CONCEPT NOTE

4th Pan African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development
Theme: ‘Beyond All Talks; Youth as Drivers of Africa’s Peace, Political and Socio-Economic Development’.
23-27 March 2020, Nairobi, Kenya

African Union Heads of State and Government
“Urges States Parties to take measures to promote active youth participation in society; Facilitate the creation or strengthening of platforms for youth participation in decision-making at local, national, regional, and continental levels of governance” (Article 11 African Youth Charter).

1. Introduction
The Pan African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development is an annual multi-stakeholder youth-led and driven platform aims at building capacities and strengthening engagement of youth in the current policy and decision-making processes at national, sub regional and continental levels. The 2020 edition of this convening is the fourth of its kind with previous editions held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2017), Harare, Zimbabwe (2018) and Banjul, The Gambia (2019).

Jointly hosted by the African Youth Commission, National Youth Council of Kenya and Youth Senate Kenya under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Service, Youth Gender Affairs, the 4th Pan African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development and the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the African Youth Commission (AYC) is scheduled to take place from 23 - 27 March 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya under the theme: ‘Beyond All Talks; Youth as Drivers of Africa’s Peace, Political and Socio-Economic Development’.

2. Background and rationale
Africa is a home to over a billion people. Out of this proportion, young people under the age of 35, account for over 60%. This clearly indicates that Africa is a continent of the young people. Despite young people being the majority, energetic and innovative, their voices and talents are yet to be fully harnessed for sustainable socioeconomic and political development in Africa.

For far too long, African youth have been demanding for a driving seat but evidently, their demands have been more of talking than taking real actions. Time has come for African youth to leverage on their diversity, create synergies and act together in unity and in solidarity to champion all inclusive and participatory transformational development at all levels.
As the African Union year of “Silencing the Guns: Creating the conducive conditions for Africa’s Development”, the 4th Pan African Youth Conference provides a platform for youth entities, Governments, development partners, UN agencies, Regional Economic Communities, civil society and private sector actors and academia to build capacity, develop synergy, learn and share best practices, inspire and empower the young African men and women to take action and become active citizens for the realization of the UN 2030 and Africa 2063 sustainable development agendas for the Africa we want.

3. Objectives
The objectives of the conference are to:

- Create a youth-led open space for young people to interact, promote Pan Africanism and participate in the implementation of African Unity project;
- Inspire and encourage active youth leadership and participation in social, economic and political spheres at all levels;
- Improve inter-generational dialogue and interaction with policy makers to amplify youth voices in policy and decision making processes;
- Build alliances and the capacity of African youth to influence policies and practices of their National Governments, the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and other youth development actors on the African continent.

4. Thematic Focus
The discussions at the Conference will be centered on the following ten (10) thematic areas aligned to the AYC Strategic Plan 2018-2020, and the UN 2030 and Africa 2063 sustainable development agendas:

1) Pan Africanism and Regional Integration;
2) Youth, Peace and Security;
3) Youth Leadership and Political Participation;
4) Youth Socio-Economic Inclusion and Empowerment (Education/Skills, Job Creation and Business Development);
5) Gender Equality, Adolescent and Youth Health (SRHR);
6) Innovation and Digital Inclusion;
7) Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law;
8) Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change;
9) Migration and Sustainable Urban Development;
10) Partnership and Financing for Achieving the UN 2030 and Africa 2063 Sustainable Development Agendas.

Partner youth organisations and youth development actors will be invited to organise side event workshops in alignment with their programmatic area of interest and conference themes.
5. **Expected outcome**

By the end of the conference, it is anticipated that:

- Youth will be inspired to take ownership and drive the Africa’s development Agenda;
- Integration of youth-led initiative into national, sub-regional and continental development agendas will be promoted;
- Active participation of youth in socioeconomic advancement of the African continent will be improved;
- Youth political leadership and participation beyond the ballot box will be encouraged;
- Partnership among youth and youth development actors will be promoted;
- A Call to Action by African youth to take a leadership role in Africa’s socioeconomic and political development will be produced and share with African leaders and development partners.

6. **Format**

The session will take the format of high level official opening, expert presentations, parallel side-event workshops, and interactive plenary and roundtable panel discussions.

7. **Participation**

The Conference is expected to bring together one thousand (1000) participants from across the continent and diaspora drawn from youth organisations and networks including national youth councils, youth leaders, youth activists, young entrepreneurs, young innovators, young parliamentarians, representatives of Government, policy makers, Inter-governmental agencies (AU Commission, UN entities and Regional Economic Communities), civil society organisations, private sector, academia, and other local and international development partners and foundations.

8. **Language**

The deliberations of the conference will be conducted in English and French.

9. **Contacts**

For partnership or further information about the conference, contact the following representatives:

1. **Mr. Kawsu Sillah**
   
   Executive Secretary
   
   African Youth Commission
   
   Banjul, The Gambia
   
   Email: ayc@auyc.org

2. **Roy Sasaki Telewa**
   
   Chief Executive Officer
   
   National Youth Council of Kenya
   
   Nairobi, Kenya
   
   Email: info@nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke