

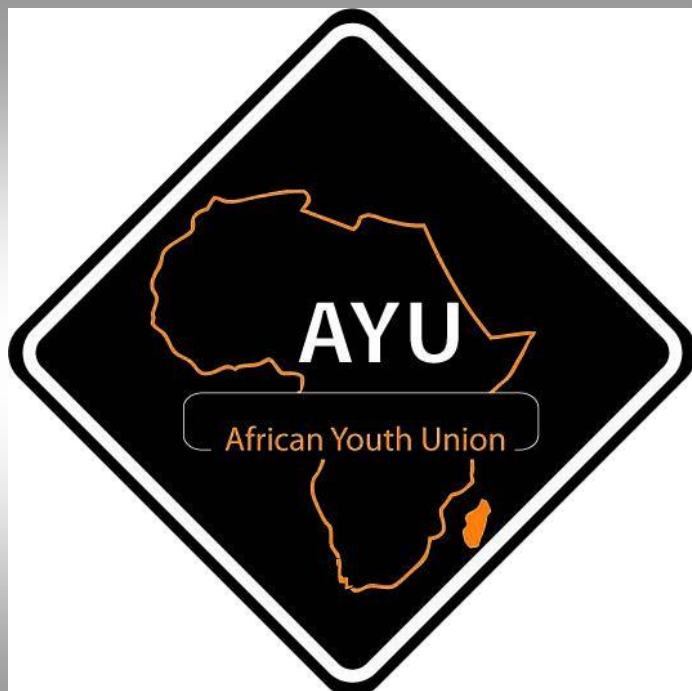
# African Youth Union (AYU) Annual 3rd

## Summit Report

October 17-18, 2013, Pretoria South  
Africa



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## Introduction

African Youth Union (AYU) is a Pan-African membership youth organization with members across the continent. AYU focuses on lobbying African governments to implement the African Youth Charter, promoting entrepreneurship among African youths, mobilizing youth to be active citizens and inspire them to restore patriotism and Pan-Africanism, defending and protecting the rights of young people especially youth involved in rights and political activism, and raising awareness about the work and roles of Pan-African institutions.

The African Youth Charter that was adopted by heads of state and government leaders in Gambia seven years back recognized that youth are partners, assets and a prerequisite for sustainable development and for the peace and prosperity of Africa with a unique contribution to make to the present and to future development.

It also considered the role that youth played in the process of decolonization, the struggle against apartheid and more recently in its efforts to encourage the development and to promote the democratic processes on the African Continent.

African Youth Union with keen interest wishes to contribute to full political, social and economic development of Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by promoting action oriented Pan-Africanism that directly creates opportunities to all Africans and people that dwell in her. To set a precedent for that, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual summit was hosted under the theme: *"on the road to action: moving beyond Pan-Africanism rhetoric"*

Delegates participated from each of the following countries:

1. Uganda
2. South Africa
3. Malawi
4. Democratic Republic of Congo
5. Ethiopia
6. Zimbabwe

## Attending Leaders

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| a. Brig Gen M. Yekelo     | : Department of Defense   |
| b. H.E. Amb Kenny Kapinga | : Botswana High Commissioner to South Africa                      |
| c. H.E. Amb Peter Moto    | : Uganda High Commissioner to South Africa                        |
| d. Dr. Paul Handy         | : Director of Research at the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) |
| e. Dr. Pelmos M           | : Department of Correctional Services                             |
| f. Mr. Coen Van Wyk       | : Consultant and Retired diplomat                                 |

## Summit Objectives

- ✓ Promote increased youth participation in AU programs, agencies and NGO affiliates
- ✓ Draw a road map to promoting and implementing Pan-Africanism projects across the continent where youths are the drivers
- ✓ Connect committed youth with opportunities, mentors and new associates



- ✓ Examine AU youth charter
- ✓ Promote a robust renewal of a commitment to serve Africa

### Summit Outcomes

1. Connecting representative youth from Uganda, South Africa, Malawi, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and DRC and other countries with policy makers and mentors and influential people.
2. Establishing the first African youth bank to avail opportunities to youthful entrepreneurs
3. Implementing the Entrepreneurship Fund Program.
4. Identifying recommendations for consideration by governments and AU as to how youth, in concrete ways, can be more engaged at all levels of government and AU.
5. Identifying two recommendations for consideration of governments and AU in how African youth's priorities could be advanced.
6. Renewed campaign of lobbying African governments to implement the African Youth Charter

### Summary of Summit

#### Day 1

The summit began with an introduction of leaders, a review of the agenda, as well as a review of the purpose of the summit. AYU President, Tim Mugerwa made introductory remarks. He led summit delegates through an overview of the vision and theme contained in the report from AYU: *on the road to action: moving beyond Pan-Africanism rhetoric*.

The guest of honor Big Gen Yekelo later officially opened the summit. He called upon young leaders to emulate the likes of Nelson Mandela and other African legends to create a better Africa for all. The guest of honor reminded of his department's commitment to maintaining peace and security on the African continent so that young people can freely do business.

He told the delegates that it is everyone's onus to ensure that Africa is stable and peaceful. He asked youth to be active and to engage into meaningful work that can better their lives and the society.

The guest of honor was followed by H.E. Ambassador Kenny Kapinga with a key note address. The High Commissioner reiterated the need for Africans to embrace education.

He asked youth to stop being lazy and indulge into productive work, use the available technological tools to advance positive change.

He reminded that: "where you sit when you are old shows where you stood when you were young". This was aimed at informing youth that whatever they are doing, will manifest during their olden days.

The day went on with robust plenary sessions about youth participation, governance, job creation and youth unemployment. Mr. Coen wyk chaired the first plenary session. He shared his wealth of knowledge and experience with the youth, it was a very insightful session that saw youth brainstorm on practical solutions to the challenges they are faced with.

Youth delegates also made presentations about the state of youth in their countries which provided a basis for more discussions.



Delegates were in total agreement that the following have to be put in place:

- 1. African Youth Charter: AU should create functional and pro youth committees to raise awareness about the charter, engage African governments and report to AU on their progress.
- On the same note, a monitoring and evaluation committee ought to be established to ensure that the African Youth Charter committee is doing its job.
- Governments must also create national, provincial and local committees that will teach African youth about the charter.

2. **Education**: high-quality education, job training and higher graduation rates including culturally-relevant learning that address the needs of Africans should be promoted across the continent.

3. **Youth Unemployment and Job Creation**: cash grants should be disbursed to all young people involved in the economic development of Africa. Youth should also be encouraged to be creative and innovative so as to contribute to governments' campaigns.

The Program Director summarized the day's events.

### Day 2

The Program Director provided an overview of the previous day's discussions, and outlined the agenda for day two. Youth for Human Rights CEO, MS Shaleen opened the day's events with presentations on how human rights abuses among the youth can be dealt with and also tackled drug abuse which has greatly affected youth lives. She ended the presentation by giving practical solutions to drug abuse.

Youth delegates continued to present the state of the youth in their countries which facilitated the summit's resolutions.

H.E. Ambassador Peter Moto the Uganda High Commissioner to South Africa made a key note address. He asked youth to use their acquired skills to create a meaningful and descent life for themselves.

He said that youth should stop fantasizing about life and do what they are capable of doing. He said that this generation requires high level of technical skills which makes it difficult for those who lack such skills. He advised youth to increase knowledge by writing books capitalizing on what they studied in schools.

Dr. Paul Handy the Director of Research at the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) advised youth to desist from rhetorical Pan-Africanism and switch to action oriented Pan-Africanism that can create opportunities for youth and the coming generations.

He said that presently Africa is in transition from Afro-pessimism to Afro-optimism which requires high levels of commitment and collective effort from all Africans to lead the continent to greater heights. He reminded that Africa's population is dominated by young people which put a lot of responsibility to them to ensure that they shape the Africa they want to live in.



## Resolutions

The following resolutions were made:

**Resolution #1: Establish African Youth Bank (AYB) and strengthen the Entrepreneurship Fund Program (EFP).** It was resolved that next year AYU shall launch a program dubbed Entrepreneurship Fund Program (EFP) in four model countries selected geographically. In Southern Africa, South Africa was selected, in East Africa; Uganda was selected, West Africa, Ghana and Central Africa, Cameroon. EFP will avail revolving funds to individuals and groups involved in the economic growth and development of Africa.

To ensure efficiency and effectiveness, at some stages more especially in groups, AYU shall own 30% shares in every entity identified as a beneficiary to the fund.

AYB is anticipated to begin in 2018 but the period can be less depending on the availability of resources. The bank will be a product of EFP with support from African people together with African well-wishers. AYB and EFP are aimed at supporting and empowering young entrepreneurs, promote self-reliance, decent jobs, curb youth unemployment and eventually reduce foreign dependency.

**Resolution #2: promote and engage in action oriented Pan-Africanism** that goes beyond paper, singing and praising the beauty of Africa. Africans have to support their projects, mobilize resources within Africa, end black to black violence, promote peace and security on the continent and embrace Africa's rich cultures.

**Resolution #3: launch a robust continental and global campaign** to reignite the spirit of Pan-Africanism and promoting the African Youth Charter. In 2014 over 8 African countries will be visited by AYU team to promote action oriented Pan-Africanism. The countries will include but not limited to: Ghana, Cameroon, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Burundi and Rwanda. This is anticipated to promote positive attitude among Africans and see themselves as capable and potential change to develop Africa.

The audience shall mainly be youth aged 15-35 from youth formations, high schools, universities and other entities. Youth ministries and other stake holders will also be targeted in this campaign.

## Recommendations

**Recommendation #1:** African governments and AU should establish a cash fund program to organizations and individuals contributing to the development of Africa.

**Recommendation #2:** AU and African governments replace youth representation with youth involvement and participation

**Recommendation #3:** youth bodies at AU and government levels should not be based on political formations but rather on passion and willingness to serve Africa.

## Youth Engagement in Decision Making Governance, Youth Empowerment and Job creation



A plenary discussion was held on the topic of youth engagement in decision making processes, Governance, Youth Empowerment and Job creation, with the goal of agreeing upon one concrete action item to bring forward. Discussion questions included the following:

- 1) How can youth be more productive?
- 2) How can this generation continue to be involved in moving its agenda forward?
- 3) How can young adults get more involved in future decision making?

About the proposal for Youth Engagement, delegates supported the need to support and strengthen AYU that is run by youth, for youth, that communicates regularly with AU, RECS, leaders and governments.

Youth representatives from each country will meet periodically to discuss issues raised at local, national and regional levels, with leaders sitting at the table with them, then present their ideas and suggestions to AU, RECS and governments.

Get help and guidance from people who have experience with the issues. Learn from their wisdom. Use technologies like teleconferencing so that being away at events does not prohibit someone from participating.

Several delegates pledged their support in strengthening and building AYU.

#### Risks:

For AYU to gain more momentum and increase its activities, this initiative needs full AU and government support to keep the momentum going. Failure to do so, the work could be compromised.

#### Other Discussion and Recommendations

##### Youth and Leaders Working Together

- I. Youth want to see more information sharing and collaboration between leaders and youth. They want more opportunities to speak directly with leaders about the issues that matter to them. Youth want to be part of brainstorming and creating solutions to Africa's challenges.
- II. Have youth sitting at the table with leaders. Leaders would report back to youth on progress made on requested action items.
- III. Create more Youth events with youth and leaders working together.
- IV. In order to understand youth perspectives and to show commitment to young people, leaders need to be more involved with youth. Face-to-face communication shows more emotion and details than other forms of communication. Leaders need to be interacting with youth formations.
- V. Hold a conference during the school year so youth can go back to their communities and schools to share the information.
- VI. High school students should be participating at meetings like this one.

#### Education



Youth teaching youth about their experiences and changes they have made to policies/legislation  
Don't focus on "politics"— focus on one particular issue and let youth see the influence that they can have on this issue that they care about

Youth need to be educated about how much regional integration; the Legislative Assembly and political processes affect their lives

### Communications and Art

- I. Create a youth magazine
- II. The magazine could spread knowledge, awareness, and address issues that are important to youth in Africa; African Youth problems, African Youth perspectives.
- III. A magazine that raises awareness and creates opportunities to contribute
- IV. Arts and culture departments could provide funding or support
- V. Art is a way to connect with people but it is difficult to get this type of movement off the ground

### Barriers:

Limited knowledge about how to implement this idea; adults that dismiss youth's ideas

### Youth commitments

After discussions, delegates made a number of commitments to stay engaged as young people in decision making processes:

Vote and be involved in the political process. "We have power in our numbers if we vote"

Keep up-to-date on current issues.

The summit was closed by AYU President, YHRSA CEO and a closing ceremony where certificates were awarded to all speakers.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit 2014 Kampala, Uganda

The 4<sup>th</sup> summit will be hosted in Kampala, Uganda on 16-17 October under the theme: "*Regional integration of Africa and African Youth Perspective*". The 4<sup>th</sup> summit will attract over 300 youths across Africa and diaspora. The 300 youths will be joined by other 50 participants that shall include researchers, policy makers, experts on regional integration and heads of states.

The summit will seek to address how African youth and those in the diaspora can contribute to Africa's regional integration socially, economically and politically. It will also promote inclusion of youth in the process of Africa's integration. AYU 4<sup>th</sup> annual summit will be the first meeting to bring together African Youth to discuss regional integration of Africa and also to share ideas with their leaders.

Details about the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual summit will be available next year, if you wish to take part, sponsor, participate or get involved in anyway, email us at: [summit@ayu.org.za](mailto:summit@ayu.org.za)

You can also connect with us on twitter @Africanyouthuni and Facebook: African Youth Union

