



## *Africa-Europe Youth Summit*

*(To coincide with the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-AFRICA Heads of States Summit)*

### 1. Summary

The EU-Africa Summit, to be held in Lisbon during the second Semester of 2007 under the Portuguese EU Presidency, will constitute crucial opportunity to convene an **Africa-Europe Youth Summit**. This Youth Summit would allow youth representatives from African and European youth NGOs to express their main concerns, to address recommendations and to state their priorities as regards to youth and youth related policies, to the Heads of State and Government during the Summit.

These recommendations could lead to the development of a sustainable **Africa-Europe Youth Plan of Action** to be implemented by the relevant actors, taking into account the existing realities, partnerships and good practices, thus operating a positive transformation in the realities and relations between young people in Europe and in Africa.

The Youth Summit aims to increase young people's participation in the Euro-African Cooperation and to reinforce youth work in both continents at the same time as it is expected to influence the youth policy in Euro-African Cooperation. Therefore, an immediate expected result of the Youth Summit is the submission of a **final declaration** by a youth delegation to the EU-AFRICA Heads of State Summit.

The quality of the preparatory process of the Youth Summit will largely determine its results. Preparations are underway in a partnership involving a variety of youth organisations and youth related agencies from Africa and Europe, which come together in a **Steering Group**, which is being facilitated by the North-South Centre.

Fundamental moments of the preparatory process are the **consultation/preparatory meetings** foreseen: five Sub-Regional meetings, one for each of the African sub-regions, which correspond to the building blocks of the African Union; and a European and African Youth Diaspora living in Europe meeting.

## 2. Project Description

### 2.1 Context and Justification

The relationship between Europe and Africa is changing. The emergence of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has created numerous opportunities for inter-regional cooperation.

In December 2005, the European Union adopted the “**EU Strategy for Africa**”, setting out guidelines for a new Europe-Africa partnership. This collaboration was then further strengthened in 2006 by the 6<sup>th</sup> *EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting*, Vienna, 8 May, and by the *African Union Commission – European Commission meeting*, Addis Ababa, 2 October. Those events have contributed to a growing consensus among European and African leaders regarding issues of peace and security, human rights and governance, trade and integration, and development. The up-and-coming agreement is based on the concepts of integration, solidarity and cooperation.

The process was designed to culminate with the adoption of a **Joint EU-AU Strategy** at the 2<sup>nd</sup> *EU-AFRICA Summit*, which the Portuguese Government will host in Lisbon in December 2007, under the Portuguese Presidency of the EU. The Joint Strategy will act as a reference framework for Euro-African relations over the next decade. For that reason, 2007 represents a unique opportunity to institutionalise youth cooperation and participation in Euro-African relations.

At the same time, the rapport between African and European youth is also evolving, inspired by the emergence of strong links between the civil society in both continents. The establishment of political instruments such as the *Africa Youth Charter* is a strong indicator of the operating changes working towards achieving the *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* - many of which have developed within the context of the *World Program of Action for Youth for the Year 2000 and Beyond* (United Nations General Assembly 1995) and of *Braga Youth Action Plan* (III World Youth Forum Of the United Nations System, 1998).

Despite those positive developments, the process of Euro-African youth cooperation requires nevertheless, further attention, in the views of European and African young people, who increasingly recognise the need to establish a permanent framework for youth dialogue and mutual aid, bringing Euro-African youth relations into line with, for example, the formalised interaction, which young people from Europe and the Mediterranean countries enjoy.

Hence, when thirty-six youth representatives from Africa and Europe met in Almada, Portugal, in July 2006 to attend the “**Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations**” hosted by the *North-South Centre of the Council of Europe*, the issue of Euro-African youth relations was at the top of their agenda. The participants drew up a Declaration calling for the **establishment of a permanent platform where African and European youth organisations - including African youth from the Diaspora - can meet** on a regular basis to discuss issues of common concern and propose relevant answers. The Declaration also addressed important issues faced by young people in both Africa and Europe, namely: HIV/AIDS and Health, Employment, Education, and Intercultural Dialogue.

The participants agreed to integrate and channel the existing dynamics towards the organisation of an **Africa-Europe Youth Summit**, which would coincide with the 2<sup>nd</sup> *EU-*

*Africa Heads of State Summit* in December 2007. To facilitate the development and implementation of the Declaration, and to promote the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, a Steering Group made up of representatives from Africa, Europe, and the Diaspora was created.

The Steering Group met at the “7<sup>th</sup> University on Youth and Development” in Mollina, Spain, 1-8 October 2006, to update the Declaration and to make practical arrangements for the establishment of a permanent platform for Euro-African youth interaction. This process depends on the participation of a greater number of actors, given that a broad-based and inclusive debate can only be ensured when including all stakeholders from both Europe and Africa. Acknowledging this fact, and taking advantage of the University’s rich diversity of participants, the Steering Group met with numerous key youth actors throughout the week.

Bearing in mind the dynamics of co-management within the *Council of Europe* between governments and youth NGOs, the Steering Group recommended the development of permanent Euro-African youth relations, starting with the 2007 Africa-Europe Youth Summit. The aim is to consolidate the political process of co-management already established by several actors at different levels (international institutions, governments, and youth organisations), while also creating a unique space for youth participation in the evolving Euro-African partnership.

In November 2006, the European Commission organised in Brussels, Belgium, the European Development Days. The North-South Centre and European Youth Forum took the opportunity to organise a meeting of the Steering Group, as well as an open information session as a side-event to the European Development Days. This Steering Group met again in April 2007 in Brussels.

As a way to achieve a broad and inclusive process towards the Youth Summit, the Steering Group proposed to organise consultation/preparation meetings: sub-regional youth meetings in the five regions of Africa, and a European one, with an emphasis on the participation of young people from the African Diaspora.

## **2.2 Working Areas**

Building upon the discussions at the “Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations”, Almada, Portugal, 2006, and on the contributions from numerous young people and other stakeholders, eight **Working Areas** were identified under the guidance of the Steering Group:

- 1. Millennium Development Goals**
- 2. Good Governance and Democracy**
- 3. Peace and Conflict**
- 4. Globalisation, Trade and Socio-Economic Development**
- 5. Climate Change and Sustainable Development**
- 6. Migration, Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue and Co-development**
- 7. Employment and Decent Work Agenda**
- 8. Strategy and Instruments for Euro-African Youth Participation and Cooperation**

The Working Areas above aim to reflect important thematic areas of concern for young people in Europe and Africa. Enhancements in those areas were considered crucial to contribute to **Poverty Eradication**, the priority issue for Euro-African Cooperation. Also, the issue of **Gender Equality** deserves particular consideration as girls and young women are the most vulnerable members in current European and African societies. They are, thus, severely affected by poverty since the discrimination they face prevents them from adopting active roles in development, consequently maintaining the recurrent stereotypes and disrespect of Human Rights.

The themes presented in this working document represent a starting point and it is expected, through constructive collaboration with all stakeholders, to develop an inclusive document, which will act as a foundation for the Africa-Europe Youth Summit.

## **1. Millennium Development Goals**

The MDGs are a set of concrete, time bound and measurable development objectives, which propose to join efforts to meet the needs of the world,'s poorest. Covering a broad range of areas and targeting the year 2015 for their achievement, they are the strongest goals to date aimed at achieving greater peace, security, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The MDGs are people-orientated, recognise that the social, economic, environmental and cultural dimensions are interdependent, and affect each other. The central concept of development in the MDGs is that each of these dimensions must strive towards the same goal. In this sense the MDGs also call for a global partnership for development (MDG No 8), not only between the all the relevant actors and the different countries and regions in the world. Young people and youth organisations constitute the key for the sustainable implementation of this goal and, in this sense, youth organisations strongly committed to a Global Youth Partnership for Development.

Even though each of the eight MDGs have a direct or indirect impact on youth, there are other that include specific outcome indicators targeted for youth (15-24 considering the UN definition), which deserve particular notice. These are specifically:

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development

It is important to notice that these have shown some of the weakest progresses of all indicators, despite the fact that young women and men aged 15-24 represent 20% of the world population and that 60% of them live in developing countries. It becomes clear that the MDGs will not be met and development will be hampered if we do not take rapid action and focus more intensively on the youth dimension of development-oriented policies, namely on the fields of Education, Gender Equality and Health:

**Education** operates as a foundation for social development; therefore, cooperation in education is crucial for sustainable relations and understanding between societies. Qualitative education, which ensures to bridge the digital divide and that responds to the needs of the

labour market should be ensured to all young women and men have no access to education due to poverty.

Increased cooperation in the arena of Non-Formal Education would stimulate intercultural understanding and would allow young people to address and answer to common problems as responsible and productive members of their societies. The recognition of the work of youth organisations, which are key players in social transformation, in the field of education and trainings is crucial.

The exchange of students and teachers facilitates the exchange of knowledge and increases awareness about the concept of global citizenship. The creation and expansion of programmes such as the *Nyerere* Programme should be encouraged. Partnerships between schools in primary and secondary education in Africa and Europe would allow building joint problem-solving actions and enabling the exchange of good practices, hence contributing to overcome the lack of recognition of qualifications that hamper collaboration between both continents.

Decentralised cooperation programmes must be sustained in order to enhance cultural dialogue between Europe and Africa. Governments should encourage local institutions and civil society organisations to cooperate. Youth exchanges, micro development cooperation programmes, educational programmes on development and intercultural issues, and higher educational opportunities for African students are important measures that should be developed and sustained.

**Gender Equality:** Girls and young women are the most vulnerable members of today's societies, being severely affected by poverty and discrimination in Africa as well as Europe. In both continents discrimination, stereotyping and continued violations of Human Rights create obstacles for young women to adopt active roles in the development of society.

Governments have the responsibility to create adequate conditions allowing girls and young women to enjoy sustainable economic independence, by ensuring access to the education and information which improves social and economic equality. The gender gap in primary education, for instance, must be closed.

Combating gender discrimination is also an essential part of the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS. Education about, and access to, reproductive healthcare, as well as about the consequences of youth pregnancy are critical.

Harmful cultural practices, such as female genital mutilation, have to be eradicated. Girls and young women must be protected from forced prostitution and human trafficking, and also be guaranteed their right to freedom of choice – especially in questions concerning marriages and education.

Beijing +5 is an ongoing process, which momentum the international community needs to maintain by continuing to involve different national and regional actors and by stimulating innovative educational programmes that target the entire community. At the same time, specific economic programmes directed at women must be correctly implemented in order to empower women in a sustainable manner.

The role of youth organisations in combating gender discrimination and ensuring the empowerment of women must be acknowledged and encouraged by all governments. Youth

organisations provide opportunities for girls and young women to acquire leadership skills and become more involved in decision-making in situations of peace, of conflict, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Youth NGOs in Europe and Africa play a leading role in providing Human Rights Education and in raising awareness about the contribution of women to the development of society. Increased cooperation between youth organisations from both continents would contribute to promote the participation of girls and young women in all sectors of society.

**Health and HIV/AIDS:** The health and wellbeing of young people is severely affected by poverty, malnutrition, poor living conditions, armed conflicts and violence, and by the lack of youth-friendly health care systems in Africa and Europe. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is threatening the advance of societies in both continents, and youth are the main victims.

Free, widespread vaccination must be ensured in order to permanently stop the preventable deaths of young people because of curable diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis

It must be acknowledged that youth are the principal risk group for drug addiction and that programmes for raising awareness around addiction and substance abuse should thus be implemented. Furthermore, the proliferation and trafficking of drugs has to be terminated.

Youth-friendly and (more) accessible health care systems have to be guaranteed for all young people. The fight against HIV/AIDS cannot be addressed separately in each continent, but rather targeted through joint efforts uniting young people and their governments. In terms of cooperation, the numerous stakeholders must develop programmes, which ensure sustained access to resources and the exchange of expertise.

The role of youth organisations in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS is already acknowledged by various institutions, but it ought now to be complemented with practical assistance from governments. Governments must take all possible steps to ensure medical treatment and wholesome care for HIV-positive people.

Youth organisations have good practices but they often lack the ability to facilitate the free access to information and to adequate prevention measures (condoms, medical treatment, testing centres, etc.). The empowerment of youth organisations and their resources could result in the creation of successful campaigns on safe health practices, the combating of stereotypes, along with an increased access to medication.

## **2. Good Governance and Democracy**

Good governance and democracy are both a component and an aim of development and, more specifically in the Euro-African current context of cooperation. Poverty, social injustice, social and economic turmoil favour weak democracies, military and dictatorship regimes where corruption flourishes and that hold back the process of development. Those appear then as utmost obstacles to the establishment of strong democracies and good governance systems, which allow peaceful societies based on human rights, equality and social justice.

It became clear that we will not be able to reach the MDGs and eradicate poverty without a governance that is based on genuine active participation of all those that are targeted by policies, which affect them, now and in the future. The active and positive involvement of

young people in the governance process should be encouraged because it promotes the democratic and legitimate processes of decision-making, promoting a process that is inclusive, transparent, responsive and accountable, thus instilling a sense of trust in the governance system and of ownership and commitment to the implementation of policies. Youth and youth NGOs should not only be priority targets of the policies in Europe and Africa, but they are also agents of change.

Governments, institutions, organisations and initiatives that promote and operate on the basis of the above principles and values, advancing the rule of law and combating the different forms of social and political oppression, should be encouraged.

### **3. Peace and Conflict**

Peace rests on the existence of structural social, economic and political stability as much as in the understanding that Human Rights are universal and inalienable. The government does not grant them nor are they particular to a specific context or situation: every person is entitled by birth to live in a fair and peaceful society.

Regrettably, conflicts continue to affect vast populations in both Europe and Africa, destroying human lives and the potential for development. Turmoil result of multiple factors, including social, religious and ethnic tensions, as well as undemocratic governance, weak and failed states, resource competition, demographics and, of course, poverty. In all conflicts, young people are specially affected, becoming victims and/or violators. Particularly in Africa, the sustained marginalisation of youth from the political, social and economic sectors of society creates the potential for further unrest. Frequently there are regional dimensions to intra-state conflicts, putting large populations at risk. Moreover, the illicit trade of arms continues to make these conflicts possible.

Action towards ensuring human security for all peoples in Europe and Africa, entails addressing the structural causes of conflict. Steps must be taken to prevent the marginalisation of youth and to improve their living conditions, namely by providing educational and professional opportunities, as well as by involving youth in peace-building and post-conflict reconciliation activities. Also dialogue between people, specially youth, from different social, religious, and ethnic groups will contribute to build conflict prevention measures and resolution capacity in Africa, at a regional and continental level. The use of child soldiers needs to be comprehensively addressed, through the development of a common legal framework, together with international, regional, and national initiatives.

All these specific initiatives should form part of a wider programme, which holistically addresses the structural causes of conflict, promoting dialogue and increased understanding regarding the positive roles that European and African youth stand to play in building long lasting peace.

### **4. Globalisation, Trade and Socio-Economic Development**

In the last thirty years, the world has undergone radical changes due to economic development and integration. African countries have been negatively affected by this transformation, having fallen victims of the unequal distribution of resources and exploitation, due to increased market competition. Structural Adjustment Programs, created in order to contribute to the progress of countries from the “South”, have devastated many African

countries, disturbing their economic process, and dividing today's world into two groups with contradictory developmental progressions.

Regions of Africa can achieve sustainable development if, among other things, youth training, as well as entrepreneurship and leadership, are encouraged. Non-governmental organisations and international institutions have a fundamental role to play in this regard. With the support of the international community, they can contribute to the development of microfinance programmes, of fair trade, as well as a social economy. They can also assist young women and men in accessing the knowledge necessary to attracting and maintaining direct investments in their own countries.

By putting pressure upon their governments European public opinion has the potential to improve current trade regulations and to eradicate poverty and bring about a more equitable and sustainable global economic order. The sustainable development of Africa and Europe will only happen with cooperation between both continents in the exchange of knowledge and resources.

## **5. Climate Change and Sustainable Development**

The world faces the increased threat of climate change and global warming. Natural disasters (severe draught, floods, hurricanes, etc) are more and more frequent and endanger the lives of millions of human beings at the same time as they cause damages that rise to billions of Euros. The current patterns of industrial growth and the unmonitored exploitation of natural resources are causing environmental degradation, disrupting the balance of our ecological system, creating a threat for food security and compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

African and European countries, which need to work together to promote the understanding that environmental sustainability does not oppose development and that immediate action is required to halt climate change and the degradation of the environment, thus ensuring access to quality food and clean water for all. The flora and fauna of the continents has to be protected and environmentally harmful industrial and social activities must be prevented. The expansion of fair trade practices would allow for sustainable development and the reasonable usage of natural resources.

Environmental sustainability cannot be achieved by countries acting alone; it requires a consolidation of the efforts of the international community, beginning with the universal ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, and continuing with the adoption of environmentally-friendly policies. Environmental education is essential to ensuring that each individual understands and respects nature. As such, non-governmental youth organisations are important actors in raising awareness of the benefits of a nature-friendly human existence.

## **6. Migration, Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue and Co-development**

Current trends in migration are one of the main consequences of the unequal effects of globalisation. The lack of employment opportunities in their countries force young women and men to emigrate from Africa to Europe. Poverty, conflicts, cultural changes, and failures in education are all reasons why youth from African countries choose to leave their social environment hoping to find new resources in the "North".

Immigrants in European countries participate actively in the development of African countries, thanks to remittance programmes, and the financial assistance sent back to their families in Africa. Migration policies also contribute to “brain drain”: the flight of experienced and educated professionals, mostly young, from Africa to other countries in the “North”.

Host countries must ensure the positive integration of immigrants into the local community, by allowing them to gain access to the same resources and rights as local people. Without sustained intercultural dialogue, especially amongst young people, religious and social discrimination will become increasingly prevalent. By improving the interaction between religious and ethnic groups, and disseminating information regarding other social practices, conflicts can be resolved and perhaps prevented.

Programmes designed to increase cultural integration and sensitivity should be maintained and further developed. Intercultural dialogue programmes must take into consideration the protection of minority groups, and be designed to demonstrate the cultural complexity of both Europe and Africa, thereby counter-acting simplifying stereotypes. The enhancement of African and European exchanges, by increasing cooperation and by recognising the Diaspora as a resource for the proliferation of positive perceptions of different cultures, is one of the key ways to develop an open intercultural dialogue and to promote tolerance between European and African communities. Non-governmental organisations have a key responsibility as far as ensuring integration is concerned.

While continually acknowledging the positive effects of migration, it is important to address the negative effects migration can have in both European and African countries. Ways of addressing them include promoting the direct investment in jobs in countries experiencing high emigration levels. In addition, those countries can stimulate the development of their agro-economy, and various key-players can encourage young women and men to become self-employed entrepreneurs, thus helping to break the cycle of poverty. Moreover, adequate policies should be adopted to encourage emigrants to invest in their country of origin, by providing economic support and tax breaks, in cooperation with European organisations.

In addition, cooperation between European and African organisations, in campaigning about the risks of illegal immigration, is an important part of this process. Cooperation is particularly important with regard to combat human trafficking, both within Europe and Africa, and between the two continents.

## **7. Employment and Decent Work Agenda**

Unemployment is a dire problem in both Africa and Europe, affecting growing numbers of young people. In order to alleviate youth unemployment, government and businesses should develop national employment strategies and create more entry-level positions with long-term career prospects. Opportunities for internships and traineeships are essential in order to integrate young women and men into the labour market and prevent any further “brain drain”.

Youth NGOs play a crucial role in providing leadership training and possibilities for young people to acquire skills that are transferable to activities within the formal economy. Through cooperation between national governments, civil societies, local and international entrepreneurs, it is possible to create new opportunities for young women and men to become entrepreneurs and to participate in international internships and leadership programs.

Civil society in Africa and Europe has an important part to play in ensuring that employment possibilities are not tainted by discrimination of any kind and that child labour is eradicated. In addition, there is space for developing sustainable cultural tourism, which would create jobs and potentially promote a better understanding amongst cultures.

The support of intercontinental cooperation between youth organisations contributing to a boost in youth employment and accessible financing systems for youth employment projects could enhance youth participation in macro-economic decision-making, while also diminishing the negative effects of international trade agreements. The ILO Decent Work Agenda, which aims to promote opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity, can provide a general basis for action in the field of socio-economic development

## **8. Strategy and Instruments for Euro-African Youth Participation and Cooperation**

Youth have the right to participate in all spheres of society. Yet it is important to note that the level and mode of participation amongst youth from Europe and Africa is very different. There are, however, also commonalities between the issues faced by African and European youth, commonalities that are essential in a globalised and interdependent world such as ours. In order to foster meaningful cooperation and dialogue amongst youth from Europe and Africa it is crucial that all stakeholders recognise and appreciate the diverse forms of youth participation in society. This requires the consideration of local realities and the adoption of a flexible approach to endorsing youth participation.

If meaningful participation is to be fostered, it is essential that we re-conceptualise the role that young women and men play in society. This is particularly true in Africa, where the youth perception often focuses on the negative involvement of young people in conflict and delinquency. The result is youth policies aimed at counteracting these negative actions, which ignore the potential for positive participation amongst youths. The marginalisation of youth in Africa is even more alarming given that young women and men represent the bulk of the population severely affected by the scourges of armed conflict, HIV-AIDS, and other such issues.

Many countries also lack the basic legal and institutional frameworks for youth participation (such as national youth policies) which are important for active participation. Stakeholders in Europe and Africa should therefore work together to facilitate the establishment of such structures. In developing these frameworks for participation it is essential to consider the steps taken by the African Union to regionalise the political, economic, and social integration of Africa. This action necessitates the parallel development of national, regional, and continental participatory frameworks.

### 3. Objectives and Expected Results

The EU-Africa Summit of Heads of State will focus on creating the political context and adoption of a Joint EU-AU Strategy for cooperation, and on achieving a solid and effective partnership between the two continents. At the very basis of this partnership has to be the involvement of Civil Society and of the young people of the two regions.

In this sense, the main aims of the Africa Europe Youth Summit are to **increase the participation of young people in Euro–African Cooperation** and to **reinforce youth work in Africa and Europe**, and to **influence the youth policy in Africa-Europe Cooperation**, particularly in the context of the EU-AFRICA Summit of Head of States.

The **Objectives** of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit and its preparatory/consultation process are the following:

- To prepare the contribution of young people and their youth organisations into EU-AFRICA Summit of Heads of States;
- To reach solid ground for an effective, integrated and comprehensive relationship between youth organisations and young people from the two continents;
- To search for an active solidarity and partnerships between youth organisations engaged in development both regions;
- To contribute to the recognition of important role of Young people and youth Groups in the Africa Europe Cooperation.
- To improve the knowledge and understanding of young people’s contributions, values and aspirations for the future relations between Europe and Africa.

The **Expected Results** of this process are the following:

- Comprehensive contribution to youth policies in the Africa-Europe context;
- Submission of a final declaration of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit by a youth delegation to the EU-AFRICA Heads of State Summit.
- An increase in understanding and dialogue between young people, and their organisations, in European and African countries.
- An increase in the understanding of the cultural, social, economical and political context of the Africa Europe relations
- An informal network of youth leaders and organisations with interest in developing Africa Europe co-operation and actively committed to the strengthening of Civil Society;
- Build the capacity of multipliers in youth organisations in Europe and Africa with the necessary skills to develop and run Africa Europe co-operation programmes

## 4. Steering Group

The Steering Group is responsible for the preparation of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit. Its main tasks are the following:

- Constant liaison with the Secretariat for the North-South Centre and of the Summit of Head of States in order to create direct links between the Intergovernmental Summit and Youth Summit;
- Identifying the main partners and participants for the activities;
- Drawing up the criteria of participation in the Activities.
- Organising the regional preparatory workshops in Africa, Europe and with the Diaspora ;
- Identifying the content themes and working methods for the summit activities.

The Steering Group works mostly through e-mail and telephone contacts. It is foreseen to physically meet four times during 2007 (every three months). Ideally, the meeting will happen in connection with the consultative workshops. The North-South Centre acts as the Liaison Secretariat of the Steering Committee in between the meetings.

### Composition of the Steering Group:

#### Africa

- African Youth Network (AYN)
- Pan African Youth Union (PYU)

#### International Organisations (INGYOs)

- Red Cross Youth
- World Organisation of Scout Movements (WOSM)
- International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)
- Global Young Greens (FYEG)
- Pax Romana (IMCS/MIEC)
- World Organisation of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides (WAGGGS)
- International Federation of Liberal and Radical Youth (IFLRY)
- World Alliance of YMCAs
- World Alliance of YWCAs
- Youth Action for Peace (YAP)
- International Young Democrat Union (IYDU)

#### Other partners and local organisers

- Africa Youth Corps
- African Institute of South Africa and National Youth Commission (South Africa)
- Secrétariat Exécutif Permanent de la Jeunesse Africaine
- Comité Régional Afrique de l'Ouest

#### Europe

- European Youth Forum (YFJ)
- Advisory Council on Youth Issues of the Council of Europe
- Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ)

#### (Inter)-Governmental organisations

- European Commission - DG EAC, DG DEV, DG AIDCO
- African Union
- Institut Nationale de la Jeunesse et Éducation Populaire (INJEP - France)
- Directorate of Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe
- Portuguese Youth Institute (IPJ)

#### Facilitated by

- North- South Centre of the Council of Europe

## 5. Planned Activities and Calendar

### 5.1. Consultation Meetings

In order to prepare for the Youth Summit and to make this a participatory and inclusive process, five African sub-regional consultative/preparatory meetings and a consultative/preparatory meeting for the European and African Youth Diaspora living in Europe will take place prior to the Youth Summit, and preparations are underway.

The main objectives of the regional consultative/preparatory meetings are to provide regional platforms to discuss and prepare for the actual Youth Summit, reflecting the regional and sub-regional specificities. The sub-regional meetings in Africa will follow the regional distribution of the African Union.

Each Regional and Sub-Regional Meeting will involve Youth Organisations of the region aiming at a minimum two (2) participants per country (female + male), seeking gender balance, political balance, representativity and diversity in terms of the scope and nature of the youth work. They should also aim at gathering expertise in the different thematic working areas.

The European and African Youth Diaspora living in Europe is gathering close to 130 youth representatives, coming from members of the European Youth Forum and from active the African Diaspora living in Europe.

**The following consultation/preparatory meetings and locations are proposed:**

- **Southern Africa Regional Meeting**

Location: Pretoria – South Africa

Host: Africa Institute of South Africa and National Youth Commission (South Africa)

**Countries:** Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia; South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

- **Central Africa Regional Meeting**

Location: Yaoundé - Cameroon

Host: Secrétariat Exécutif Permanent de la Jeunesse Africaine

**Countries:** Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, D.R Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda; Republic of Congo and Sao Tomé & Príncipe.

- **West Africa Regional Meeting**

Location: Niamey, Niger (*location to be confirmed*).

Host: National Youth Council of Niger and Directorate of Youth and Socio-Educational Activities

**Countries:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau Guinea Equatorial, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

### **East Africa Regional Meeting**

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Countries:** Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

- **North-Africa Regional Meeting:**

Location: Algiers, Algeria

Host: Pan-African Youth Union (PYU)

**Countries:** Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Western Sahara.

- **European and African Youth Diaspora living in Europe Meeting:**

**Countries:** Council of Europe Member States

Location: Marly le Roy, Paris, France; organised by INJEP, NSC and European Youth Forum

## **5.2. Provisional Calendar**

4-6 May 07	Portuguese National Consultation Meeting	Complete
25-27 May 07	Consultation with the African Youth Diaspora living in Portugal	Complete
22- 25 July 07	European and African Youth Diaspora Living in Europe Consultation Meeting	Complete
22-24 August 07	Southern Africa Regional Consultation Meeting	Forthcoming
1-3 October 07	West Africa Regional Consultation Meeting	Forthcoming
10-12 October 07	Central Africa Regional Consultation Meeting	Forthcoming
15-17 October 07	East Africa Regional Consultation Meeting	Forthcoming
29-31 October 07	North-Africa Regional Consultation Meeting	Forthcoming
4 -7 December 07	Africa Europe Youth Summit	Forthcoming

## **5.3. The Youth Summit**

The Africa-Europe Youth Summit is foreseen to coincide with the Summit of Head of States both timely and physically. It is therefore expected to take place in Lisbon on 4-7 December 2007.

The Youth Summit will gather 200 to 250 youth representatives from youth organisations from Europe and Africa. The participation is foreseen to be composed of minimum two (2) youth representatives per country (female + male), seeking gender balance, political balance, representativity and diversity in terms of the scope and nature of the youth work.

The Youth Summit should also aim at gathering expertise in the different thematic working areas. The summit is been planed to last for three (3) days using a combination of plenary and thematic working panels in a youthful environment and based on participatory and Non-Formal Education methodologies.