



Southern Africa Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Policies, the African Youth Charter

DECLARATION

PREAMBLE

In the framework of the Africa-Europe cooperation and preparations for the upcoming 2nd Africa-Europe Summit, the National Youth Council (NYC) hosted from 29 March to 1 April in Luanda, Angola, a Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter in Southern Africa. This summit follows the 1st Youth Summit held in December 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.

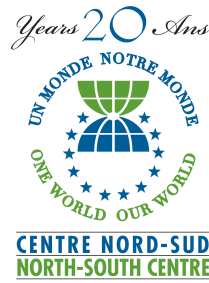
The Seminar was organized in the framework of a Joint-Agreement between the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the EuropeAid hosted by the National Youth Council of Angola, and in close cooperation with the Pan-African Youth Union.

The EU-Africa strategic partnership, a framework for cooperation launched at the 2nd Summit of Heads of State of the European Union and Africa, recognizes the youth as a major player in the development of Africa and Europe. Strengthening youth organizations and movements is therefore essential for development in general and especially to ensure the progress of youth policies in order to achieve sustainable cooperation between African and European young people.

The Seminar brought together representatives from 12 countries, namely: Angola, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Portugal, Swaziland, Spain, Mozambique, South Africa, Malawi and Tanzania. Organizations represented included National and Provincial Youth Councils, youth organizations and associations that are members of the NYC of Angola and national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working with young people.

Aware of the upcoming 2nd Summit of Heads of State from Africa and Europe, participants:





ON YOUTH POLICIES

CALL UPON the Pan-African Youth Union to lobby for the establishment of National Youth Councils in countries where they do not exist;

EXPRESS solidarity towards the young people of Madagascar affected by the ongoing political crisis in their country and encourage them to continue making efforts for the necessary change to come about;

STRONGLY ENCOURAGE the National Youth Councils to create partnerships with young people of the Diaspora of their countries to ensure their participation in the Continent's development;

REQUEST the PYU, international youth organizations and other non-state actors to include in their programs young refugees and war victims living in their territory;

REITERATE the need to defend and preserve the independence and autonomy of the National Youth Councils;

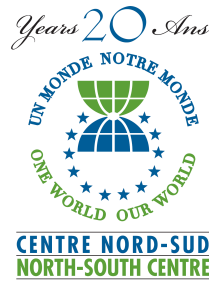
TASK the Pan-African Youth Union with urgently developing guidelines on the structures of NYCs in the African continent;

EMPHASIZE the need for the participation of young people in policy-making in their States, as well as in the evaluation of the quality and implementation of programmes involving the youth.

ON THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER

COMMEND all Member States of the African Union who have already ratified the African Youth Charter and request that all the States who have





not yet taken the necessary steps, proceed with adopting and ratifying the Charter;

STRONGLY ENCOURAGE governments to align their national priorities on youth with the African Youth Charter;

REQUEST that the Pan-African Youth Union develop guidelines on the work to be undertaken by the National Youth Councils to promote and further advance the implementation of the African Youth Charter;

HAVE NOTED AND EXPRESS SATISFACTION with the increase in resources for youth programmes generally across Members States;

ON THE PREPARATION OF THE 2ND AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH SUMMIT

CONSCIOUS of the upcoming 2nd Africa-Europe to be held in 2010, have committed to actively participating in its preparation and realization;

COMMEND the contribution of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe which has made the realization of several cooperation programmes between the youth of the two Continents possible.

YOUTH CENTRE OF VIANA, –LUANDA 1st APRIL 2010.

THE DELEGATES

