



JOINT STATEMENT

We, **Dr Martial De Paul Ikounga**, Commissioner for Human Resource, Science and Technology Department, African Union Commission and **Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi** UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth; have met in a working session on **18 October 2012** in Addis Ababa; at the Headquarters of the African Union Commission, and after exchange and discussion have agreed:

WHEREAS, AUC is mandated to coordinate and intensify cooperation for the development of African States and is responsible for promoting meaningful youth engagement by harmonizing youth policies across the African Union and implementing the African Youth Charter;

WHEREAS, UNSG's Envoy on Youth is mandated to advocate for addressing the development needs and rights of young people, as well as to bring the work of the United Nations with and for youth closer to them;

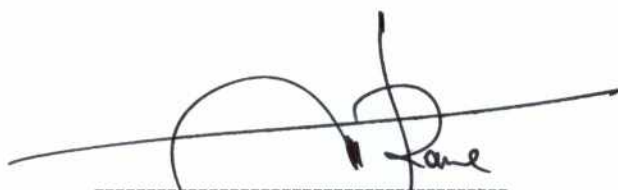
GUIDED by **The World Programme of Action for Youth**, both parties have agreed to engage in coordinating efforts and leverage technical and financial resources as well as operational strength in promoting broad based regional and national level response to the need for youth empowerment and streamlining towards advancing socio-economic growth and development in Africa;

1. In view of the Secretary General's call to establish a UN Youth Volunteer Program and the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) to develop a System-Wide Action Plan on Youth and also knowing the existing policies for African Youth development and empowerment, such as the African Youth Charter, the plan of action of the Youth Decade, as well as the African Union youth Volunteer framework, both sides agree to collaborate through their respective offices and leverage on existing expertise to achieve far reaching results;
2. Collaborate on the global Post-2015 Development Agenda to strengthen the due attention for youth issues and enhance youth stake, participation and contribution at all levels of planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting;
3. Engage in the preparations and deliberations of the fifth conference of African Ministers in Charge of Youth and the preceding youth forum in early 2014;
4. Engage African Member States at all levels in building momentum towards the 2014 Sri Lanka World Youth Conference which build upon the 2010 Mexico World Youth Conference and 2011 UN high level meeting on youth;

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5. Explore existing frameworks of collaboration between the UN and AUC such as the AU-UN 10 year capacity building agreement and AU's Agenda 2063 and strengthen the youth components in the frameworks;
6. Launch a joint AU-UN campaign in 2014 on strengthening the voices of Africa's youth through the AUC within a UN System-wide Plan of Action on Youth and respective stake holders in Member States;
7. Strengthen the work of Ministries in Charge of Youth and Youth Organizations in Member States through coordinated inter-organizational network of UN country offices and the African Union Commission;
8. Collaborate towards the global symposium on youth policy which seeks to develop quality criteria for youth policies and share good practices from the experience of the African Union in aligning national youth policies with the African Youth Charter;
9. Gather momentum for an active participation of a well-represented African delegation during the 2014 Habitat Conference in Colombia;
10. Share knowledge through good practices, reports, and harmonize events' calendar for more synergy in action and events organization.

We agree to work together on the elaboration and implementation of the agreed areas of collaboration.



Signed by **Dr Martial De Paul Ikounga**
Commissioner for Human Resource, Science
and Technology



Signed By **Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi**
For United Nations