

African
Youth
Commission



Commission
Africaine de la
Jeunesse

THE CHARTER OF AFRICAN YOUTH COMMISSION

2016

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PREAMBLE

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN YOUTH COMMISSION

In recognition of the importance of youth participation and involvement in the development of the African continent, the African Union Commission in her wisdom to providing a way forward to the development of African youth, the AU developed a policy framework in the form of the Youth Charter. This policy prescribes responsibilities to Member States for the development of youth. The Youth Charter was adopted by the Heads of States at the Banjul Summit (July 2006), Gambia. The Youth Charter offers a framework, which emphasizes the rights, duties and freedom of youth, to Governments, Youth, Civil Society and International Partners. The key objective of the Youth Charter is to pave the way for the development of national programmes and the strategic plans for their empowerment. It also exist to ensure that there is constructive involvement of youth in the development agenda of Africa and their effective participation in the debates and decision making processes in the development of the continent.

The African Youth Charter (the Charter) is “convinced that Africa’s greatest resource is its youthful population and that through their active and full participation, Africans can surmount the difficulties that lie ahead.” It also acknowledges “the increasing calls and the enthusiasm of youth to actively participate at local, national, regional and international levels to determine their own development and the advancement of society at large.”¹ Taking into considerations also that the charter urges state parties to encourage “youth organizations to lead youth programmes and to ensure the exercise of their rights to development” and “facilitate the creation or strengthening of platforms for youth participation in decision-making at local, national, regional, and continental levels of governance.”²

In addition, Pan-African 2063 ASPIRATION (6) of An Africa where Development is People-Driven, Unleashing the Potential of its Women and Youth³ provides another promise yet to be realized.

While the promise is yet to be realized and the Charter having become one of the most ratified documents of the African Union, in practice, numerous obstacles exist that prohibit the implementation of the charter, and thereby the enjoyment of these rights as provided for under the Charter.

The African Youth Commission (AYC), formerly the African Union Youth Working Group (AU YWG), conceived in 2013 during Consultation with the Youth on the African Union Agenda 2063 held in Tunis, Tunisia at Hotel El Mouradi, Yasmine Hammamet, from the 1st to 4th November, under the theme **“THE FUTURE WE WANT FOR AFRICA BY 2063”**, organized by the African

¹ African Youth Charter, Preamble, at para 6, and 17

² African Youth Charter, Article 10 (2), and 11 (2) (b)

³ Agenda 2063, p. 8

Union Commission in collaboration with the NEPAD Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

This youth gathering was in line with 8th edition of the African Youth Day celebration and the 50th Anniversary of the African Union (AU), under the themes **“Youth United in Action for Agenda 2063”** and **“Pan Africanism and African renaissance”**.

Among its vision as a Commission is to become the youth’s own version of the AUC, where all inspiring and capable young African leaders and African Diaspora can organize themselves, take up their responsibilities, strengthen cooperation among the youth and youth structures as a platform, speak up and promote youth voices in the context of Africa’s development through the Africa 2063 development aspirations.

The main objective of establishing the Commission is to organize all young people in Africa and Diaspora for the promotion of African unity and development through linkage of youth and youth structures and mobilization of resources (human, technical, technology and finance) to support the work of African youth, youth structures, Pan African Youth Union and Youth Division of the African Union Commission in their quest to effective service delivery and advocacy activities on the African Youth Charter, other AU legal instruments and youth projects at national, regional and continental levels for the advancement of Africa.

2. FRAMEWORK AND AGENDA OF THE AFRICAN YOUTH COMMISSION

The AYC, as a groundbreaking initiative, has adopted an action plan to organize all young people in Africa and Diaspora for the promotion of African unity and development through linkage of youth and youth structures and mobilization of resources (human, technical, technology and finance) to support the work of African youth, youth structures, Pan African Youth Union and Youth Division of the African Union Commission for the realization of the Africa we want by 2063.

ARTICLE 1: NAME, OBJECTIVE, STATUS, SLOGAN AND INTERNET ADDRESS

1.1 Name

a) The body shall be called ‘African Youth Commission’, established to unify the voice, and voluntarily mobilize all young people in Africa and Diaspora for the ultimate purpose of African unity and development.

1.2 Objective

a) The main objective of the Commission shall be to organize all young people in Africa and Diaspora for the promotion of African unity and development through linkage of youth and

youth structures and mobilization of resources (human, technical, technology and finance) to support the work of African youth, youth structures, Pan African Youth Union, and Youth Division of the African Union Commission in their quest to effective service delivery and advocacy activities on the African Youth Charter, other AU legal instruments and youth projects at national, regional and continental levels for the advancement of Africa.

b) Notwithstanding the above, the Commission may venture on activities it identifies as strategic for the promotion of the rights and interests of its members and to undertake other similar lawful purposes as well as to coordinate with institutions of similar objectives.

1.3 Status

a) The Commission shall be a non-profit continental pan African youth organization to work with all youth, youth structures, the African Union/AUC through its youth division, RECs, other International or Development partners such as the UN agencies but shall not seek for a formal affiliation with any political organization or body.

b) The Commission may not necessarily establish national or regional chapters but instead form a consortium of national youth councils or a well-established youth organizations at national, regional or continental levels in a country where national youth council does not exists to coordinate its activities.

1.4 Slogan

a) The slogan of the Commission shall be “Uniting Youth in Action for African Unity and Development.”

1.5 Internet Address

a) The Internet address of the Commission shall be www.africanyouthcommission.org or in short www.auyc.org.

ARTICLE 2: DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Charter:

“AYC” means African Youth Commission.

“AU” means African Union.

“AUC” means African Union Commission.

“Youth” means every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years.

“Commission” means Youth Commission.

“Structure” means established youth organizations, groups, networks, coalitions, councils, associations, professional and think tank bodies, chamber of commerce, high school, college and university students from the African countries and Diaspora. Examples of such structures are AYU, AYP, OAYouth, AYM, NAYD, AYAP etc.

“General Assembly” means the General membership of the Commission.

“Executive Council” means the governance and administration board of the African Youth Commission.

“The Plenary session of the Annual General Membership” means the annual continental meeting of the Commission’s general assembly.

“ACoP” means African Community of Practice on Youth Development.

“YEWGs” means Youth Experts Working Groups.

“Member State” means Member State of the African Youth Commission.

“Diaspora” means Peoples of African descent and heritage living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and who remain committed to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union (DOC.EX.CL/164(VII)).

“Observers” means any individual who is not a member of the African Youth Commission.

“OAU” means Organization of African Unity.

“Member States” means Member States of the African Union.

“Region” means any or all of the five regions within the African continent.

“Continent” means the Continent and Islands of Africa as a whole.

“States Parties” means Member States of African Union, which have ratified or acceded to the present African Youth Charter.

“AYD” means African Youth Day.

“PYU or PAYU” means Pan African Youth Union.

“AYU” means African Youth Union.

“AYP” means African Youth Panel.

“AYM” means African Youth Movement.

“AYAP” means African Youth Advocates Platform

“OAYouth” means Organisation of African Youth.

“NAYD” means the Network of African Youths for Development.

“CSO” means Civil Society Organizations in the African Union countries and Diaspora.

“ECOSOCC” means AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council.

“RECs” means the eight AU recognized African Regional Economic Communities.

“UMA” means Arab Maghreb Union.

“COMESA” means Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

“CEN–SAD” means Community of Sahel–Saharan States.

“EAC” means East African Community.

“ECCAS” means Economic Community of Central African States.

“ECOWAS” means Economic Community of West African States.

“IGAD” means Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

“SADC” means Southern African Development Community.

ARTICLE 3: COMPOSITION

a) The African Youth Commission shall be a platform for all youth, youth structures and all thing youth in Africa. The structure shall house the Executive Council composed of elected Executive Chairperson, Deputy Executive Chairperson, eight Commissioners and the Secretariat headed by the Executive Secretary/Coordinator and Directors to support and strengthen the service of youth and youth structures in the continent, Pan African Youth Union and Youth Division of African Union Commission for unifying voice and broader engagement.

b) The commission in its membership shall include all youth (at youth age and above) and youth organizations, groups, networks, coalitions, councils, associations, professional and think tank bodies, chambers of commerce, high school, college and university students from the African countries and Diaspora.

c) Membership shall have nothing to do with one’s religion, ethnicity, political affiliation, skin color, location and gender.

ARTICLE 4: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The commission shall stand to promote youth driven, unified voice, vibrant and peaceful Africa by;

- a) Mobilizing resources (human, technical, technology and finance) to support the work of youth and youth structures, Pan African Youth Union, Youth Division of the African Union Commission in their quest to effective service delivery and advocacy activities on African Youth Charter, other AU legal instruments and youth projects at national, regional and continental levels.
- b) Linking up youth and existing youth structures at national, regional and continental levels for partnership, collaboration and networking to maximize productivity, and minimize waste of valuable and scarce resources in Africa.
- c) Bring youth together on an annual basis to engage in dialogues (policy and intergenerational), share best practices and experiences on obstacles of meaningful youth participation and representation in AU led negotiations at all levels.
- d) Providing a youth friendly platform for inclusive and effective participation and representation of African youth at the political and operational levels of AU.
- e) Lobby and advocate for standalone Youth Division in AUC and ECOSOC Youth Caucus.

ARTICLE 5: SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The African Youth Commission shall;

- a) Organize and unify youth voice, strengthen stronger bonds of cooperation among the youth and youth structures by providing them with a unique platform to exchange ideas and experiences, create impact driven change, promote the Pan African Agenda 2063 to ensure young people's ownership, effective participation and representation at African Union programmes and initiatives.
- b) Promote regular and constructive dialogue among the youth, youth structures, Governments through AU and regional economic communities, civil society organizations, African Diaspora, and international/development partners with regard to youth development in the continent.
- c) Facilitate discussions and work on issues affecting effective youth's participation and representation at AU led negotiations and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of legal instruments, projects, programmes, and or initiatives by bringing them to the attention of national governments and regional bodies.
- d) Initiate and support in collaboration with AUC Youth Division, NEPAD e-Africa programme, national youth councils, regional, continental youth structures, groups, networks and African Diaspora the implementation of an online African youth resource Centre or portal pertaining to youth in development for facilitation of networking, easy access to, engagement and dissemination of relevant and timely information on youth projects and initiatives throughout the continent and Diaspora. The portal would also be a place where anyone looking for a youth expert or specialist, youth organization or initiative on any issue can go to access.
- e) Work with Pan African Youth Union to advocate for standalone Youth Division in AUC, define and formalize entry point for the youth's intervention in AU activities and programmes.
- f) Work with AUC, RECs, International and Development partnership for establishment of a continental Youth Fund to support youth and young women seeking for political leadership or position and to strengthen active youth participation and representation in events of great importance to their development.

ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY, OBLIGATIONS, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Eligibility,

- a) Youth and youth structures seeking for membership to the Commission shall be required to fulfill the following minimum requirements:
 1. Subscribed to the ideals and Pan African vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."
 2. Be a youth from any member state of African Union or African Diaspora.
 3. Be a national, regional, continental or African Diaspora youth structure.
 4. Acquired legal status to operate in any African country or Diaspora.

5. Exists for a minimum of one (1) month and able to submit a copy of constitution, meeting minutes and prove of legal status for membership application.
6. Be committed to pay for an annual membership fee.

- b) Membership shall be open to all, subject to application and payment of annual membership dues as stated in the annual membership fees. There shall be two types of membership, Youth (individual) and Youth Structure (organization, group, network etc.) with either 'Active' or 'Non Active' status.
- c) All membership application to the Commission shall be subjected to a review and approval by the Executive Council.

6.2 Obligations,

- a) Members of the African Youth Commission would be required to renew their status every (1) year, or according to modalities specified in the laid down rules of procedure.
- b) Adhere to a Code of Conduct and Ethics to be developed by the Executive Council and approved by the Commission's General Membership at its Annual Meeting.
- c) Agrees to pay membership dues as stipulated in the annual membership fees below.

6.3 Annual membership fees,

Annual Membership fees, once paid, are non-refundable. The assessed Membership dues shall be as follows;

Africa,

- a) Youth (Individual) \$10 (Ten Dollars).
- b) Structure (Organization, group, network etc.) \$50 (Fifty Dollars).

Diaspora,

the Americas

- a) Youth (Individual) \$30 (Thirty Dollars).
- b) Structure (Organization, group, network etc.) \$100 (Hundred Dollars).

Asia or Australia

- a) Youth (Individual) €20 (Twenty Euros).
- b) Structure (Organization, group, network etc.) €80 (Eighty Euros).

the United Kingdom

- a) Youth (Individual) £15 (Fifteen Pounds).
- b) Structure (Organization, group, network etc.) £70 (Seventy Pounds).

other European countries

- c) Youth (Individual) €25 (Twenty-five Euros).

d) Structure (Organization, group, network etc.) €100 (One Hundred Euros).

6.4 Termination of membership,

a) If any member feels to withdraw or terminate his/her membership from the Commission can do so by writing to the Chairperson of the Executive Council.

b) Failure to comply or involvement in activities incompatible with provisions in the Articles of this charter will result in a complete membership termination.

ARTICLE 7: GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL SET UP

7.1 The Governance and Institutional structure of the Commission shall consist of;

1. General Assembly.
2. Executive Council.
3. Secretariat.
4. Advisory Board.

7.2 The Plenary session of the Annual General Membership Meeting shall be the supreme policy making organ of the Commission and be composed of;

1. Honourable delegates of all registered youth and youth structures or their representatives.
2. Executive Council Officials.
3. Distinguished members of the Advisory Board.
4. Observers accredited by the Secretariat.

7.3 Meetings of the annual General Membership;

a) The General Membership shall meet annually.

b) The Plenary shall consider the annual report of the Executive Chairperson on behalf of the Commission.

c) The Plenary of the General Membership Meeting shall elect and inaugurate elected officers to the Executive Council.

d) Elections of officers to the Executive Council shall be done at the Plenary of the General Membership through electronic balloting system or any legitimate process identified by the Independent Electoral Board.

e) The General Membership Plenary may meet in Extraordinary Sessions under conditions to be specified in the rules of procedure.

f) The General Membership Plenary shall review the membership structure periodically.

g) The annual and extraordinary meetings of General Membership shall be attended by honourable delegates of all registered youth and youth structures or their representatives,

Executive Council officials, distinguished members of Advisory Board and observers who have been accredited by the Secretariat.

7.4 Observers shall include;

a) Representatives of youth or youth structures in Africa and Diaspora who are not members of the African Youth Commission, officials of AU/AUC, RECs (UMA, COMESA, CEN–SAD, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC), NEPAD planning and coordinating agency and other International or Development partners such as UN agencies.

ARTICLE 8: COMPOSITION, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

8.1 Composition,

The Executive Council shall be entrusted with executive functions; composed of ten (10) officials: A Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Eight (8) Commissioners. The Portfolios shall be made up of following members;

1. The Executive Chairperson.
2. Deputy Executive Chairperson.
3. Commissioner for Peace and Security.
4. Commissioner for Political Affairs.
5. Commissioner for Trade and Industry.
6. Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy.
7. Commissioner for Social, Economic and Environmental Affairs.
8. Commissioner for Human Resources, Science, Technology and Innovation.
9. Commissioner for Gender, Agriculture and Rural Economy.
10. Commissioner for African Diaspora and External Affairs.

The term of office of the Executive Council officials shall be two (2) years and renewable once.

8.2 Functions and powers,

The Executive Council shall perform the following functions;

1. Implement the guiding principles of the Commission.
2. Follow up and supervise the implementation of policy recommendations from the Commission's annual General Membership meetings.
3. Appoint officials to the Secretariat and Advisory Board.

4. Receive, review, approve or reject applications of membership and, or terminate membership.
5. Present before the General Assembly the Commission's annual activity and financial reports for adoption at annual General Membership meetings.
6. Work with the Secretariat to determine the criteria and modalities for granting observer status to the annual General Membership Meetings.

ARTICLE 9: DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICERS

1. Executive Chairperson,

Nominated Interim Executive Chairperson: Mr. Boubakar Yougbare, Burkina Faso

Roles include;

- a) The chief executive officer and head of the Commission.
- b) The chief spokesperson of the Commission.
- c) Chair the Commission's meetings and annual general assembly plenary.
- d) Use his/her powers to arrive at a conclusion during meetings by making the final decision.
- e) Be a signatory to the Commission's Bank accounts
- f) Appoint the Executive Secretary General to head the Secretariat of the Commission in consultation with other Executive Council Officials.
- g) Ensure efficient and smooth running of the Secretariat by supervising its work and coordinate the implementation of the Commission's activities and projects with the support of other Council officials.
- h) Represent the Commission in strategic meetings and events in and outside of the Continent.

1.1 The position of the Executive Chairperson shall be rotated among the regions for fair and diverse representation across the Continent.

2. Deputy Executive Chairperson,

Nominated Interim Deputy Executive Chairperson: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Assist the Executive Chairperson in carrying out his/her duties.
- b) Act in the absence of the Executive Chairperson.
- c) Supervise and support the work of other Council officials.

3. Commissioner for Peace and Security,

Nominated Interim Commissioner: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Ensure the Commission;

1. Supports the African Peace and Security agenda,
2. Work with AUC's Department of Peace and Security and relevant partners on the implementation of the Common African Defense and Security Policy (CADSP), AU's Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), coordination, harmonization and promotion of peace and security programmes in Africa,
3. Initiate with regional and international partners the young African peace exchange programmes for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts,
4. Advocate for the inclusion of young people in the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) programmes.

4. Commissioner for Political Affairs,

Nominated Interim Commissioner: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Ensure the Commission;
 1. Promotes participation of youth, youth structures and civil society organizations in the development of Africa.
 2. Promote the African Union Commission's shared values, implementation AU instruments on governance, elections, democracy and humanitarian affairs,
 3. Initiate technical and financial support programmes for young Africans seeking for political position or leadership or participation in election observation and monitoring programmes,
 4. Work with African Union Commission's Department of Political Affairs to support the work of African Governance Architecture including the implementation of its Youth Engagement Strategy,
 5. Advocate for the inclusion of the Commission in the AGA platform

5. Commissioner for Trade and Industry,

Nominated Interim Commissioner: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Ensure the Commission;
 1. Contributes towards making Africa a significant and competitive trading partner in the global economy as well as an integrated trading bloc within the continent for to increase youth employment,

2. Contribute to the formulation, implementation and harmonization of trade and investment policies to promote inter- and intra-African trade, development of policies on tariffs, non-tariff barriers and free movement of business people,
3. Liaise with relevant stakeholders, such as chambers of commerce, industrial associations, exporters, importers, non-governmental organizations and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to advocate for fair trade, sustainable growth and development,
4. Support youth participation in global trade negotiations, collect, analyze and monitor data on global trends in trade and the impact on Africa,
5. Support advocacy on implementation of African Union Commission's Department of Trade and Industry initiatives such as Accelerating Industrialization of Africa (AIDA) and the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), which promote transparency, social responsibility and tax compliance in the extractive industry, supporting the AU in boosting intra-African trade and fast tracking the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

6. Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy,

Nominated Interim Commissioner: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Ensure the Commission;
 1. Contributes to ensuring the development of infrastructure and energy resources at the regional and continental levels. Key roles include: promoting, supporting coordination, implementation and monitoring of programmes and policies on transport, energy, telecommunication and information in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU specialized institutions and agencies, facilitate youth and private sector initiatives on infrastructure development and advocating among development partners for programme implementation.

The Commissioner shall ensure thematic groups on Energy, Information Society, Transport and Tourism are formed through Youth Experts Working Groups to advise the Commission on issues related to those areas.

7. Commissioner for Social, Economic and Environmental Affairs,

Nominated Interim Commissioner: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Ensure **Socially** the Commission;

1. Promotes health, labour, employment, migration, social development, drug control, crime prevention, sport and cultural agenda. The core roles shall include: providing support for the implementation of AU Member States' policies on labour, employment, population, health and migration, developing programmes and strategies on drug control and other issues, and promoting AU instruments for advancing the social and solidarity agenda.

- a) Work closely with the Secretariat of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition (CELHTO), African Institute for Remittances (AIR) and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

The Commissioner shall ensure thematic working groups on Health, Nutrition and Population, HIV/AIDs, Malaria, Tuberculosis and Other Infectious Diseases, Labour, Employment and Migration, Social Welfare, Vulnerable Groups and Drug Control, Sport and Culture are formed through the Youth Experts Working Groups to advise the Commission on Social, Economic and Environmental related issues.

Economically,

- a) Ensures the Commission;

1. Initiates and promote policies and strategies to strengthen regional coordination and cooperation on economic integration initiatives.

2) Promote the establishment of Continental wide youth fund, common market and youth chamber of commerce;

3) Support private sector development and investment, mobilize development funding and accelerate the establishment of joint institutions such as African Youth Support Fund, Youth Development and Investment Bank.

4) Facilitate organization of conference of African youth Economists, and lobby for the Commission to be part of the AU's Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on finance, monetary affairs, economic planning and integration and African Development Bank meetings.

The Commissioner shall ensure thematic groups on Economic Integration and Regional Cooperation, Youth Economic Development, Investment, Economic Policies and Research, and Statistics through the Youth Experts Working Groups are formed to advise the Commission on Social, Economic and Environmental related issues. The Commissioner shall also ensure the Commission supports the establishment of the African Youth Institute for Statistics Training.

Environmentally,

- a) Ensures the Commission;
 - 1. Support the Environment, Climate Change, Forestry and Natural Resources agenda in the Continent.
 - 2. Initiate programmes on climate change, forestry, water and sanitation management.

8. Commissioner for Human Resources, Science, Technology and Innovation,

Nominated Interim Commissioner: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Ensures the Commission;
 - 1. Develop her human resources.
 - 2. Promote programmes on science, technology and innovation for the benefits of the Continent.
 - 3. Encourages and provides technical support to the Commission in the implementation of policies and programmes in its key areas of focus especially on the set up of online African resource centre or portal. Key roles shall include: promoting research and publication on science, technology and innovation, promoting cooperation among young people on education, training and partnership building, and encouraging youth participation in the integration of the continent.

The Commissioner shall support the establishment of Directorate on Human resources, Science, Technology and Innovation within the Commission.

9. Commissioner for Gender, Rural Economy and Agriculture,

Nominated Interim Commissioner: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Ensures the Commission;
 - 1. Promote gender equality within the Commission structures.
 - 2. Support gender related programmes, projects and the development of gender-related policies and mainstreaming strategies within the Commission and for youth structures in Member States, and capacity building by providing training on gender policies and instruments.
 - 3. Contribute to the Agricultural productivity by supporting the adoption of measures, strategies, policies and programmes on agriculture in the Continent. Key tasks shall include: advocacy for development of programmes ensuring food security, promote

Rural Economy and, coordinate efforts to eradicate poverty and combat desertification and drought.

4. Work closely with AU's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), Coordination Office for the Fouta Djallon Highlands development project, Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR), Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC) and SemiArid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD).

The Commissioner shall support the establishment of Directorate on Gender Policy Development, Advocacy and Coordination of Gender related activities.

10. Commissioner for African Diaspora and External Affairs,

Nominated Interim Commissioner: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Ensures the Commission;
 1. Strengthen the Commission's external partnerships with African Diaspora
 2. Serve as a media liaison on External Affairs.
 3. Contribute to the promotion of the Commission's good image worldwide.

ARTICLE 11: THE SECRETARIAT

The secretariat shall be responsible for the day to day running of the Commission in between the sessions of annual General Membership Meetings and be constituted by the following officers; Executive Secretary/Coordinator, Directors and Staff members. In this regard it shall be;

1. Located in (a Country to be agreed upon at the plenary of the General Assembly meeting in January 2017).
2. Plan, prepare and coordinate the Commission's annual Meetings in consultation with Executive Council in accordance with relevant provisions of this Charter.
3. Encourage applications for membership to the Commission; make recommendations to the General Assembly's annual Plenary on secretariat improvements and advice the Executive Council on policy issues and matters of great importance to the Commission.

ARTICLE 12: DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT STAFF

1. Executive Secretary/Coordinator,

Nominated Interim Executive Secretary/Coordinator: Mr. Kawsu Sillah, Gambia

Roles include;

- a) Act as the administrative head of the Commission to record and file documents, administer and manages the human resources and properties of the Commission and provide secretariat support to the Executive Council, Directors and other staff members.
- b) Prepare the activity-based budget of the Commission in consultation with Director for Budget and Finance and submits to Executive Council's approval
- c) Be a signatory to Commission's Bank accounts

12.0 Directorates

The secretariat shall institute various directorates/units, to be supervised directly by the Executive Secretary/Coordinator. Heads of Directorates shall prepare, and present their individual annual programmes/activity plans, budget, or reports and share advisory opinions as necessary to the Executive Secretary/Coordinator for his/her onward submission to the Executive Council through the Executive Chairperson for approval/advice.

12.1 Directorate of Resource Mobilization;

Nominated Interim Director: Ms. Mireille Ngondo Tushiminina, DRC

Roles include;

- a) Form and head a fundraising committee to source for funding opportunities and mobilize resources from international partners.
- b) Be a signatory to the Commission's Bank accounts
- c) Draw and develop project proposals for marketing on behalf of the Commission.

12.2 Directorate of Budget and Finance;

Nominated Interim Director: Mr. Nobert Mavunga, Zimbabwe

Roles include;

- a) Allocate and disburse funds, maintain and keep up to date records of all Commission's financial transactions, facilitate the annual audit of the accounts and submit through the Executive Secretary/Coordinator the financial reports for his/her onward submission to the Executive Council for approval and presentation at General Assembly meeting.
- b) Develop and implement policies, rules and regulations for the effective use of budgetary activities and funds, monitor implementation of programmes and activities against the allocated budget, coordinate training on budgetary and financial matters, follow up on the conduct of external audits, and analyze, document and report on the Commission's expenditure.
- c) Administer and ensure compliance with the AYC's financial rules and regulations, as well as budgetary and financial policies and procedures, for the smooth running of programmes and activities.

- d) Be a signatory to all the Commission's Bank accounts,
- e) Responsible for membership billing

It shall have two sub units for Budgeting and Financial Management.

12.3 Directorate of Outreach and Engagement;

Nominated Interim Director: Mr. Kenneth Kadiri Kolo, Nigeria

Roles include;

- a) Establish contacts with youth and youth structures for networking, partnership and collaboration.
- b) Facilitate a profitable working relationship with different organizations especially with the offices and representatives of AU/AUC, RECs (UMA, COMESA, CEN-SAD, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC) and other International or Development partners.
- c) Promote easy access to the services and engagement of the Commission.
- d) Circulate the Commission's meeting minutes and proceeding to wider audience.
- e) Manage and administer the Commission's website, content and social media outlets, email and WhatsApp groups.
- f) Design and produce newsletter, brochures, posters, blogs, social networking and other publicity materials of the Commission.

12.4 Directorate African Community of Practice on Youth Development;

Nominated Interim Director: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Coordinate and monitor all developmental activities of the Commission in the Continent.
- b) Share with the membership of youth related upcoming events, programmes/activities in and outside of the Continent.
- c) Guide the formation of an online African youth resource centre or portal on anything youth for facilitation of easy access to, engagement and dissemination of relevant and real time information on youth projects and initiatives throughout the continent and Diaspora.
- d) Manage and implement all the Commission's developmental activities and projects in and outside of the Continent.
- e) Ensure liaison between the Commission and Youth Experts Working Groups.
- f) Direct on Continental actions, monitoring and follow-up of African Union's activities at member states levels.

It shall work with the Youth Division of AUC, AU's Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (STRC), African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI), African Governance Architecture Secretariat, Pan African University (PAU), Pan African Youth Union (PYU), All youth councils and parliaments in member states, International Centre for Girls' and

Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA), and the Pan African Institute for Education for Development (IPED)/African Observatory for Education, NEPAD planning and coordinating agency of e-Africa programme, RECs, African Youth Union, Network of Young Women Leaders, African Youth Panel, Organisation of African Youth, Network of African Youths for Development, African Youth Movement, African Youth Advocates Platform and others for the establishment of African Youth resource centre or portal.

12.5 Directorate of Youth Experts Working Groups;

Nominated Interim Director: Mr. Israel Tibebu Taye, Ethiopia

Roles include;

- a) Direct, supervise and report the work of Youth Experts Working Groups to facilitate action and advise on thematic groups under the Commission's directorate or units, lobby, advocacy and implementation of policy decisions of the Commission, AU/AUC, regional economic communities (UMA, COMESA, CEN-SAD, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC), NEPAD and other International or Development partners such as UN agencies.

12.6 Directorate of Strategic Planning, Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation;

Nominated Interim Director: [Vacant]

Roles include;

- a) Ensure smooth institutional relationships between the Commission, youth and youth structures and other international institutions.
- b) Coordinate strategic planning among Commission's directorates by establishing rules and procedures to ensure coordinated strategic development across the Commission.
- c) Provide strategic planning support, coordinate administrative programmes and activities, support capacity building, design monitoring and evaluation procedures for programme assessment and knowledge management.

The Directorate shall have three sub units on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Policy Analysis and Research and Knowledge Management.

12.7. Directorate of AU Affairs, Regional Economic Communities, NEPAD and UN agencies;

Nominated Interim Director: Mr. UnyimeAbasi Essien, Nigeria

Roles include;

- a) Act as the focal point between the Commission and AU, Regional Economic Communities (UMA, COMESA, CEN-SAD, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC), the NEPAD Planning and

Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and International or Development partners such as the UN agencies (UNECA, UNDP, UNEP, UN Habitat, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR etc).

b) Support, closely monitor programmes and activities and advise the Commission on implementation of policy recommendations/decisions of the aforementioned institutions in favor of young people of Africa and African Diaspora.

c) Promote mass information sharing and communication between the Commission and aforementioned institutions.

ARTICLE 13: ADVISORY BOARD

The Commission shall establish an Advisory Board to task with a responsibility of ensuring that the Executive Council, Secretariat, and other organs of the Commission adhere to the guiding principles and observation of integrity, transparency, accountability and prudence in the course of executing their functions and implementation of policy decisions, in accordance with the present charter, the rules of procedure, decisions of the General Assembly, and strategic work plans adopted by the plenary.

13.1 Composition of the Advisory Board,

The advisory Board shall be composed of nine (9) distinguished personalities of youth age and above with track records of outstanding contributions to public service in Africa or Diaspora. Membership shall be as follows;

1. Chairperson.
2. Executive Secretary/Coordinator.
3. A representative from Eastern Africa.
4. A representative from Central Africa.
5. A representative from Northern Africa.
6. A representative from Southern Africa.
7. A representative from Western Africa.
8. A representative from the African Diaspora
9. A representative from Youth Division of AUC

13.2 Appointment of the Advisory Board,

1. Members of the Advisory Board shall be searched for and appointed by the Executive Council of the Commission.
2. The Advisory Board members shall serve for two years duration, renewable only once.

ARTICLE 14: NOMINATION, ELECTION RULES & TERM LIMITS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICERS

14.1 Nomination,

- a) An independent electoral body shall be mandated to call for nominations from General membership of the Commission for official functions of the Executive Council at least three months before the plenary meeting of the General Assembly.
- b) Call for nominations shall run for a complete one month; any nomination received thereafter shall be deemed invalid. It shall be conducted through the means of Internet (Electronic) submission. Members without internet access shall be allowed to use a process identified by the Independent Electoral body.
- c) All nominations shall be accompanied with copies of relevant documents such as a letter of endorsement, biography and recent photograph, curriculum vitae plus a national identification card/international passport/birth certificate and by a manifesto/declaration in which the nominee undertakes, if elected, to serve as a member of the Executive Council to fulfill his/her obligations and to respect the wishes of the voters.
- d) Review and selection of semi-finalists shall take one month, notification and acceptance of semi-finalists shall also take another one month.
- h) The Independent Electoral body shall confirm semi-finalists a month before the General Assembly, conduct elections at the GA, certify the results and make an announcement to the general assembly on duly elected candidates immediately following the elections. All in all, election preparation and proper shall take three months.
- i) The first Executive Council election shall be conducted at the General Assembly plenary session in January 2017 and then, on the same timeframe, of every third year thereafter.

14.2 Election rules,

- a) Nominees for the Executive Council position shall be a representative of an existing youth structure operating in Africa or Diaspora and candidature endorsed by at least 5 members of the leadership of such structure. Individual representation shall be allowed but must be supported by at least 15 paid up members of the Commission before eligibility to run for office.
- e) All nominees must be between the ages of 15 and 35 years.
- c) Only full paid up Members shall exercise voting rights or hold Executive positions in the Commission.
- d) Any member who fails to pay his/her annual dues in full shall be considered non-active and therefore non-voting member.
- e) For a member to be considered active, fully paid up and a voting member, his/her annual dues shall be paid on or before January 31st of every calendar year.

- f) A member shall not be eligible for nomination for elections, or re-elections, as Executive Council officer(s), if he/she has not fully paid up the annual membership dues.
- g) The Executive Council shall be elected by a democratic process of one vote per active member. All elections shall take place at the end of the stipulated term of office.

14.3 Term limits,

- a) Executive officers shall hold positions for a maximum term of two (2) years renewable only once.

ARTICLE 15: THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL BODY AND ITS FUNCTIONS

- a) An independent electoral body of highly reputable personalities shall be nominated among the paid up members by the general assembly to co-ordinate all elections procedures. Officers of the independent electoral body shall be neutral and shall not hold or seek for any Executive positions.
- b) Officers in the independent electoral body shall serve for five years and be eligible for re-election only once after an initial mandate of five years.

The independent electoral body shall consist of five officers. If for any reason whatsoever, the number of the officers falls less before the election period the Executive Council shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting for the purpose of filling up the vacancies.

Its functions shall be to;

- a) Organize the election of the Executive Council in such a manner as to ensure the complete secrecy and fairness of the voting procedure. The elections shall take place every two years coinciding with the previous election date.
- b) The independent electoral body shall invite nominations for membership of the Executive Council comprising of the Executive Chairperson, Deputy Executive Chairperson, Commissioner for Peace and Security, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Commissioner for Social, Economic and Environmental Affairs, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science, Technology and Innovation, Commissioner for Gender, Rural Economy and Agriculture and Commissioner for African Diaspora and External Affairs from the general membership of the Commission pursuant to Article 6 except that only paid up members may become members of the Executive Council.
- c) Ensure a balance regional and gender representation for the Executive Council office.
- d) Receive, review nominations and select qualified candidates for the semi-final.
- e) Receive the ballots, count the votes immediately, and report the results at the General Assembly plenary meeting.
- f) If a member of the Executive Council resigns or leaves, the independent electoral body shall immediately conduct a by-election among the General Assembly or within the executive council to fill the vacancy.

- g) If the Executive Chairperson of the Commission resigns or is recalled, the Vice-Executive Chairperson shall immediately assume the functions of the Chairperson, pending the elections of a new Executive Chairperson. Such election shall be conducted within thirty (30) days of the resignation or recall.
- h) The independent electoral body shall send to each paid up member of the Commission at least fourteen (14) days before the date of election, a notice showing the names, recent photographs, and a brief biography of each candidate duly nominated for offices on the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 16: REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICER

16.1 Removal of Officers,

- a) Any officer may be removed from his or her function in the Council by a simple majority vote in General Assembly if found not responsive to the assigned duties or responsibilities, or not complied or involved in activities incompatible with provisions in the Articles of this charter.

16.2 Resignation of Officers,

- a) Any Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Executive Chairperson. Any resignation shall take effect upon acceptance of the resignation by the Executive Chairperson, or in his or her default, within fourteen (14) days after receipt of such notice. Within the 14 days period, the executive council shall make the necessary arrangements to accommodate the change and the resigning officer to hand over the work under his or her ToR and/or finalize any administrative clearance necessary.

ARTICLE 17: QUORUM OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

- a) A majority of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the executive members present at a meeting held at which a quorum is present shall be regarded as the act of the Executive Council, subject to this charter.
- b) A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the withdrawal of any Executive Council member, if any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the quorum required for meeting.

ARTICLE 18: RULES OF PROCEDURE

- a) To ensure smooth functioning, the Commission shall establish Rules of Procedure to be adopted at a plenary session of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 19: SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

- a) Modalities of resolving disputes arising from the interpretation of this current Charter and the functioning (work) of the Commission shall be provided for in the Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE 20: AMENDMENTS, MATTERS AND ISSUES NOT ADDRESSED IN THE CHARTER

- a) The Commission may amend the present Charter as and when necessary by two-thirds majority of members present at the General Assembly's annual Plenary Meetings.
- b) Any other matters and issues not addressed in this Charter shall be referred for appropriate action to the General Assembly Plenary Session of the Commission on the recommendation of the Executive Council and Advisory Board members.

ARTICLE 21: DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the event that the Commission winds up based on the reasons outlined during the sittings of the General Assembly with two thirds of paid up members, then the asset of the Commission will be converted to cash to settle any outstanding debts and liabilities. Then the rest shall be equally shared among the member organizations

ARTICLE 22: ENTRY INTO FORCE

The present Charter shall enter into force once adopted at the Commission's January 2017 General Assembly plenary session.

ARTICLE 23: SIGNATORIES TO THE CHARTER

The commission hereby entrusted the following seven signatories as its initial subscribers for registering the body as a non-profit continental pan African youth organization under the appropriate national laws of any African Union member states.

[List to be attached]

Annex: The list of founding members

[List to be attached]