Introducing:
Driven by the realization that guided investment in Africa’s teeming youth population will transform the continent, the main objective of the initiative is to:

Provide **One million African Youth** with opportunities in **Education, Entrepreneurship, Employment and Engagement** by 2021.
Why the Initiative? Evidence suggests that progress is not keeping up with need

Unemployment
In most African countries, unemployment is especially high among young people. A lot of interventions around jobs are often not co-designed with employers of labour in the private sector.

Skills mismatch
Access, quality, relevant education as well as options to build skills are lacking for young people. There is often reported mismatch between education and labour market needs.

Health & Wellbeing
Young people continue to face unique challenges health and well being, particularly mental health, SRHR, substance abuse, etc

Inequality & Disempowerment
Young people continue to face unique challenges health and well being, particularly mental health, SRHR, substance abuse, etc

Two different pathways for Aisha

Educated
Employment
Entrepreneurship
Engagement
Wealth Creation

Educated
Employed
Wealth Creation
Engagement

Unable to
Few available jobs
Disenfranchisement

Disenfranchisement
Few available jobs
Poor

Disenfranchisement

Disenfranchisement
Why the Initiative? Evidence points to the need for acceleration – scale and speed

Mandate
AUC is mandated through Agenda 2063, and other frameworks to act on youth issues

A lot is happening
A lot is happening within the AUC and on the continent that are not always connected.

Comparative Advantage
AUC’s leadership is required to mobilize and synergize for continental action
Launch of the Initiative – 24th to 27th April, 2019

4
4 Days of conversation and
40
40 Partners involved
400
Over 400 plus young African participants

Next Steps
Work with stakeholders on implementation
Some of the Commitments
How? Ensuring young people are empowered, educated and have opportunities for their advancement towards the attainment of their full potentials

**Education**
- Scholarships
- Alternative pathways
- Models for Teacher Development

**Employment**
- Skills Transfer Hubs
- Digital Skills
- Job Centres
- Internships & Apprenticeships

**Entrepreneurship**
- Providing Growth Capital to SMEs
- Nurturing Startups

**Engagement**
- Leadership Programmes
- Exchange and Volunteer Programmes
- Youth Engagement Platforms
Country Acceleration will focus on localizing partnership coordination to respond to national priorities and context.
How? Country Acceleration Strategy

Choose

Scalable solutions/ideas

Enable at scale implementation

Providing effective school – to work transition models

Facilitate apprenticeships and internships for professional training

Seek to address labour/skills mismatch in selected themes

Convene meaningful youth engagement forums/congress

Strengthen institutions to respond youth issues

Facilitate engagement at national and regional levels on critical youth issues

Keeping young people in existing schools

Providing alternative training options

Providing new opportunities in STEM (mathematics)

Working with entrepreneurs to address regulatory issues

Providing business development & mentorship services

Increasing access to finance and financing options

Education

Entrepreneurship

Employment

Engagement
### Key Principles

- Building on what exists
- Focus on delivery of results
- Leverage on existing capabilities and infrastructure
- Agility

### Key Actions

- Identification of Priorities informed by 4E’s and Country Context
- Define solution / idea to be scaled up;
- Mobilize key national partners (public, private and development partners, financial institutions, youth) around the ideas / solutions;
- Put in place a coordination, accountability and reporting mechanism

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Some countries have initiated action

- Egypt
- Cameroon
- Eswatini
The AUC’s support to Member States

• Provide tools and guidance and technical support
• Link Member States to continental level partners
• Monitor progress at the continental level
• Share good practices and facilitate inter-country learning and collaboration
How? Next steps

Strategy
Implementing the Country Acceleration Strategy

Inform
Disseminating Initiative to the Assembly

Action
Support Member State level actions

Validates
Establishing compacts with partners

Compacts
Thank you