

DECLARATION FROM THE 2ND AFRICAN UNIVERSITY ON YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Cape Verde July 4-11 2010

We, the participants of the 2nd African University on Youth and Development would like to congratulate our hosts in Cape Verde on the celebration of the 35th anniversary of their Independence and we feel inspired by the remarkably large proportion of young leaders in political positions.

The African University on Youth and Development, organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and its partners, has given us the opportunity to bring youth organizations and their elected representatives from Africa and Europe together, to share, to learn and to participate. This learning space has been a successful example for the possibilities of the implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic partnership.

The year 2010 marks an important milestone in our joint effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This year also creates a momentum in the Africa-Europe co-operation, which our University is an important part of.

Millennium Development Goals = Youth Development Goals

Young People constitute the majority of the population in the world and up to 80% in developing countries. We take note of and are encouraged by the progress noted in the UN Secretary General's 2010 MDG report. However we are very saddened and concerned by the fact that Africa - and Sub-Saharan Africa in particular - is lagging behind in many of the most crucial indicators of development. The achievement of the MDGs requires the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organisations for example in decision-making processes.

Investment in and empowerment of young people is needed to boost development in Africa. This is the responsibility of all actors, including Governments, regional organisations such as the African Union, the European Union, the Council of Europe as well as civil society and youth organisations.

The following are our recommendations to achieve development through investing in youth:

Recognition of the rights of young people

Human rights and development are strongly interlinked and recognition of the rights of young people, including the rights to full and effective participation in policy formulation and decision making processes on issues that affect the youth, are of utmost importance. We therefore:

- call upon the African states that have not yet ratified the African Youth Charter to

With support of:



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



CPLP



IPAD
Instituto Português
de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Coopération luxembourgeoise

- make the ratification a matter of priority;
- request all African states to implement the African Youth Charter and develop national youth policies in co-operation with National Youth Councils and other national and international youth NGOs;
- encourage the African Union and its Member States to promote the African Youth Charter and the work for youth rights also in the framework of the United Nations;
- call upon the countries present in the World Youth Conference to give an impulse to the approval of a Universal Convention on Youth Rights, taking as example International treaties, such as the African Youth Charter and the Iberoamerican Convention on Youth Rights.

Young migrants = Agents of Change

The majority of the world's migrant population is young and their contribution to society and development - both in their countries of origin and in the hosting countries - must be recognised. We therefore

- ask for the recognition of the important role the African Youth in Diaspora and in particular its networks in Europe are playing in the Africa-Europe co-operation and their inclusion into the development and implementation of youth policies;
- request for all actors to provide space and funding for the African Youth in Diaspora in Europe to participate in the cooperation for development with Africa;
- stress that migration should not be forced by economic, social, political and/or environmental factors.

Intercultural Dialogue

The week at the African University on Youth and Development offered us a unique opportunity to share best practices and promote intercultural dialogue. The 3rd EU-Africa Heads of States Summit will take place during the International Year of Youth; Dialogue and Mutual Understanding as well as in the beginning of the African Youth Decade (2009-2018), we therefore:

- demand for a strong commitment regarding investment on the youth and in developing further cooperation between youth organizations from Europe and Africa.
- request governments to ensure a greater involvement of Pan-African and sub-regional organisations in the promotion of a culture of peace, democratic values and respect for human rights and to recognise their role in preventing and managing conflicts.

Stronger co-operation amongst youth organisations in Africa

Strengthening the co-operation and exchange among Youth Organisations is crucial to reach out to more young people and to increase the impact and quality of youth and development programmes. We therefore:

- call upon the African Union to ensure recognised spaces for co-operation among Youth Organisations active on the Pan-African level, to establish a programme providing support to Pan-African activities in the frame of youth-led organisations and to enable, empower and include international Youth Organisations in Pan-African decision making and inter-regional co-operations;
- call upon all actors for support to the establishment of independent National

Youth Councils and truly youth-led organisations, as promoters and facilitators of youth participation in policy making for development in all countries and on all levels;

- call upon all youth-led organisations to ensure transparency in internal decision making, including free and equal elections to leadership positions for a defined time-frame and a limited number of terms;
- demand for the recognition of the work done by African youth organizations as key contributors for development.

Towards the 3rd EU-Africa Heads of State Summit

Following and monitoring the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy over the last years, we have identified needs for improvement in many areas. Therefore we call upon the African and European Heads of States and other actors to:

- establish a new paradigm of leadership based on democracy, responsibility and accountability, fulfilling criteria for good governance and efficient and effective management of public goods;
- ensure sustainable growth through ensuring the right to decent work for all young people, investing in the renewable energies sector, reducing the environmental impact caused by massive exploitation and utilisation of resources and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors;
- empower women to take upon permanent roles and leadership positions on a national level and in Africa-Europe co-operation, including youth co-operation;
- increase and strengthen the capacity building of all relevant stakeholders in the context of the Africa-Europe co-operation, for example through training courses and exchanges;
- provide resources and support to implement Africa-Europe youth projects and activities in the local context;
- facilitate youth exchanges and enhance youth mobility, including visa procedures, to ensure better co-operation for development;
- ensure freedom of assembly and freedom of expression in all countries in Africa and Europe;
- include youth delegates into their delegations to international meetings that concern the youth;
- strongly commit, engage and invest in youth and in further developing the co-operation between youth organisations in Europe, international youth organisations on the Pan-African level and member organisations of the Pan-African Youth union and the European Youth Forum.