

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

YOUTH WORKSHOP

Building Capacity to assess National Youth Policies in Africa

12-14 December 2007

Addis Ababa

PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER 2007-2015

Aim:

Develop strategic actions to accelerate its popularization, signature, ratification and implementation in member States

BACKGROUND

- ◆ The African Youth Charter was approved by African Ministers in charge of Youth and endorsed by African Union Heads of State and Government as a legal framework of action for African youth. The Charter was launched by Chairperson of the AUC.
- ◆ The charter is meant to provide guidance for the development of youth policy at national level.
- ◆ The charter highlights the rights, responsibilities and duties of youth and draws from various international agreements and commitments.

BACKGROUND (2)

- ◆ M/States committed through the charter
 - to undertake critical actions to improve the status of young people in their countries.
 - to ensure that issues affecting youth in the areas of employment, sustainable livelihood, education, health, youth participation, national youth policy, peace and security, law enforcement, youth in the Diaspora and youth with disabilities **are addressed in national youth policies and programmes.**

NECESSARY & URGENT STEPS ARE NEEDED

- ◆ Urgent actions are expected from each country to ensure the role of the Charter, such as :
 - Popularization, Signature, Ratification,
 - Adherence and implementation

CURRENT STATUS

- ◆ Nineteen (19) months after its adoption:
 - Only eight (8) Countries have signed the Charter: Burundi, Republic of Benin, Mali, Rwanda, Nigeria, Togo, Gabon & Ethiopia;
 - Only three (3) Countries have ratified the charter: Rwanda, Mali & Gabon.
 - Many countries are popularizing the Charter in order to inform all stakeholders.

ACCELERATION IS NEEDED

- ◆ to address challenges and increase awareness,
- ◆ to build the capacity of national institutions and young people towards the ratification of the charter,
- ◆ to undertake advocacy efforts
- ◆ to promote and improve partnership and
- ◆ to ensure effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation of actions & strategies and measure progress.

PLAN OF ACTION 2007-2015 as a guiding light for national actions

- ◆ It provides a framework for orientation on the implementation of the charter;
- ◆ It installs bridges between the charter and the national youth policy/programmes;
- ◆ It may facilitate the harmonization of the youth policies and programmes;
- ◆ It encourages national action plans in support of the implementation of the African youth charter.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Strategic actions should lead to the following:

- ◆ **Awareness of the charter raised at different levels;**
- ◆ **Charter is ratified by most of the AU M/S;**
- ◆ **Charter is being implemented;**
- ◆ **Institutional capacity of youth organizations strengthened;**
- ◆ **Mechanisms established for cooperation, coordination, monitoring & evaluation.**

Sharing responsibilities towards the AYC

- ◆ **Member states** bear the primary responsibility for the ratification and implementation of the charter;
- ◆ **The AUC** goes on advocating for ratification of the charter, monitoring its implementation and report to the political organs of the African Union.
- ◆ **The African Peer Review Mechanism** is recommended to be applied to track performance of member states in the implementation of the charter.

Sharing responsibilities towards the AYC (2)

- ◆ RECs shall integrate youth empowerment and development activities into their agenda, policies and programmes.
- ◆ RECs shall advocate for the charter ratification among the constituent countries, evaluate progress towards the implementation of the charter in their respective regions and report to the AUC.

Sharing responsibilities towards the AYC (3)

- **The youth organisations:** ensure that there is effective coordination among themselves. They also contribute to the evaluation processes and support programme implementation.
- **Development Partners:** are called upon to support member states, the AU Commission and youth organisations in the implementation of the charter and its plan of action.

Strategic actions of the PoA

- ◆ To be considered with possible inputs and recommendations from the Bureau (Refer to Doc of PoA and proposed actions)



I THANK YOU