



Summary of the 2019 Work Plan - Draft

for the Office of the Youth Envoy (OYE)

VISION

An Africa where young people are drivers of development, agents of positive change, and leaders of a Peaceful, Prosperous and Integrated continent.

MISSION

The Youth Envoy mission is to lead advocacy and champion youth agency in the prioritization of youth issues within continental and other decision-making and governance spaces. In achieving this mission, the Youth Envoy will undertake the following activities:

1. Inclusive and Meaningful Engagement and Participation

Increase and improve the ability of youth (including marginalized youth, and young women and girls) to successfully access and engage with the African Union Commission through the development and promotion of structured mechanisms for youth participation at national, regional and global levels.

2. Advocacy

Advocate for and increase regional, continental and global awareness and attention to issues that are important to African youth and mobilize youth in achieving Agenda2063, promoting African values across the continent and beyond. Ensure youth are able to advocate on their behalf and develop intergenerational partnerships to advance their advocacy efforts.

3. Partnerships

Engage Member States, the private sector, academic institutions, media and civil society, including youth in the AUC, on youth programmes as well as facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships on youth issues. Build strategic partnerships and credible working relations with different stakeholders. Promote intergenerational dialogue in order to ensure the sustainability of partnerships.

4. Coordination

Improve the coordination of the adoption of African Youth Charter in AU member States and support its implementation at national, regional, and local levels. The office of the Youth Envoy helps coordinate efforts for the adoption of policies and actions that promote youth participation and engagement in local, national, regional and international development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE OFFICE OF THE YOUTH ENVOY (OYE) ARE TO SERVE AS:

1. Convener

Develop and manage inclusive, accessible and constructive digital and physical spaces whereby: a) youth are able to meaningfully engage the African Union Commission; and b) the African Union is able to build trust and rapport with youth by closing the information gap; c) the OYE facilitates conversations on issues that matter to youth; and d) convene and mobilize information and knowledge on youth across the continent.

2. Action Catalyzer

Reinforce the implementation of progressive frameworks, policies and projects on youth participation, engagement, and leadership including African Youth Charter, **African Youth Development Fund, Demographic Dividend Roadmap etc.** and promote empowerment, agency, participation and accountability.

3. Amplifier

Amplify experiences, and discourse about youth; from problem to solution, from oversimplified narratives that focus on victimhood to agency, from a discourse of disempowerment to a discourse of empowerment, articulate a story of hope and peaceful positive change and promote youth participation and engagement by ensuring the voices of the most marginalized and underrepresented youth are mainstreamed into community and grassroots spaces and decision-making platforms or bodies.

4. Bridge Builder

Connect young people to the African Union Commission and to other continental and global organisations and opportunities that address issues that are pertinent to African youth.

5. Pan-African Mobilizer

Mobilize and unite youth for **Pan-Africanism and Agenda 2063**, encouraging cross-border engagement and efforts among young Africans work toward a prosperous and peaceful Africa

THE STRUCTURE OF THE OFFICE

Chairperson's Special Envoy on Youth

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) appointed on November 1st, 2018, the Special Envoy on Youth, with the mandate to serve as a representative of and advocate for the voices and interests of African youth to the relevant African Union decision-making bodies;

Advocating for the implementation of the African Youth Charter, the Demographic Dividend Roadmap and Agenda 2063. The AU Youth Envoy embodies the space for African youth to engage with and influence the work of the AUC and its affiliate organs.

The Youth Advisory Council

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) appointed the Youth Advisory Council to support the work of the African Union Youth Envoy and advise the Chairperson on youth issues.

The Council includes young people from the five regions of the continent, taking into account balanced gender and regional representation. The Council advocates for youth development issues, through championing the work of youth in the African Union.

Bios at <http://auyouthenvoy.org/>



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During the first year, increased focus will be placed on the Demographic Dividend Roadmap's four pillars while ensuring the integration of a gender and youth perspective across all work areas. In parallel, the OYE will support the planned activities in relation to the African Union. The Theme of the Year will be "Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons".

Taking note of the Terms of Reference, the OYE will work on the following priority actions:

Keywords: Participation, Engagement Advocacy, Partnerships and Coordination

1. Participation

Goal: Increase and improve the ability of youth (including marginalized youth, and young women and girls) to successfully access and engage with the African Union Commission through the development and promotion of structured mechanisms for youth participation at national, regional and global levels.

ACTIONS:

1. Promote structured mechanisms that facilitate the meaningful engagement and inclusion of youth in the AUC

- Establish the Afrika Youth Assembly as a platform to unite youth voices. The Assembly aims to reach large membership of youth organizations, movements and leaders representing different sectors and groups (1 million by 2021) and nurture a first of its kind platform that can serve as a Pan-African space for exchange, peer learning, collaboration, engagement with AUC and action as well as support for existing youth initiatives. The Assembly will have an annual forum that convenes to organize youth around issues that matter to them.

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- Transform the Intergenerational Dialogues into a week long mobilisation at the grassroots, community, national and regional levels that culminates in elevating and representing diverse voices from across the continent and creating a mechanism whereby their insights, concerns, and ideas can be shared with the AUC chairperson and AU chairperson.
- Facilitate the participation of youth-led organizations and movements in all AUC policies and programmes in order to support young people. Invite Member States to include youth **representatives** as part of their delegations to the ordinary sessions of the African Union and other relevant meetings of the policy organs to broaden the channels of communication and mainstream youth across all issue areas
- Encourage member states to participate in the UN Youth Delegate Programme (in partnership with UN Youth Envoy)
- Ensure youth are gainfully employed as part of internships, fellowships, traineeships, etc. within the AU, AUC, UN, and other multilateral bodies
- Meet with youth and youth-led organizations in all country missions
- Support and increase the participation and diversity of youth in existing AU youth events such as the Annual Youth Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance, Africa Youth Day etc.

2. Structured feedback mechanisms

- Send regular briefs (in consultations with the concerned youth) to the AUC chairperson on the position and views of youth regarding current or urgent issues in their countries, such as elections, crises etc.
- Develop online channels to provide updates and allow for regular submission of ideas and feedback through the OYE website

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- Organise regular and accessible online hangouts, consultations, and meetings to provide youth with opportunities to provide feedback, share their views and ideas, and receive information
- Convene the AU Youth Volunteers on a monthly basis in Addis Ababa at the AUC to in order to provide them with the space and time to share their experiences, ideas, insights and feedback a on issues of interest and relevant to African youth
- Regularly engage youth involved in existing AUC structures such as African Union Youth Clubs, the AGA Youth Advisory Panel, etc., in both online and offline spaces
- Organise side events and roundtables in order to receive feedback from and share information with youth on key AUC events, resolutions, and documents throughout the year

3. Close the Information gap by enhancing the access to and dissemination of information to youth as it relates to the AUC's work on youth in all six AU official languages

- Launch a Smartphone application and use USSD, IVR or SMS to provide information on all youth related events organized by the AUC and its affiliated organs
- Launch an online information hub with African youth related resolutions/declarations and important documents
- Maintain regular interaction with AU Social Media sites and engage them in creative social media events
- Publish a monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the AUC for youth
- Brand AUC programmes on Youth

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- Advocate and work to enhance access to digital infrastructure and networks, including the internet, tech devices, etc. for youth across Africa to ensure they are able to meaningfully engage with and access information housed on or disseminated via digital platforms
- Advocate for investments in community spaces and local organizations that improve information sharing and access for youth across Africa

2. Advocacy

Goal: Advocate for and increase regional, continental and global awareness and attention to issues that are important to African youth and mobilize youth in achieving Agenda2063

ACTIONS

1. Promote youth participation on achieving Agenda2063

- Support and promote existing youth-led initiatives on Agenda2063 and disseminate this information through a secure, centralized platform
- Engage on Agenda2063 at convenings organised by youth-led or youth focused organisations and give them adequate support (financial, technical, social, etc.) and visibility
- Advocate for a course on Agenda2063 and PanAfricanism in primary and secondary schools to deepen Pan African ideals and aspirations among youth

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- Encourage and support African youth to create trends, fashions, ideas, music, arts and technologies around Agenda2063
- Ensure meaningful youth participation in the Implementation and Follow Up and Review of Agenda2063
- Lead campaigns on Agenda 2063 to promote culture, diversity, heritage and pan-African identity

2. Amplify African youth voices and agenda locally, regionally and globally

- Deploy multiple evidence based advocacy tools to advocate for African youth agenda with special focus on marginalized youth and young women and girls
- Enhance the dissemination of youth-related information/reports globally
- Amplify African youth success stories and role models widely
- Provide key advocacy messages through social media and e-publications
- Ensure regular media presence on African and international press
- Utilize various online and offline platforms to advocate for African youth agenda
- Speak at influential forums and events to raise the profile and create opportunities for African youth
- Engage young global leaders and champions in amplifying African youth agenda globally

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3. Partnership

Goal: Engage Member States, the private sector, academic institutions, influentials, media and civil society, including youth in all AUC programmes and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships that include youth across all issue-areas.

ACTIONS

1. Coordinate closely with Member States, youth and partners to ensure youth participation and engagement in the creation, development, implementation and evaluation of policies that affect them

- Regular meetings with the Permanent Missions and Ministers of Youth
- Facilitate joint meetings between the Ministers of Youth and AU missions at national and regional levels
- Support evidence-based research on youth issues based on the Demographic Dividend pillars
- Work with a network of young researchers, universities and think tanks to produce and collate research various issues through a youth lens and/or youth mainstreaming
- Work with national, regional and international youth councils, movements and networks
- Facilitate exchange, cooperation and collaboration between youth organisations and youth across national borders in order to develop regional youth solidarity, political consciousness, democratic participation, and civil engagement in partnership with key actors in the development, peace, security, and humanitarian spaces/sectors

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2. Build partnership around the OYE focus thematic areas

Details on Annex I

3. Build Regional engagement strategies in close coordination with the Regional Economic Communities

Details on Annex II

4. Empower and Institutionalize the Office of the Youth Envoy (OYE) to deliver its mission

- Fundraise to support the OYE workplan and regional strategies from member states and partners
- Engage partners in building the capacity of the OYE and the AU Youth Advisory Council
- Develop long term programming and advocacy efforts of the office of the Youth Envoy for sustainable results

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4. Coordination

Goal: Improve the coordination of the adoption of the African Youth Charter in AU member States and support its implementation at national and local levels and mainstream youth issues at the AUC

ACTIONS

1. Promote the implementation of the African Youth Charter (AYC)

- Invite member states to sign and/or ratify the African Youth Charter
- Convene a consultative meeting with member states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the implementation of the African Youth Charter
- Establish youth working groups to serve as liaisons to their youth ministries and encourage national youth councils to lead this mandate
- Encourage Member States to report on the implementation of the African Youth Charter
- Develop a mechanism whereby Member States are able to report on their adoption and implementation of the African Youth Charter and share best practices and lessons learned
- Establish a youth taskforce to monitor ratification and implementation of the Charter by member states and provide an annual review

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2. Mainstreaming youth interests in the work of the AUC and reinforce a youth perspective in relevant frameworks across the work of the commission

- Work closely with AUC departments in supporting or developing their respective youth engagement strategies
- Support each department to develop and run a Youth Fellowship Professional Program
- Build an AUC Youth Professionals Alumni Network
- Establish a Working Group on AUC Coordination that has youth representatives from all departments
- Support synergies and partnerships among AUC youth related programmes
- Encourage commissioners to champion the youth agenda

ANNEX I - OFFICE OF THE YOUTH ENVOY FOCUS AREAS

MISSION	EMPLOYMENT	EDUCATION	HEALTH	GOVERNANCE	AU THEME OF THE YEAR
Participation	Activate Youth Development Fund to support youth-led entrepreneurial initiative	Support the acceleration of education reforms in africa	Increase the quota of young people with disabilities to participate in platforms and conversations that affect them around the continent	Increase youth participation in public service and strengthen public institutions to facilitate this	Ensure refugee youth participation in all refugee conversations and decisions that affect them
Advocacy	Advocate for youth development funds at national and sub-regional (RECs) levels to support youth entrepreneurship within all sectors. Advocate for creating an ecosystem for young entrepreneurs	Champion young women and girls education and advocate for the transfer of skills and technologies among african youth and the rest of the world	Champion the global campaign to end Female Genital Mutilation	Advocate for youth transformative and pan-African leadership	Advocate for political will to act on the global compact on refugees and key recommendations on responsibility sharing and support for host communities

ANNEX I - OFFICE OF THE YOUTH ENVOY FOCUS AREAS

Partnerships	Facilitate partnerships for youth cross-border opportunities and support intra-Africa trade	Initiate partnerships around providing scholarships and internships for African youth	Initiate partnerships around a Pan-African comprehensive education curriculum on health addressing both youth and their communities. A curriculum should address sexual education, child marriage, pregnancy, menstruation, FGM, disability etc.	Facilitate a network of young public servants for peer learning and experience sharing to bolster youth contributions to building their countries, improving governance and delivering services	Organize Hackathons with partners around the theme of the year to design new innovative solutions and connect them with tech and social innovation incubators to roll out their ideas.
Coordination	Coordinate efforts for direct investment in youth ideas and enterprises	Coordinate efforts for matching education with the future of jobs	Coordinate efforts to strengthen health systems across Africa.	Coordinate the development of leadership curriculums	Coordinate efforts to amplify African refugee youth voices

