

**AFRICAN UNION**

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Fourteenth Ordinary Session**  
**26 - 30 January 2009**  
**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**EX.CL/470 (XIV)**

**REPORT OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF  
THE AFRICAN UNION MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF YOUTH**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 12-15 February 2008**

## REPORT OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN UNION MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF YOUTH

### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers in charge of Youth was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12 to 15 February 2008. The Conference was convened in implementation of Decision EX.CL.292 (IX) adopted by the 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council, in June 2006, and endorsed by the VII<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2006, which mandated the AU Commission to the institutionalization of the African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Youth, in line with the decision on the Specialized Technical Committees, and for the African Youth Policy Framework and development. The Conference fell within the purview of Axis II of the AUC Strategic Plan 2004-2007: *Cooperation, Development and Regional Integration*, and the Axis II *Shared Vision* and particularly served to adopt the specific programme of activities planned for the Year 2008, which has been declared as Year of African Youth, through the decision mentioned above.

The Conference was held at Experts and Ministerial levels and was attended by Ministers and Experts from 49 AU Member States, as well as Representatives from various Inter-governmental agencies, the Pan African Youth Union, and many International Organizations involved in youth development activities.

The main outcomes of the Conference were the adoption of the programme of activities for the Year 2008 and the recommendations regarding the Trust fund for Youth development programmes. An important declaration was also adopted, calling member States for urgent and accelerated actions towards the ratification of the African Youth Charter. The Conference also congratulated the 11 youth winners of the Posters contest organized in the context of African Youth Initiative and Creativity Awards (AYICA) to promote the popularization of the African Youth Charter. A report of the implementation of the adopted activities for the Year of African Youth is attached, as annex.

The Report of the Ministerial Meeting is herewith submitted for endorsement by the Executive Council.

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**2<sup>ND</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF  
THE AFRICAN UNION MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF YOUTH  
15 FEBRUARY 2008  
ADDIS ABABA - ETHIOPIA**

**AU/MIN/COMY/RPT(II)**

**REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN UNION  
MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF YOUTH**

**15 February 2008**

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Ordinary Session of the Conference of the African Union Ministers in Charge of Youth (COMY II) was held from 12-15 February 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to deliberate on, among other issues, the 2007-2015 Plan of Action with strategic actions to accelerate the popularization, signature, ratification and implementation of the Youth Charter in Member States, to consider and adopt the programme of activities for the Year 2008, Year of African Youth. The Ministerial session took place on the 15 February 2008

## IN ATTENDANCE

2. The following 49 Member States were represented: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa, Specialised Institutions and Programmes of the Commission attended the meeting: SADC, CENSAD and COMESA.

4. The representatives of the following organizations also attended the meeting:

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations for Human Rights (UNHR), World Food Programme (WFP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF *UNESCO-UNEVOC International Center for TVET* International Development Partners, - Friends of Africa International (the Diaspora), *international youth organisations, African Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and development (AfriYAN)* and Pan-African Youth Union (PYU).

## AGENDA ITEM 1:                    **OPENING SESSION**

5. Dr. Abdul-Hakim Elwaer, Director of Human Resources, Science and Technology welcomed the participants of the Second Ordinary Conference of Ministers of Youth. The African Union anthem was played and he invited the Commissioner in charge of Human Resources, Science and Technology, H.E.

Prof Nagia Essayed, to give welcome remarks. The Chairperson of COMY I, H.E. Hon Minister of Youth and Employment Creation of the Republic of Zimbabwe was then invited to give a statement.

**(a) WELCOME STATEMENT BY THE AU COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, H.E. PROF NAGIA ESSAYED**

6. Professor Nagia M. Essayed, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, in her own name and on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission welcomed participants to the Second Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Union Ministers in Charge of Youth.

7. The Commissioner first commended ongoing efforts by countries to promote youth development and give youths the opportunity to discuss and interact among themselves. She underscored the importance of youths and reviewed progress made, notably the adoption of the African Youth Charter in Banjul in 2006, the declaration of 1 November as African Youth Day, the Year of African Youth in 2008, the elaboration of a Plan of Action for youth development and the introduction of a pilot project for post-conflict countries.

8. She commended the sixteen countries that had signed the Charter and the other three that had ratified it. She urged other Member States to sign and ratify the Charter. This Charter should serve as a reference for youths.

9. The Commissioner requested Member States to evaluate the results obtained by the Charter, note the challenges and make recommendations to the African Union and their governments on decisions youth related issues. She also added that the 2008 Programme of Action should be perceived as a tool at the disposal of all.

10. The Commissioner concluded by emphasizing that 2008 should be marked by the theme « Youth **for Peace** and Development ».

**(b) CHAIRPERSON OF COMY I, H.E. HON MINISTER AMBROSE MUNTINHIRI OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

11. The Chair of COMY I congratulated the incoming leadership of the African Union Commission, the new chairperson and the commissioner for Human Resources, Science and technology and expressed hope for further development of the Youth under his leadership.

12. He commended the outgoing leadership under the Chairperson of H.E Prof. Alpha Oumar Konaré for a job well done in the development of youth in Africa.

13. He highlighted that the Charter is a continental initiative adopted by Heads of State and Government in 2006 in Banjul and was subsequently launched in November in the same year at the Fifth African Development Forum. He said that there are notable achievements, including the commemoration of the African Youth Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November each year, the declaration of 2008 as the Year of African Youth and launching of the African Youth Initiative and Creativity Awards.

14. He urged Member States to accelerate the signature and ratification of the Charter. He further said that Zimbabwe has signed and ratified the Charter and has embarked on popularization campaigns.

15. He reiterated that Zimbabwe is still willing to host the next African Union Ministers in charge Youth Conference, COMY III.

### **(c) ELECTION OF THE BUREAU**

16. The Legal Counsel of the AUC explained the rules of procedure within the provision of the Constitution of the African Union for the election of the Bureau that has been followed for the proposed new bureau of COMY II.

17. The proposed bureau of COMY II is as follows:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| i. Chairperson:                        | Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab<br>Jamahiriya |
| ii. 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson:  | Republic of Uganda                                |
| iii. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson: | Republic of Congo                                 |
| iv. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Chairperson:  | Federal Republic of Nigeria                       |
| v. Rapporteur:                         | Republic of Namibia                               |

18. The Conference approved the composition of the new bureau of COMY II. The new Chair, Libya, presided over the Ministerial Session.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK**

19. Following the process of handing over the chairmanship, the new chairperson, Minister of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya started his remarks by greeting the Ministers for putting their confidence on Libya by electing Libya as the new chair for the conference. He further congratulated the outgoing chair, the Minister of Zimbabwe for his remarkable chairmanship and the significant achievements in youth development in the continent. Also he highlighted the importance of African youth in the development process towards the United States of Africa.

20. The meeting adopted the agenda and the work programme of the meeting as presented.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT EXPERTS MEETING**

21. The Rapporteur, from the Republic of Namibia presented the Report of the Experts Meeting for considerations by the Ministers.

**DISCUSSION**

22. In the deliberations that followed on the Report of the Experts the following issues were raised:

- (a) It was stated that the African Youth Day of 1<sup>st</sup> of November was not a debatable issue. It is a decision taken by African Ministers in charge of Youth in 2006 and was consequently approved by the AU Assembly in 2006.
- (b) It was highlighted that the total number of countries in the report that have signed and ratified the Charter was indicative at the time of reporting. Based on the report of today's Ministerial Session, 17 countries have signed and 4 countries have ratified the Charter including Mauritius that has signed and ratified and Cote d'Ivoire that has signed.
- (c) It was highlighted that some Member States are using the African Youth Charter in the developing and revising of their national youth policies.
- (d) It was emphasized that the continent should be key player in implementing its programmes. The capacity of the Commission is in its Member States. Strategic partnerships with Development partners can be established to assist the continent in the implementation of the Charter.
- (e) The purpose and the scope of the Fund for Youth empowerment and development will be determined by the proposed feasibility study to be conducted by the African Union Commission.
- (f) It was suggested to consider a collective signature event where all Member States can sign the Charter in this year of the African youth given that the Charter is being popularized and implemented in other Member States.

(g) Egypt reaffirmed its proposal to host and organize in collaboration with the AU Commission the African Youth Camp in August 2008.

(h) All Member States planning to organize the popularization of the Charter in the Year of African Youth should inform the AUC for proper reporting and knowledge sharing.

23. After these deliberations and some amendments, the Ministers adopted the report.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:                    CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT  
DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF YOUTH  
ON THE ACTIVITIES FOR 2008, THE YEAR OF  
AFRICAN YOUTH**

24. Following some amendments, the Ministers adopted the Draft Declaration on activities for 2008, the Year of African Youth

**AGENDA ITEM 5:                    DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

25. Republic of Zimbabwe offered to host the Third Ordinary Conference of Ministers of Youth (COMY III) in the second week of February 2010, with Republic of Djibouti and Republic of Rwanda as second and third alternative hosts respectively.

26. Member states will be informed accordingly on the final date for COMY III.

**AGENDA ITEM 6:                    CONSIDERATION, AMENDMENTS & ADOPTION  
OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE EXPERTS'  
MEETING**

27. The Experts Report was presented by the Rapporteur. The Ministers made some recommendations and adopted the report based on the changes.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:                    PRESENTATION AMENDEMENTS AND ADOPTION  
OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE**

28. After deliberations the Ministers adopted the report and the declarations.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:                    AWARDING CEREMONY**

29. On behalf of the Commissioner, Dr. Abdul-Hakim Elwaer, made a brief remark on the awards and invited the Chairperson of COMY II to give an encouraging word.

30. The eleven winners of the African Youth Initiative and Creativity Awards selected from 109 participants from all the five regions of Africa were presented



with certificates and trophies. This was the organised as part of celebrating the Year of African Youth and the popularisation of the Charter.

**31.** A brief remark was given by a Youth representative who expressed their commitment to work towards the development of the continent within the context of the African Charter.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSING SESSION**

**32.** The Chairperson thanked the Federal Republic of Ethiopia for the warm welcome in hosting COMYII and the Commission for organising this conference.

**33.** The COMY II was closed at 18:15.

**EX.CL/470 (XIV)**  
**Annex 1**

## **DECLARATION**

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**Second Ordinary Session of the African Union  
Conference of the Ministers In Charge Of Youth  
12-15 February 2008  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia**

**AU/EXP/COMY/11(II) fin (revis 2)**

**DECLARATION**

**DECLARATION OF AFRICAN UNION MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF YOUTH  
FOR THE YEAR OF AFRICAN YOUTH – 2008 (YAY-2008)**

**PREAMBLE**

**We**, African Union Ministers in charge of Youth meeting in the second Ordinary Session of our Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 15 February, 2008;

**Having considered and adopted** the Programme of Action for the celebration of the Year of the African Youth – 2008;

**Having considered and adopted** the Plan of Action 2007-2015 to accelerate the signature, ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter

**Having also considered and noted** the Consensus Statement from the African Development Forum 5<sup>th</sup> Edition;

**Guided** by the African Union vision for peace, integration, prosperity and democracy;

**Inspired** by the message for the culture of excellence, peace, justice, participation, respect of the Human Rights and the environment within the African Youth Charter;

**Acknowledging** the role played by the Member States and the enthusiasm of the youth for the popularization of the African Youth Charter and to their efforts to consolidate Peace and foster development in Africa;

**Considering** the role of the youth and their eagerness to participate actively in local, national, regional and international initiatives and progress made in the entire society;

**Considering** the enthusiasm of the youth to take more initiatives in the implementation of youth development programmes on the Continent,

**Referring to** the Decision of the Executive Council during the Banjul Summit held in 2006, declaring the 1<sup>st</sup> November as the African Youth Day and the Year 2008 as the Year of African Youth,

**Acknowledging** the urgent need to promote African Youth and to enhance youth involvement in the African development agenda and expand provision of qualitative action for their benefit;

**Considering** the strong commitment of the Member States and the youth to the celebration of the 1<sup>st</sup> November of every year as the African Youth Day (AYD);

**Considering** the need for the youth to be recognized in their contribution to the African development debates, events and actions;

**Cognizant of** all the initiatives undertaken by the Member States and the youth in various regions and countries of Africa to advocate and to take ownership of the African Youth Charter for its implementation process;

**Cognizant of** the role of the African youth in the Diaspora and their efforts to popularize the African Youth Charter and to contribute to African development issues;

**Convinced** that the involvement of the youth in political, social and economic debates is one of the prerequisites for fostering sustainable development;

Cognizant of the significant importance of the Youth and the socioeconomic challenges they are facing;

**Also convinced** that a strong political will is necessary to build up confidence in the youth and that a good communication strategy between youth and adults is needed to ensure the commitment of the youth and their participation in Africa's development;

**Reaffirming** our conviction that the Year of the African youth must be celebrated as declared by the Executive Council in Banjul 2006 to enhance African values;

**DECLARE AS FOLLOW:**

1. **COMMEND** the African Union Commission for its continuous efforts to advocate for the acceleration of the ratification of the African Youth Charter and promoting youth development in Africa;
2. **COMMEND** all the AU Member States that have signed and ratified the African Youth Charter and request the AUC to follow-up on its popularization;
3. **EXPRESS OUR POLITICAL COMMITMENT** to implement the programme of action for the Year 2008 as a the Year of African Youth with the theme: "African Youth for Peace and development";
4. **URGE** all the Member States and the Ministries in charge of Youth to avail resources needed to implement the Programme for the Year of African Youth, the Plan of Action 2007-2015 for the Charter and to establish relevant committees for the organization of the Year of African Youth (YAY) at national level;
5. **ALSO URGE** the Member States and the Ministries in charge of Youth to develop and implement initiatives on youth internship, exchange and mobility programmes at the national and regional levels;

6. **COMMEND AND EXPRESS** our support to the launching of the 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;
7. **COMMEND AND EXPRESS** our support to the implementation of the AUC programme on youth internship and mobility during the Year of African Youth 2008 that innovatively promote youth capacity building, exchange, networking and their interest for development and peace building activities;
8. **SUPPORT** the AUC initiative to develop a 10-year consolidated and comprehensive Plan of Action inserting all the relevant areas of focus towards African Youth Development including illegal youth migration;
9. **REQUEST** the African Union Commission to accelerate and finalize the process of the 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;
10. **REQUEST** the African Union Commission to consider the creation of a Fund to support African Youth development programmes and to request the Commission to carry on its feasibility study to be submitted to the Bureau for consideration;
11. **SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE** the initiatives and actions undertaken by the civil society and private sector to enhance and speed up youth development and contribute to the celebration of the Year of African Youth;
12. **WELCOME** the involvement and support from the development partners, including the United Nations System, bilateral and multilateral institutions, national and international Non-Governmental Organizations, Private sector and the Diaspora for their contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Year of African Youth and the establishment of the fund for youth development;
13. **REAFFIRM** our continuous efforts and political commitment to support and facilitate, not only the process of signature, ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter, but also the implementation of the Programme for 2008: the Year of African Youth.

**Done in Addis Ababa, this 15<sup>Th</sup> Day of February, 2008**  
**African Union Ministers in charge of Youth**

2009

Report of the 2nd ordinary session of  
the conference of the African Union  
ministers in charge of youth Addis  
Ababa, Ethiopia, 12-15 February 2008

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