

The Tripoli Declaration
Africa-Europe Youth Summit
25 – 28 November 2010, Tripoli, Libya

We, representatives of Youth Organisations from Africa and Europe, gathered in Tripoli, Libya, for the 2nd Africa-Europe Youth Summit, reconfirm our commitment to the declaration of the 1st Africa-Europe Youth Summit, which took place in Lisbon in 2007.

We thank the National Organization of Libyan Youth, the Libyan people and their Leader Moammer Alkaddafi for the hospitality as well as for the excellent conditions of accommodation and work we have enjoyed since our arrival in Libya.

We request that Heads of States discuss the demand that all countries which occupied others sincerely apologize for the period of their colonization and consider paying compensations, as it still concerns the youth.

Working together for three days we had the opportunity to identify our achievements and the shortcomings in the Africa-Europe Cooperation over the last three years. We have also taken the opportunity to identify priorities and actions to be taken both from the Governmental side and from our own side in order to strengthen our cooperation and achieve development on our two continents.

We recognize the contributions of the European Union, the African Union, the Council of Europe, represented by its statutory bodies and the North-South Centre, and the African Union ECOSOC to sustain the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, and urge Governments and institutions to continue providing resources to strengthen youth-led organizations on all levels in our two continents to support their activity and cooperation between Europe and Africa.

The Africa-Europe cooperation has been a high priority in our organizations and much has been achieved over the last three years. Still, more could be achieved and we are requesting an Africa-Europe Youth Trust Fund, supported by governments and institutions, in order to implement tools identified by our Summit, and ensuring seed-funding for pilot projects described below. We are committed to establish and support micro-finance mechanisms for development

Governments and Youth Organisations must in partnership stimulate youth entrepreneurship, the establishment of youth co-operatives, regional and international youth employment networks, and promote sustainable and fair trade.

2015 is the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and approaching rapidly. We see the need for an Africa-Europe Think Tank to prepare the development cooperation framework post 2015, with strong participation of Youth Organizations from Africa and Europe.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals is Our Priority

As Youth Organizations we are committed to:

- increase the use of non-formal education methodology to ensure the self-sufficiency of young people and their families (MDG 1);
- engage with schools in order to reach out to more young people and ensure high quality education for all (MDG 2);
- encourage Youth Organizations on the national, regional and local level to financially support the education of one girl or one boy in a country without universal access to education (MDG 2);
- implement gender equality in our organizations and strengthen our work for the empowerment of girls and women (MDG 3);
- develop and implement campaigns on HIV/AIDS knowledge and prevention, educating around 1 million youth in Africa and Europe by 2015, as well as train leaders from youth organizations in Africa and Europe to counteract stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV and their families (MDG 6);
- make our contributions to development more visible in order to create better results and more synergies through strengthened cooperation with other civil society actors.

We demand African and European Governments to

- support young farmers through micro-credit, access to land and training for sustainable farming (MDG 1);
- allocate Official Development Assistance (ODA) to build more schools in Sub-Saharan Africa and educate 25 per cent more teachers in the region by 2015 (MDG 2);



- end discrimination against people living with HIV and their families, and support, especially financially, HIV programs to prevent stigma and support prevention (MDG 6);
- support, between now and 2015, youth exchange projects for 100 000 young people from Africa and 100 000 young people from Europe, as a contribution to develop partnerships for development (MDG 8);
- ensure primary health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, for all and free and equal access to medicines and treatment for people living with HIV (MDG 6);
- make ODA funds accessible for youth and voluntary based organizations and ensure the involvement of youth organizations in decision-making and prioritization of ODA;
- facilitate a strong program for capacity-building for youth organizations to contribute towards the achievement of the MDGs (MDG 8).

Our Common Fight for Decent Work for Young People

We demand African and European Governments to ensure youth employment by

- enhancing networking among public, private and civil society actors to facilitate access to decent employment for young people through assuring the quality of internships on the national, regional and Africa-Europe level;
- ensuring equal job opportunities with equal pay, with special attention to the Diaspora;
- ensuring equal space for youth participation in social and structured dialogue with decision-makers and employers involving youth in the planning and implementation of actions in all National Development Programmes through local, national and regional youth organizations, for example through public consultations and national youth surveys;
- creating an entrepreneur-friendly environment and providing information on legislation, establishing social guarantees for young people, reducing taxes and providing infrastructure, including access to Internet;
- obliging multinational and trans-national companies to provide employment and training opportunities for local youth through a fixed quota;
- supporting small and medium enterprises, which provide employment, training opportunities and internships to young people;
- enhancing the employment of young people in the agricultural sector through capacity building and other relevant support;
- further investing in research and development (R&D) for the creation of new employment opportunities for young people.

Tackling Globalisation, Trade and Socio-economic Development

We demand African and European Governments to

- support the establishment of an Africa-Europe Fair Trade micro credit programme in three steps: 1. training for African and European young people interested in setting up new fair trade projects; 2. building links and creating spaces for partnership among the young Europeans and Africans; and 3. Establishing a micro credit mechanism for funding of these fair trade projects;
- enable young Africans and Europeans to experience each others' cultures and living conditions through establishing awareness raising and intercultural programmes and support initiatives to map the realities in the youth sectors in Africa and Europe;
- support opportunities for volunteering and recognize the important contributions of young volunteers in Africa and Europe;
- increase structural, financial and administrative support to youth and students' exchanges and mobility programmes in the Africa-Europe context to reach their fullest potential of these programmes;
- include aspects of global trade and financial mechanisms and policies in youth exchange programmes;
- provide access to new and existing media tools to establish better connections between young people from Africa and Europe, to face and challenge stereotypes and enhance the image of the two continents;



Managing Climate Change and Sustainable Development

We demand African and European Governments to

- promote the complementarities of formal and non-formal education and recognize the core role education has in reaching out to young people concerning the challenges of Climate Change and Sustainable Development;
- support non-formal education through more capacity building activities as well as trainings for youth organisations coming from both regions with a specific focus on multipliers;
- ensure full and effective youth participation at all levels in order to ensure a strong youth dimension in policies and programmes concerning climate change and sustainable development;
- give space to young people and youth organizations for exchange and coordination among their activities, for example through regional, continental and inter-continental youth conferences on climate change and sustainable development;
- prepare young people for a green society and jobs in an environmentally friendly economy and empower them to adapt to these effects of climate change that are irreversible;
- promote knowledge, innovation and technology transfers between the North and the South, and vice versa, and remove obstacles in order to allow young people to use their full potential.

Bringing Good Governance and Democracy

We demand African and European Governments to

- include youth delegates from youth-led organizations in national delegations to all international meetings;
- ensure that all institutions, including Parliaments, are representative of the youth populations in their countries, and facilitate communication between elected individuals and their communities;
- hold regular elections to give new and young people the opportunity to take part in the decision-making processes;
- promote and implement the latest tools and mechanisms, such as biometry, to guarantee democratic and transparent electoral processes and therefore empower youth organizations and civil society combating fraud, corruption and impunity;
- to empower youth and ensure democratic practices in all decision-making mechanisms;
- improve good governance and transparency through promoting youth friendly media to open up the political debate to young people;
- inform African and European young people about their rights and responsibilities and how to access and protect them, for example through the African Youth Charter and the European Human Rights Convention;
- jointly work to ensure the reform of all international institutions, such as the United Nations, including the Security Council and its permanent members, so as to be representative of all continents of the world.

Addressing Migration, Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue and Co-Development

We demand African and European Governments to

- remove visa barriers for students, young investors and inventors and active youth workers, including but not only those active in the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation;
- guarantee all young people's autonomy and human rights (economic, political, social, religious and cultural) including the right to decent work in their countries of origin;
- we call for special attention to be given to the rights of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, as promised in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as special attention to families and ensure that all young people seeking asylum can have access to education;
- recognize that migrants are in a vulnerable position both in countries of origin, in transit and in countries where they live, and ensure their fair treatment including at borders and in detention centres as well as afterwards and further combat human trafficking while recognizing that women are particularly affected;



- to develop policies that facilitate mobility and serve as incentives for professionals in countries of destination to participate in the development of their countries of origin;
- empower youth organizations, in particularly Diaspora associations in host countries, so that they can assist migrants and become more involved in different levels of development;
- introduce new temporary employment schemes allowing immigrants to obtain decent work while waiting for permanent permits to work and stay;
- promote a more diverse use of cultural and historical references to represent communities in school curricula;
- encourage community coherence by both keeping identities of the migrants as well as of a wider society;
- revise asylum legislation in order to grant those fleeing from hunger and poverty the same rights as those fleeing from conflict;
- ensure a commitment by the countries of origin, transit and destination to a better management of migration in a balanced, holistic and comprehensive manner, and in a spirit of responsibility and joint cooperation and the need for local development.

Ensuring Peace – Fighting Conflict

We demand African and European Governments, non-governmental organizations, international institutions, all key decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders to

- include a youth participation dimension in all electoral observation missions;
- support and fund Africa-Europe youth exchange programs;
 - covering post-conflict zones in both Africa and Europe;
 - promoting tolerance and inter-religious dialogue
 - dealing with ethnicity;
- involve youth in peace negotiation processes and conflict resolution;
- create formal and non-formal education tools to promote greater knowledge and increased understanding of democratic values and conflict prevention for young people;
- include specific educational activities on peace and conflict in the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, such as a forum to share best practices;
- establish an Africa-Europe Youth Initiative to raise awareness of and advocate against arms trade, including lobbying for an international arms trade treaty;
- work together towards the adoption of a UN resolution on Youth, Peace and Conflict, addressing the way youth is affected by conflict and ensuring the role of young people and youth organizations in conflict prevention and transformation;
- ask from the Human Rights Council to enable an independent committee to visit the detention centres where immigrants are kept.

Continued Follow-Up and Evaluation

Looking forward, we stress the need for a yearly monitoring and evaluation of the Africa-Europe youth Cooperation, performed by all parties involved in the partnership. We therefore mandate the partners in the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, namely the partnership between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the field of youth and the Joint Management Agreement between EuropeAid Cooperation office and the North-South Centre, to establish an Africa-Europe Youth Forum to institutionalize the instruments that allow young people to renew and reinforce the current Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation.

Further, to secure open cooperation, efficiency and transparency, the online platform for our cooperation should be developed to become a pool of richer resources incorporating, amongst others, best practices and a pool of volunteers.

