

Annual Activity Report

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Organisation Name: AFRICAN YOUTH COMMISSION

Title: Annual Activity Report

Reporting Period: 2017 - 2018

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Registration Number: 2018/C6906



Annual Activity Report

Introduction

Among its vision as a Commission is to become the youth's own version of the [AUC](#), where all inspiring and capable young African leaders and African Diaspora can organize themselves, take up their responsibilities, strengthen cooperation among the youth and youth structures as a platform, speak up and promote youth voices in the context of Africa's development through the [Africa2063 development aspirations](#).

The main objective of establishing the Commission is to organize all young people in Africa and Diaspora for the promotion of African unity and development 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.

Summary of the Organisation's Purpose and Activities

The commission shall stand to promote youth driven, unified voice, vibrant and peaceful Africa by;

- a) Mobilizing resources (*human, technical, technology and finance*) to support the work of youth and youth structures, [Pan African Youth Union](#), [Youth Division of the African Union Commission](#) in their quest to effective service delivery and advocacy activities on [African Youth Charter](#), other [AU](#) legal instruments and youth projects at national, regional and continental levels.
- b) Linking up youth and existing youth structures at national, regional and continental levels for partnership, collaboration and networking to maximize productivity, and minimize waste of valuable and scarce resources in Africa.
- c) Bring youth together on an annual basis to engage in dialogues (policy and inter-generational), share best practices and experiences on obstacles of meaningful youth participation and representation in [AU](#) led negotiations at all levels.
- d) Providing a youth friendly platform for inclusive and effective participation and representation of African youth at the political and operational levels of [AU](#).
- e) Lobby and advocate for standalone [Youth Division in AUC](#) and [ECOSOC](#) Youth Caucus.

Organisation and Governance

The Governance and Institutional structure of the Commission shall consist of;

1. General Assembly.
2. Executive Council.
3. Secretariat.
4. Advisory Board.

The Plenary session of the Annual General Membership Meeting shall be the supreme policy making organ of the Commission and be composed of;

1. Honourable delegates of all registered youth and youth structures or their representatives.
2. Executive Council Officials.
3. Distinguished members of the Advisory Board.
4. Observers accredited by the Secretariat.

Meetings of the annual General Membership;

- a) The General Membership shall meet annually.
- b) The Plenary shall consider the annual report of the Executive Chairperson on behalf of the Commission.
- c) The Plenary of the General Membership Meeting shall elect and inaugurate elected officers to the Executive Council.
- d) Elections of officers to the Executive Council shall be done at the Plenary of the General Membership through electronic balloting system or any legitimate process identified by the Independent Electoral Board.
- e) The General Membership Plenary may meet in Extraordinary Sessions under conditions to be specified in the rules of procedure.
- f) The General Membership Plenary shall review the membership structure periodically.
- g) The annual and extraordinary meetings of General Membership shall be attended by honourable delegates of all registered youth and youth structures or their representatives, Executive Council officials, distinguished members of Advisory Board and observers who have been accredited by the Secretariat.

Observers shall include;

- a) Representatives of youth or youth structures in Africa and Diaspora who are not members of the African Youth Commission, officials of AU/AUC, RECs (UMA, COMESA, CEN-SAD, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC), NEPAD planning and coordinating agency and other International or Development partners such as UN agencies.

Interim Committee members:

Following the disbandment of the Executive Council by the 2nd General Assembly held in Harare, Zimbabwe on the 26th Day of March 2018, The General Assembly of the AYC appointed 5 member committee to serve on interim until such a time when Elections were freshly conducted. The appointed members were in the persons of;

...	NAME	POSITION COUNTRY
1.	Ms. Natalie Sonia Mukundane	- Ag. Executive Chairperson	Uganda
2.	Ms. Winnie Karanu.	- Resource Mobilization,	Kenya
3.	Ms. Caroline Kamau	- Commuications officer,	Kenya
4.	Kawsu Sillah	- Secretariat,	Gambia
5.	Keith Andere	- Secretariat,	Kenya

Governance Standards

The AYC constitution is the principle governance document that guides the operation of the Executive Council as well as the secretariat. To effectively deliver its mandate to run the day to day activities of the Commission, The secretariat through the office of the Executive Secretary has established policies and Standard operating procedures for the different departments with the commission.

A Terms of Reference for the national consortiums is equally developed to state requirements, engagements, rules, procedures and obligations of both the member organisation and the African Youth Commission. A copy is attached for your reference.

Main Objectives pursued during the Reporting Period

Objective 1: Operationalize AYC

Objective 2: Strengthen Membership engagement

Objective 3: Increase and strengthen networking among AYC members, youth structures and other development partners

Beneficiaries

1. African youth
2. African youth led networks
3. African youth-focus organisations
4. AYC member organisations

Key Achievements for the Reporting Period

1. Recruitment of the secretariat staff.
2. Establishment of the national consortiums.
3. Launch of 3 national consortiums; The Gambia, Kenya and Uganda.
4. Establishment and solidification of new and existing partnerships.
5. Participation and influencing various policy processes.

Summary of Main Activities to advance the purpose of the African Youth Commission

2018

1. 2nd Pan African Youth Conference on Unity and Development – March, Harare

The African Youth Commission through its secretariat hosted the 2nd edition of the Pan African Youth Conference and the General Assembly under the theme “Championing youth oriented agenda for the promotion of the African unity and development” on 23 – 27 March Harare, Zimbabwe.

The meeting attracted 55 delegates from 16 member states of the African Union.

2. 7th High level Tana Forum on Peace and Security in Africa – April, Dahir Bar

The 7th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa took place on the 21 and 22 April 2018, in the city of Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. More than 200 participants, comprising seven current and former heads of state and government, ministers, ambassadors, academics, heads of international organizations and regional economic communities, civil society and media representatives, gathered under the proverbial Baobab tree to discuss the theme: Ownership of Africa's Peace and Security Provision: Financing and Reforming the African Union. The Tana Forum has continued to cultivate a culture of frank and candid conversations on pertinent continental peace and security issues in an informal setting.

AYC was represented by **Mr. Mohammed Abdualshakoor Abdualrahman**, AYC Commissioner for Peace and Security, **Ms. Azra Sasha Fredericks**, AYC Commissioner for Social, Economic and Environmental Affairs, **Ms. Linda Fouad**, AYC Director for Youth Experts Working Group and **Mr. Kawsu Sillah**, AYC Executive Secretary.

3. AYC side Event at Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development – May, Dakar

African Youth Commission – AYC Side Event at Fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, 2-4 May 2018 at King Fahd Palace Hotel, Dakar, Senegal

The African Youth Commission in collaboration with Regional Research Centre of Generational Economy (CREG), CREFAT-University of Thiès- Sénégal, Bureau Pays UNFPA Sénégal, LAREG-University of Parakou -Bénin, The Gambia National Youth Council, Francophone Africa Organization for Health Systems Strengthening and Vaccination (OAFRESS), MakeSense Senegal and Youth Women for Action Senegal organised a Side Event on "Operationalization of Demographic Dividend in African relation to the SDGs" at Fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, 2-4 May 2018 at King Fahd Palace Hotel, Dakar, Senegal

4. Graca Machel Trust Youth Networks Brainstorming Meeting – May, Johannesburg

AYC participated in a workshop hosted by Graça Machel Trust & Mandela Institute of Developmental Studies (MINDS) which brings together 27 leading youth networks for a common youth vision and agenda. The workshop took in Johannesburg, South Africa from 4-5 May. And hosted at African Leadership Academy (ALA). Ms. Lebogang Maruapula, AYC Director for Outreach and Engagement represented AYC at the Meeting.

5. National Learnings and Feedback from the 4th Forum for Election management bodies in Africa – May, Benin

AYC in collaboration with 8 local organisations working for youth participation in the democratic process in Benin Republic organised a National Workshop to Step-Down Learnings and Feedback from the 4th Forum for Election Management Bodies in Africa.

This event was in continuation for the need to deepen the [#DGTrends](#) conversation regards the active participation of young people in elections across Africa, especially in the management of elections.

AYC was ably represented by **Mr. Nandjim Tchalla**, AYC Commissioner for Political Affairs.

6. Call for Application for Membership to AYC National Consortium – May, Banjul

In line with pillar (5) objective (3) of the AYC Strategic Plan 2018-2020 and part of its efforts to build a stronger youth network in Africa and expand the reach and impact of the African Youth Commission, the AYC Secretariat is pleased to launch a call for membership to the National Consortium of AYC.

The National Consortium will serve as an umbrella body to organise and coordinate activities of the AYC member organisations at national level as well as to promote and support other in-country youth initiatives.

7. Responsible Business Forum Meeting on Sustainable Development – June, Johannesburg

The Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development (RBF), held on the 25th – 27th June 2018 was co-organised by Global Initiatives and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the National Business Initiative and WWF South Africa. Under the theme ‘Transforming Africa’s Development through Innovation, Youth and Technology’, the Forum brought together over 400 international business, government and NGO leaders at the Hyatt Regency in Johannesburg.

The organisers, [Global Initiatives](#) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) appointed the African Youth Commission (AYC) as a [Youth Outreach Partner](#).

8. 2018 Post Tana Forum Multi stakeholders Forum – July, Gaborone

In collaboration with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the United States Institute for Peace (USIP), Tana Forum Secretariat organized a follow-up to 2018 Tana Regional Multi-Stakeholders’ Post-Forum on *The Content and Shape of the*

Peace and Security Agenda in the Post-Reform Era: Reflections from the 7th Tana Forum from July 18-19 2018, in Gaborone, Botswana.

AYC was invited as a Panelist on the Session on Mediation Efforts, Women and Youth Inclusion in Decision-making Process. The panel took place on Day 2 of the Forum from 10:45-12:30. Ms. Natalie Sonia Mukundane, AYC Ag. Executive Chairperson spoke on behalf of the AYC and shared her insights as an expert on the topic.

Mr. Keith Ephraim Andere, AYC Director of Programmes also attended the Forum as representative of the AYC.

9. Inaugural African Youth Network Summit – July, Pretoria

The Graça Machel Trust and the Mandela Institute for Development Studies celebrated the Mandela centenary by hosting the inaugural African Youth Networks Summit between 20th and 21st July, 2018 at Freedom Park in Pretoria. The event brought together over **200** representatives of youth networks, youth leaders, government, corporate and development partners from across Africa to connect young people to each other, identify successful and scalable youth initiatives and develop a platform for the cross-pollination of ideas to drive the youth agenda forward.

A key highlight included participation in the summit of some continental icons such as Jay Naidoo, Wole Soyinka and Fred Swaniker who exchanged some wisdom throughout the conference.

Ms. Natalie Sonia Mukundane, AYC Ag. Executive Chairperson, represented the AYC at the Summit.

10. African Leaders of Peace Summit – August, Cape Town

Government ministries, civil society organisations and youth groups from across Africa and the globe have gathered in Cape Town to spread a message of peace. **AYC was a partner to the Summit and have contributed in mobilising participants and partners for the Summit.**

CAPE TOWN – In an effort to find solutions to achieve peace in Africa and the world, the African Leaders of Peace Summit has been held in Cape Town this week.

The two-day summit has been held in partnership with the International Women's Peace Group and Heavenly Culture World Peace Restoration of Light.

Government ministries, civil society organisations and youth groups from across Africa and the globe have gathered in Cape Town to spread a message of peace. The summit has included various sessions for women, men and leaders.

International Women's Peace Group Co-ordinator Cindy Chokoza says the aim of the summit is to bring leaders together to seek practical solutions for peacebuilding.

“The purpose of this event was to be able to continuously raise awareness for peace, but also to remember those that left a legacy for peace within Africa.” Keynote speaker, Her Majesty Dr Semane Bonolo Molotlegi is encouraging women to work with men to address the challenges in society.

11. AGA Regional Youth Consultative meetings

AYC members participated in the 2018 Regional Youth Consultations under the theme ‘Leveraging Youth Capacities for the fight against corruption in Africa’. in line with the AU theme of the Year: Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A sustainable path to Africa’s Transformation.

The Consultations were convened under the auspices of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Youth Engagement Strategy (AGA-YES). They focus on leveraging and reinforcing young people’s insights, capacities, and initiatives for preventing and fighting corruption in Africa.

In line with the principle and spirit of the AGA Platform, the 2018 Regional Youth Consultations were organised in close collaboration with the AU Advisory Board on Corruption as well as with civil society partners.

12. The East Africa Youth empowerment forum on peace and security in Africa – September, Kampala

In line with Pillar (4) of the AYC Strategic Plan 2018-2020, the Secretariat of the AYC duly endorsed the East Africa Youth Empowerment Forum on Peace and Security, organised by the Yearning Voices Foundation (YVF) in cooperation with other partners.

The forum was convened under the theme: “Youth as Key Actors for Peace and Security in Africa”, and took place on 21st September at St. Lawrence University Rubaga in Kampala, Uganda. It brought together 1,000 youth from across East Africa, various actors in the peace and security sectors and stakeholders from different disciplines to deliberate on matters of peace and security concerns in Africa today. The event encouraged youth to be more vigilant, concerned and actively engage in promoting peace and security agenda of the continent as well as regional integration and development.

13. Policy Forum on Development, Africa Regional Meeting – October, Gaborone

Mr. Kawsu Sillah, AYC Executive Secretary represented the AYC at the Forum and he made a presentation at the Roundtable discussion on “Issue-focused review of the AU-EU Summit – Key outcomes, implications and recommendations.” The objective

of the session was to allow deeper reflection on the key outcomes of the AU-EU Summit on the basis of the previous session.

The PFD is a multi-stakeholder platform launched and supported by the European Commission where civil society organisations, associations of local authorities and the private sector together with EU Members States to debate on development matters. This year the Africa regional meeting addressed the last African Union – European Union Summit recommendations around: youth, peace and security; mobility and migration and governance. It also addressed the progress made by the EU and its partners from the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific group of states in advancing towards the definition of the provisions governing their future relations. Lastly, the meeting will examine the African Union theme of the year on corruption.

14. AYC Town Hall meeting with the young people of The Gambia – October, Banjul

As part of the visit of Ms. Natalie Sonia mukundane the Ag. Executive Chairperson of the African Youth Commission – AYC, the National Youth Council in collaboration with MDI Student’s Union organised a Town Hall Meeting with Youth to openly discuss on Bridging the Gender gap: Inclusion and participation of young people in civil, political, and economic spaces in the Gambia.

The meeting took place at MDI Garden on Monday, October 22nd 2018 from 4-7pm.

15. AYC Meeting with Minister of Youth and Sports, Foreign Affairs, UN System and other developmental partners – October, Banjul

The Minister of Youth and Sport Hadrammeh Sidibeh, received in his office on Tuesday 23 October 2018, Natalie Mukundane K, the Chairperson of the African Youth Commission (AYC), to talk on the upcoming African Youth Conference. The meeting was held at the Minister’s office in Banjul together with a delegation from the National Youth Council.

The briefing was to get the Ministry’s support in the upcoming African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development to be co-hosted by the NYC and AYC Secretariat. According to the AYC Chairperson, the theme for the conference is: “The Future Is Now; Youth Are Not Too Young to Lead.”

16. African Human Rights Day Celebrations – October, Banjul

National Youth Council – The Gambia in collaboration with African Centre for Human and People’s Rights celebrated African Human Rights Day. The celebration took the form of a match pass by young people from Palma Rima Junction in Kololi and ended

at the NGO Forum of African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies at Paradise Suites Hotel.

The event organised under the #Theme: “Fighting Corruption & Advancing Human: Our Collective Responsibility”, accorded young people the opportunity to raise the voice against human rights violation and corruption in Africa. Ms. Natalie Sonia Mukundane, Ag. AYC Executive Chairperson spoke at the opening ceremony alongside Mr. Marr Nyang, Executive Director of Gambia Participates and they highlighted the work and contribution of young people in the Gambia and Africa towards “Winning the Fight Against Corruption in Africa”.

17. Launch of the AYC National Consortiums; Gambia, Kenya, Uganda – October – Nov

Following the successful launching of the AYC Gambia National Consortium on October 25th 2018 with the Gambia National Youth Council, National Youth Parliament, Activista The Gambia and the Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce as pioneer members, at the headquarters of African Wildlife Foundation we successfully launched AYC #Kenya National Consortium in partnership with Youth Senate – Kenya as the pioneer member organisation on November 7th 2018.

On November 9th 2018 in Kampala, the AYC #Uganda National Consortium was launched with Youth Initiative for Youth Action (YIYA Foundation) as pioneer member, making the Republic of Uganda the 3rd member state to launch the AYC National Consortium after the #Gambia and #Kenya.

AYC is on a mission to #Federate #Africa with #youth leading the way. Delivering #TheAfricaWeWant to the #2063 younger generation. #Africa#Must #Unite

18. Youth Regional Consultation on the Constitution we want – November – December, Gambia

In partnership with three of AYC Gambia National Consortium members, National Youth Council, Activista The Gambia, National Youth Parliament – The Gambia and Peace Ambassadors-The Gambia, and with funding from UNDP-The Gambia, organised Regional Youth Consultations on the #Constitution the Gambian Youth Want.

Held in all the regions of the Gambia, the consultations brought together a total 700 young people including regional authorities. It seeks to present to the participants the recommendation of Constituency Dialogues, the initial activity of #ConstitutionWeWant and sought their response and approval.

19. Youth Entrepreneurship and self-employment forum – November, Dakar

The two-day event was held in **Dakar, Senegal** on **13-14 November 2018** during the Global Entrepreneurship Week. It was a featured event of the Global

Entrepreneurship Week and was jointly co-organized by the partners of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth: International Labour Organization (ILO), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). It is held in collaboration with the Government of Senegal, Agence Nationale pour la Promotion de l'Emploi des Jeunes (ANPEJ), Agence Sénégalaise de Promotion des Exportations (ASEPEX), the Government of Spain, the Government of Luxembourg, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, Nestlé and Jokkolabs, host of the Global Entrepreneurship Week in Senegal.

Mr. Kawsu Sillah, AYC Executive Secretary alongside **Mr. Lamin Darboe**, Executive Director of Gambia National Youth Council participated at the Forum in Dakar.

20. International Anti-Corruption Day – November, Nairobi

On December 9th, 2018 in Nairobi Kenya, AYC Ag. Executive Chairperson Ms. Natalie Mukundane Kyamutetera joined 100 of young people and other stakeholders to paint the Nairobi city white in celebration of International Anti Corruption Day 2018 courtesy of Transparency International.

21. Annual youth Forum for peace and security in west Africa and the Sahel – December, Ouagadougou

Mr. Kawsu Sillah, AYC Executive Secretary alongside Mr. Lamin Mokendeh Darboe, Executive Director at Gambia National Youth Council participated in the Annual Youth Forum for Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel organised by United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel – Unowas and the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas_Cedeao) Youth and Sports Development Centre in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 10-12 December 2018.

The Youth Forum brought together about 100 participants, including: Ministers of Youth of 17 countries in West Africa and the Sahel; representatives of National Youth Councils, regional and international organizations and experts working on Youth, Peace and Security issues.

22. World Wide Fund mapping and assessment exercise on the capacities and engagement of pan African youth networks in contributing to the sustainable development agenda in Africa – Sept – November

The African Youth Charter defines youth as “every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years” (AU, 2006). Despite the recognition of the important role of youth in the delivery of green growth, and ultimately sustainable development, not enough

has been done to enhance their ability to drive this agenda. Not only are youth particularly affected by the global crises such as climate change, but our societies currently fail to benefit fully from the creativity and dynamism inherent to youth. Green jobs resulting from green growth innovation by young people can be a steppingstone towards creating space for youth contributions to societal change.

To respond to this issue, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), commissioned a study to map and assess the capacity and levels of engagement of existing Pan African Youth Networks towards meaningful transformative actions to contribute towards green growth and sustainable development in Africa. This is expected to inform the key areas of focus towards building and strengthening capacity to drive the desired change towards sustainable development in Africa.

2017 Activities

Activities

1. 1st ever African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development and General Assembly Meeting of AYC held at UNDP Regional Service Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 22-25 January 2017

Number of Participants:

- 62 delegates from 32 African countries and Diaspora
- The Chairperson of AUC was represented in the meeting
- Youth Minister of Zimbabwe and a delegation from the Zimbabwe Youth Council attended the meeting
- AUC/UN officials, VSO International and other partners also attended

Outcome/Results

1. Youth assessed the AU year 2017 theme and proposed recommendations based on young people's priorities to ensure appropriate channelling of investments in youth
2. Active and constructive youth engagement in African unity and development agenda promoted
3. AYC Executive Council elected into office and Advisory Board inaugurated
4. Draft AYC Charter/Constitution adopted
5. AYC work plan for 2017 developed based on the Youth Conference resolutions

2. The African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI), Arts4Peace Forum held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 25-29 January 2017

Representation:

Boubakar Yougbare, Executive Chairperson, represented AYC. The forum attracted 32 speakers and over 70 participants and stakeholders including; celebrated artists, youth leaders, civil society organizations, media, members of the diplomatic community and UN agencies.

Outcome/Results

1. Draft icons developed for each of the (7) aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063, as we have for the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Formulation of A Youth, Artists and Media (YAM) Campaign and action factory strategy for “

Silencing All Guns in Africa by 2020”

3. 7th Citizens Continental Conference - 26-28 January 2017

The session was organised by Centre for Citizens' Participation on the African Union (CCPAU) and deliberated on issues young people in Africa are grappling with including unemployment, entrepreneurship, participation, activism, leadership and movements for change, radicalisation and organised crime

Representation:

Natalie Sonia Mukundane, Deputy Executive Chairperson represented AYC in the Conference and made a presentation on the panel on Youth – harnessing the demographic dividend

4. Call for Applications: Secretariat Position, African Youth Commission (Online Application)

In accordance with article 9, section (f) of the AYC constitution, the Executive Council are mandated to invite, review and appoint the Executive Secretary/Coordinator, Directors and other Staff members to steer up the day to day running of the Commission in between the sessions of annual General Membership Meetings.

Pursuant to this, the council invited suitable young African to express interest in vacant positions within the secretariat of African Youth Commission (AYC) from February 27th to 13th of March 2017.

Number of Applicants:

227 applied from across Africa

Outcome/Results

Eight (8) Successful applicants were appointed and took office effective 01 May 2017

5. African Youth Conference held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

Representation:

Natalie Sonia Mukundani, Deputy Executive Chairperson, Mohammed Abdualshakoor Abdualrahman, Commissioner for Peace and Security, Azra Fredrick, Commissioner for Social, Economic and Environmental Affairs, Muthoni Kahuhu, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Velani Mboweni, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science, Technology and Innovation for represented the AYC

6. UNESCO 2017 sub-Saharan Africa Regional Global Citizenship Education (GCED) Network Meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 6-7 April 2017

Representation:

Boubakar Yougbare, Executive Chairperson, represented AYC in the meeting alongside 70 representatives of GCED-implementing institutions from the sub-Saharan Africa region

Outcome/Results

1. AYC was given a speaking opportunity to present its work on youth
2. Contributed in mapping out different activities of selected partner organizations

7. African Peacebuilding Innovations for Change (APIC) - East and West Africa Skills Training for Youth - led CSOs held in Kampala, Uganda, 1-16 June, 2017

The AUC and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) convened a 10-day Skills development training for selected Youth-led Organisations in East and West Africa.

The event provided a forum for discussions on the engagement of young people in peacebuilding processes as well as an opportunity for capacity building of young people and experience sharing for youth engagement in peacebuilding.

Representation:

Mohammed Abdualshakoor Abdualrahman, Commissioner for Peace and Security and Keolebogile Lebogang Maruapula, Director for Outreach and Engagement represented AYC in the training

8. Africa Youth Dialogue Exchange Program (DEP) on Prevention of Election Violence held in Nairobi, Kenya, 20-24 June, 2017

Representation:

Natalie Sonia Mukundani, Deputy Executive Chairperson and Muthoni Kahuho, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy represented AYC in the Forum

9. AYC Leadership Retreat

The three-day Retreat held at Ngong Hills Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, July 28-30, 2017 hosted by Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), Jitolee and supported by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

Number of Participants:

It brought together 37 participants mainly the Executive Council, Secretary, Advisory Board members of the AYC, key partners from 16 African countries and stakeholder youth groups based in Kenya

Outcome/Results

1. The retreat addressed the definition of the AYC, its scope of operation, values and vision.
2. It prepared a short term plan of action focusing on a thorough membership mapping, capacity building of members within the network in alignment with relevant programmatic areas, as well as increased partnership scoping with regional, continental and international bodies.
3. The leadership agreed to develop a long term strategic document in line with thematic areas on employment and entrepreneurship; health and well-being; governance and human rights; as well as peace and security.

10. The Commonwealth Youth Leaders Forum – 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting held at the Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort in Kampala, Uganda, 31st July – 4th August 2017**Representation:**

Kolo Kenneth Kadiri represented AYC in the Forum.

The meeting brought together Youth Ministers, senior government officials, youth representatives, youth workers and other youth development stakeholders from across the Commonwealth

11. Women Advancing Africa Forum held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, August 9-12, 2017

Women Advancing Africa (WAA) is one of Graca Machel Trust's flagship programs, to showcase women's contributions and leadership in tackling the development challenges of Africa.

Representation:

Dr. Angela Gichaga, Commissioner for Gender, Rural Economy and Agriculture represented AYC in the Forum

Outcome/Results

- AYC was given a speaking opportunities and Commissioner Angela presented the AYC's work on Youth and contribution to empowering young women and girls in Africa

12. Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development Africa held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 31 August to 1 September 2017

The Responsible Business Forum 2017 examines each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in-depth with plenaries and workshops featuring case studies and perspectives from businesses, governments, UN agencies and international experts. Building on the SDG agenda from RBF Singapore 2016, the Africa forum guided companies to concretely contribute to achieving the goals through inclusive growth.

Representation:

Velani Mboweni, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science, Technology and Innovation and Azra Fredrick, Commissioner for Social, Economic and Environmental Affairs and some members based in Johannesburg represented AYC in the Forum

RBF Africa brought senior government officials from across the Africa region together with leaders from UN agencies, businesses and media, to build wider support for delivering the UN global goals.

Outcome/Results

The two Commissioners participated in panel and spoke on behalf of the African Youth Commission on the opportunities that the SDGs present in achieving Africa's 2063 priorities and also brought the youth perspective to the forefront at the event.

13. Capacity building training for young women organised by the International Centre for Girls and Women's Education in Africa (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso) held at AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Representation:

1. Dossou Dalila Aurelle from Benin
2. Gloria Toghon Tcheignonsi from Benin
3. Mizan Welderufael Massa from Ethiopia
4. Bitania Lulu from Ethiopia
5. Salimatou Fatty from Gambia
6. Sally Njogu from Kenya
7. Idah Nduku Muema from Kenya
8. Olyvia Gatwiri Shikule from Kenya
9. Olamide Ogunsanya from Nigeria
10. Solange Uwera from Rwanda
11. Salha Aziz from Tanzania
12. Janeth Missiri from Tanzania
13. Irene Kalumuna Novatus from Tanzania
14. Annet Dianah Nannono
15. Anoziva Marindire from Zimbabwe

**14. Regional Youth Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance 2018 (DGTrends) held in East Africa (Kampala, Uganda), West and Central Africa (Abuja, Nigeria) North Africa (Tunis, Tunisia) and Southern Africa (Lusaka, Zambia)
Representation:**

50 participants, 10 per region

**15. The Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa 2017 (FIFAfrica17) held at Sunnyside Park Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa, 27-29 September 2017
Representation:**

Kawsu Sillah, Executive Secretary represented AYC in the Forum

Outcome/Results

The ES met with Prof. Hubert Gijzen, Regional Director and Representative of UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa and pitched the AYC GA 2018 to him for possible support

16. UNECA Workshop on Policy Options for Youth in Africa and an Interregional Youth Policy Toolbox held at UN Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-6 October 2017

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has developed a youth policy toolbox in the context of the school-to-work transition.

The Youth Policy Toolbox aims to act as a repository of knowledge, experience and good practices, and host learning modules that provide policymakers with a comprehensive resource for developing inclusive and responsive youth policies.

Representation:

Kawsu Sillah, Executive Secretary represented AYC in the Forum

Outcome/Results

AYC was given a speaking opportunity to present its work on youth and contribution to attainment of the demographic dividend in Africa

17. The 3rd Afro-Arab Youth Festival 2017 held at Olympic Center, Maadi, Cairo City, Arab Republic of Egypt, 6 – 10 October 2017

Representation:

Boubakar Yougbare, Executive Chairperson, Kawsu Sillah, Executive Secretary, some members of AYC represented AYC in the Festival alongside 250 participants from African & Arab Countries

18. AYC Strategic Planning Meeting held at the Great Seasons Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda, 6-9 November 2017

The strategic planning meeting in Kigali was a follow up to the AYC Leadership Retreat held in Nairobi to build on the draft strategy objectives, expected actions and results for the proposed four thematic pillars

Number of Participants:

It brought together 23 participants mainly the Executive Council, Secretary, Advisory Board and members of the AYC

Outcome/Results

1. Offered an opportunity for AYC leadership (EC, Secretariat, Advisory Board and members) to reflect collectively, identify gaps in draft strategy objectives, expected actions and results for the proposed four thematic pillars and share experiences on developing a practical youth's own oriented agenda in Africa.

2. Engaged and stimulated a broader view and input from the membership, youth and youth organisations through online and physical consultations.

3. During the meeting a draft Strategic document was developed and will be presented to the general membership at 2nd Annual General Assembly meeting for review and validation.

19. Annual Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies (EMBS) held in Kigali, Rwanda, 9-10 November 2017

Representation:

Nandjim Tchalla, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Natalie Sonia Mukundane, Deputy Executive Chairperson, Kawsu Sillah, Executive Secretary, Kidus Mehalu, Director for AU Affairs, Regional Economic Communities, NEPAD and UN Agencies, and some members of AYC participated in the meeting

20. UN Interregional Youth Policy Forum held at UNESCAP, Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand, 21 to 23 November 2017

The Forum concludes the interregional project on “Strengthening the capacity of Governments in the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) regions to respond to the needs of youth in formulating inclusive and sustainable development policies”.

Representation

Kawsu Sillah, Executive Secretary represented AYC in the Forum

A working relation with UNECA, other participants from Asia, Africa and Middle East established

21. 6th African Internet Governance Forum - AfIGF2017 held at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 4-6 December 2017

AfIGF brought together African participants and outside partners to discuss Internet Governance issues and share best practices

It was organized by African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt (NTRA)

Representation

Kawsu Sillah, Executive Secretary and Keith Andere AYC Secretariat represented AYC in the Forum

Outcome/Results

Kawsu and Keith met and discussed with stakeholders to support Youth participation in ICT and Internet Governance related discussions. Also met with Registry Africa Marketing Manager and CEO and discussed possible partnership for AYCGA2018 and other youth initiatives championed by the Registry Africa

22. Annual High Level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance 2018 (DGTrends) held in Pretoria, South Africa

Representation

Boubakar Yougbare, Executive Chairperson and some members of AYC participated in the Dialogue

23. UN ECA African Economic Conference held at UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, 4-6 December 2017

Representation

Kidus Mehalu, Director for AU Affairs, Regional Economic Communities, NEPAD and UN Agencies participated in the Forum

Future Plans

Using the strategic document and the outcomes of the Pan African conferences, AYC in the immediate future aims to do the following

1. Implement the strategic plan 2018 – 2020
2. Strengthen AYC institution through elaborate systems and structure
3. Position itself as an independent youth body that is committed to African unity and development through partnerships.

END...