

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

**Press Release No: 118/2021**  
**Venue: Zomba, Malawi.**

**Date: 2 October 2021**

The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO) in close partnership with the African Union Commission's Youth Division and University of Malawi Chancellor College, organized a 3-day AU Model Summit Simulation exercise from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of September at the University of Malawi Chancellor College in Zomba, Malawi.

The objective of the exercise was to train 275 students on the proceedings of the Executive Council and to offer a unique opportunity to study and familiarise themselves with the African Union. The Model AU Training was delivered through the African Union Youth Empowerment and Development Toolbox developed by the Youth Division of the Women Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD). The toolbox is a minimum package for the orientation and activation of young people to solve Africa's challenges and achieve the 7 Aspirations of Agenda 2063. The toolbox has been curated to build a critical mass of young Africans who are empowered and equipped to solve 21st century challenges as it is crucial to provide the requisite tools for the optimization of the attitude, aptitude, awareness, and activation of Africa's youth.

Representing the Permanent Representative to the African Union, Ambassador David Claude Pierre, Ms Myranda Lutempo Senior Policy Officer indicated that; "youths are marginalized through inequalities in income, wealth and unemployment which leads to other excessive factors hence the AU's investment and championing the '1 million by 2021' initiative.

The Model AU Training has covered core modules from the toolbox such as Pan-Africanism, AU and AUC, Youth as Change Agents, Model African Union Simulation and Pitching. The AU Model Summit is expected to take place in Malawi in 2022.

The programme is part of the AU-SARO mandate which is to popularize AU programmes in the Southern Africa region as well as champion the 1 Million by 2021 initiative to inspire investment in African Youth through Education, Entrepreneurship, Employment and Engagement, popularly known as AU 4Es.

The AU Model Summit is a simulation exercise which ties with AUC strategies that work towards eliminating barriers to achieve active participation of young people, and aims to identify solutions and opportunities that contribute to their development. It serves to enhance the leadership and decision-making capabilities of African youth and educate them through the practise of diplomatic behaviour through negotiation, consensus building and compromise to become action stakeholders in the vision, mission and activities of the AU.

### **Note to Editors**

#### **About the AU 1 Million by 2021 Initiative**

The AUC's initiative provides direct opportunities to African youth in the areas of Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Engagement through partnerships with critical stakeholders in the private and public sector.

#### **About AU-SARO**

The AU-SARO is a representational office of AU in Southern Africa, it develops, maintain constructive and productive relationships between the AU, its Member States in the Region as well as SADC and COMESA. The office aims to Increase awareness about AU programmes and its mission in the region; monitor socio-economic and political and cultural developments as well as liaise and harmonize specific policies of the AU in the Southern Region.

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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