Communiqué

1st ever African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development


Theme: Promoting youth activism for appropriate channelling of investment in youth

WE, the 62 delegates from 32 African and Diaspora participating in the 1st ever African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development under the theme: Promoting Youth Activism for Appropriate Channeling of Investments in Youth in consonant with African Union 2017 theme: “Harnessing the demographic dividend through investment in youth” organized by the African Youth Commission in collaboration with the Africa Youth Awards on the sidelines of the 28th Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government, held at the UNDP Regional Service Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the 22nd to 25th January, 2017.

Recommend the following;

1. Employment & Entrepreneurship

   Employment:
   
a) AYC in partnership with other relevant stakeholders such as the Pan African Youth Union, the Youth Division, Social and Labour Affairs of the African Union Commission, Youth Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Labour Organization of the United Nations (ILO), African Union Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) African Youth Panel, Youth Employment Decade in Africa, Africa Development Bank (AfDB), African Development Fund (AfDF) and World Bank Group should initiate a joint youth led platform as a mean to increase awareness, facilitate easy accessibility to, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Youth’s rights-based pertinent instruments and development related frameworks such as the African Youth Charter and its decade Plan of Action, the Ouagadougou Declaration and its Plan of Action for the Promotion of Employment and Poverty Alleviation, the Malabo Declaration on Acceleration Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development, the African Union Youth and Women Employment Pact, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Africa Agenda 2063 and its first ten-year implementation plan 2013-2023, the UN Agenda 2030, the International Campaign for the Proclamation of the United Nations Youth Employment Decade 2020-2030 as well as other national and sub-regional policies which address youth employment, job creation strategies and empowerment on the African continent.

b) AYC should collaborate with State of the Union Coalition (SOTU) to increase pressure and hold the AU member States accountable to annual reporting on numbers of decent

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jobs created as per the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government’s Malabo decisions of reducing unemployment by 2% annually. Work with Civil Society Organizations and youth groups (national and non-national youth councils) to support member state’s efforts in implementing, monitoring and evaluating youth employment policies and strategies at country levels.

Entrepreneurship:

a) AYC should corporate with iB Group in India, African Development Bank, World Bank Group, Africa Angel Investors Network (AAIN) and other interested stakeholders in the African continent, Europe and Diaspora to promote youth entrepreneurship, mentorship, assistance with seed funding or grant in setting up of youth innovation hubs and business incubation centres across the continent for generation of innovative and viable business ideas or initiatives and promote Private-Public Partnerships and its role in sustaining employment and economic growth for youthful population on the continent.

b) Advocate for political commitment that leads to resource allocation/easy access to revolving funds through microfinance or alternative source of credits facilities to finance innovative business ideas or initiatives to increase job creation, creativity and poverty reduction among the youth.

2. Education & Skills Development

Education:

a) AYC should collaborate with the Pan African Education Institute for Development (Kinshasa), the International Centre for Girls and Women’s Education in Africa (Ouagadougou), Association for Educational Development in Africa, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), ministries of education in AU member states, universities, tertiary and education related research institutions or advocacy networks and think tanks and other stakeholders for the establishment of Network of Young Academicians, Scientists and Researchers to advocate for improved access to relevant and efficient delivery of quality education that corresponds labour market needs and demands, provide advisory services and technical assistance to AU member states, promote the use of ICT for continent wide Educational Information Management Systems create a platform for networking and sharing of best practices in education.

Skills Development:

a) AYC should collaborates with VSO International, the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AU YVC) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) to enhanced opportunities for voluntary service, training, capacity building and skills development, jointly initiate and support youth-to-youth internship/ apprenticeship opportunities for smooth school to work transitions for young graduates and professionals on the continent and Diaspora as well as support Technical, Education and Vocational Training (TVET) programmes that guarantee young people the matching skills toward Africa’s economic and social transformation.

3. Health & Well-being

Health:

a) AYC should promote sharing of Sexual and reproductive health information and services (including HIV), non-communicable diseases, Malaria and TB among the
youth and support the efforts of AU member states in resource mobilization for child health (immunization, nutrition).

Well-being:

a) AYC in collaboration with Football Solves Problems of South Africa and other interested stakeholder should organize an inter-regional friendly ‘united and strong Africa football tournament’ for promotion of pan Africanism and advancing the AU Shared Values through sports.

4. Human Rights, Governance & Youth Empowerment

Human Rights:

a) AYC in closed partnership with Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission through the African Governance Architecture Secretariat and State of the Union Coalition (SOTU), Amnesty International, Oxfam International and Article 19 should organize a training programme for young African leaders in the areas of policy advocacy, community organizing, strategic planning and resource mobilization so as to increase pressure and hold AU member states accountable for ratification of continental instrument on rights and democracy.

b) AYC should encourage youth and youth organizations to study and actively participate in the design, review, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth’s right-based policy instruments at all levels of governance and support advocacy efforts to revise, amend or abolish laws that are harmful or limit the realization of young people’s fundamental human rights.

Governance and Youth Empowerment:

a) AYC in collaboration with Africa 2.0 and other relevant stakeholder should promote youth leadership and empowerment for civic participation, encourage youth to take up the challenge in facilitating the establishment of leadership centers/initiatives and interactive youth consultation platforms that prepares youth across the continent for political leadership and participation.

Youth and peace building:

a) AYC in partnership with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and African Artists Peace Initiative should organize a regional and continental young Africans peace exchange programmes for youth leaders and organizations active in the peace and security sector to study on peacebuilding, prevention, management and resolution of conflict from the different regions in Africa. And also share positive experiences, including gendered experiences and explore different strategies, inclusive of gender equality, from their respective countries/regions on how to generate increased interest in peace and security by all youth in Africa, define the role of youth in ending all wars in Africa and how youth can actively engage and commit to the “Silencing the Guns by 2020” campaign.

THANK our keynote speaker and patron Honourable Patrick Zhuwao, Minister of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment, Republic Zimbabwe for flagging off the event, his strong commitment, support and lively engagement with delegates at the conference, lead discussants, Ms. Alix Masson – Global Youth Advisor, VSO International, Mr. Brian Mudumi – The Founding President, Zimbabwe China Youth Forum, Ms. Lydia Opiyo – East and Central Africa Project Officer, Mandela Washington
Fellowship, Mr. Ngwa Wilson Forbi – Africa Regional Coordinator, UN Youth Employment Decade 2020-2030 (SDGs) and Ms. Anne Kahuria – Youth Programme Manager, VSO Kenya, AYC advisory board members present in Addis, Mr. Ibraheem Bukunle Sanusi, Mr. Njoya Tikum, Mr. Ibrahim Ceesay and Ms. Gogontlejang Phaladi, the coordinating committee, partners and all delegates and observers for their active participation and invaluable contributions during the session.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION: express gratitude to Mr. Njoya Tikum for facilitating the host of the event at the UNDP Regional Service Centre and all the assistance and facilities put at our disposal, which contributed immensely to the success of this event.