

**AFRICAN UNION**

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## **PRE-SUMMIT EVENTS**

**AFRICAN YOUTH FORUM**

**4 – 6 April 2011**

**Addis Ababa - ETHIOPIA**

## **PRE-SUMMIT AFRICAN YOUTH FORUM**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

We **the youth from the African continent and the Diaspora** at the Pre-Summit African Youth Forum on “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”, 04 to 06 April 2011 at the Headquarters of the African Union (AU):

**I. Agree on the following needs to be addressed urgently:**

1. Promote sustainable development and empowerment of youth.
2. Prioritise Education and Employment of youth.
3. Pay particular attention to marginalized adolescents, youth, including unskilled, out of school, unemployed youth, youth living in rural areas, youth living with HIV, youth with disabilities, youth in conflict situations and **young women**.
4. **Recognize and provide for the special needs of adolescents in youth action.**
5. **Fight against human trafficking, substance abuse, social exclusion, early and forced marriages, unwanted pregnancies, gender inequality, maternal mortality, new HIV infections and xenophobia.**
6. Prioritize the eradication of youth poverty, **youth extreme poverty**, hunger, gender inequality and discrimination.
7. Reaffirm the importance of our natural resource-base and collectively undertake actions to protect the environment and mitigate the effects of climate change.
8. Take advantage of the benefits of globalization as well as information and communication technologies to achieve the African Youth Charter (AYC), African Youth Decade Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
9. **Promote, respect and defend all human rights instruments and conventions.**
10. **Destructive effect of the involvement of youth in conflict and use of child soldiers, and adopt pragmatic and complementary engagement of youth in conflict prevention, resolution and reconciliation.**

**We commit ourselves to:**

1. Promote youth development and empowerment and contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, NEPAD and the Plan of Action for the African Youth Decade.
2. Participate actively in development processes at continental, regional and national levels.

3. Combat among youth gender inequalities, sexual and gender based abuses and violence, human trafficking, Malaria, new HIV infections, STIs, TB, maternal mortality and discrimination of marginalized group.
4. Live and promote accountable, responsible and healthy life styles.
5. Protect our natural resource-base and collectively undertake actions to protect the environment, mitigate and adapt to the effect of the climate change.

**We call upon the AU Heads of States and Governments to:**

1. Sign, ratify, domesticate and implement the African Youth Charter.
2. Establish **or reinforce** mechanisms that would facilitate **and popularize active and meaningful** youth participation in the development and implementation of global and national plans such as the MDG's and PRSP.
3. Establish **the “Youth Fund” for the implementation of the PoA, for the African Youth Decade and the African Union Youth Volunteer Corp (AU-YVC), youth entrepreneurship and innovation.**
4. **Prioritize the crucial importance of preventing new infections among adolescent youth;**
5. **Invite** the Chairperson of the AUC to establish a Directorate for Youth Development Affairs in the AUC.
6. Prioritize quality and innovative education (formal and non-formal) such as internships, **volunteering and e-learning programs for the acquisition of knowledge, life-skills, livelihood skills, entrepreneurship and facilitate the involvement of Diaspora youth.**
7. Establish a Ministry exclusively for youth development in all member states.
8. Reaffirm that PYU and its regional structures are accorded the status of AU special agencies at continental, **regional and national levels as well as in the Diaspora.**
9. Advocate for the establishment of a UN (United Nations) Youth Agency.
10. **Implement the resolution calling on Member States to include youth** as part of official delegations to relevant UN and AU General Assembly meetings and related activities
11. Strengthen the technical capacity of Youth Ministries through recruitment and employment of professional youth workers and volunteers.
12. **Strengthen the capacity of young people working for ministries to ensure that**

youth issues are mainstreamed in programming.

13. **Adopt economic and business policies to create and ensure an enabling environment for the private sector to invest in youth development.**
14. **Facilitate the involvement of Diaspora youth and repatriates with specific skills and experience in the educational process.**
15. **Prioritize and strengthen the health systems to improve access among youth to age and gender appropriate sexual and reproductive and health information and care services including STIs, HIV and AIDS.**
16. **Fulfill the commitment to the Abuja +15 declaration to spend at least 15% of the national budget on health.**
17. **Develop** programs that address discrimination, marginalization, human trafficking, exploitation of refugees, internally displaced young people (IDP) and other most at risk youth.
18. Sign, ratify, domesticate and implement all treaties and conventions regarding climate change and sustainable environment.
19. **Transit from brown economy to green economy based on green jobs and renewable energy (COP+17 and Rio+20).**
20. **Institutionalize Annual State of Youth of the Youth Report at the national and regional level.**

**We call upon the AUC to:**

1. Collaborate with governments, non-governmental institutions and development partners for the effective implementation of the African Youth Charter (AYC).
2. Coordinate the efforts of all African governments in the implementation of the AYC through standardized tools, indicators and mechanisms for mainstreaming youth issues and monitoring progress towards development targets **(ensure availability of youth comparative data for advocacy and programming).**
3. Utilize the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and NEPAD to monitor and report on the implementation of the African Youth Charter.
4. Monitor the implementation of the African Youth Charter and the Plan of Action for the Decade.
5. Publish a progress report on the status of implementation at every Heads of States and Governments Summit.

6. Develop strategies for strengthening Public Private Partnership (PPP) in stimulating domestic resources for implementing Youth Development Programs.
7. Expand the mandate of the PYU to include the African Youth in Diaspora.

**We call upon the PYU to:**

1. Popularize and monitor the implementation of the AYC.
2. Develop institutional frameworks for NYCs.
3. **Facilitate and co-ordinate establishment of the NYCs and Diaspora youth institutions.**
4. Advocate for mainstreaming of youth development and empowerment in all initiatives

**We call upon the National Youth Councils to:**

1. Serve as umbrella national body for youth led organizations.
2. Mobilize youth to participate in national decision making processes.
3. Promote the unity of all youth led and youth serving organizations.
4. **Initiate and formalize relations with regional Diaspora youth institutions.**
5. **Popularize, advocate, implement and monitor the ratification of the African Youth, Charter.**

**We call upon the Private sector to:**

1. Partner with Governments in supporting youth development interventions.
2. Prioritize youth development issues as part of their corporate **social responsibility including reducing carbon footprint.**
3. **Support youth micro-finance and entrepreneurial skills development initiatives.**

**We call upon the Parliamentarians to:**

1. Legislate on youth development guided by the African Youth Charter and national **laws and youth policies.**
2. **Enact legislation to increase the participation of youth in all political processes including parliaments.**

3. **Enact laws** that address discrimination, marginalization, human trafficking, exploitation of refugees, Internally Displaced Youth (IDP) and other **most** at risk youth.

**We call upon the Civil Society to:**

1. Partner with AUC, governments, PYU and NYCs in rendering services to the youth.
2. Harmonize and **complement** programs of the Pan African Youth Union, National Youth Councils and Youth led organizations in their activities both at continental, **regional** and national level Advocate for the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the African Youth Charter.
3. Strengthen Youth led organizations to monitor the implementation of the African Youth Charter.
4. **Popularize the AYC and produce shadow report on the implementation of the AYC.**
5. **Strengthen social accountability through a standard code of conduct.**

**We call upon the Youth-led organizations and networks to:**

1. Lead in-country advocacy for the ratification and the implementation of AYC.
2. Increase awareness and understanding of in-country Youth on the AYC.
3. Mobilize and support in-country youth led organizations to participate in the operations of their National Youth Councils.

**We call upon the development partners to:**

1. Provide technical and financial support to the AUC, PYU, governments, NYC, NGO's, **Diaspora youth institutions** in the implementation of the AYC.
2. Strengthen the capacity of AUC, PYU, NYC, youth organizations and government ministries.
3. Support AUC, governments, PYU, NYC and NGOs in implementing youth development and empowerment programs Allocate specific resources to youth development issues at country level.