



## **Chair's update to the 4<sup>th</sup> AYC Annual General Assembly on Operational and Administrative Matters of the Commission**

### **1. Status of the Secretariat**

#### **a) Office space**

1. The National Youth Council of The Gambia continues to provide and support the office space. We are not foreseeing this support to continue beyond 2020.
2. We have secured an office space in Nairobi for Pan-African Office to coordinate and communicate the work of the Commission at continental and global level, but we could not utilize the space due resource limitations.

#### **Recommendation:**

1. Therefore, the Commission needs to start working on alternatives in order to ensure continued efficient and effective operations of the Secretariat beyond 2020.
2. Explore possibilities with existing partners in Kenya to support the operationalisation of the Pan-African Office in Nairobi.

#### **b) Support staff**

1. The Commission maintains a team of 10 support staff to assist the Executive Secretary in discharge of the day to day functions of the Commission. However, due to resource limitations, none of the support staff are paid a salary. During the year under review, only the Admin and Finance Assistant received a small token (allowance) in appreciation of the service rendered.



2. Out of 10, 3 staffs in the persons of [Ms Christine Sayo, Director of Advocacy and Communications (Kenya); Mr Kidus Mehalu, Director of AU Affairs, Regional Economic Communities, NEPAD & UN Agencies (Ethiopia) and Mrs Mbadiba Jammeh, Partnership and Resource Mobilisation Assistant (Gambia)] had resigned as of November 2019.

### **Recommendation:**

1. There is need to gather resources to remunerate the services of the full time support staff in order to ensure continued efficient and effective operations of the Secretariat.
2. Reshuffle the positions in order to ensure quality and efficient service delivery.

### **c) Membership status**

1. During the period under review, seven (7) youth-led and youth-serving organisations from (Chad, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Nigeria) paid their annual membership contribution of USD300 in full/partly to join the AYC national consortium in the said member states. Out of this number, only two (Senegal and Nigeria) were able to officially launch their consortium.
2. From Jan-Dec 2019, two hundred and eighteen (218) youth-led and youth-serving organisations from across the continent and diaspora expressed interest to join the AYC. To complete the process, an invoice for payment of membership contribution (USD300 for Orgs in Africa and USD500 for Orgs in Diaspora) were issued to the respective requesting organisations, but none of them managed to fulfill the obligation.



### **Recommendation:**

1. Review the application process to make it simple and easier for interested organisations to apply.
2. Review the membership fee (USD300 for Africa, and USD500 for Diaspora). For example, consider payment in two installments every 6 months to enable interested organisations to pay the contribution.
3. Break the fee into three (3) different categories. For example, 1) USD300/USD500 (right to membership, right to vote and right to be voted for Executive Council positions); 2) USD200/USD400 (right to membership and right to vote only but cannot be voted for); and 3) USD100/USD200 (right to membership only, and cannot vote or be voted for).

#### **d) Status of partnerships and resource mobilisation**

1. Partnerships continues to grow from strength to strength. During the year under review, we have finalised and signed a partnership MOU with VSO International. The key objective of the MOU is to increase youth participation in policy and decision making as well as build their capacity to influence the processes. We continue to collaborate with a number of strategic partners such as the IOE, Plan International, Office of the AU Youth Envoy, UNODC, UNESCO, UNECA, UNMGCY, Restless Development, Action Aid International, GIMAC, KAS, UNDESA, WAHO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF/GenerationUnlimited, ICYF, UNV, GIZ, IPSS/Tana Forum Secretariat, ONE Africa Campaign, National Youth Councils and other youth-led and youth-serving organisations in the implementation of the AYC strategic plan, the UN 2030 and Africa 2063 development goals.



2. For resource mobilisation efforts, AYC we in partnership with PACJA-OXFAM Novib together with FEMNET and Natural Justice applied for a 50 million Euros grant from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for “African Act!vists for Climate Justice Project”. Unfortunately this project was not selected by the Ministry for funding.

**Recommendation:**

1. Intensify partnerships and resource mobilisation efforts in order to attract more partners and funding for effective and efficient service delivery.