

**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION****INVITATION TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES****WHAT:** Pan-African Youth Empowerment Conference**WHEN:** 22-24 August 2017**WHERE:** African Union Commission, Addis Ababa – Ethiopia**WHO:** The African Union Commission and SOS Children's Villages International

WHY: The Pan-African Youth Empowerment Conference to contribute to the combined aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063 as well as the Global Agenda 2030 by providing an opportunity for young people to explore opportunities for job creation, entrepreneurship and self-reliance, and for them to be effective contributors to their communities and national development, as well as to be competitive at the global level.

Specific Objectives:

- To promote African youth participation and deepen their engagement in the process of shaping the continent's employment, entrepreneurship and innovation trajectory
- To provide a platform for African youth, policy makers, employers and development partners to share learning, perspectives and possible solutions to overcome youth unemployment and underemployment challenges on the continent
- To deepen accountability for change among African political, business and civil society leaders on youth employability and entrepreneurship

Note to the Editor:

The AU Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.591 (XXVI) of January 2016 devoted to the 2017 theme to "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth". In order to deliver on this important assignment, the Commission, together with partners, undertook a multi-stakeholder consultative process towards the preparation of the 2017 AU Roadmap on "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth" which reflects on the inputs and aspirations of a wide range of key stakeholders. The Roadmap adopted by the Executive Council (EX/Dec.921 (XXIX)) focuses on four (4) thematic pillars: Employment and Entrepreneurship; Education and Skills Development; Health and Wellbeing; Rights, Governance and Youth Empowerment.

The Pan-African Youth Empowerment Conference organized in collaboration with SOS Children's Village International will focus on pillar 1, Employment and Entrepreneurship. The

conference will provide a platform for engagement between high-level officials and young people from 47 African countries. Over the 3-day event duration, deliberations will lead to the development of an Action Plan for African Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship as well for streamlining in the implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063 and the Global Agenda 2030.

Journalists are invited to cover the event.

For more information:

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