



**CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP:  
YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE AU 2017 THEME 'HARNESSING THE  
DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN YOUTH**

## **Introduction**

Young people under the aged 15 to 35 account for 40% of the African population and are considered a youth bulge that can positively impact the development of the continent. Considering this youth bulge and the priorities of the AU Agenda 2063, the AU Heads of States and Governments declared 2017 the year for ***“Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in youth”***. The roadmap developed in response to the theme of the year has 4 pillars namely; Education and skills development, Health and wellbeing, Rights, Governance and Youth Empowerment and Employment and Entrepreneurship. The AU Demographic Dividend Roadmap sets out immediate actions for focused and expanded investments in Africa’s youth across the four pillars named above.

## **Background**

The project *‘Strengthening coordination to increase adolescents and young people’s access to sexual and reproductive health and rights’* (SCAA&YP SRHR) is a joint project implemented by the African Union Commission’s Department of Human Resource Science and Technology through the Division in Charge of Youth Development and the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Regional Office. The project has been implemented since 2015 with successful engagement of youth and decision makers to ensure a more conducive environment that promotes the realization of young people’s right to health and well-being. The youth engagement component of the project has been led by the Youth Advisory Board (YAB), which consisted of 10 youth networks representing the 5 regions of the African Continent: West Africa, Central Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa and Eastern Africa. The Board was set up in November 2015 after a competitive selection process and served a term of one year, after which we are seeking to renew its membership. Taking the theme of the year into cognizance; the YAB’s mandate for 2017 extends to the three other pillars of the Demographic Dividend.

## **What is the Youth Advisory Board (YAB)?**

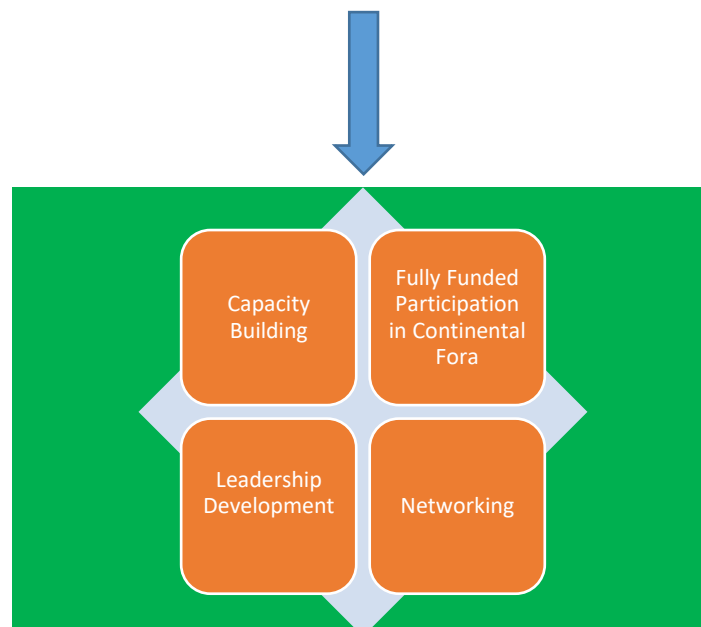
The continental Youth Advisory Board for Sexual and Reproductive Health and rights was set up in November 2015 to represent young people from African and the diaspora in the review, development, popularization and accountability initiatives as they relate to young people’s policies in Africa. It is a model of youth participation and engagement

in continental policy interventions, bridging the gaps between continental decision making platforms, national and community level policy contexts and implementation. The YAB capacitates young people and positions them to bring the youth voice in spaces where youth development issues are discussed. They are expected to lead the popularization of African Union policies at national level, and educate their peers to better understand how decisions made at continental level could influence their day to day lives.

Specifically, the Youth Advisory Board members is tasked with advising, assisting, supporting and advocating for the SCAA&YP project as well as facilitating direct youth engagement at local, national, regional and global levels. In 2017, the YAB seeks to recruit young people who are committed and passionate about:

1. Volunteering time, skills and talents to the YAB's activities and projects which may include travel.
2. Identifying opportunities at all levels (national, regional and continental) that can be leveraged to advance the adolescent and youth development agenda.
3. Maintaining consistent and effective virtual communication with fellow board members.
4. Research, online content generation and videography / photography. These skills will bolster the YAB's visibility through its social media platforms and blog
5. Promoting and simplifying the policies of the African Union in peer networks and platforms.
6. Timely documentation and reporting to the SCAA&YP Project Coordinator.

## Advantages of being YAB Member



## Eligibility

The Youth Advisory Board is consisted of young Africans **between the ages of 10 and 34** from all 5 regions of Africa plus the Diaspora. Each member is nominated by his or her organisation and this year, we are looking for a total of **24 members** from:

**NORTH AFRICA – 2 males and 2 females**

**WEST AFRICA – 2 males and 2 females**

**CENTRAL AFRICA – 2 males and 2 females**

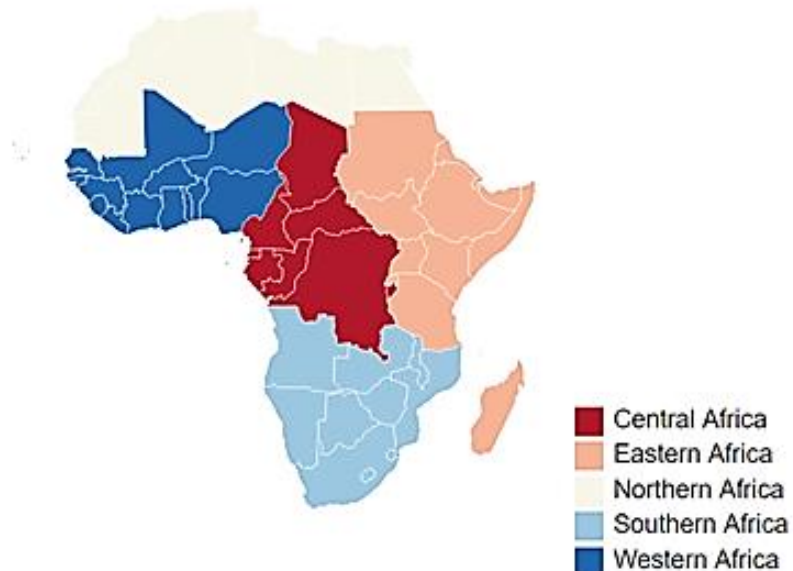
**SOUTHERN AFRICA – 2 males and 2 females**

**EAST AFRICA – 2 males and 2 females**

**DIASPORA – 2 males and 2 females**



### African Union Regional Groups



Each application for the Youth Advisory Board should be submitted by a youth led and/or youth focused organisation. The organisation (working regionally or affiliated to a regional body) should possess proven expertise and sound knowledge in at least one of the four pillars identified in the African Union Roadmap on '*Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth*'. The nominated YAB member should:

- Be aged between 10 and 34. (female applicants are highly encouraged)
- Have a proven leadership track record in their community, country or region.
- Have sound knowledge in public health and the Demographic Dividend.

# How Do I Apply?

Interested organisations are required to provide the following information:

1. A description of the organisation and its work:
  - a. Vision, mission, thematic focus and geographical working areas.
  - b. Brief on the organisation's work in the last five years highlighting notable achievements.
2. Certificate of registration (or equivalent document) detailing the organisation's legality in at least one African Union Member State.
3. Recommendation letter from a credible regional or continental organisation.
4. Nomination letter for **one** suitably qualified individual within the organisation's ranks who is able to travel between the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> June to attend the YAB orientation meeting.
5. Short biography and scanned passport copy of the nominated individual.
6. Signed commitment letter by the nominated individual to volunteer as a member of the Youth Advisory Board.

## DEADLINE!

All applications must be emailed to [youth@africa-union.org](mailto:youth@africa-union.org) with the subject: [YAB2017](#) by Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 at 5pm GMT+3



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