

NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE



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# North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



Council of Europe  
Conseil de l'Europe



European Union  
Union Européenne

Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

## Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies in the Context of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation

In the framework of the Partnership between the European Commission the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 10-13th April 2011



AFRICAN UNION



ADYNE

*The face of African Diaspora Youth living in Europe*



The “Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies in the Context of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation” will take place in Addis Ababa on 10-13 April 2011. It will give space to youth leaders to build a common action plan on the development of the Africa-Europe youth dialogue and cooperation framework, and on the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the Africa-Europe Youth Summits. This will be an opportunity to contribute to setting out priorities and producing action-oriented outcomes, in the context of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and the EU, Council of Europe and African Union regional and national youth policies.

The event will be organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC), together with the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU), the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe (ADYNE), under the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth. The meeting also seeks to involve the African coordination's of ICMYO member organisations strongly involved in Africa Europe Cooperation.

The meeting will be held immediately after the African Youth Forum, to be held also in Addis Ababa, from the 1 to 9 April, this is the Pre-Summit side event to the Summit heads of State of the AU to be held in July 2011 devoted to the theme: “Accelerate Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”. The proximity of these meetings and of the actors involved will constitute also an outstanding opportunity to generate synergies with this important process of the African Union and the African Youth.

## **Background**

In December 2007, preceding the II EU-Africa Summit was held in Lisbon the I Africa-Europe Youth Summit, jointly organised by the European Youth Forum, the Pan African Youth Union, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Portuguese National Youth Council, in partnership with other international youth organisations and institutions. Attended by two hundred and fifty representatives from youth organisations in Europe and Africa, including representatives from the African Diaspora living in Europe, the Youth Summit aimed to increase the participation of young people in the Euro–African cooperation, to reinforce the youth work in both regions and to influence the youth policy in the Africa-Europe cooperation. The I Africa-Europe Youth Summit concluded with a Declaration submitted to the EU-Africa Heads of State Summit<sup>1</sup>.

A partnership formed by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, with governmental and non-governmental actors in Africa and Europe, has been set up to implement a programme aimed at providing an effective framework for the Africa-Europe Dialogue. The youth cooperation is a key element of the programme, carried out in the frame of a Joint Management Agreement signed between the North-South Centre and the European Commission EuropeAid Co-operation Office, and a Partnership Agreement on Youth between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth.

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<sup>1</sup>Available from:

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Youth%5CYouth\\_Summit%5CFinal\\_Declaration\\_YouthSummit\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Youth%5CYouth_Summit%5CFinal_Declaration_YouthSummit_en.pdf)

In this framework was held in Libya, on 25-28 November 2010, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Europe Youth Summit, preceding the III EU-Africa Heads of State and Government Summit. The Youth Summit was designed to offer to young people and youth organisations from Africa and Europe the opportunity to strengthen their dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues and to promote their meaningful participation in the Euro-African cooperation, contributing to the further development of the Africa-EU strategic partnership. The Summit resulted in the adoption of the Tripoli Declaration, which was submitted to the Heads of State and Government Summit.<sup>2</sup>

## **Aims and Objectives**

### Aim

The aim of the Meeting is to bring together youth leaders in order to build a common action plan on the development of the Africa-Europe youth dialogue and cooperation framework and on the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the Africa-Europe Youth Summits, setting out priorities and producing action-oriented outcomes, in the context of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and the EU, Council of Europe and African Union regional and national youth policies.

### Objectives

The main objectives of the Youth Leaders Meeting are:

- To improve the common understanding and sharing of knowledge of the youth policies in both regions;
- To strengthen the commitment of the partners to further develop the Africa-Europe youth cooperation, based on dialogue and mutual understanding;
- To set a clear vision on the development of the existing Africa-Europe youth dialogue and cooperation instruments, such as the JMA and Youth Partnership;
- To address the need of a sustainable and permanent cooperation between African and European youth organisations, such as the establishment of an Africa-Europe Youth Forum as proposed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Europe Youth Summit;
- To agree upon a plan of action to implement the recommendations resulting from the priorities and recommendations of the Africa-Europe Youth Summits;
- To raise the commitment and alliance of governmental and non-governmental partners in both regions, to move the Africa-Europe youth cooperation forward;
- To aim at the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

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<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc\\_youth\\_summit\\_declaration\\_en.pdf](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc_youth_summit_declaration_en.pdf)

## Expected results

The Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies in the Context of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation is expected to result in:

- An agreement on a concrete action plan and timeline;
- A comprehensive list of actions developed by the youth movement in the frame of the Africa-Europe youth cooperation;
- A renewed motivation, commitment and division of responsibilities among the various stakeholders;
- An identification of an advocacy strategy in order to achieve the action plan;
- A clarification around the establishment of the Africa-Europe Youth Forum and consequent actions;
- An empowerment of youth representatives in acting on Africa-Europe youth policies.

## **Participation in the meeting**

The Youth Leaders Meeting will bring together 30 to 35 youth representatives from Africa, Europe and the African Diaspora living in Europe, nominated by the YFJ, PYU, ADYNE and ICMYO organisations. From both continents an equal number of representatives will be selected.

## **Technical details**

The Youth Leaders Meeting will take place in Addis Ababa from the 10-13 April (10, 11 and 12 are working days).

Travel, accommodation and meals during the meeting will be provided by the organisers. The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe will make the travel arrangements for pre-paid flight tickets and will also facilitated the visa application process if requested.

Agenda of the meeting: will be sent to participants ahead of the meeting

Languages of the meeting: English and French (the NSC is doing its best to find ways to provide French interpretation for some parts of the meeting).