

AFRICAN UNION

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PRE-SUMMIT EVENT

HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIONS ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND FUNDING

April 1-2, 2010

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATION ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES AND FUNDING

We the participants at the “High Level Consultations (HLC) on Youth Development Issues and Funding” which includes Government Representatives, Parliamentarians, Pan African Youth Union (PYU), National Youth Councils (NYC), Experts, Partners and United Nations agencies, gathered in the Headquarters of the African Union (AU) from 1 to 2 April 2011:

I. AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING

We reaffirm our commitment to the effective implementation of the African Youth Charter, International Year of Youth, Decade of Youth Development and its Plan of Action (PoA) and the decision of the Assembly to devote the July 2011 summit on “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development” reiterate the following facts:

- 1.1 That youth aged 15-35 constitute the majority of the African population and are the key driving force for Africa's sustainable development
- 1.2 African Youth still face a lot of challenges in the areas of education, entrepreneurship, skills development, sustainable livelihoods and youth unemployment, participation in decision making, health, high prevalence of HIV, gender inequalities, vulnerabilities, migration, conflicts and climate change.
- 1.3 Acknowledge the desire of African Youth within and outside the continent to be directly engaged in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of youth-related projects and programs implemented by various stakeholders.

- 1.4 Acknowledge the desire of African Youth within and outside the continent to break the cycle of underdevelopment in Africa.

II. WE COMMIT OURSELVES ON:

- 2.1 Attaining the goals and objectives of the African Youth Charter, the 10 Year Action Plan and the Medium Term Priority Actions
- 2.2 Strengthening partnerships for Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development
- 2.3 Promoting youth participation in all processes for attaining the objectives of the African Youth Charter, International Year of Youth, Decade of Youth Development and its PoA

III. WE CALL UPON

3.1. The African Union Heads of States and Governments to:

- 3.1.1 Expedite the ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter in their respective countries.
- 3.1.2 Endorse, mobilize and allocate resources for the acceleration of the Medium Term Priorities for the Plan of Action for the African Youth Decade
- 3.1.3 Enact age-specific standards and quotas for youth in parliaments and appointment into government positions.
- 3.1.4 Create resource base (Human/Financial/Technical) for implementation of youth programs e.g. The African Union Youth Volunteers Corps (AUYVC) to boost youth contribution to national social and economic growth.

- 3.1.5 Enact laws that ensure internship opportunities for youth by both private and public companies.
- 3.1.6 Create mechanism that will enable African youth in the Diaspora to effectively contribute to sustainable development in Africa.

3.2. The African Union Commission (AUC) to:

- 3.2.1 Collaborate with governments, non-governmental institutions and development partners for the effective implementation of the African Youth Charter (AYC).
- 3.2.2 Coordinate the efforts of all African governments in the implementation of the AYC through standardized tools, indicators and mechanisms for mainstreaming youth issues in monitoring progress towards development targets (comparative data on youth for advocacy and programming).
- 3.2.3 Utilize the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and NEPAD to monitor and report on the implementation of the African Youth Charter.
- 3.2.4 Develop strategies for strengthening Public Private Partnership (PPP) in stimulating domestic resources for implementing Youth Development Programs.

3.3. The Pan African Youth Union (PYU) to:

- 3.3.1 Advocate for the establishment and strengthening of the National Youth Councils.
- 3.3.2 Advocate for the ratification and implementation of African Youth Charter in member countries.

3.3.3 Collaborate with the African Union Commission to monitor the progress in the implementation of the African Youth Charter.

3.3.4 Promote the collaboration and unity of all youth organizations.

3.4 The National Youth Councils / Youth-led Organizations and Networks to:

3.4.1 Lead in-country advocacy for the ratification and the implementation of African Youth Charter;

3.4.2 Increase awareness and understanding of in-country Youth on the African Youth Charter.

3.4.3 Mobilize and support in-country youth led organizations to participate in the operations of their National Youth Councils.

3.5 The Development partners to:

3.5.1 Provide technical and financial support to the African Union Commission, the Pan African Youth Union, governments, National Youth Councils, Non Governmental Organizations, especially Youth-led organizations in the implementation of African Youth Charter.

3.5.2 Strengthen capacity building for the African Union Commission, the Pan African Youth Union, the National Youth Council, the youth organizations and the Government Ministries.

3.5.3 Allocate specific resources to youth development issues at country level.

3.6 The Civil Society to:

- 3.6.1 Advocate for the ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter.
- 3.6.2 Strengthen Youth led organizations to monitor the implementation of the African Youth Charter.
- 3.6.3 Harmonize and integrate programs of the Pan African Youth Union, National Youth Councils and Youth led organizations in their activities both at continental and national level.

3.7 The Private sector to:

- 3.7.1 Fund youth development programs at continental and country and level.
- 3.7.2 Partner with the African Union Commission, the Pan African Youth Union, the governments, National Youth Councils and Non-Government Organizations to promote the empowerment of youth.