

EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE;

Harness Demographic Dividend



NEWSLETTER

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#AUBANJULPLUS10: TAKING STOCK AND SCALING UP EFFORTS TEN YEARS AFTER THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER



#AUBanjulPlus10: Taking stock and scaling up efforts ten years after the African Youth Charter In July 2006, African Union Heads of States and Governments adopted the African Youth Charter, during the 7th Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit in Banjul, The Gambia. The African Youth Charter (AYC) is the first legal and political framework focused on the development and growth of African youth on the continent and in the diaspora...

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Patrick Mwesigye
Vice President (AfriYAN)



Patrick Mwesigye, Vice President of the African Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and Development (AfriYAN) believes there has been a great level of progress since the establishment of the African Youth Charter in 2006, but that does not mean there is not much that remains to be done...

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"PUT YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST"



Head of the United Nations Population Fund's #AUBanjulPlus10 delegation and Regional Director for West and Central Africa believes that the conference commemorating the Africa Youth Charter is a timely opportunity to put Africa's young people at the forefront of all development efforts to transform the continent...

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LAMIN MARONG, MEMBER OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE



The Regional Chairperson of the Kanifing Municipal Youth Committee who is also a council member of the Gambia National Youth Council pointed out the THREE key areas for the growth and sustainability of the charter. These are: Ratification, implementation and popularization of the charter.

"There are still some challenges and this conference is going to tell us the implementation process and the challenges of the charter".



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#AUBanjulPlus10 #TheAfricaWeWant #DemDiv
#EndFGM #YouthPower #EndChildMarriage



#AUBanjulPlus10: Taking stock and scaling up efforts ten years after the African Youth Charter

..Ten years after the adoption of the charter, more than 400 youth from across Africa and the diaspora are gathered in Banjul to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Charter in their various countries, and the continent as a whole. The Charter's vision is to ensure youth are highly involved in all development processes at national, regional, continental and international levels.

From 21st to 25th May, the youth delegates have the unique opportunity to engage their governments through their respective youth ministers and other dignitaries. A measure of the progress made will open an avenue to re-strategize and address the challenges faced in the implementation of the Charter. Putting young people at the forefront of these conversations is crucial to achieving the targets set for the realization of Agenda 2063.

The Executive Director of UNFPA, Babatunde Osotimehin and other personalities, are expected to join delegates at the meeting, accompanied by several officials from UNFPA and development partners at the global, national and regional levels. A series of side events and formal sessions have been lined up for the duration of the meeting; targeting young people and providing platforms for them to express their perspectives and expectations. They shall engage on the best means of leveraging the potential of young people, in line with the imperative of harnessing Africa's demographic dividend.

In Africa today, about 65% of the total population is below the age of 35 years, and over 35% are between the ages of 15 and 35 years. This makes Africa the most youthful continent, thereby establishing the window of opportunity to harness the demographic advantage through the empowerment and active participation of youth. This is the way forward to ensure an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa in line with the visions for Africa 2063, which can only be built by today's youth.

The African continent continues to face a series of challenges as far as the growth and development of its youth are concerned. Banjul+10 is an opportunity to advance the agenda of youth empowerment and development in all member states by ensuring mutual accountability to the obligations of African Youth Charter, and reaffirming commitments in the Decade of Youth 2009 – 2018 and its Plan of Action.

The significance of celebrating the Charter's 10th anniversary in Banjul is not just as a result of The Gambia being its birthplace, but also because the country has played a key and proactive role as one of the first five countries to ratify the Charter.

Following the ongoing youth summit and a high-level political forum, the Africa Youth Awards will also be staged to recognize and celebrate the achievements of outstanding African youth across all fields of human endeavor.

The outcomes of the Banjul+ 10 convening will strengthen and add value to the second African Union Specialised Committee meeting of Youth Ministers, as well as serve as a roadmap for the 2017 'African Year for Harnessing Demographic Dividends for accelerated Youth Empowerment'.

BANJUL+10 COMMEMORATION OF AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER IS A TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO "PUT YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST"- UNFPA REGIONAL DIRECTOR



... Mr Ngom was speaking to young people from across the continent during an exchange of views on how to empower and put young people at the heart of Africa's vision to transform the continent by 2063, "they should not only be left behind but also be put first".

He said that the Head of States and Governments of the African Union in 2006 agreed to move forward the African Youth Charter and after 10 years, it is time to check what has worked well and what has not been working as planned.

"It is an opportunity because we have been asked by the Heads of State and Government during the last African Union summit to work on a demographic dividend road map for consideration at the upcoming African Union summit in July. Along with the African Development Bank, Economic Commission for Africa, and NEPAD, UNFPA, is working with the African Union Commission on this request."

According to Mr Ngom, the perspectives of young people will help develop a strategic framework and elements of the anticipated continental initiative to expedite the demographic dividend ahead of the Assemblies of the African Union that will focus on how to empower young people.

He welcomed and reechoed the strong demands from young people for leaders to translate political declarations into concrete actions.

Ten years after the establishment of the African Union Youth Charter in 2006, delegates from member countries across the continent are currently reviewing the implementation rate of the charter. The summit also gives youth leaders the opportunity to interact, share experiences and reaffirm expectations on interventions to protect and empowerment young people as a

... Mr. Mwesigye is from Uganda and one of the numerous UNFPA sponsored delegates representing AfriYAN at the ongoing Banjul +10 African Youth Charter commemoration .

"There is no doubt that there has been some level of progress since 2006. We have countries that ratified, adopted, and even went ahead to start the implementation of the provisions of the charter," he said.

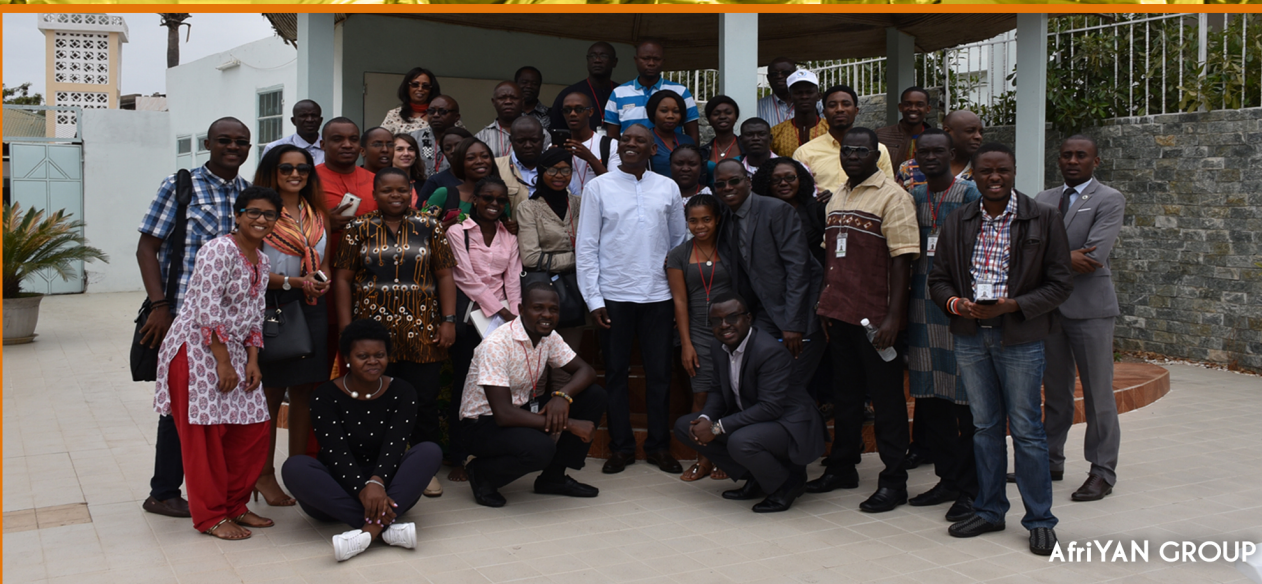
THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER A SUCCESS, BUT



Patrick Mwesigye, Vice President of the African Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and Development (AfriYAN)

He continues by highlighting the development of national youth policies, national youth parliaments and the involvement of young people in leadership structures.

AfriYAN as a continental network deems it important and sees it as an opportunity to come and reflect on the progress and the challenges of the charter as 65% of the continent's population is made up of young people, he concluded.



Pre Meeting Activities

The UNFPA led pre-event titled **Harnessing Demographic Dividend:**

INNOVATIVE PRACTICE ON ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (FRENCH MUSKOKA FUND).



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