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Engagement (4Es+H). It is a catalytic blueprint that continues to pave the way for millions of young Africans' overall empowerment and development. As a multi-stakeholder partnership involving the public and private sectors and young people, the initiative calls for our collective efforts to provide opportunities for youth to be partners and decision-makers. The 4th Specialized Technical on Youth, Culture and Sports (STC-YCS-4) decided that the 1 Million Next Level initiative would be the next phase of the African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (APAYE) further emphasizing the key role the initiative will play in empowering the next generation of African leaders.

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The African Youth Month provides the platform to advance the objectives of the 1 Million Next Level initiative as a framework within the youth development ecosystem. Against this backdrop, the African Union Commission, through the Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate (WGYD), People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and partners will celebrate Africa Youth Month, through a Pan African Youth Forum in November 2024. The celebration will be an opportunity to take stock of young people's role in the continent's development agenda, take a common position while contributing to policies and review AU's frameworks.

Host of the Pan African Youth Forum

The President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Abdelmadjid Tebboune through the Higher Council for Youth Algeria will host the Forum. The Higher Council for Youth is an advisory body for the President of the Republic, endowed with moral personality and financial independence. It is composed of 348 members, equally divided between females and males, with two-thirds elected based on their respective wilayas.

The council provides opinions, recommendations, and proposals on matters related to the needs and well-being of youth in the economic, social, cultural, and sports sectors. It contributes to the drafting and evaluation of the National Youth Plan and related public policies, while working to promote national values, prevent discrimination, and improve education and training among youth.

Objective of the Pan African Youth Forum

- To celebrate and recognize young people from across the continent and their contribution towards an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa.
- To actively involve young people in contemplating, revitalizing, and reimagining the African Youth Charter to address present-day challenges and opportunities.
- To harness young people's perspectives, take a common position on the year's theme.
- Promote youth diplomacy by encouraging youth-driven solutions and leadership across African states.
- To empower young people through training, capacity development and opportunities to thrive in various spaces, including Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship.
- To create platforms for young people to connect, share ideas, collaborate on projects, and build networks supporting their personal and professional development.

Target Beneficiaries

Youth aged 18-35 from across the African continent, including young leaders, activists, students, innovators, and policymakers.

Proposed Activities

A wide range of activities will be held, designed to engage participants in meaningful discussions, capacity-building, and networking:

- **High-Level Panels:** Discussions with ministers, policymakers, and youth leaders.
- **Plenary Sessions:** Thematic discussions on the AU Theme of the Year and key African Youth Charter milestones.

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- **Marketplace:** Showcase of youth-led initiatives and innovations.
- **Cultural Events:** Celebrating African unity and diversity as well as that of the host country through performances and exhibitions.
- **Touristic Activities:** Exploring the rich cultural heritage of Algeria.
- **Breakout Sessions:** Thematic workshops tackling specific educational themes.
- **Masterclasses:** Training sessions on leadership, entrepreneurship, and innovation.
- **Career Fairs:** Opportunities for youth to connect with potential employers and learn about careers in international organizations.

Expected Outcomes

- Adopt the 2024 African Youth Forum Declaration on relevant education for the 21st century, to be presented at subsequent AU Summits.
- Launch of Key Initiatives: Including the “AYC@20: Reflect, Reimagine, Revitalise Campaign” and the 1 Million Next Level Scorecard.
- Capacity-Building: Enhanced 21st-century skills among participants through workshops and masterclasses.
- Strengthened Youth Networks: Opportunities for cross-border collaboration, fostering long-term partnerships.
- Innovative Youth Empowerment Models: Awareness of successful youth-led initiatives in education, entrepreneurship, and governance.
- Collaborative Initiatives: Enhanced youth participation in educational reform and community development.
- Launch of the 1 Million Next Level Scorecard
- Launch of 1MNL in Algeria

Sustainability

- The forum will prioritise sustainability by implementing eco-friendly practices throughout the event:
- Eco-Friendly Event Management: Waste reduction strategies, responsible resource use, and the promotion of digital tools to minimize the event's environmental impact.
- Green Transportation: Use of eco-friendly transport methods for participants:
Train from Algiers to Oran
- Post-Forum Engagement: Partnerships with local and regional organizations to continue the work of youth empowerment and policy advocacy beyond the event.

Contact

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