MISSION REPORT

1. **TITLE:** African Youth Day: Youth United in Action for Agenda 2063 Consultation with the Youth of Africa,

2. **DATE AND PLACE OF THE MISSION:** 1st – 3rd November 2013, Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia

3. **ATTENDANCE:**

   **AUC representatives:**
   - HRST Commissioner, HE Dr Martial de Paul Ikonga,
   - Mrs. Christiane Yanrou Matondo, Bureau of the BCP, in charge of communication for Agenda 2063
   - Ms. Theresa Tendaral Smout, Bureau of the Chairperson
   - Mrs. Mandla M. Madonsela - Strategic Planning Director, and team
   - Dr Raymonde Agossou - HR & Y Head of Division
   - Ms Prudence Ngwenya Nonkululeko, SPO, HR & Youth
   - Ms. Wonguelawit Leguesse, Youth Division Assistant
   - 3 Consultants for Agenda 2063

   **Tunisia Government:**
   - General Director of Ministry of Youth and Sports in Tunisia
   - Representatives from the National Youth Observatory and National Assembly of Youth Organizations.

   **Pan African Union Representatives:**
   Andy Roland Nziengui Nziengui, Vice President (Central Africa)
   Steven Puoch Riek Deng, Deputy Secretary General from South Sudan (Eastern Africa)

   **African Youth:** Youth Representatives from the following countries; Tunisia, Algeria, Botswana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Chad, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

   A group of selected African Students based in Tunisia

4. **CONTEXT**

   The African Youth Day, set on 1st November by Summit decision, is celebrated every year across Africa. In 2013, this opportunity is also used to address the vision of Agenda 2063 that is clear about the importance of inclusive participation. In so acknowledging the Commission recognized the need to involve young people in this
strategic plan, of which, they shall be future drivers. The opportunity enabled young people to discuss and map out what roles they should play in achieving these aims. In the spirit of the Agenda 2063, the young people were invited to evaluate current successes in socio-economic improvements on the continent, to note emerging trends and to suggest ways to accelerate growth for the future;

5. **OBJECTIVES**

Major objectives included the following:

- Celebrate the 2013 African Youth Day in unity and togetherness while valuing the importance of youth innovation, creativity and numbers
- Develop a plan, which will chart Africa’s development trajectory over the next 50 years with key stakeholder being the Youth
- Specify the role the youth will be concretely playing in the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of the Agenda 2063

6. **ACHIEVED OUTCOMES:**

- Successful celebration of African Youth Day marked by the Youth Anthem sang by the Youth Choir
- Greater awareness of the Youth in terms of their concerns and issues taking in account their diversityinteraction debates and discussions amongst Youth.
- Empowerment of the Youth through Greater contribution of the Youth as stakeholder in the Agenda 2063 as active participants
- Strong networking among the youth participants towards the Agenda 2063

7. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The major recommendations were composed of the following:

1) Urgent ratification of the African Youth Charter by the 21 Member States of the African Union still behind

2) The development of Youth skills and talents through training schemes, which are flexible to the African environment and Context.

3) Urgent requirement that Africa incorporates quality, basic and standardized Curriculums and Education in all relevant thematic areas as well as Compulsory Youth Anthem.

4) African Union Anthem must be made compulsory in educational establishments to promote Pan African spirit and ownership among the youth;

5) Necessity to eliminate HIV/AIDS in Africa, infant, child and maternal mortality, minimize the communicable and non-communicable diseases including Free and accessible health services for all

6) Necessity to mainstream and Empower Marginalized Youth and Youth with Disabilities in Schools, institutions, workplaces and organizations;
7) Free economic movement through increase of intra-African trade partnerships with regional economic communities, as well as local products & market protection;

8) Necessity to encourage and promote Research and Development industries as well as market Innovation in science and technology areas

9) Initialization of the green belt processes at continental, regional and national levels, Waste Management, Banning of agricultural imports and fight against desertification

10) Establishment of Mass media programmes, initiatives and strategies across all thematic areas through Youth Leaders, representatives and special AU ambassadors;

11) Quotas and M&E Indicators imposed by the Heads of States and Government through Youth political appointees (Ministries, Parliaments, Districts, institutions, etc.

12) Youth friendly financing mechanisms, Increase in the budget allocation and Accountability by African Union Member States and Government

13) Youth engagement, concrete participation and involvement through Youth Structures and Youth-led organizations for Youth Activism in all core State building and Decision making processes.

8. LESSONS LEARNED:

1) There is need for greater time to be allocated for the debates, discussions and in preparation of presentations for the thematic areas and sessions

2) There is to navigate Language barriers: Interpreters should be made readily available for longer period of time / days for better interaction amongst the Youth speaking additional languages other than English. All documentation inclusive of the workshop folder, programme and other partner documents should be translated in all international languages inclusive of French, Spanish and Portuguese.

3) There is need for coordination of each thematic areas more effectively: Youth facilitators and chairs should be assigned based on relevant areas of professional expertise and educational background

4) There is need for better preparation. The thematic areas for discussion should be provided to participants in advance as an initial package addressed to participants along with their tickets. Youth should be advised to read and document themselves further vis-a-vis their thematic areas of interest and also at a minimum about all other the thematic areas to develop cross-cutting knowledge. in all other thematic areas
5) To further the contribution with all the segments of the Youth population in Africa, online social media and ICT means of mainstreaming should be available. The Mass media communication channels such as telephone texts messages, television should be used to promote the event be across the continent and to inform of about the content of the event and the need for Youth participation.

6) More time should be allocated to city visit, cultural sites, Touristic sites and site-seeing equally greater interaction with the Local community and population.

7) AU missions should be given greater ease and access through Immigration offices, along their procedures and processes in other countries.

9. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY AU/HRST:

- The Department should share this report with colleagues from SPPERM.
- The Department should ensure a follow-up and implementation mechanism of the recommendations brought by the Youth.
- Periodic Reviews should be determined and conducted in the medium and long term for sustainability and accountability.
- The Department should liaise continuously with the Strategic Plan Department to further their cooperation.

Prepared by
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