

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

---

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11 551 7700 Fax: +251 115 182 072

Website: [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

---

# **AFRICA YOUTH DAY**

**Message from**

**H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor**

**COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

**AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

**1 November 2017, Ethiopia**

Today marks a significant point in my position as the Commissioner for HRST. Human Resources and Youth Development is a Division in HRST. Youths are close to my heart first as an Evangelist, a Professor and now as a Commissioner.

I believe if the Youths are well advised and guided, if they are given the right type of education and competence, the World would be a better place.

African Youths, I salute you! I join my voice to celebrate you.

You are the pride and continuity of Africa.

You are the budding palm fronts that must yield a good harvest.

You must not be disillusioned. You must be tough and resilient.

There are challenges, frustrations and mountains of problems,

Yet your future is bright and must be bright.

I know there are many with degrees but many are unemployed. It is hopeful that this year was marked as “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”. All our

efforts throughout the year is to look for ways in eradicating youth unemployment, poverty and discrimination of all sorts in recognition that Africa, our Africa,

The Africa we envisioned through Agenda 2063 cannot be without empowering the Youths and Women for Sustainable development through social inclusion.

The AU came up with a number of policies and strategies. Among others: CESA 16-25, STISA-2024, TVET Strategy.

A broad and holistic approach was taken to equip young people with competent skills that could rewrite the narrative of unemployment and conviviality.

This week we have organized series of Youths events focused on Africa Talks Jobs, the Model AU and the Youth Plug-in Initiative. All these in a bid to bring government, business partners, the Youths, the Private Sector and Academicians to rethink and re- strategize ways in which we facilitate young people achieved their potentials.

But from the Africa Talks Jobs, we are insert if moving to “Africa Make Jobs.

120 Business groups from 40 African Countries placed their commitments to invest in youth and initiate partnerships with the education sector for improved quality and access of employment oriented education and training.

Yesterday, we signed a Declaration of Commitment and Partnership between the African Union Commission (Commissioner HRST), the NEPAD Agency and Business Africa at “Africa Talks Jobs”.

Yes, yes, our participation is indeed significant. It is not about you, it is not about me, it is about “We”.

Thinking together as one for the Africa We Want and envisaged in Agenda 2063. We have showed and worked because we know that “For tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today”.

Remember “Ubuntu, I am because we are”.

Governments, Private sectors, Net Schools and Academic associations must invest in youth and initiate partnerships and education sector to improve quality and access of employment oriented education and training. This engagement is important.

If we engage rightly, then our Vision for competent and skilled youths to respond to the socio-economic and technological development that will make African the dream and the place to be will be a reality.

It is only by seeing and learning, best practices can the youths have skill development. The government and stakeholders must implement these strategies and policies.

Let us value this moment, this experience, this conference so that as time ticks, change will be seen from South to West, South to North and Centre that we can be on the same page in the narrative of the Continent. We have no choice, and we are not negotiating, Youth Entrepreneurship must be promoted. Yes, the taskforce has done justice to the theme.

I am humbled by sense of commitment.

We have great challenges, yet great opportunities to make changes and if we do, with the sense of commitment and social responsibility knowing fully well that competence, adaptive education and skills for employment and entrepreneurship is the only way to make Agenda 2063 a pivot for the Africa we want: An integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa, driven by its own Citizens and representing a force into a global Arena.

Keep the flame of hope and change and joint responsibility alive.

Yes, together we will think intensively to harness the potential of our youth towards an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa.

So help us God.

Viva Africa, yes Viva Africa.