“Banjul +10 and Beyond: Youth Roundtable on the Implementation of The African Youth Charter”

Organizer

In Partnership with

Sponsors

@AUC_DPA/GIZ & @GambiaNYC

21st – 25th May, 2016, Paradise Suites Hotel, Kololi

www.africanyouthcommission.org | avc@auyc.org
Tel Numbers: +220 9865300 / +220 6865300
MISSION REPORT

1. **TITLE:** Banjul +10 and Beyond: Youth Roundtable on the implementation of the African Youth Charter.


3. **AGENDA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Moderator/Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11:00 – 11:05</td>
<td>Arrival and Registration</td>
<td>All Delegates</td>
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<td><strong>Opening Ceremony</strong></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>11:05 – 11:15</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Chairperson African Youth Commission</td>
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<td><strong>Plenary discussion</strong></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>11:15 – 12:00</td>
<td>Banjul +10 and Beyond: Youth Roundtable on the Implementation of The African Youth Charter</td>
<td>Saiba T. Suso (Activista)</td>
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<td>Discussants;</td>
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<td>- Boubakar Yougbare</td>
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<td>- Fabakary Kalleh</td>
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<td>- Hon. Samba Bah</td>
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<td>- Simbarashe Mhunegu</td>
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<td>- Unyime Abasi Essien</td>
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<td>- Israel Taye</td>
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<td>- Salimatou Fatty</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>12:00 – 12:10</td>
<td>Presentation of AU’s AGA-YES and 2015 Kigali DGTrends Youth Continental Dialogue Outcomes</td>
<td>Hon. Samba Bah</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>12:10 – 12:40</td>
<td>Presentation on state of Youth Political Participation and Leadership: The Gambian Situation based on 2015 GM National Conversation on DGTrends Report</td>
<td>Amadou Camara</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>12:40 – 13:00</td>
<td>Presentation on state of Youth Participation in driving Africa’s development agenda based on Article 11 of African Youth Charter</td>
<td>Bakary Fatty</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>13:00 – 14:00</td>
<td>Open Forum: Recommendations and next step: From Commitment to Action on the implementation of the African Youth Charter Beyond Banjul +10</td>
<td>Delegates</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>14:00 – 14:10</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>Chairperson African Youth Commission</td>
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Lunch
4. **ATTENDANCE:**

The African Youth Commission representatives:

- Mr. Boubakar Yougbare, Interim Executive Chairperson
- Mr. Israel Taye, Interim Commissioner for Youth Experts Working Groups
- Mr. UnyimeAbasi Essien, Interim Commissioner for AU Affairs, Regional Economic Communities, NEPAD and UN agencies
- Mr. Nelson Amo, Member Executive Council
- Mr. Simbarashe Mhungu, Member Executive Council
- Mr. Derick Joseph, Member Executive Council
- Mr. Kawsu Sillah, Executive Coordinator, Secretariat
- Ms. Salimatou Fatty, Member

Youth Parliament the Gambia representatives:

- Hon. Samba Bah, Speaker
- Mr. Baboucarr Nyang, Member
- Mr. Bakary Fatty, Administrative Secretary
- Mr. Saiba Suso, Member
- Mr. Amadou Camara, Information Officer

Your Change for a Change representatives:

- Mr. Taslima Jallow, Programme Officer
- Dr. Saikou Omar Saidy, Member

Other Dignitaries:

- Ms. Anne Therese Ndong Jatta, Regional Director, UNESCO Regional Office, Dakar
- Mr. Fabakary Kalleh, Former Chairperson, National Youth Council of The Gambia
- Yaye Ramatoulaye Dieye, Policy Officer Women, Gender & Development Directorate African Union Commission
- Lamin Darboe, Executive Director, National Youth Council of The Gambia
- Ms. Francine Muyumba, President, Pan African Youth Union

Youth Representatives:

More than 100 delegates from various African countries and partner youth organizations in The Gambia participated in the event.
5. **BACKGROUND/CONTEXT**

The African Youth Commission, as a ground-breaking initiative, has adopted an action plan to organize all young people in Africa and Diaspora for the promotion of African unity 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.

The Roundtable was organized by the African Youth Commission (AYC) in partnership with National Youth Parliament of The Gambia and Your Change for a Change Organization on the side-lines of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the African Youth Charter by the seventh ordinary session of the Assembly, held in Banjul, The Gambia on 2nd July 2006.

The main objective of the roundtable was to collect information from different stakeholders in Africa especially the young people around challenges, best practices, and the way forward based on different experiences in the field of youth development and empowerment through the implementation of the Charter. The session regarded as information gathering element was one of many steps towards the fulfilment of the core objective of the African Youth Commission; the implementation of the Charter.

6. **OBJECTIVES**

Specific objectives included the following:

- Explore the different roles and responsibilities of youth, government, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and communities towards the implementation of the Charter at national, sub regional, and regional levels;
- Review the challenges faced during the course of the 10 years since the adoption of the Charter in implementation;
- Identify and evaluate policy, legislative, and institutional adjustments necessary to be made by all stakeholders, to capitalize gains made in the implementation of the Charter, and fast track the mainstreaming of the same in national developmental goals;
- Evaluate the existing accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the Charter; and
- Identify existing good practices in different nations pertaining to the respect of human rights, youth empowerment and participation in national developmental goals, and the implementation of the Charter in general;

7. **ACHIEVED OUTCOMES:**

- Delegates clearly outlined individual roles and responsibilities of youth, government, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, private sector and Africa’s development partners for the effective popularization, ratification, implementation and monitoring of the youth charter using Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018 as a roadmap beyond Banjul +10;
- Delegates reviewed progress made and recognized youth’s contribution as key stakeholders in the implementation of the African Youth Charter during the course of the 10 years, noted challenges faced at different levels and openly discussed innovative implementation strategies moving forward for meaningful youth participation as critical and equal partners in driving Africa’s development agenda beyond Banjul +10;
Delegates contributed to the successful celebration of the 10 years implementation of the African Youth Charter by participating actively in the various side events and activities held during the Summit;

Delegates have greater awareness on the state of the Charter ratification as of African Union Commission’s Youth Division March 2016 youth Charter ratification status report and underlined what ought to be done in getting the rest of African Union Member States to ratify the Charter for the empowerment and development of young people throughout the African continent;

Delegates were enlighten on their rights to participation in society and politics, roles and obligations in national governance and Continent’s development;

The African Youth Commission established strong ties with delegates, youth organizations, Youth Division of the African Union Commission and developmental partners for the continuous collaboration in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the African Youth Charter and AU Agenda2063 development aspirations;

The leadership of the African Youth Commission commits itself to follow up and advocate for the delivery of the major recommendations arrived at during the roundtable;

8. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The major recommendations were composed of the following:

1. **Effective popularization, ratification, implementation and monitoring of the youth charter using youth decade plan of action 2009-2018 as a roadmap beyond Banjul +10:**
   - Delegates recommended that the African Youth Commission should spearhead the establishment of a functional multi-stakeholder high level taskforce comprises of youth leaders from Pan African Youth Organizations/Networks to advocate for the rest of African Union Member States to ratify the African Youth Charter before end of the year 2017; put in place youth monitoring system to report and evaluate Member States and other youth development actors’ activities in fulfilment of commitments towards youth development, empowerment, policy, programmes and plans based on provisions of the various articles of the Charter at at national, regional and continental levels;

2. **Innovative implementation strategies moving forward for meaningful youth participation as critical and equal partners in driving Africa’s development agenda beyond Banjul +10:**
   - Delegates recommended that the African Youth Commission should collaborate with the African Union Commission, Pan African Youth Union, National Youth Councils (NYCs) and other stakeholders to bring together youth, youth organizations and networks, policy makers and Africa’s development partners in the Continent to actively take part in the implementation of the Charter in line with the Decade Plan of Action beyond Banjul +10;
3. **Youth participation and leadership in civic and political life as a mean to enhance and promote democracy, good governance and rule of law at national, regional and continental levels of governance:**

   - Delegates recommended that the African Youth Commission should engage the leadership of the Pan African Youth Union to advocate for the reform of Pan African Youth Union and all National Youth Councils to remain independent, apolitical, responsive, all inclusive, transparent and accountable to their constituents and also work towards the creation of civic education and leadership programs on the African continent, work with relevant departments of AUC, RECs and Africa’s development partners for establishment of a continental Youth Trust Fund to support youth and young women seeking for political leadership or position, social entrepreneurship development, job creation and formation of young academicians research network, promote and enable the participation of youth in policy, decision making processes and development at all levels;

   - Delegates commended the efforts of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) under the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission towards ensuring strategic engagement of young people in the democratic governance initiatives of the African Union as manifested in its Youth Engagement Strategy (AGA-YES). For effective implementation of this strategy, delegates called for strengthened partnerships and collaboration with thematic youth led organizations in the implementation of its various initiatives. Particularly, they called for investments in capacity building on policy engagements and enhanced platform for dialogue between youth organizations and national, regional and continental youth structures;

4. **Common youth voice in driving the implementation of the Charter beyond Banjul +10 and AU Agenda2063 development aspirations:**

   - Delegates recommended that the African Youth Commission in collaboration with Pan African Youth Union should mobilize stakeholders (youth, youth organizations, IGOs, NGOs, and the African Diaspora) to shape the work of the African Union Commission, coordinate with young people in enhancing their participation to implementation of the Charter beyond Banjul +10 and AU Agenda2063 development aspirations and promote the inclusion of youth issues in policies, programmes and plans within and outside of the African continent;

9. **Lessons Learned:**

   1) Youth have the responsibility to utilize the space available for their greater participation in policy, decision making and developmental processes, and advocate for enhanced collaboration in the implementation of the Charter and AU Agenda 2063;

   2) The African Youth Commission must strengthen partnerships among youth, youth organizations/networks, Pan African Youth Union and the African Union Commission to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Charter beyond Banjul +10;

   3) The African Youth Commission, Pan African Youth Union, National Youth Councils and regional youth organizations/networks in their representation must remain independent,
apolitical, responsive, all inclusive, transparent and accountable in carrying out activities geared towards empowerment and development of young people on the African continent;

10. **ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE AFRICAN YOUTH COMMISSION:**
   1. Share this report with African Union Commission, and all relevant stakeholders;
   2. Follow-up to ensure implementation of the recommendations;
   3. Keep in touch with delegates, Pan African Youth Union, Youth Division of African Union Commission for closely collaboration on the implementation of the Charter beyond Banjul +10;

11. **EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE**
   The chairperson of the African Youth Commission thanked the African Union Commission and the Government of Islamic Republic of The Gambia for hosting the Summit; the GIZ through the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission for sponsoring the participation of the African Youth Commission’s officials, National Youth Council of the Gambia, National Youth Parliament of The Gambia and Your Change for A Change Organization for the partnership. He appreciates the efforts and invaluable contribution of delegates for the successful proceedings and offers his best for the follow up and translation of the outcomes into concrete actions.

   Prepared by;

   The African Youth Commission #TeamBanjul+10.