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African Youth Decade 2009-2018 Plan of Action

Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development

*Road Map towards
The Implementation of the African Youth Charter*

May 2011

FOREWORD



Imagine that youth in Africa is able to effectively contribute and benefit from Africa's renewal and lives Africa's dream of prosperity, peace, stability and in charge of its own destiny.

Consider making opportunities available for this youth generation to help shape our collective future

Imagine the impact where a young African would wake up one day and has the means and freedom to fully realize his/her potential and be a positive force for development.

The African Youth Decade, 2009-2018 Plan of Action (DPoA) is a framework for multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional engagement of all stakeholders towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the African Youth Charter. The DPoA will also facilitate more coordinated and concerted actions towards accelerating youth empowerment and development.

The plan of action provides a context that explains the background and reasons behind the declaration of a Decade for Youth by the African Union Assembly in January 2009. This Plan intends to support the development of national and regional plans of action, while simultaneously providing a framework to allow coordinated activities at the continental level.

The DPoA is intended for use by a broad spectrum of stakeholders including African Union Member States, development partners, the AU Commission and constituents of the AU organs.

Given that African Ministers in Charge of Youth Affairs have approved and the AU Executive Council has endorsed the DPoA, **AU Member States** are urged to consider the Decade Plan of Action as a framework that links youth empowerment and development to national development goals and priorities as well as with instruments used for: continental and regional assessments, setting standards, criteria's and indicators. They are also urged to include the DPoA into their accountability frameworks such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); and in assessing Progress towards achieving the MDGs. Member states are further urged to explore innovative ways to mobilize domestic resources including from the private sector for the implementation of the DPoA and the realization of the objectives of the African Youth Charter.

The **Regional Economic Communities** are called upon to mainstream the DPoA in their youth related strategies and programmes, advocate for the accelerated implementation of the DPoA and contribute to resource mobilization efforts at regional and country levels.

Bilateral organizations, multi-lateral agencies, including the UN system, Civil Society and non-governmental organizations, the private sector as well as, the Pan African Youth Union and other youth organizations are equally urged to align their activities over the next decade with this Plan of Action and to mainstream youth perspective into their programmes and interventions.

I particularly urge development partners and allies to adopt the African Youth Decade Plan of Action as the framework within which coordinated and coherent support are provided to youth development policies, programmes and activities in Africa.

Jean Ping
Chairperson
AUC

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Prof. Jean-Pierre EZIN
Commissioner,
Human Resource, Science, and Technology

Acronyms

APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AUC	Africa Union Commission
AUYVC	African Union Volunteers Corps
AYC	African Youth Charter
AYDI	African Youth Composite and Policy Index
COMY	Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Youth
CSOs/NGOs	Civil Society Organizations/ Non Governmental Organizations
DoYDA	Decade on Youth Development in Africa
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
HRST	Human Resource, Science and Technology
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PoA	Plan of Action
PYU	Pan-African Youth Union
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
UN	United Nation
UNFPA	United Nation Population Fund

Glossary/ Working Definition

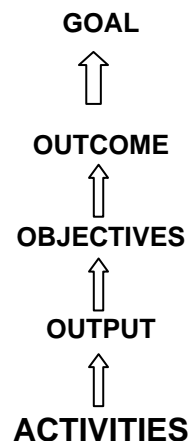
Youth Empowerment: *Young people are empowered when they realize that they have or can create choices in life, are aware of the implications of those choices, make informed decisions freely, take action based on those decisions and accept responsibility for the consequences of their actions. Empowerment also means having the ability for supporting enabling conditions under which young people can act on their own behalf, and on their own terms, rather than at the direction of others. These enabling conditions fall into major categories such as an economic and social base; political will, access to knowledge, information and skills, adequate resource allocation and supportive legal and administrative frameworks; a stable environment of equality, peace democracy and positive value system.*

Youth Development: *...the ongoing growth Processes in which, I youth are engaged in attempting to: (1) meet their basic personal and social needs to be safe, feel cared for, be valued, be useful, and be spiritually grounded, and (2) build skills and competencies that allow them to function and contribute in their daily lives." (Pittman, 1993, p. 8)... A process which prepares young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences which help them to become socially, morally, emotionally, physically, and cognitively competent. Positive youth development addresses the broader developmental needs of youth, in contrast to deficit-based models which focus solely on youth problems.*

Outcome: *Refers to a notion of impact that leads to ultimately reach a goal. Outcome is distinct from output which is derived from specific activities and contributes to the intended outcome..*

Objective: *Intended Result*

Indicators: *"A quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure stated achievement, to reflect changes connected to an intervention, or to help assess the performance of a development actor; also a variable, which purpose it is to measure change in a phenomena or process"*



Contents

Foreword

Acknowledgements

Acronyms

1. Background
2. Introduction
3. Objectives
4. Strategy and Focus
5. A Framework for the Decade (Guiding Principles)
6. Indicator Framework
7. Delivery of Results and Partnership
8. Implementation support and Resource Implications
9. Tracking and Measuring Progress

Background

The African Union envisions an integrated African economic, social, cultural and political development agenda by the year 2025¹: A prosperous Africa at peace with itself and its partners. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative integrated into the AUC process, which makes a new beginning aims to enable the continent to not only reduce poverty but also propel it to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The African Union also aims to enhance its leadership role for the promotion of peace, security and good governance. These and other efforts are to be driven by Africa's own citizens, whom the AU hopes would become a healthy, skilled and dynamic force, able to compete in the global marketplace.

Clearly a new emergent and integrated Africa can be fully realized only if its demographic advantage "large population of youth" is mobilized and equipped to help drive Africa's integration, peace and development agenda. This vision emanates from the belief and conviction that a strong and accountable leadership and successful integration needs to be anchored on participation; the investment in youth; and mainstream the great potential of the population of which the Youth are an essential pillar.

Against the foregoing and in light of the great potential, dynamism, resourcefulness, resiliency, and aspiration of African youth, the continent continues to face daunting challenges of maximizing benefits from this critical social capital by for example, adequately investing in youth empowerment and development.

The African Population is estimated to be more than a billion people of whom over 60% are young men and women under the age 35. The majority of African youth continue to face: unemployment, underemployment, lack of skills, relevant education, access to capital, unmet need for health-related information and services including those related to diagnosis, treatment, and care of those living with HIV and, above all, prevention of new HIV infections among them. This situation is even more accentuated among youth in rural areas. The greater proportion of youth does not have the opportunity to fully develop its potential and contribute effectively to the realization of the declared Vision and the Mission of Africa's leaders.

Along with other groups including as women and the disabled bear the brunt of internal and external crisis, be it those related to financial, food crisis, climate change and human insecurity amongst others. In addition, many disadvantaged

¹Strategic Plan of the Commission of the African Union Volume 2:2004-2007 Strategic Framework of the Commission of the African Union

youth are unwittingly conscripted into armed struggle, used to settle political scores and are exposed to various negative media that erodes their positive heritage- leading them to delinquency, drug use, and other risky behavior. Furthermore and as it is well known, most youth that migrate to foreign countries or even within the continent, in search of greener pastures, also face exploitation, extreme abuse and mistreatments among other things.

If the Vision and Mission of the African Union are to be realized, Africa needs deliberate efforts to accelerate social development that give high priority to youth empowerment and development. This is also a *sine qua non* condition for sustained economic growth and the realization of the NEPAD objectives.

I. Introduction

In July 2006, the African Union Heads of States and Governments that met in Banjul, Gambia, endorsed the African Youth Charter (AYC); the Charter is the political and legal document which serves as the strategic framework that gives direction for youth empowerment and development at continental, regional and national levels. The AYC aims to strengthen, reinforce and consolidate continental and regional partnerships and relations; furthermore, it gives priority to youth development on the African Union's development agenda. .

Moreover, the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union declared the years 2009 to 2018 as the Decade on Youth Development in Africa, during the Executive Council meeting held in January 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

At national level, there is full recognition of the dire challenges and great opportunities of youth and most African countries are making efforts to involve young people in political and decision making processes, as reflected in the establishment of national youth parliaments and youth appointment in executive positions and consultation with young people on policies and programmes that affect their lives.

At regional and continental level, Youth networks have been established including the Pan African Youth Union to serve as a channel for youth engagement and for conveying youth perspectives for integration into national, regional and continental policies, strategies and programmes.

Most African countries have youth related policies and programs. The same is the case with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). At continental level among other things, the African leaders *adopted and approved* the African Youth Charter (2006), which as of date 37 countries have signed and 24 have also ratified. The Youth Charter, which entered into force on 8 August 2010, is a comprehensive framework that addresses the rights and obligations of young people. It also constitutes the social contract between the State and the Youths that responds to the priority needs regarding their empowerment and development.

Member States under the Charter are obliged to develop and implement comprehensive, integrated and cross-sectoral Youth Policies and programs with the active involvement of young people. Such policy and program development process needs to be underpinned by the mainstreaming youth perspectives into broader development goals and priorities, and investing in a meaningful participation and contribution of young people towards Africa's progress and sustenance of current gains.

The Decade is an opportunity to advance the agenda of youth empowerment and development in all member states, to ensure effective and more ambitious investment in youth programmes and increased support to the development and implementation of national youth policies. During the decade, the AU Commission and member states will collectively implement the African Union's 10 year plan of action on youth development in Africa, which will focus on priority areas, as outlined in the African Youth Charter.

The Plan of Action on Decade on Youth empowerment and development in Africa is a road map towards the implementation of the African youth charter. It is a response to the need for strengthened national capacities that delivers more effective results in aligning donor collaboration and partnership for youth empowerment and development.

II. A Framework for the Decade

The meaning of youth, and the way society regards youth, varies across time, space as well as within societies. For developing nations and most particularly for African countries the definition of youth poses a persistent challenge given the socio-economic and political realities within which youth are defined and characterized in policy formulation and design.

The African Youth Charter defines youth; as individuals aged 15 to 35. The concept "Youth Empowerment" has also been defined suiting various unique contexts. This PoA defines Youth Empowerment as building knowledge and education through awareness raising, capacity and skills building. Empowerment also requires enhancing accessibility to various opportunities that shape the future youth

One key goal of the African Youth Charter, is to enhance the empowerment of youth. This Plan of action clarifies and standardizes youth empowerment and development in Africa.

Multi-dimensional Approach to Youth Empowerment and Development: Operationalize the linkage of the Decade Plan of Action within the context of broad national development goals and priorities, including mainstream to other adopted continental instruments and where applicable existing national development mechanisms including the NEPAD and APRM Frameworks.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Development: promote, through the ratification and domestication of the African Youth Charter the enhancement of accountability by national institutions and mechanisms including National Human Rights Commission to the standards of protection and enforcement of youth rights.

Ownership and Capacity Building: support the building of national capacity to respond to the development and implementation of cross-sectoral, comprehensive and integrated youth policies and plans

Popular Participation: Advocate and promote inline with Assembly decisions the involvement of youth representatives and civil society youth organizations and other primary stakeholders in formulation, implementation and monitoring of development programme and plans

Costing, Budgeting and Expenditure: estimate cost of implementing youth development programmes and plans in a coordinated and coherent manner and to monitor and report on progress within the context of the Decade for Youth Plan of Action

Resources: advocate for adequate allocation from domestic and international sources for youth development efforts, including taking into account future obligations as well as present needs in-line with the African Youth Charter objectives

Regional Dimensions: take into account regional (and global) considerations, including migration, integration and trade as well as emerging issues such as climate change into youth development policy, strategies and plans.

Information Base: collate databases, knowledge assets and technical information for the important action of disaggregating of all information consistent with the African Youth Charter definition of youth.

Gender Sensitivity: ensure the gender dynamics of addressing youth development and empowerment are beyond the sex disaggregated analysis and are inherent

III. The overall guiding principles

1. Evidence based tools, instruments and strategies for mainstreaming youth perspectives in development programmes and activities
2. Considering the multi-sectoral and multi dimensional of youth issues in scaling up and sustained responses
3. Generating of standardize, comprehensive data and information across the continent to measure effectiveness and efficiency of the plan of action.

IV. Objectives of the Decade Plan of Action

1. To serve as a road map on the accelerated implementation of African Youth Charter (AYC)

2. To mainstream and operationalize the implementation of the AYC with a youth perspective in financing and monitoring African development goals and indicators.
3. To establish a benchmark of standards, indicative criteria's and accountability in design, implementing and monitoring of youth development policies, programmes and activities in Africa.

V. Expected Outcomes of the Plan of Action

1. Enhanced capacity of member states to develop and implement comprehensive, integrated and cross-sector Youth development policies and plans
2. Youth perspectives are effectively mainstreamed in the design, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development goals and priorities
3. Increased investment in youth development programmes and activities linked to the assessment of development targets
4. Resource requirement and mobilization for Youth development at all levels is based on evidence and results
5. The Youth Decade Plan of Action is adopted as framework for funding and evaluation of youth empowerment and development policies, programmes and activities in the continent

VI. Strategy and Focus areas of the Plan of Action

The Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018 is underpinned by the Strategy formulated in the context of popularizing, ratifying, and implementing the African Youth Charter. It is built mainly on the three pillars of:

- Ensuring rights-based approach to youth development through meaningful participation and representation;
- Consolidated investment targeting youth socio-economic empowerment; and
- Mainstreaming youth perspective in the efforts to achieve broad development goals and priorities

This strategy remains responsive to youth empowerment and development in support of African Union vision and NEPAD; and concrete contribution to Africa's

socio-economic development and growth. Hence, in addressing these pillars, emphasis would be put on 1) policy development, coordination and management; 2) programme finance, implementation and ; 3) advocating for the well being of youth by having access to education, health facilities and employment; and 4) promoting the cause of the disadvantaged youth;

The AUC and RECs will continue to develop a markedly stronger engagement of youth, by providing technical support to respective ministries of youth, empowering national and regional youth networks; and further engaging youth led and youth serving organizations to play an enhanced role in the delivery of its activities.

Youth being a crosscutting issue; the Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018 benefits from other development targets, including those of secondary and tertiary education; sexual and reproductive health; youth labor and employment; climate change, population and development objectives, gender mainstreaming; HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support; poverty reduction strategies, globalization and further development targets including the NEPAD framework and MDGs.

Implementation of the African Youth Decade for Action 2009-2018 builds upon partnerships as leverage to ensure that resources are available to implement the plan of action. Emphasis will be given to increase the impact and result of its activities by intensifying its commitment to its mandate and working more closely with member states in providing (technical) support to generate regular reports and data on youth. It would also work closely with regional and continental youth networks by coordinating their various efforts on its database.

The African Ministers in Charge of Youth Affairs (COMY III) that met in April 2010 in Zimbabwe endorsed among other things, the mid-term priorities of the DPoA. As recommended by the pre-summit meetings in April 2011, efforts must be made to accelerate the implementation of the endorsed priorities, as listed below:

1. Evidence based scale-up of good practices in sustainable youth development programmes and activities specifically in youth employability, right to health information and services, equity based and competitive education, skills development;
2. Coordinated multilateral efforts in youth development policy and programme development, implementation and monitoring;
3. Target marginalized groups (young women, youth with disabilities, youth in post/conflict areas);
4. Consolidate leadership development, participation and spirit of volunteerism among youth; and
5. Build a sustainable resource base - both human and financial and ensure the availability of the comparative disaggregated data on youth development.

AFRICAN YOUTH DECADE: 2009 -2018 PLAN OF ACTION (DPoA)

A- POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS

OUTCOME 1: <i>Enabling environment for Youth development and empowerment established</i>					
OUTPUT	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION	TIMEFRAME
Enhanced Political commitment by AU Member States for domestication and accelerated implementation of the AYC	Undertake multipronged advocacy to facilitate the AYC ratification in countries yet to ratify the AYC.	Ratification increased from 24-40 countries The number of countries with policies that have a youth quota for employment in government agencies and private sector	Deposited legal instruments in AUC	AUC/RECs	2012-2014
	Popularize and create awareness on the provisions and utilization of the African Youth Charter through both formal and informal Media channels	The extent to which media coverage is focused on youth development issues The number of countries with local language version of the AYC.	frequency of reports, news/articles Country evaluation assessment reports	Member States, Youth-led organizations and Networks, media houses	2011 - 2013
	Monitor and provide technical assistance to ensure the alignment between the AYC and youth related development policies, standards and protocols	No of Countries with national policies, standards and protocols harmonized with AYC and its PoA	Policy and protocol documents Completed and analyzed National Youth Composite Policy Index	AUC/RECs	2013

B- PROGRAMMES AND PLANS

OUTCOME: 2. Increased Investment in Youth Development and Empowerment					
OUTPUT	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION	TIMEFRAME
2.1 Integrated national youth strategies and programmes in line with the AYC and the Decade PoA.	implement cross-sectoral, holistic youth development plans and programmes	The number of countries with time bound, costed, youth development plans and activities in place and implemented	Copies of youth development plans with cost estimates Periodic Progress review and Assessment reports on youth (every two years)	AUC/RECs/Member States Youth Networks and Organizations	2011-2018
2.2 Youth empowerment and development implemented with evidence in five areas	Implementing demand driven educational programs and promotes on-the-job skills acquisition within private and public sector.	The periodic percentage increase of qualified and skilled youth The number of youth on-the-job training	Progress report on Implementation of AU Second Decade of Education	Member States	By 2018
	Creating productive employment and consolidate existing ones	2% Reduction in youth unemployment per annum	Periodic National employment ratios and youth poverty profile reports	Member States	Every year
	Establish PPPs and reform Macro-economic fiscal policies to engender youth entrepreneurship and investments	Proportion of youth entrepreneurs in the formal versus informal economy	Existence of regulatory incentives and financial sources for youth entrepreneurs available through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and youth targeted Corporate Social Responsibility	Member States	2011-2018

	Strengthening and implementing Youth Volunteer Programmes	No of African youths working as volunteers at national, regional and continental levels	Functional Youth volunteer programmes in place. Progress reports from AUYV program	AUC//RECs/ Member States	2011-2018
	Enhancing the capacity of health system to deliver rights- based youth friendly information and services	Annual percentage decrease in youth ratio of MMR, and incidence of preventable diseases Percentage decrease in the prevalence of HIV & STIs among the youth and significant increase in universal access to treatment, care and support information and services	National Demographic Health Surveys reports National HIV/AIDS survey reports	Member States and Development Partners including NGOs	2011-2018
2.3 Enhanced Youth representation and participation in inter-governmental processes and decision making.	Convening and maintaining regular Youth consultation/forum as Pre-AU/RECs Summit and other inter-governmental processes including a Youth Model AU	Extent to which the inputs of Youth Pre-Summits consultations are incorporated into Summit outcomes; Ministerial declarations/resolutions/decisions and endorsement s	Summit decisions, resolutions and COMY recommendations No of Model AU held and participation of member states	AUC/RECs/Member States	2011-2018
	Promoting the implementation of Youth participation in decision making index at the political level	No of countries demonstrating % increases of youth in public life and leadership (Parliament, executive offices in government etc)	Report of youth in public life as supplementary to Biennial The Status of African Youth report	Member states supported by Youth organizations/development partners	2011-2018

C- STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND MOBILIZING RESOURCES

OUTCOME 3: Capacity and Resources for Implementation, Coordination and monitoring of progress enhanced and consolidated at the levels of the AUC, RECs, Member States, and youth networks/youth serving organizations					
OUTPUT	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION/MAIN ACTORS	TIMEFRAME
3.1 Strengthened institutional and technical capacity of the AUC for advocating, monitoring and reporting the implementation of the AYC plan of action and the AUYV program	Assessing capacity gaps and preparing integrated and costed plans for which provision of coordinated technical input, financial and HR support could be obtained from the AUC and development partners.	The scope and level of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the DPoA including the AU fellowship in Youth Development Program The extent of resources mobilized for youth related initiatives at country level	Country Progress reports Chairpersons' report to Ministers and the Summit	AUC in coordination with RECs and support from partners	2011-2015
	Preparing annual flagship review report on integrated and cross sectoral implementation progress of the AYC and its Plan of Action (released every Nov 1)	Number of issues covered by the annual flagship report Number of countries and development partners receiving the report	Youth supplements of progress and assessment report of development targets using standardized indicators	AUC/Member States	2011-2018
	Establishing a youth focal persons in AUC key departments	The number of youth focal persons in the Department of Gender, Social Affairs, Peace & Security, Agriculture	AUC interdepartmental performance report reflecting key youth development indicators	AUC	2011-2018
3.2 Broadened the information sharing base on youth development in Africa	Publishing biennial report on the Status of African Youth	No of Member States contributing to the report AUC biennial Report	AUC Biennial Report	AUC	Every two years
	Preparing periodic reports on good practices, disseminates and promote its use including awards for innovation, creativity and pan africanism	Updated documentation in good practices every five-year No of good practices scaled up in member states No and category of African youth	Progress assessment report on AYC and its plan of action AUC/RECs, Member States	AUC, RECs & Member states	2011-2018

		innovative and creativity awards (AYICA)			
	Establishing and regularly updating information of youth-led and youth serving institutions	established data base on youth-led and youth serving organizations	Regularly updated AUC website	AUC and RECs, /Member States, youth-led and youth serving organizations	2011-2018
3.3 Strengthened Capacity of RECs to advocate for the implementation of the DPoA, and monitor its progress in their constituent countries as well as adopt the PoA within their own youth related activities.	Review existing programs, identify gaps and strengthening their strategies and content	At least 4 RECs reviewed and strengthened their own programmes	Revised youth strategies and programs with the RECs	RECs	2011-2013
	Implementing the revised/updated strategies and programs	No of related actions undertaken by RECs and its constituents Percentage increase of budget allocated to youth programming within RECs	RECs annual reports, progress assessment and evaluation reports	RECs and their constituents	2011-2018
3.4 Enhanced capacity of ministries in charge of youth to implement, coordinate, and monitor progress of youth development initiatives	Identifying existing institutional and technical capacity gaps and developing strategies of accelerated implementation of harmonized DPoA at national level	a) availability and use of updated data for planning, monitoring & evaluation purposes; b) TORs, Work Plans and level of technical capacity of staff and their outputs; c) No of government officials trained as experts in Strategic communication, policy, programme and evaluation in youth development work	Annual performance reports Pre and Post training evaluation	Member States	2011-2018
	Exploring innovative financing mechanism to increase budget to youth development initiatives	Annual percentage increase in budget allocation Amount mobilized from domestic resources including the private sector and others	Proportion of national budget allocated to support youth development and empowerment interventions	Member states and development Partners	2011-2018

	Establishing multi -sectoral youth development committee to have an oversight function regarding a) mainstreaming of youth initiatives with development policies & plans; b) harmonization with AYC & PoA c) supporting coordination function	National development programs and poverty reduction strategies fully integrated into youth targeted initiatives	The extent to which inter-ministerial performance reports reflecting youth targeted interventions Report of multi-sectoral committee, evaluation reports	Member States	2011-2018
3.5 Youth development and empowerment resource base established	Developing and implementing resource mobilization strategy, strengthening partnership with a variety of stakeholders that can support the AU YED program Organizing a youth empowerment and development fund Establish accountability mechanism for extra budgetary resource use	The YED Fund with separated account from the AU general budget established Percentage growth of youth fund per annum Partnerships established with at least 5 potential donors (MoU/LoU) Modalities and criteria for disbursement of Fund and expenditure reporting	Annual financial and management report Annual financial and management report MoU/LoU signed between AUC and donors Protocols and procedures adopted/implemented	AUC/RECS and member states AUC/development partners	2011-2018 2011-2018
3.6 Enhanced capacity of key Youth Networks/organizations to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the PoA	Supporting key youth organizations to advocate and implement youth targeted development programs	No of youth networks/organizations supported in the five regions	Projects, performance and evaluation reports Conferences/meeting reports	Selected youth organizations supported by the AUC/RECs and partners AUC/RECs/Member States	2011-2018

D. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

OUTCOME 4: Mechanisms for Monitoring and Evaluation Strengthened and Institutionalized

OUTPUT	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION	TIMEFRAME
Strengthened capacity of the AUC and RECS for evaluating the implementation of the Decade PoA on Youth	Developing or adopting common standards, criteria and indicators that help to evaluate the implementation of PoA	established and/or modified human development indicators by age and gender The Number of countries where internal or external period evaluation is undertaken	monitoring and evaluation reports	AUC/Member States , RECs	2011-2018
	maintaining a virtual African Youth Comparative statistical database	Desegregated data and standardized indicators employed for assessment, analysis and reporting of development progress	Existence and functionality of virtual portal and accessibility index	AUC/Member States	2011-2018

VII. Delivery of Results and Partnerships

➤ Implementation at National level

The Decade PoA is both a framework and a vehicle for addressing Africa's development challenges through mobilizing sustained, concerted and requisite investment in the potential of the continent's youth recognized as a *demographic bonus*². Studies have showed that a *demographic bonus* creates the window of opportunity to accelerate investment that could serve to leapfrog socio-economic growth and development within a decade³. The cases in reference are countries of South East Asia and the emergence of new world economies of India, Japan and China. The PoA will enable Member States and the Commission, through its Ten Year Capacity Building programme in achieving positive gains in socioeconomic, peace and security, integration and governance agenda.

Recent evidence suggests that "progress in Member States in meeting set development goals and priorities aligned with the NEPAD and MDGs is picking-up although in a slow pace. Significant progress in youth-desaggregated indicators have been reported in areas such as gender parity and equality; significant reduction in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS; and creating decent and new opportunities for young people (ECA, 2008).

Nevertheless, integrated and consolidated efforts are needed to accelerate progress in the health-related, employment and civic liberties outcomes, and this arguable through youth participation as an epicenter of socio-economic investments in a manner consistent with the African Youth Charter.

The Member States' adherence to operationalize the Plan of Action will be of particular importance. In addition, it is important to maintain the timeframe to prepare its accompanying biennial National Youth Status Report as part of the implementation of the Decade.

National Youth Councils and Networks will continue to be the first port of call for promoting coordinated and representative youth participation in member states. Thematic youth-led and focused networks and organizations will serve as a source of technical backstopping and support, including for policy research and data analysis based on established priorities and initiatives.

²demographic bonus" (or [demographic dividend](#)) remains only a potential advantage as low participation rates (for instance among women) or rampant unemployment may limit the impact of favorable age structures -*UN Population division*

³ECA 2008:1

➤ **Development Partners**

They possess a wide range of expertise that can contribute to the implementation of this Plan along with different mandates of the agencies. The thematic interest will differ but all, through the Decade as a framework increase alignment on youth empowerment to efforts of poverty reduction, human capital development, economic and social service delivery, health systems financing and strengthening. However, there is need for focus to ensure coordination, consolidation and harmonization to promote joint programming and resource mobilization towards youth development plans consistent with the continental objectives and goals.

It is also expected that countries will publish national reports and organize participatory meetings to discuss progress, adapt plans and respond to continental benchmarks.

The preparedness and capacity of member states to implement strategies and policies consistent with the African Youth Charter needs to be carefully evaluated and complimented.

➤ **Continental level: –The African Union Commission**

The African Union Commission will provide the overall guidance to the implementation of the plan of action at regional and continental levels; provide relevant templates for regular reporting, and implement regional and continental initiatives including initiatives involving the young people and member states. The Commission will also facilitate advocacy efforts, provide coordination and assist member states in the implementation of the plan of action.

The Commission will further combine its role in monitoring, reporting and backstopping across different development areas and themes with policy analysis to produce flagship publications as a basis for setting the policy direction and agenda and informing policy reforms, development and related decision-making consistent with the African Youth Charter.

Discussion of the flagship publications at the continental level such as at ministerial conferences or at the African Youth Forum will catalyze consensus building on key policy positions and shape common African best practices during the Decade and the continent's voice in key global discourse and commitments on youth development.

The strengthening of existing partnerships with the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU) as a continental voice for all African youth must guide the collaboration with the African Union Commission and its constituencies through

mechanisms for democratic leadership, advocacy and networking, consistency building between their respective regional affiliates, National members and partners that will be consolidated during the decade. This mode of support has already been captured in the revitalization of the Union.

The Decade and implementation of this Plan will be evaluated at regular intervals by the Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Youth (COMY) through its secretariat: the *Division for Youth and Capacity building at the African Union Commission*. In order to coordinate and backstop this process a business plan for the Division will be developed and the Bureau of COMY will serve as task force. Country profile and score cards on the status of youth in Africa will be published alongside the annual thematic flagship report on youth in Africa.

A *Biennial Status of Youth Report in Africa* will be produced based on data collected from Member States for the purpose of mid-term and end term evaluations in 2012, 2015 and 2018. At national level, each country will set its own monitoring and reporting system, utilizing continental technical guidance on standards, indicative criteria's and conceptual consideration for generating indicators.

Regional level: - Regional Economic Communities

The main strategic approach will include support to RECs and Member States to adapt and domesticate the continental agreements and protocols with a youth perspective in the development, implementation, and review and monitoring of National Youth development plans. Furthermore, ensure that Member States, under their respective prerogative harmonize efforts related to intra continental, sub-regional and national level mechanisms for enhancing Individual and Systemic knowledge and skills transfer, diversifying opportunities for development cooperation in the area of youth development policy design and improving Pan-African youth leadership and accountability. The Regional Economic Communities will collect and submit annual progress report on the status of implementation within the region. Regional programmes review reports may be shared during statutory meetings of Ministers of youth at the RECs level. The RECs could also undertake progress reviews during the stipulated years.

VIII. TRACKING AND MEASURING PROGRESS WITHIN THE DECADE (THE INDICATIVE FRAMEWORK)

The logical framework is a tool to help to measure progress towards the PoA, MDGs and other international agreed treaty, obligations and development goals towards youth empowerment for a sustainable development of the continent. The list of indicators contained in this log frame, while limited, reflects a balanced

representation of key goals and provides an entry point into the area of the mandates of the AUC embedded in the African Youth Charter.

The primary purposes of the log framework are to:

- a. provide a means to focus on the regional and national youth development goals and objectives;
- b. provide a quantitative focus for measuring results achieved in progressing towards the national development goals and objectives;
- c. flag key development issues covered by AUC mandates;
- d. help to identify data gaps and constraints in the capacity of the national statistical systems.
- e. simplify, report and record mechanisms

The log frame matrix provides an opportunity for data collection and the identification of data gaps, which serve as a first step in establishing trends and setting 2018 youth development targets towards the decade of action.

The log frame matrix comprises three (3) components:

- (a) Thematic Indicators relating to investments in Youth development (on education, health, employment & income, poverty, participation)
- (b) Youth development mainstreaming to provide further insights into issues of major concern for youth development, including specific national priorities and needs, and cross-cutting issues.
- (c) Partnership, Coordination and Resource Mobilization for plans within the Decade

The indicators will be used to measure performance and report on progress of youth development and empowerment policy, programme and activities and also to establish trends for policy and decision making. Changes in the values of indicators enable member states and development partners to examine progress and change over time. It will seldom suffice merely to have indicators for just one point in time. The indicator framework establishes or confirms a baseline, and examines trends where data is available over time.