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Department of Human Resources Science and Technology

**PRESS RELEASE**

**AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY**

**Addis Ababa, 8 August 2016:** On the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2016, the African Union Commission will join the world in celebrating International Youth Day (IYD). Since the year 2000, August 12<sup>th</sup> has provided key stakeholders with the opportunity to focus on the views, initiatives and challenges that affect young people across the globe.

This year, the Commission will collaborate with Beza International under the theme ***‘Youth Leading Sustainability towards the Realization of Agenda 2063’*** to conduct activities which will span the course of 3 days. On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, a ‘Young African Think’rs Convention’ will bring together 150 young people from across Africa, youth networks, diplomatic corps and the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AU-YVC). The youth will embark on intense brainstorming and idea generation with Agenda 2063 as the key policy framework that will lead the discussions. These discussions, which will focus on seven thematic areas, will be used to fuel creativity and the on-going transformation towards youth development on the continent. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, young people will be joined by senior officials within the African Union Commission for a special gathering. This event will give young people the opportunity to present the outcomes of the two day Convention and reiterate their roles and responsibilities in the development of Africa. In addition to this, the International Youth Day commemoration will provide a platform for participants to creatively promote Agenda 2063 through art, music, video, poetry and drama.

The commemoration will also incorporate the voices of young people on the continent and the Diaspora through extensive online deliberations on **Facebook (@africa.youth)**, **Twitter (@AUYouthProgram)** and the official event hashtag **#YouthDayAU**.

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