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**1st Ordinary Session of the Conference of**

**Specialized Technical Committee on**

**Youth Culture and Sports**

**27 October – 1st November 2014**

**Addis Ababa - Ethiopia**

**Concept Note**

**1st Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC-YCS-1)**

**Venue: AUCC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Dates: 27th October – 1st November 2014**

**Theme: “*Building the Interface between Youth, Culture and Sport”***

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The 1st Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sport is scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 27 October to 1 November 2014. From the year 2014, the biennial African Union Conferences of Ministers of Youth, Culture and Sport, previously organized by sector, are abolished and will be replaced by the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), as provided by the African Union Constitutive Act, Article 16. The Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sport is one of the 14 STCs, and is defined as an Organ of the African Union in accordance with Article 5 (1) (g) of the AU Constitutive Act. The STC on Youth, Culture and Sports shall meet once every two (2) years.

1. **RATIONALE**

For Africa to achieve its integration and development, the investment in youth empowerment as well as in the promotion of cultural and creative industries and sport initiatives is crucial. In addition, sports when holistically packaged within the framework of sport for development can contribute to the achievement of the broader government and African Union development agenda. Sports is essentially a powerful tool for youth empowerment as it incorporates the passion, energy and competitiveness in what naturally comes to youth with indiscipline that can inspire all.

African cultures and traditions have been Africa’s greatest assets in creating great civilizations, defending the continent from foreign aggressors and occupiers and most of all ensuring the continued existence and prosperity of Africans in the midst of humanity. The incorporation of culture in development is an essential choice Africa must make in transcending its citizens to prosperity and regaining Africa’s rightful place in the world. Political awareness should be raised amongst the decision makers and further practical guidance should be developed on how to make the youth, culture and sport central to development of African and in enhancing the Pan African spirit and shared values.

As stated in the AU Agenda 2063 framework document, “the Agenda 2063 is a continuation of the Pan-African drive, over centuries, for self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity. Agenda 2063represents the aspirations of Africans for a better future, anchored in achievements, objective assessments of obstacles and lessons learned over the past half century.” The youth is a powerful force which will move forward AU’s Agenda 2063 using culture and sport initiatives as tools for regional integration and development. Thus the role of the youth in the implementation of AU strategies and action plans cannot be overemphasized.

1. **HISTORICAL BENCHMARKS**

The adoption of the following AU continental policy instruments forms the backbone polices of the AU sectors on Youth, Culture and Sports:

1. ***Youth***

* The African Youth Charter

The African Youth Charter endorsed in July 2006, Banjul-Gambia by African Heads of States and Government is a legal and political framework which serves the purpose of providing a strategic framework and direction for youth empowerment and development activities at continental, regional and national levels. The Charter is an opportunity to unite the youth movement in Africa to speak same language and move along the same strategic programming lines to improve their status and those of their community. With 36ratifications, the African Youth Charter has entered into force thus illustrating the political commitment to improve the situation of Youth in Africa.

* The Youth Decade Plan of Action

Consequently, the Assembly of Heads of States and Government declared the years 2009 to 2018 as the decade on youth development in Africa. For this decade, a road map known as the “African Youth Decade Plan of Action (DPoA)” was developed so as to ensure the implementation of the charter. In order to appreciate the progress made by Member States towards the implementation of the AYC and its DPoA, a set of indicators built on the AYC was developed in August 2013 and the DPoA review process started in 2012 and has resulted in a revised version.

* The 2011 Malabo Declaration on creating employment for accelerating Youth Development and Empowerment

The declaration has so far and among other actions, led to the elaboration of the joint initiative to accelerate youth employment in Africa, with the collaboration of ILO, UNECA, AfDB in 2012 and the review of the Continental Strategy for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in December 2013. The strategy has Indicators, and a monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure on-going monitoring of progress in the area. The Joint initiative for youth employment is being partially implemented in some pilot countries with financial support of AfDB. The revised TVET Strategy was endorsed by African Heads of state during the Malabo 2014 summit.

* The African Union Youth Volunteer Corps Programme

In line with the African Youth Charter and the January 2010 AU Assembly decision AU/Dec.274 (XVI) 2010 mandating the Commission to launch and implement a Continental Youth Volunteer initiative as a tool promote youth employability skills, Pan Africanism and meaningful youth participation; The African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AU-YVC) was launched in December 2010 as one of African Union’s Initiatives for promoting youth participation, capacity building and empowerment through service and skills exchange driven by the philosophy of Pan-Africanism. Through this approach young people will be meaningfully engaged in concrete actions for Africa’s social, economic and political development.

* The African Youth Day

The STC closing ceremony on the 1st of November will coincide with the African Youth Day, this opportunity will be used to launch the celebration around the theme of Young Women empowerment as a prelude to the theme of the24th Summit of the African Union in 2015"Women's Empowerment Year and Africa Development for the concretisation of Agenda 2063".

1. ***Culture***

There are two continental cultural policy instruments which guide the implementation of the culture programme at the AUC. The instruments are the following

* The Charter for African Cultural Renaissance:

The Charter for African Cultural Renaissance was adopted by the VI Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly held in Khartoum, the Sudan in January 2006. The Charter for African Cultural Renaissance is a cultural tool which will empower Member States to promote the Pan-Africanism Spirit as well as strengthen their national policies and other cultural instruments which will in turn contribute to the achievement of the continents’ socio-economic and cultural integration, build sustainable peace and winning the fight against poverty.

The Charter for African Cultural Renaissance is not yet in force. The Charter will enter into force upon ratification of the instrument by 2/3 majority of the total membership of the Union. To date only eight (8) Member States have ratified this instrument. The member states are: Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Chad, Ethiopia, Congo, Niger and South Africa. Twenty nine (29) Member States of the Union have already started their process of ratification by signing the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance. Given the slow pace of ratification of this important cultural tool the AUC designed a Campaign on African Cultural Renaissance aimed at sensitizing Member States to ratify the instrument.

* The African Union Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries:

The African Union Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries of 2008 is a continental tool which commits AU governments to the development and implementation of cultural policies, protecting the rights of artists, investing in cultural and creative industries and developing leadership capacity in the arts and culture sector.

The AUC has been engaging the AU Member States and Pan-African Cultural Institutions for the popularization and implementation of the Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries. Member States are also encouraged to carry out actions on the development of cultural statistics and cultural indicators of development in order to evaluate and strongly ascertain the contribution of culture to economic and social development.

*C.* ***Sport***

The Sport continental policies are the following:

* Policy Framework for the Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa

The Policy Framework for the Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2008-2018) is an instrument designed to provide a common policy on the use of sport as a tool for development by Member States of the African Union and peoples.

As such, the Policy Framework provides direction for the mainstreaming of issues related to sport not only to promote excellence, but also to use sport as a vehicle for social and economic development and integration, peace and security on the Continent.

* The Architecture for Sport in Africa

In an effort to unpack and to implement the Policy Framework for the Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa the Member States adopted the new Architecture for Sport in Africa, a framework aimed at re-positioning sport to contribute to the broader government and African Union development agenda. The Architecture was designed to promote synergy, coordination and harmonization of sport development programmes on the continent, which, among others, include better coordination, management and organization of the African Games, establishment of a Specialized Office under the AUC (the African Union Sports Council Secretariat) to handle technical and operational aspects of sport development and development through sport in Africa, including the organization of the African Games.

Since the African Union and its Commission are engaged in planning and implementing the AU Agenda 2063,the organization of the 1st STC Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sport is an opportune forum for the three sectors (youth, culture and sport) to brainstorm on their role in the implementation of the continent wide agenda.

**V*.* PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the STC-YCS1 is to discuss issues pertaining to the development of the Youth, Culture and Sport sectors at continental level as well as establish synergies among the three sectors to enable the joint operationalization of the Specialized Technical Committee.

The specific objectives of the STC-YCS1 will be the following:

1. Consider the draft rules of procedure of the STC-YCS and recommend them for approval by the Executive Council;
2. Engage on a dialogue on the overall theme of the Specialized Technical Committee to explore synergies among the three sectors;
3. Sensitize the experts and ministers on the pillars and goals for the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the contribution of Youth, Culture and Sports in the development process
4. Sensitize the experts and ministers on the AU Agenda 2063 and the expected commitment and actions to guarantee their respective ownership and responsiveness;
5. Consider the report of implementation of the recommendations the fourth session of the Conference of Ministers for Youth development and empowerment
6. Discuss the dissemination and implementation of the revised plan of action of youth Decade
7. Achievements, opportunities and challenges towards the acceleration of the implementation of the Youth Development agenda in Africa;
8. Discuss the dissemination and implementation of the Continental TVET Strategy
9. Consider the AU-YVC Report and Discuss recommendations for promoting Youth Volunteerism at National, Regional and Continental levels
10. Launch yearlong celebration of Africa Youth Day around the theme of "Delivering the Full Potential of Young Women’ ."
11. Review the status of ratification of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance and ways of accelerating the process ;
12. Consider the Report of the Inventory of all cooperation Activities between Africa and European Union with regards to cultural goods and discussion of next steps in the process;
13. Consider the following Reports: African Academy of Languages (ACALAN); the CELHTO; the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA) and African World Heritage Fund (AWHF);
14. Consider and adopt key recommendations with a view to promote African culture and enhance its role in attaining sustainable socio-economic development in Africa;
15. Consider the Report on implementation of the Recommendations of the Fifth Session of the Conference of AU Ministers of Sport on the implementation of the Architecture for Sport in Africa, transfer of SCSA functions and assets to the AU Commission and transition mechanism and operationalization of the new AU Sport Council and re-organization of the Sport Development Regions
16. Consider the Report on the preparations for the 2015 African Games in Congo;
17. Consider candidates to host the 2019 African Games.

**VI. FORMAT OF THESTC-YCS1**

The format of the STC –YCS1 will be as follows:

The STC Meeting will be carried out in four parts (see attached agenda for details):

1. **Senior Official’s Meeting (27th – 30th October 2014)**
2. **Ministerial Meeting (31st October 2014)**
3. **Africa Youth Day (1st November 2014)**
4. **A Cultural Event (27th October – 1 November 2014)**

The cultural event will feature a contemporary art and photography exhibition under the theme: "Cultural Diversity and Integration through Art”. Artists from different African countries and from the Diaspora will showcase their works. The event is created to foster dialogue within African artists and showcase the diversity of the African culture through Art.

Various exhibitions including the work of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) and the Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies through Oral Traditions (CELTHO) as the AU flagship institutions in the promotion of African languages, oral traditions and values will also be exhibited.

**VII. PARTICIPANTS**

The 1st Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC –YCS1) will bring together Ministers in charge of Youth, Culture and Sports, government Experts or Directors responsible of the concerned sectors as well as a selected number of youth leaders, Pan-African and International Organizations working in the areas of Youth, Culture and Sport, invited guests and observers..

**VIII. DATE AND VENUE**

The 1st Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC –YCS1) will take place from 27thOctober to 1st November 2014 at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**IX. LANGUAGES**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the four (4) working languages of the African Union: Arabic, English, French and Portuguese.

**X.DOCUMENTATION**

The main working documents of the STC-YCS 1 will be available in the AU Website: [www.africa-union.int](http://www.africa-union.int)

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