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The Africa Union Commission commemorates Africa Youth Day

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Addis Ababa, 06 November 2017: On the 1st of November each year since 2006, the Africa Union Commission (AUC) has joined the continent in commemorating 'Africa Youth Day'. This year's commemoration featured a series of build-up youth focused initiatives, with the support and collaboration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), European Union (EU), German Cooperation, Business Africa and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES).



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AUC Chairperson, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat

When addressing the audience, which included representatives of AU Member States and the international diplomatic corps, AUC Chairperson H.E Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat endorsed the **#BeTheFutureToday** motto and called upon young people 'to Be The Future Today, seizing the unique opportunity of the demographic dividend to accelerate deliberate contributions towards achieving The Africa We Want.'

This year's commemoration, themed "Africa's Youth for the Demographic Dividend: #BeTheFutureToday", places emphasis on the role of young people in advancing Africa's development, through realising Agenda 2063. Leading up to this year's Africa Youth Day, the AUC collaborated with NEPAD, German Cooperation, Business Africa and the EU to

convene 'Africa Talks Jobs' – a continental dialogue on equipping the youth with adaptive education and skills for employment. The conference attracted over 250 young people from the continent and the Diaspora as well as representatives from AU and EU Member States, business community and international partner organisations. After 3 days of deliberations and knowledge exchange, the AUC, NEPAD and Business Africa signed a declaration of commitment. This agreement was backed by 120 companies and associations, committing to investing in youth and initiate partnerships with the education sector for improved quality and access of employment oriented education and training. Recommendations capture at the conference will feed into the AU-EU Summit in November 2017.

As part of its youth engagement, the AUC's Department of HRST in collaboration with FES held a workshop to finalise the Model African Union (MAU) toolkit and conduct a simulation. The Model African Union offers a unique opportunity for African youth to study and familiarise themselves with the African Union through simulating the AU decision making process. This serves to enhance the leadership and decision-making capabilities of African youth, and educate them through practice on diplomatic behaviour through negotiation, consensus building and compromise. Over 50 young people participated in the two day simulation.

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