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2008

Year of the African Youth

Theme:
***AFRICAN YOUTH FOR
PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT***

Evaluation Report

"The Executive Council:

...ENDORSES the African Youth Charter;

PROCLAIMS the African Youth Charter as the legal framework for all African youth organisations and associations;

Also PROCLAIMS the 1st November as the African Youth Day and DECLARES 2008 as the Year of the African Youth...;

ENDORSES the revitalisation of the Pan African Youth Union as a continental youth structure to coordinate the popularisation and the appropriation of the Charter by all African youth organisations..."

Banjul Summit Decision, DOC.EX.CL/262 (IX)

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FOREWORD BY COMMISSIONER

The African Union Commission began an ambitious journey in 2005 with the process of developing the African Youth Charter. This was a part of the Horizons Strategic plan 2004-2007 of the Commission, a response to the Algiers 1999 Summit decision calling for the development of a Pan African Charter and was clearly guided by the constitutive act of the African Union.

The draft charter was discussed for the first time by the young people themselves at a youth forum held in Addis Ababa, preceding the first ordinary session of the conference of Ministers in charge of youth (COMY), which adopted the charter. Decision EX.CL/Dec. 292 (IX) at the Banjul Summit 2006 adopted the Charter, proclaimed 2008 as the Year of the African Youth and November 1, as African Youth Day. At its second session, the COMY held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2008, launched the Year of youth and adopted a programme of action for its implementation.

As it can be imagined, the adopted programme of action for the celebration of the year of youth 2008 was very ambitious and challenging. We also know that resources were limited, but given our strong conviction, our commitment and leadership towards youth development issues some results were produced, many activities were achieved with great success at the level of the commission, and part of the targets for the year were reached.

Highlights of achievements during the year of youth are as follows:

1. Ratification of the African Youth Charter by 12 countries;
2. Creation and launch of the African Youth Anthem;
3. Completion of the first phase of the revitalization process of the Pan African Youth Union, facilitating the renewal of its statutes to align with the provisions of the African Youth Charter;
4. Non formal Technical, Vocational and Educational Training pilot projects in three post conflict counties across the regions of Africa;
5. The celebration of the African Youth Day 2008 with a special event organized with Ethiopian officials, youth and students, and partners, with concluded with the great Africa March for Peace and Solidarity.

These achievements do not preclude the important work done by all member states to advance youth development. In many countries, the African Youth Charter is being popularized, countries have translated and localized the content of the charter, in many countries the African Youth Day was celebrated with lots of colourful events, and member states are paying increasing attention and support to youth development efforts across the continent.

A lot more work needs to be done for the African Youth Charter to come into force in the coming months and years; to position the Pan African Youth Union as a fully operational specialized agency of the African Union, to launch the AU Trust Fund for Youth development in Africa and the implementation of various youth development efforts across the continent.

List of Acronyms

AU- African Union

AUC- African Union Commission

AYC- African Youth Charter

AYD- African Youth Day

AYICA- African Youth Initiative and Creativity Awards

COMY- Conference of African Union Ministers in charge of Youth

HRST- Human Resources Science and Technology Department

HR&Y- Human Resources and Youth Division

PYU- Pan African Youth Union

TVET- non-formal Technical Vocational Educational Training

UNICEF- United Nations Children Fund

YAY- Year of the African Youth

YOMCOMD- Youth Mobility, Communication, Multimedia and Sustainable Development
Training

Executive Summary

i. In July 2006, the African Union Heads of State and Government declared the year 2008 as the Year of the African Youth (YAY). The year of youth was formally launched on February 15, 2008 at the second ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers in charge of Youth (COMY II) in Addis Ababa, under the theme: African Youth for Peace and Development. The COMY II adopted a programme of the action to be undertaken during the course of the Year.

ii. The Year of youth 2008 was intended to celebrate African Youth, enhance their contribution to the peace and development of the continent, to support youth development efforts across the continent, and particularly as outlined in the AYC, to improve and facilitate the participation of youth in development processes through enhanced capacity of youth institutions at national, regional and continental levels. The challenge to realise the socio-economic Renaissance of Africa lays in the youth capacity to develop and mainstream their energy, creativity and ambition into positive contribution to the necessary process and actions to consolidate peace, to revitalize political governance and to establish sustainable structures for development.

iii. The proposed activities for the year of youth were organised in seven clusters as follows: Meetings, workshops and celebrations; Training opportunities; Competition; Advocacy, popularization and advertisements; Pilot projects and programmes; Resources mobilisation and partnership and; Monitoring and Evaluation.

iv. The implementation of the year was faced with many challenges, with human and financial resources as the most prominent at the level of the Commission of the African Union. Despite these challenges, many activities were undertaken with huge success. Some of the achievements of the year of youth include:

- 12 countries have finalised the ratification and deposit of relevant instruments for the African Youth Charter. 4 countries are being expected to deposit their instruments. 30 countries have signed the Charter and many countries are at various stages of its popularisation and ratification;
- Successful hosting of the Second Ordinary Conference of Minister in charge of Youth, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from February 12-15, 2008, with 49 Ministers in attendance;
- Completion of the first phase of the revitalisation process of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU), with the organisation of its second ordinary congress held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, and the endorsement of a new statutes, which takes into full account the African Youth Charter as its guiding principles and proposes new structural arrangements for the effective delivery of the organisation's programmes;
- The implementation of the first edition of the Youth mobility, Communication, Multimedia and Sustainable development training for winners of the first edition of the African Youth Initiative and Creativity Awards (AYICA);

- The creation and successful launch of the African Youth Anthem;
- The successful celebration of the African Youth Day on November 1, 2008 which ended with the Great Africa March for Peace and Solidarity;
- The implementation of non-formal technical vocational and educational training (TVET) pilot projects in three post conflict member states (Congo, Burundi and Liberia), and the establishment of the centres for youth capacity building in each participating country;
- The successful launch and implementation of the African Youth Initiative and Creativity awards, which recognises outstanding youth talent in support of the African Youth Charter and broader development efforts;
- And many more successes recorded at national levels, which are not fully captured in this evaluation report.

v. As weaknesses or challenges, it could be noted that the Year of Youth was largely under popularised and was not given due media coverage, thus it was not well known among young people and their organisations. More so, its activities were ambitious and expectedly were not fully implemented. The implementation of the year was also faced with human and financial resource limitations at the level of the African Union Commission (AUC).

vi. Despite these challenges, a number of important lessons have been learned from the implementation of the Year of Youth, which will facilitate the successful implementation of future endeavours. Some of these lessons are:

- The full participation and active involvement of young people at all levels of development and programme is critical to facilitate ownership, effectiveness and long term impact;
- A specific programme linked to a specific event like the year of youth requires additional resources (financial and human) to ensure full implementation;
- Non-formal Technical, Vocational and Educational Training programmes are significant to support youth development, integration and rehabilitation in affected post conflict member states;
- It is crucial to provide avenues to engage the continent's youth in the Diaspora, which is considered as the sixth region of Africa.

vii. In moving forward to the future, this report recommends that:

- the 10 years following 2008 should be declared as the Decade of Youth Development in Africa;
- Strategies should be put in place to institutionalise youth participation within the structures of the African Union;
- the AU internship/ volunteer programme for young people should be implemented as a matter of priority;

- PYU should undertake the development of a comprehensive database of youth organisations, National Youth Coordinating bodies and regional youth networks in the continent.

Chapter 1

Year of the African Youth 2008: Background and Context

INTRODUCTION

1. In July 2006, the African Union Heads of State and Government declared the year 2008 as the Year of the African Youth (YAY). The year of youth was formally launched on February 15, 2008 by the second ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers in charge of Youth (COMY II) in Addis Ababa, under the theme: African Youth for Peace and Development. The COMY II adopted a programme of the action to be undertaken during the course of the youth year. The declaration of the year of African youth followed the groundbreaking endorsement of the African Youth Charter (AYC) by the Heads of State and Government, and the declaration of November 1 of every year as African Youth Day (AYD).

2. The theme of the year of youth is timely, given the important role young people play in the sustained peace and development of the continent, as well as the grave challenges they face as a result of conflicts in their countries, especially those in conflict and post conflict situations. It is inline with key provisions of the African Youth Charter, relating to Youth in conflict situations, and the enhancement of youth participation in development and reconstruction processes. The theme also implies that young Africans appreciate the values of peace, respect for human dignity and life, community, family and patriotism. The role of the youth in Africa's renaissance cannot be overemphasised. They have played similar roles during the struggle for independence from domination and Colonialism, and they will continue to play such roles in the development of the continent through their participation in various development initiatives and processes.

3. The celebration of the Year of African Youth 2008 is one of the remarkable outcomes of the various processes undertaken during the development of the AYC, the basic and legal framework for youth development across the continent. The charter was first adopted by the forum of youth and then followed by the meeting of experts and first Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of the Ministers in charge of Youth (COMY I), convened in May 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The participatory process adopted in its development underscores the commitment of the AU to youth participation and demonstrates the ownership of the document by young people and all

relevant stakeholders. The YAY thus builds on the success attained in the development of the charter.

4. The Year of youth 2008 is intended to celebrate African Youth, enhance their contribution to the peace and development of the continent, to support youth development efforts across the continent, and particularly as outlined in the AYC, to improve and facilitate the participation of youth in development processes through enhanced capacity of youth institutions at national, regional and continental levels. The challenge to realise the socio-economic Renaissance of Africa lays in the youth capacity to develop and mainstream their energy, creativity and ambition into positive contribution to the necessary process and actions to consolidate peace, to revitalize political governance and to establish sustainable structures for development.

5. Many countries are now approaching development planning from a long-term perspective, covering the years up to 2015, 2020, 2025, etc. With the various decades devoted to different levels of strategic actions, many countries will be able to take advantage of the lessons gained from implementing previous programmes to ensure that future processes effectively involve the youth cohort, and promote their leadership and participation in national decision-making processes. The year of youth 2008 is therefore a first major step in ensuring sustained investment in youth development efforts across the continent in the long-term.

Objectives of the Year of Youth 2008

6. The broad objectives of the Year of Youth 2008 were as follows:

- Reinforce the visibility of African Youth development issues so as to establish them as a priority in the continent;
- Reinforce partnership and commitment towards the implementation of instruments, strategies, policies, programs and projects related to African youth development issues;
- Reinforce the capacity, the ownership process and the participation of African Youth in African youth development programs, peace building and sustainable development in Africa.

7. The programme of action for the YAY, which was adopted by the Ministers in charge of youth in February 2008, included 23 activities, which were grouped in seven clusters:

- i. Meetings, workshops and celebrations
- ii. Training opportunities and events
- iii. Competition

- iv. Advocacy, popularization and advertisements
- v. Pilot projects and programmes
- vi. Resource mobilisation and partnership
- vii. Monitoring and Evaluation

Meetings, workshops and celebrations

- a) Organization of the 2nd ordinary Session of the Conference of the AU Ministers of Youth (COMY II);
- b) Organization of the North-South meeting to initiate meaningful collaboration between the youth organizations in the Diaspora and the youth organizations in Africa;
- c) Organization of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU) Congress as implementation of the revitalization of the PYU.

Training opportunities and events

- d) Organization of training sessions on leadership and Civic education for youth leaders (at regional level for 2008 - YAY);
- e) Organization of training sessions on Communication skills, using Speak Africa as effective strategy to spread relevant skills and positive values for African Youth organizations leaders;
- f) Development of sustainable training contents (leadership, communication skills, peace building skills and positive values) and strategies for implementation, follow up and evaluation mechanisms (at national and local levels);
- g) Organization of the Technical meetings for the evaluation and the reinforcement of the Trust fund for the development of African youth and the promotion of the African Youth Charter;
- h) Organization of the Pan African Youth Festival (PYU)
- i) Celebration of the African Youth Day

Competition

- j) Awarding of the 1st African Youth Initiative and Creativity Award (AYICA 1) on the design of the best poster for the promotion of the African Youth Charter.

Advocacy, popularization and advertisements

- k) Establishment of an Advisory committee for the youth;
- l) Development, publishing and dissemination of communication materials on positive values, relevant skills for public communication for African youth leaders;
- m) Implementation of activities for the promotion of the African Youth Charter at regional and national levels;

- n) Popularization and implementation of the Consensus Statement of the ADFV and dissemination of the Speak Africa strategies for communication;
- o) Identification of Eminent Personalities (Envoys) to support the African Youth Charter;
- p) Implementation of continental activities for the promotion of the African Youth Charter (creation of WebPages, printing of advertisement booklets, media advertisements etc.).

Pilot projects and programmes

- q) Implementation of the non Formal TVET pilot-projects in the selected post-conflict Countries;
- r) Development and implementation of the youth internship programme within the HRST Department.

Resource mobilisation and partnership

- s) Establishment of the Trust fund for the development of African Youth and the promotion of the African Youth Charter;
- t) Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union Commission and the PYU and launching resources mobilization activities for the PYU.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- u) Monitoring of the of the implementation of the non formal TVET pilot-projects in the selected post-conflict countries;
- v) Overall report of the evaluation of the activities related to the celebration of the Year of African Youth 2008;
- w) Awarding of the titles of the Golden and Silver partners for the development of African Youth and the promotion of the Charter.

8. In accordance with the ideals of peace, development, participation and revitalization of political governance, the main activities planned for the celebration of the Year of African Youth 2008 were designed to be pragmatic and innovative and aimed at reinforcing the: visibility of African youth development issues so as to make African youth development a priority in the continent; partnership and commitment towards the implementation of legal instruments, strategies, policies, programs and projects related to African youth development issues; youth Empowerment, Leadership and Capacity building to enhance the ownership and the participation process of African Youth in African youth development programs, peace building/keeping and sustainable development in Africa; development of the bridging process between the youth organization in the Diaspora and the Youth organization on the Continent.

9. In Addition to implementing the Programme of Action adopted by the second Ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers in charge of Youth, member states were expected to develop and independently implement their own national level activities to celebrate the Year of youth.

Chapter 2

EVALUATION OF THE YEAR OF YOUTH

1. RATIONALE FOR EVALUATION

10. This evaluation exercise was part of the programme of action for Year of Youth adopted at the COMY II held in Addis Ababa in February 2008. It is crucial to undertake such an evaluation as a means to ascertain the level of implementation of the proposed activities for the year of youth, investigate broad based progress made in the field of youth development in the continent and provide the basis for further action to advance the status of youth in Africa.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION OF THE YAY 2008

11. The objectives of this evaluation are as follows:

- Provide feedback on the popularity of the Year of the African Youth, progress made with the ratification of the African Youth Charter and the celebration of the African Youth Day;
- Examine the implementation status of proposed activities for the year of the African youth 2008;
- Evolve recommendations and decisions on the advancement of youth development in Africa and measures to sustain the momentum gained during the year of the African youth.

3. EVALUATION APPROACH

12. The approach for the evaluation of the YAY included:

12a. *Review of reports and policy documents:* the evaluation process relied heavily on policy documents related to young people, the African Youth Charter, the programme of activities of the year of the African Youth and the concept paper for the YAY 2008. The

report of the COMY II, the Declaration of the COMY II, progress report on the Speak Africa platform and the ADF V consensus statement were also useful;

12b. *Survey*: a yes/ no type questionnaire, covering issues related to the African Youth Day, the Year of the African Youth 2008 and the broad youth development issues across the continent, was developed and shared among young people mainly using online media. The questionnaire also included an open ended question, which was meant to ensure appropriate responses to broad youth development concerns beyond the scope of the YAY 2008 and to collate feedback to facilitate recommendations on future interventions in the field of youth development, at the continental, regional and national levels;

12c. *African Union Commission*: activity reports, mission reports and the status report of the AYC were immensely useful to the development of this report;

12d. *Interactive sessions*: feedback was received from youth and their organisations from three main meetings: the African Development Forum held in Addis Ababa, the Danish African Youth Panel and the Executive Committee inauguration of the Pan African Youth Union. Feedback received from a workshop held in Johannesburg by UNICEF through its Speak Africa platform in December 2008, was very useful to the development of this report.

12e. *Web search*: detailed web search was carried out on progress made in the field of youth development in Africa during the year 2008. The main indices used were the titles of each of the 7 clusters for the activities of the year of youth. More specifically, youth development indicators in four areas were used: budgetary allocation to youth development, youth policies, youth institutions and youth participation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YEAR OF YOUTH

13. For the purpose of this evaluation report, the implementation of the activities for the YAY 2008 are organised in seven main clusters:

- I. Second ordinary Conference of Ministers in charge of Youth (COMY II)
- II. Popularisation, Ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter
- III. Capacity building of youth institutions
- IV. Post conflict Technical, Vocational and Educational Training
- V. African Youth Day
- VI. African Youth Creativity awards
- VII. Evaluation of the YAY

Cluster 1: Second ordinary Conference of Ministers in charge of Youth

14. The COMY II was successfully organized from February 12-15, 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with 49 Youth Ministers in attendance. After extensive deliberations on various issues, the meeting ended with a declaration, which called for action from the member States, the African Union Commission and the young people, on various issues. A new Bureau was approved for COMY II comprising the following countries:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (i) Chairperson: | Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya |
| (ii) 1 st Vice Chairperson: | Republic of Uganda |
| (iii) 2 nd Vice Chairperson: | Republic of Congo |
| (iv) 3 rd Vice Chairperson: | Federal Republic of Nigeria |
| (v) Rapporteur: | Republic of Namibia |

15. COMY II discussed and adopted the following documents:

- i. Programme of action for the Year of African Youth 2008 the theme: "African Youth for Peace and development";
- ii. Plan of Action to accelerate the ratification, popularisation and implementation of the African Youth Charter (2008-2015);
- iii. First and Second Edition of the African Youth Initiative and Creativity Awards 2007-2008 that promote youth initiative, creativity, participation and visibility as well as their collaboration with the public authorities;

The Ministers further mandated the AUC to undertake:

- iv. The development of a 10-year consolidated and comprehensive Plan of Action inserting all the relevant areas of focus towards African Youth Development including illegal youth migration;
- v. The acceleration and finalization of the process of revitalization of the Pan African Youth Union as a continental coordination and popularization structure responsible for ensuring the ownership of the African Youth Charter by Youth organizations, and coordinating of Youth activities at the regional level;
- vi. A feasibility study on the establishment of an African Youth Fund to be submitted to the Bureau for consideration.

16. COMY II also flagged off the year of the African Youth, with the presentation of awards to the winners of the African Youth Initiative and Creativity Award 2007.

Cluster 2: Popularisation, Ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter

17. A key goal of the YAY 2008 was to fast track the popularisation, ratification and eventual implementation of the African Youth Charter as mandated by COMY II. For the implementation phase to take place the charter needs to come into force and this is only possible when at least 15 countries have ratified the charter and provided the AU legal office with the Instrument of ratification. As of November 2008, 12 countries have officially ratified the charter and deposited relevant instruments at the African Union Commission. Although this falls short of the targeted 15 countries by end of 2008, it shows that member states are increasingly paying attention to youth issues, and this needs to be commended. A total of 30 countries have signed the charter and at least of 50 percent of member states are at various stages of its popularisation.

18. The African Youth Charter was endorsed in July 2006 by the Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government, and is a basic and legal framework to guide and support policies, programmes and actions for youth development. It outlines the rights, freedoms and obligations concerning the African Youth and is meant to institutionalise youth participation in national, regional and continental platforms on a regular and legal basis for constructive contribution. When the charter comes into force, it will guarantee the implementation of policies and programs that respond to the needs of youth in the critical sectors of development.

19. In keeping its role to facilitate the process of bringing the charter into force, the AU Commission continued to advocate for the ratification of the Charter throughout the year of youth, reminding and encouraging member states to fast track the ratification process of the Charter. The Commission met with the following senior officials in the Republic of Madagascar: the Prime Minister, the President of the Senate, the President of the National Parliament and the Minister of Youth. The Commission developed and

distributed various advocacy materials that include the African Youth Anthem, which as successfully launched on November 1, 2008. The anthem will complement various other efforts to enhance the popularisation of the charter, and to support youth advocacy efforts for its ratification. The anthem is aimed at promoting positive values among African youth, to encourage patriotism and ultimately to popularise the African Youth Charter.

Cluster 3: African Youth Day

20. In line with the implementation of the decision of the Executive Council declaring November 1 of every year as African Youth Day, the AU Commission organised activities to mark the African Youth Day 2008. Under the theme: African Youth Promoting the African Positive Values, the event was attended by youth representatives, government officials, development partners and representatives of the PYU. Activities undertaken at headquarters level include an Eve event for youth and official Authorities and a great march for Peace and Solidarity on the 1st of November 2008, followed by concert in the premises of the AUC. The AYD was also celebrated in many Member States; however no accurate information is yet available on how many countries celebrated the day. At the AU level, development partners, NGOs and the UNICEF's Speak Africa platform were involved in the celebration of the activities in Addis Ababa.

21. The survey undertaken as part of this evaluation shows that youth organisations, government ministries and development partners in many member states undertook activities ranging from: a March, rally, advocacy visits and presentation of the charter to parliament and senior government officials. In many cases, high-level government officials graced the celebrations. In preparation for the AYD 2008, the AUC sent communication to member states concerning the theme of the day and suggestions on possible activities to be undertaken to mark the day, a DVD recording of the African Youth Anthem as well as posters and T-shirts.

Cluster 4: Capacity building of youth institutions

22. It will be recalled that the COMY I and COMY II respectively mandated the revitalisation of the PYU. Inline with this mandate, the Commission supported the organisation of the Second Ordinary Congress of the PYU, which was jointly hosted by the Republic of Congo and Angola, and was held in Congo, Brazzaville from July 29 to August 1, 2008.

23. The congress ended with the following concrete outcomes:

- Adoption of revised statutes of the PYU inline with the guidance and provisions of the African Youth Charter;
- Adoption of new structure of the PYU and the election of the new PYU Bureau members for a 3-year term;

- Adoption of the proposal from Sudan to host PYU headquarters in Khartoum;
- Presentation of the African Youth Anthem.

24. The new Executive of the PYU is comprised of the following officers: 1 President (Nigeria), 5 Vice Presidents (Algeria representing North Africa, Gabon representing Central Africa, Ethiopia representing East Africa, Mali representing West Africa, and South Africa representing Southern Africa); 1 Secretary General (Angola), 5 deputy Secretaries (Libya representing North Africa, Senegal representing West Africa, Congo Brazzaville representing Central Africa, Djibouti representing East Africa and Zimbabwe representing Southern Africa.)

25. The AU Commission has communicated to member states elected to the PYU Bureau to communicate to the Commission their nominated representatives. For conformity reasons with the principle of the new statutes of the PYU and to promote our collective commitment to the provisions of the African Youth Charter, the Commission has urged all concerned Member States to nominate to the PYU positions youth representative who are not beyond the age of 35, with good qualification (at least a University Degree) and experience in the fields related to project management; external relations, economic and social sciences or any relevant related field. Experience in leadership, in association management and youth development issues should be strongly taken into account. Each member state has been encouraged to send the letter of nomination together with a recent CV of the nominee. Only three member states have sent the required nomination letters as at December 2008.

26. All elected representatives are to be catered for by their respective governments in terms of salaries, travel and other related expenses. The new Executive was officially inaugurated in Abuja, Nigeria, during their first meeting in November 2008.

27. The AU Commission is currently in the process of developing a special capacity building training programme for all elected/nominated members of the PYU Bureau.

28. From September 18 to October 3, 2008, the AU Commission organised the Youth Mobility, Communication, Multimedia and Sustainable Development Training pilot-programme in Madagascar. The main objectives of the initiative were to:

- i. Build the capacity of the laureates of the 1st edition of the African youth initiative and Creativity Award (AYICA 1) for the dissemination of the programme at the national and regional levels;
- ii. Develop and consolidate the YOMCOMD training curriculum (leadership, video editing, web designing, principle of sustainable development);
- iii. Advocating for the ratification of the African Youth Charter and the enhancement of youth capacity building programmes;

- iv. Build the capacity of HRST, HR&Y division in organising and coordinating Youth capacity building efforts in the fields related to communication, multimedia and sustainable development;
- v. Preparing the dissemination of the YOMCOMD outcomes and the AU internship programme at the regional and continental levels.

29. 10 youth from the 5 AU regions benefited from the training and it provided a critical opportunity for the AU Commission to undertake further advocacy on the ratification of the African Youth Charter at the highest levels of governance in Madagascar, including meetings with the Prime Minister of the country.

30. In line with the mandate by COMY II, the AU Commission undertook a feasibility Study on the AU Fund for Youth Development. The study report justifies the creation of the fund with the following reasons:

- i) The need to set an autonomous and accessible financial resources for the implementation of the African Youth Development framework;
- ii) The need to strengthen the process for the popularization/ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter;
- iii) The need to strengthen the capacity building of the PYU and the African Youth organizations network;
- iv) The need to promote relevant youth development initiatives for Peace and Development at the regional and national levels.

31. Thus when created, the fund will facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action to accelerate the popularisation, ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter, strengthen the capacity of the PYU as the continental body of youth, ensure availability of resources for the implementation of initiatives promoting peace and development in Africa.

Cluster 5: Non-formal Technical, Vocational and Educational Training (TVET)

32. AU Commission began in 2007 the preparation of activities related to the post conflict TVET programme, in support of post conflict reconstruction processes in 3 countries. The initiative is meant to build capacity of young people involved in or affected by conflicts to be active players in the reconstruction process by providing them training in skills that are relevant to the reconstruction needs as well as market demands. Three regional workshops were held in Monrovia, Liberia; Brazzaville, Congo; and Bujumbura, Burundi.

33. In 2008, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the AU Commission and the three host member states for the TVET programme were signed. The MOU outlines the role of the AU as the principal continental organization for the promotion of

accelerated socio-economic integration of the continent, with a vision of an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa, driven by its own people to take its rightful place in the global community predicated on the development of Africa's human resources. The agreements were signed with the governments of Burundi, Liberia and Congo. Technical equipment for the programme have been partially provided and the financial resources will be transferred to the respective member states during the first quarter of 2009. The AU Commission will provide overall guidance and leadership throughout the implementation of the TVET programme for a duration of 12 months.

Cluster 6: African Youth Initiative and Creativity awards

34. The African Youth Initiative and Creativity Award – 1st Edition (AYICA 1) was launched on November 1 2007, the African Youth Day. It is a competition designed to celebrate the African Youth Day, to reinforce the ownership of the African Youth Charter by the African Youth and to contribute to their citizenship education so as to promote their participation and their interest for the activities of the African Union and our Peace building and development objectives. The competition is also designed to promote the Youth skills and creativity for painting, drawing, graphic design and the use of NTICs that is part of the capacity building mandate of the HRST Department.

35. The theme of the competition was: *African Youth for Peace and Development* that is the main message of the African Youth Charter. The products from the 2007 competition were used to popularize the African Youth Charter and the Year of African Youth 2008 at various levels. The 2008 edition of the competition was launched during November 1, 2008. Participating youth are expected to develop a presentation to be shared with members of parliament in their respective countries. As with the previous year, the winners of the competition will receive prize awards.

36. A number of other activities were implemented by the AU commission Apart from the main activities proposed for the year of the African youth, member states and development partners.

Cluster 7: Evaluation of the YAY

37. An evaluation of the proposed activities and implementation of the YAY was undertaken in December 2008. The report of the evaluation highlighted the main activities proposed for the YAY, implementation status of activities, lessons learned, challenges and recommendations on the way forward. The draft report of the evaluation was submitted to the first ordinary session of the Second conference of the Ministers in charge of Youth, December 2008 for their consideration.

CHAPTER 4

CHALLENGES, CONSTRAINTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Key Challenges and Constraints

38. In implementing the activities of the YAY, the AU Commission was faced with a number of challenges. Some of these challenges include:

- a) Inadequate human resources at the AU commission's Human Resource and Youth division, which was responsible for the implementation of activities proposed for the year of youth;
- b) Inadequate funds for the implementation of specific initiatives within the context of the year of the African youth;
- c) Poor media coverage of the activities of the year of the African Youth in local and international media;
- d) Lack of a deliberate commitment and effort to popularise the year of the African youth 2008 and the African Youth Charter by all concerned.

Lessons Learned

39. Based on the analysis of information and resources related to the YAY 2008, the following outcomes were derived:

- e) The year of the African youth was not duly publicised at national level by member states; as a result, it was not common knowledge among young people, their organisations and partners that the year 2008 was the year of youth. In the future, a deliberate effort needs to be made to popularise similar processes in order to facilitate the active participation of all relevant stakeholders;
- f) The proposed activities for the YAY were too ambitious, therefore they were not fully implemented, and the key targets were not reached. While this is attributable to the human resource challenges faced by the AU Commission, a lot more could have been done within the timeframe of the YAY if the needed financial resources were in place, in due-time;
- g) A specific programme linked to a specific event like the year of youth requires additional resources (financial and human) to ensure full implementation;
- h) Although the number of countries that have fully ratified the African Youth Charter are only 12, many countries are at various stages of popularising the

charter and a good number have submitted related legislation to their respective parliaments;

- i) A political declaration like the Year of the African Youth is critical to give the needed attention to youth development issues in all member States and all over the continent and to increase political will, resource allocation and investment in programmes to advance the status of youth in member states;
- j) The participation of young people in Africa's development processes is critical, thus efforts to strengthen institutions that cater for their needs must continuously be in the front burner of the work of the African Union.
- k) It is crucial to provide avenues to engage the continent's youth in the Diaspora, which is considered as the sixth region of Africa. Unfortunately, the only activity proposed to engage the youth in the Diaspora during the YAY was not implemented;
- l) The African Youth Day has become institutionalised in many countries, and efforts to popularise it have been taken into account by various partners both within and outside the continent.
- m) Post conflict Technical, Vocational and Educational Training programmes are significant to support youth development, integration and rehabilitation in affected member states;
- n) Young people's creative potentials can be utilised effectively to popularise the African Youth Charter, and other youth initiatives and programmes. There is a strong necessity that youth undertake advocacy efforts for the ratification of the Charter. However, member states need to develop and implement appropriate policies, programmes and initiatives that meet the development needs of the youth;
- o) The participation and active involvement of young people at all levels of development and programme is critical to facilitate ownership, effectiveness and long term impact;

Chapter 5

40. Based on the outcomes of the evaluation, the following recommendations are being made:

Member States

- a) In order to sustain the momentum created by the endorsement in July 2006 of the African Youth Charter and the year of youth, and to ensure the full implementation of the 10 year plan of action on youth development in Africa, to be developed by the AU Commission, **the years following 2008 should be declared as the Decade of Youth Development in Africa;**
- b) **Strategies should be put in place to institutionalise youth participation within the structures of the African Union** and at statutory meetings of the Ministers in charge of youth, as well as other related Ministers meetings;
- c) **As a matter of urgency, the Bureau of COMY II should review and adopt the feasibility study report on the African Youth Development Fund**, in order to facilitate the mobilisation of resources needed to undertake youth development programmes across the continent.
- d) **Accelerate the ratification of the African Youth Charter in order to enable it come into force**, and to further undertake its popularisation, ownership and implementation, particularly in alignment with National Youth Policies in each member state;
- e) The COMY should **adopt a resolution recognising PYU as a statutory specialised institution of the AUC on youth matters**, in order to further strengthen its relationship with the AU, strengthen its role in the implementation of programmes and mobilisation of the youth to participate in processes and facilitate its access to resources for programmes;
- f) **Member states should regularly pay their statutory contributions to the PYU** as a means to strengthen it and provide additional resources for its programmes;
- g) **Due consideration should be given to the participation of young people as defined in the African Youth Charter (aged 15-35) in all AU processes**, at the level of youth civil societies and where possible as experts representing member states at statutory meetings of the AU;

African Union Commission

- h) The AU Commission should **ensure the provision of adequate budgetary provisions to fund the plan of action of the PYU beginning from the year 2009**, further financial resources should also be committed by individual member states to support the work of PYU, particularly through the payment of their statutory subscriptions;
- i) **A deliberate policy should be put in place at the African Union in general, and the HRST department specifically, to ensure that advocacy efforts are undertaken towards the ratification and the implementation of the African Youth Charter during missions to member states**, and ensure that the youth and the member States are fulfilling their respective responsibilities towards the African Youth Charter and the implementation of the related decisions.
- j) In line with the Declaration of COMY II, the AU Commission should **in 2009 implement as a matter of priority the internship/ volunteer programme for young people to address capacity needs at the AU Commission, and to enable young Africans to work with the commission**, while building their capacity to undertake similar efforts in their respective countries;
- k) The AU Commission should **undertake to build the capacity of the PYU** through a comprehensive training programme as well as through the secondment of technical support staff to undertake the development and implementation of its programmes;

PYU and youth organisations

- l) **Young people and their respective organisations should take the lead in continuously advocating for the ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter** at national, regional and continental levels;
- m) PYU should **undertake the development of a comprehensive database of youth organisations, National Youth Coordinating bodies and regional youth networks in the continent**, in order to facilitate effective communication with such groups on youth development matters and particularly in the popularisation of the African Youth Charter;

- n) **Work closely with member states to develop appropriate programmes for youth**, including the establishment and strengthening of National and Regional Youth Coordinating bodies;
- o) **Work closely with the African Union Commission to ensure that youth development priority issues are always included on the agenda** for relevant AU meetings;

Development partners and bilateral institutions

- p) **Prioritise the popularisation, ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter** in their support to country and regional level initiatives;
- q) **Avoid duplication of initiatives and platforms for youth participation**, and support already existing initiatives and programmes, particularly those mandated by the African Union;
- r) **Support the establishment of the AU Fund for Youth Development**, as a means to ensure coordination of programmes and resources channelled towards youth development in the continent;
- s) **Work closely with the PYU** as the recognised continental coordinating body on youth issues in Africa.

Forward looking to a decade of youth development in Africa

- i. *Selecting a theme*: the theme of the decade on youth development should be broad enough to take into account the situation of youth in the continent and possible development situation that may arise in the continent during the next decade.
- ii. *Priority issues for youth development*: during the decade on youth must take into account provisions of various international youth development frameworks, including the world programme of action for youth, the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment and the Millennium development goals. It must seek mainly to operationalise the African Youth Charter.
- iii. *Enhancing donor coordination*: at country and continental levels for youth development efforts within the context of a decade of youth is critical. This means that all donors and development partners must be adequately involved

- in planning efforts towards the decade on youth development. This includes working with RECs to advance youth issues at the regional level;
- iv. *Ensuring Youth participation:* the planning and implementation of a decade on youth development must adequately involve young people at all stages, to ensure their ownership, and take advantage of their skills to advance planned activities. Youth participation must also move beyond rhetoric and tokenism and take advantage of the skills and positive energies that the youth carry with them.
 - v. *National action and public proclamation:* in all member states is critical to popularise and take advantage of the political potential and benefits of a decade on youth development. This is because action to advance the status of youth must take place at national level.
 - vi. *Adoption and adaptation of the ten year plan of action:* the ten year plan of action being developed for the decade on youth development in Africa should be given due political backing as required, and should be adapted by member states inline with National Youth Policies and action plans.
 - vii. *Periodic progress review:* during the 3rd, 5th and 10th year of the decade on youth development should be undertaken to ensure that progress is being made in the field of youth development in the continent. This should include the provision of relevant reporting templates for member states and partners.
 - viii. *Engage youth at all levels:* the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes and activities during the year of youth must fully involve young people both at national and continental levels. This must include programmes that respond to the needs of youth with special needs and those in rural areas.

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