



Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology

# Report Implementation of the Roadmap on the AU Theme for the Year 2017

Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through  
Investments in Youth

January 2018

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# Message of the AUC Chairperson

For all that we possess as a continent, including the vast amounts of natural resources, it is only in the last decade that discussions on the potential value of Africa’s youth have regained momentum, backed up by the volumes of evidence that indicated the necessity of actively investing in harnessing the potential of this demographic. It therefore came as no surprise that the African Heads of State and Government declared 2017 as the year for **“Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”** and subsequently adopted a roadmap which outlines four key pillars of youth related investment: Employment and Entrepreneurship, Education and Skills Development, Health and Well-being; and Rights, Governance and Youth Empowerment.

The vision of Agenda 2063 requires various and simultaneous steps the realization, of the role of the youth as the agents of change for accelerated growth. To enable the African youth to deliver, governments must provide a viable environment through the implementation of policies which favor investments in the four pillars. In addition, young people must be empowered with the resources and spaces needed to thrive which will create worthwhile advancement towards actualizing our shared goals.

The demographic dividend focus offers a strategic perspective towards achieving the bold vision of Agenda 2063, for the empowerment of African citizens to realize their full potential and the Africa We Want. The roadmap provides the guiding steps on this march towards sustainable development, peace and progress. The AU 2017 theme provided a springboard for deliberate action to invest in Africa’s future through investing in its young people today.

This report presents the highlights of interventions in 2017 on key deliverables on the four pillars of the demographic dividend, as led by the African Union Commission, AU Member States and AU development partners. It demonstrates the scope of work being done on the continent for a people-centered approach to success and a commitment to leaving no one behind, and the dedication to creating a long-term, enabling environment through sustainable structures and feedback mechanisms.

As I congratulate the African Union Commission, AU Member States and our partners for the wholehearted response and obligation to Africa’s demographic project, I urge all stakeholders, recognizing the urgency of seizing the opportunity before us, to keep the momentum alive and maintain the inclusive and sustainable implementation well beyond 2017.

H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat  
Chairperson, African Union Commission



H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda  
Chairperson of the African Union



H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat  
Chairperson, African Union Commission



H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor  
Commissioner, Human Resources, Science and  
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## I. African Youth Situation – A Synopsis

Africa has the youngest population in the world with more than 400 million young people aged between the ages of 15 to 35 years<sup>1</sup>. Such a youthful population calls for an increase of investments in economic and social development factors in order to improve the development index of African nations.

In recent years, the African continent has made significant strides in the area of economic development. However, new emerging issues are adding up to the toll of challenges and priorities that need urgent action to sustain and accelerate an optimum level of development. African nations are part of the fastest growing economies in the world, but this improved image of the economic landscape of the continent does not necessarily correlate with the improvement of the conditions of life of its population, especially young people who constitute in number, the most important layer of its demographics.

According to the African Economic Outlook, Africa achieved impressive economic growth over the past 15 years with the average gross real domestic product (GDP) rising from just above 2% during the 1980-90s to above 5% in 2001-14. Even though in 2016, it reduced to 2.2%. This economic growth can only be sustained if key factors of development have been adequately prioritized and invested in. It is estimated that 46 per cent of the 1.3 billion increase in Africa's labor force over the period 2015-2063 will be young people aged 15-34, averaging 12.1 million a year.<sup>2</sup>

Political unrest, illegal migration and health challenges are part of the emerging issues affecting the economic development of African countries. West African countries have been significantly affected by the Ebola outbreak, which weakened an already fragile health system. The double burden of communicable diseases (HIV, Malaria and TB) and increasing morbidity and mortality due to non-communicable diseases can be addressed if Member States' health systems are strengthened.

The education system in Africa is taking significant steps with increased enrolment of young people. Nevertheless, the completion rate of primary and secondary education must see a substantial increase, and more investments must be made in skills development programs that meet the continent's development needs for effective progress to occur.

Youth civic engagement in political processes, beyond being an imperative linked to the demographic of the young population in Africa, is enshrined in several conventions and continental rights frameworks, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance. Young people's participation in political parties' activities, is still a daunting task for the ones who aspire to holding political positions and want to contribute to the

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition*

<sup>2</sup> African economic outlook © afdb, oecd, undp 2017

construction of their societies. The #NotTooYoungToRun campaign run in Nigeria called for the removal of age restrictions that constitute a bottleneck to young people's endeavours to serve in public offices and the governance system.

To address these challenges, youth development policies at continental level have rapidly evolved and are articulated through, among others, the African Youth Charter, the Youth Decade Plan of Action, the Malabo Decision on Youth Empowerment and the AU Agenda 2063.

The African Youth Charter which constitutes a rights-based continental development framework for African youth has been ratified by only 38 Member States, and periodic reporting on its status of implementation is critically important to assess its ownership and its implementation across the continent.

Agenda 2063 recognizes that the future of the continent, in part, rests on the skills, knowledge, talents and commitment of its young people and identifies the failure to harness the Demographic Dividend as a threat to the realization of its aspirations. The aspirations of the Agenda 2063 "reflect our desire for shared prosperity and well-being, for unity and integration, for a continent of free citizens and expanded horizons, where the full potential of women and youth are realized, and with freedom from fear, disease and want." The proportion of youth in Africa is indicative of the status of its needs and rights in education and skills development, employment and entrepreneurial initiatives and participation in political processes. These needs and rights are currently not sufficiently satisfied, and they are considered by youth as far short of their expectations. It is against this backdrop that the AU declared the year 2017 under the theme "**Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth**". The decision on the theme of the year 2017, is among others a response to the decision of AU ministers of finance held in 2013 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, calling on Member States to consider the Demographic Dividend in all studies and interventions on the development of the continent.

## II. Background to the AU 2017 Theme

In January 2016, the AU Assembly declared 2017 as the year for "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth". The decision requested the Commission in collaboration with partners to "Expedite the implementation of a continental initiative on Demographic Dividend for Africa" and "develop a roadmap with key deliverables and milestones" to guide Member States and Regional Economic Communities on key steps to take towards harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa. The decision was based on the realization that in order to achieve sustainable development and realize the aspirations of Agenda 2063 ("The Africa We Want"), the continent must accelerate and increase strategic investments in its young people who constitute the majority of its population.

In response to the AU decision, an extensive consultative process involving various experts and ministerial groups of AU Member States and civil society organizations including young people was undertaken leading to the development of the AU Roadmap on the theme of the year 2017.

The Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sports reviewed the AU roadmap on the theme of the year 2017 and recommended its endorsement by the relevant bodies. The roadmap was endorsed by the AU Executive Council in July 2016 through decision EX.CL/Dec. 921(XXIX).

## A. The Thematic Pillars of the AU 2017 Theme Roadmap: a Summary

### i. Pillar on Employment and Entrepreneurship

The roadmap calls for the development and implementation of strategies aimed at reducing the proportion of unemployed youth as at 2013 by at least a quarter by 2024 (in accordance with Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan). It also calls for the development of proper policies, incentive measures and the creation of a conducive environment for Corporate Social Responsibilities with the aim of supporting youth entrepreneurship. Another key deliverable identified is the improvement of access to credit facilities for youth, and the establishment and operationalization of national and regional Youth Funds to increase young people's access to business capital among other initiatives.

The deliverables of this pillar are inspired by the continental Strategy for Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) adopted in June 2014, which calls for a paradigm shift on the position of skills development, and encourages young people to become job creators, beyond simply being job seekers.

### ii. Pillar on Education and Skills Development

The roadmap calls for the review of curricula of educational institutions, to increase their quality and relevance to labor market and national developmental needs, particularly through an emphasis on skills development and a greater focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). It calls for enhanced implementation of continental policies like the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25), the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024) and the Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). In addition to pedagogical issues, it addresses important issues such as school feeding which contribute to a better performance of the education system, among other deliverables.

### iii. Pillar on Health and Well-being

The road map called for the establishment and promotion of integrated adolescent and

youth friendly health services in public and private health facilities, school clinics and other venues, with adequate services for sexual and reproductive health. National investments to prioritize universal access to family planning services, including expanding the use of modern contraceptives as stated in the Extended Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (MPoA 2016-2030) and the Article 14(g) of the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women. It further called to foster sustainable investments in health systems, including in human resources and infrastructure, to scale up community engagement and age-appropriate and culturally sensitive comprehensive sexuality education.

This pillar builds on the African health strategy 2016 – 2030, the Maputo plan of action for the operationalization of the continental framework on Sexual and reproductive health and rights, the catalytic framework on ending AIDS, TB and eliminating malaria by 2030 as well as the document establishing the African Centre for Diseases Control and the African Health Volunteer Corps, all adopted in July 2016. The deliverables are also implicitly aligned with the African school-feeding initiative and Africa's effort for domestic health financing where governments committed to allocate 15% of national budget to the health sector.

### iv. Pillar on Rights, Governance and Youth Empowerment

The road map calls all relevant stake holders to ensure universal ratification, domestication and full implementation of all African Union Shared Values instruments including the African Youth Charter (AYC) and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) by all Member States of the African Union by the end of the year 2017. It also calls for the creation of inclusive National Implementation Mechanisms for regular and periodic reporting on the implementation of the Shared Values Instruments particularly the African Youth Charter and the ACDEG, through existing mechanisms such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and the State Reporting on the ACDEG. Specifically, it calls for the institution of the regular production of the State of African Youth Report that incorporates reports from National Youth Councils and various stakeholders on the status of implementation of the African Youth Charter and related instruments. Deliverables also include the elimination of barriers to active participation of youth in nation building, including in political spaces and putting in place mechanisms to facilitate their meaningful participation in political parties, parliaments, judiciary, cabinets and civil service structures of Member States.

The key actions and deliverables of this pillar are inspired by the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which entered into force in February 2012 and demonstrates African countries' determination to promote and strengthen good governance through institutionalizing transparency, accountability and democracy. The African Governance Architecture was established to provide a mandate for putting in place a Pan African Architecture on Governance, as a platform for dialogue between various stakeholders. The scope and structure of AGA are inspired by the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU)

that expresses the AU's determination to 'promote and protect human and people's rights, consolidate democratic institutions and culture and ensure good governance and the rule of law'. These are critical policy frameworks that provide a ground for youth development and empowerment across the board.

## Launch of the Theme of the Year

The theme of the year was officially launched at the 28th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly on 30 January 2017. The Chairperson of the Union delivered a keynote address in which she highlighted the necessity of urgent and strategic investments in young people as the sine qua non to Africa's sustainable development. Young people from all over Africa played an important role in the launch of the theme and presented copies of the AU Demographic Dividend Roadmap to Heads of State and Government. The logo for the theme of the year, selected from a competitive logo competition of African youth was inaugurated. The winning logo was developed by a 22-year-old Zimbabwean youth named Quentine Nyoni.

## The Champion of the Theme of the Year

H.E. Mr. Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, was appointed by the Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Prof. Alpha Condé, President of Guinea, as the Champion of the theme of the year "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth". The overall mandate of the Champion is to oversee the implementation of the Demographic Dividend Roadmap and its accompanying matrix of activities and to report back to the Heads of State and Government Assembly on the progress of the theme.

## III. Implementation of AU Roadmap on the Theme of the Year 2017

The AU Roadmap outlines several key actions that Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), The AUC and others need to take in order to harness the demographic dividend in Africa. At the AUC, a Steering Committee on the implementation of the theme of the year was set up to coordinate the institutions' interventions, and ensure that the theme of the year is mainstreamed in key interventions. The Steering Committee developed an annual work plan that inform the activities of the present report.

### On Employment and Entrepreneurship

*The 1<sup>st</sup> deliverable of the roadmap calls for the development and implementation of strategies to reduce youth unemployment.*

- **The inaugural African economic platform** was held from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 in Port Louis, Mauritius and brought together African political leadership, business leaders from the private sector, and academia to discuss issues affecting Africa and

how the continent can harness its vast resources to enhance the development of the African people. Some key issues deliberated were:

- To fast-track the creation and strengthening of centers of excellence with emphasis on skills acquisition across the continent.



- To enhance harmonization of competencies across national borders to promote labor and skills mobility.

- To address the apparent disconnect between education systems and labor markets, coupled with technological disruptions, it was recommended to initiate a tripartite summit on education

(government, private sector, and academia) to help revamp education systems in the continent with emphasis on science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM), technical and vocational education and training (TVET) tailored to the needs of Africa.

- **The second Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labor and Employment (STC-SDLE-2)** was held in Algiers, Algeria from 24-28 April 2017 under the theme "Investment in Employment and Social Security for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend".

The STC concluded with very concrete decisions at the ministerial level that informed the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the AU Assembly held in July 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the theme of the year.

The STC has committed to:

- Take appropriate measures for the preparation of national and regional ownership documents on the five-year priority program for the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Development Inclusive,
- Establish or strengthen an intersectoral monitoring mechanism, appoint national focal points by 30 September 2017;
- Submit a first biennial national monitoring report to the AUC in 2018;
- Integrate the Roadmap on Demographic Dividend into national policy frameworks

on employment and entrepreneurship and report on its implementation using a specific evaluation, monitoring and follow-up mechanism;

- **A three year (2018-2020) Joint Program on Labor Migration Governance for Development and Integration in Africa (JLMP)** is being developed by the AU-ILO-IOM-ECA to support Member States to increase labor migration and skills portability in Africa. The Joint Labor Migration Program (JLMP) was adopted by the AU in 2015 to promote critical areas of facilitating the free movement of workers as a means of advancing regional integration and development. Key activity areas of the JLMP include skills portability and the mutual recognition of qualifications, and the development of an African Qualifications Framework, social security access and portability for migrant workers, labor migration statistics, protection of the rights of migrant workers, institutional capacity building of the labor administrations on labor migration management, international cooperation within Africa and with other regions on the world, etc.
- **The AU Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) has developed a specific (sub-) Program on “Expanded Agripreneurship for Youth and Women** (including business skills and incubation strategies and practices)”. The strategy is part of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Program (CAADP) Malabo Business Plan and the accompanying Operational Plan. Specific measures have been taken under these initiatives that include:
  - Development of Agribusiness Incubation Program, with a focus on youth (in partnership with the African Agribusiness Incubators’ Network).
  - A rapid needs assessment for incubators and mentors in 7 selected countries (Ghana, Mali, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya, Rwanda) in partnership with FAO and the African Agribusiness Incubators’ Network. The results of the assessment is being used to finalize a proposal for youth employment in agribusiness and improve the agribusiness incubation model
  - The DREA has collaborated with AfDB to organize African Youth Agripreneur Forum (AYAF) and with the NEPAD Agency on their “Promoting Decent Rural Youth and Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness” to build the capacity of young people on Agripreneurship. The delegates demonstrated success of Agribusinesses in Job and Wealth Creation in Africa.
  - A mini workshop on Rural Youth Employment was organized in collaboration with NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), during GIZ’s Sector Network on Rural Development in Africa Conference in May 2017, to raise awareness on the African approach to the topic and seek avenues for potential funding.

- **The African Agribusiness Incubation Program (AAIP 2017 - 2021) has been established** by the African Union Commission AUC in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other stakeholders to advance agribusiness incubation and assist young enterprising African to establish innovative agribusinesses. It is a demand-led program, focused on developing market led incubation program across Africa. The AAIP’s implementation will be consistent with and add value to CAADP’s African-owned Agenda and Shared Development Framework. It will contribute to the four CAADP Pillars, which aim at creating modern and profitable commercial agricultural sectors based on sustainable use of natural resources. AAIP will accelerate the establishment and growth of pioneering agribusinesses by:
  - Developing and testing new approaches for connecting entrepreneurs with the knowledge, markets, networks, and capital;
  - Building local capacity and establishing public-private partnerships;
  - Advancing modern approaches and methodologies to the agribusiness and development communities for planning, supporting, monitoring, and evaluating programs that advance the growth of innovative agribusiness enterprises.

The scaling up processes will be advanced in accordance with the needs of the participating countries and the continent as a whole.

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Deliverable of the Roadmap calls for the Improvement of Access to Credit Facilities for Youth and the Establishment and Operationalization of National and Regional Youth Funds to Increase Young People’s Access to Business Capital*

- **The First Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration** was held at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 27 October 2017. Supported by the AUC Department for Economic Affairs the STC, recognized the role of regional integration as a tool for taking advantage of the African demographic dividend through a deep reduction of inequalities and poverty and noted the importance of continental programs in critical sectors of infrastructure, education and energy. The committee made several recommendations including:
  - For member States to create social funds to reach out to rural and poor households and reduce inequality;
  - The African Union Commission, RECs and Members States to promote entrepreneurial spirit and provide access to financial services, markets opportunities and skills development for workers, especially women and youth;
  - Members States to promote redistributive policies via efficient tax systems for a more equal post-tax-based income distribution, and to invest in social sectors

especially for poorer and vulnerable households;

- To increase the domestic resource mobilization capacity of African countries with a view of bridging the huge financial gap
- That hampers the implementation of continental development programs.

*The Deliverables and Key Actions 3 and 5 Further call for a Conducive Environment for Collaboration with the Private Sectors and the Engagement of Philanthropists to Support Transformative Youth Development Initiatives.*

- **The Pan-African Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship Conference** was held in Partnership with SOS Children's Villages International from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at the African Union Commission. The objective of the conference was to provide a platform for young people to explore opportunities for job creation, entrepreneurship, self-reliance, and for them to be effective contributors in their communities and at national level. The conference drew participation of about 120 youth from 47 African countries, government officials, development partners and the private sector. The Roadmap's Deliverable 9 on the Promotion of Africa Youth Volunteer and Junior Professional Program.
- **A conference dubbed "Africa Talks Jobs."** was organized by the AUC Human resources and youth development division in partnership with NEPAD and Business Africa. The conference was aimed at improving job perspectives of the African Youth through employment-oriented education and skills development. More than 400 representatives of youth, business, education practitioners and policy-makers from over 44 countries across the African continent as well as European partners took part in the conference held at the AU HQ in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The highlight of the conference was the actionable commitment by 120 African companies to invest in skills development and partner with education institutions to develop young people's skills and enhance their employability prospects.
- **Youth Connekt Africa** resulted from of an initiative launched in 2012 by the Government of Rwanda and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to address the pressing issue of providing opportunities for young people. It's a dialogue and exchange platform that seeks to influence and develop policy, programs and partnerships towards the goal of empowering young professionals and entrepreneurs. Hosted by H.E. President Paul Kagame, the event featured special guests including Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General of UNCTAD, Jack Ma Special Advisor to UNCTAD on Young Entrepreneurs & Small Business and Founder and Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group, Akon an American born Senegalese Super Star and Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa. The Youth Connekt Africa event of 2017 inspired the prospect of an annual conference

that will promote youth entrepreneurship and employment. Translating words into action few initiatives were launched at the event, among which:

- The creation of a youth entrepreneurship incubator program by the Dangote group and Akon
- Provision of 200 scholarships and 10 million USD to Support youth entrepreneurship in Africa by the Ali Baba group

*The Roadmap Deliverable 8 under Pillar 1, calling for the Creation of a Youth Development Funds at National, Sub-Regional and Continental Levels.*

- **An African Youth Development Fund** was established by the AU Summit of July 2017, in line with the above-mentioned deliverable. The Summit authorized the allocation of at least 1% of the Program Budget of the AUC to the fund, pending the presentation of the instrument for its management.

The Summit further requested the Commission to enlist the support of all partners of the African Union for the African Youth Fund. The African Youth Development Fund is a tangible outcome of the implementation of the theme of the year. It is a recommendation made by young people to the Leader of the theme of the year during the first ever Pan African Youth Forum organize in Ndjamen, Chad.

*The Roadmap's Deliverable 9 on the Promotion of Africa Youth Volunteer and Junior Professional Program.*

- **The African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AU-YVC)** a continental development program that recruits and deploys youth volunteers, to work in all 55 countries across the African Union has increased its deployment capacity. AU-YVC promotes volunteerism to deepen the status of young people in Africa as key contributors to the continent's development aspirations. It brings people together to share skills, knowledge, creativity toward a shared understanding of pan Africanism and a more integrated Continent. In 2017, 44 volunteers finished their service and a record of 137 volunteers (87 young women, 50 young men below the age of 35) were deployed to serve in 11 Member States. This is an increase by 63 volunteers (46%) over the previous year. The AU-YV program is becoming increasingly popular with the 2018 call for application launched from 11 – 31 July 2017 mobilizing more than 37,000 applications across Africa.

The Commission organized the 8<sup>th</sup> Batch AU-YVC training from 04 – 16 December 2017 in Accra, Ghana with 120 candidates successfully completing the program and ready for deployment. In its strategy to deploy more young people across various programs the departments of Social Affairs and Human Resource, Science and Technology (HRST) collaborated through the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps to

train 35 young African Professionals to be deployed to the five Regional Collaborating Centers (RCC) of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

Confident of the successful running of the volunteer program since 2010 the AUC in collaboration with the UNV conducted an evaluation of the AU-YVC pilot phase. As an outcome the review process a Five Years AU-YVC project document was developed to expand the reach and scope of the program. The AU-YVC will strengthen its linkage with RECs & Member States and improve its volunteer capacity building strategy.

- **The AU CIDO has mobilized funding, and in 2018 will activate the African Diaspora Volunteer corps (ADVC)** in partnership with the AU youth Volunteer Corps (AU-YVC). The program will expand the reach of AU interventions to the African youth in the Diaspora.

### On Education and Skills Development

#### *The 11<sup>th</sup> Deliverable on Expanding Vocational Training Opportunities for Skills Acquisition for Young People to Enhance their Employability*

- The Skills Initiative for Africa is an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC) supported by the German Government to strengthen occupational prospects of young people in Africa. The center piece of the project is a Financing Facility for Skills Development to be implemented by the AU's New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD Agency) and supported by KfW. In addition to the Financing Facility, GIZ is supporting AUC/HRST and the NEPAD Agency to provide services in the area of employment oriented TVET and opportunities for knowledge exchange to AU Member States. Pilot countries in the initiative are Nigeria, Cameroon, Tunisia, South Africa and Kenya.



The initiative was launched in Nigeria and was followed by a two days stakeholder consultative workshop to harmonize the initiative with the country's change agenda.

- An Assessment of TVET Systems in Tunisia was conducted to identify effective practices, strategic opportunities as well as gaps in capacity that

could be addressed through technical assistance. It was also aimed at developing a system to measure the performance of the TVET sector and identify key metrics that exist and to propose new ones. This was done with the intent of improving

the performance of the system in alignment with the priorities identified by the Government of Tunisia. The assessment will serve as a model for future TVET assessments in AU Member States.

Additionally, the promising practices identified from the assessment will be documented and shared with other Member States.

- Policy support was provided to Member States in Africa to equip youth and adults with the skills required for employment, decent work, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning. UNESCO provided upstream policy advice for transforming TVET policies and systems and reinforcing the link with key challenges such as addressing youth unemployment, gender mainstreaming and supporting lifelong learning opportunities for all. Policy reviews and policy development activities were conducted in the following countries: Benin, Republic of Malawi, Togo and Madagascar.
- Member States' stakeholder capacities have been strengthened for a more responsive TVET systems. UNESCO is implementing several large- scale projects including Better Education for Africa's Rise (BEAR) project in five SADC countries (Botswana, DR Congo, Malawi,

Namibia and Zambia) specifically of the components related to TVET teachers training and TVET Management Information System (TVET- MIS). In 2017 UNESCO started Phase II of BEAR project in five (5) new beneficiary countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Uganda).

- UNESCO is providing direct support to strengthening the capacities of seven (6) priority countries in TVET (Benin, Liberia, Madagascar, Sudan, South Sudan and Togo) with direct support from the Capacity Development for Education 2030 (Cap-ED) program.

UNESCO is supporting regional and sub- regional strategies for TVET, providing support to regional integration processes to increase outreach and respond to the changing development landscape. Priority regions and thematic focus for this work are: ECOWAS (Regional Qualifications Framework and Quality Assurance); EAC (Quality Assurance of Qualifications); SADC (Regional Qualifications Framework; regional TVET Strategy).

- A Policy forum for Youth Skills and Enterprise Development, was organized on 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya in partnership with Global e-schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI's) African Knowledge Exchange program. Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI's) African Knowledge Exchange program. The policy forum accorded participants to deliberate on Youth Skills and Enterprise development. Key features included the potentials of ICT and the arts fields such as theatre, graphic

design among others in fostering youth employment.

- The AUC participated in the 2017 World Skills Competition in Abu Dhabi under the theme of 'Skills Strategies for a Globalized World.' The main objective for World Skills Abu Dhabi was to inform and inspire a new generation of young people globally to explore and embrace the opportunities offered by vocational skills and training. The event successfully addressed the foremost challenges facing the development of vocational skills around the world as the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution' The meeting discussed the proposal for the creation of World Skills Africa. The value addition of the WSI partnership is to support African countries in accelerating the implementation of the Continental Strategy on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) through the establishment of a pool of high-quality TVET centers across Africa.

*The 12<sup>th</sup> Deliverable of the Roadmap on Improving Access to Quality Education for Young Africans.*

- The Mwalimu Nyerere African Union Scholarship Scheme aims to support young Africans to study in recognized African Universities and thereby contribute to the sustainable development of Africa in critical development areas. Special Calls of the Nyerere Scholarship were made only for Female Applicants in 2013 and 2014 for Master and PhD level studies. Continuing with the concept of inclusion, in 2015 and 2016 a Special Call was made only for Applicants with Physical Disabilities, for Master Programs in a range of subject areas. The 2017 Call of Nyerere Scholarship applications was made specifically for PhD Programs in Education Sciences. Twenty one candidates were awarded scholarship in 2017. A total of 166 students from 34 African countries have been awarded scholarships to study in universities across the continent.
- The Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme was developed as an expanded Nyerere program with support of the European Commission. The scheme involves mobility of students and staff among selected African Universities to strengthen cooperation between higher education institutions from different countries and regions across the continent. The program grants scholarships for Master and PhD studies to implement structured individual mobility.

A new Call for Proposal of Intra-Africa academic mobility was published end of January 2017 with fund of 10 million Euro granted for successful university partnership. Sixty-nine eligible applications from 39 African countries were received. Experts' assessment of the eligible proposals was carried out and the final ranking list was made. The Evaluation Committee technical meeting was held in Brussels, to discuss and endorse the results from the eligibility check and experts' assessment, as well as to decide on a list of projects to be proposed for 2017 funding.

Seven partnerships involving 35 higher education institutions were selected for funding. The Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme is a collaborative initiative under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. Totally, 29 university partnerships involving 95 African higher education institutions from 34 Member States are engaged in academic mobility. So far, 1360 African individuals (784 Master Students, 364 Doctoral Candidates and 212 staff) from 44 Member States have benefited from it.

- In 2017 the Pan African University continues to play its core roles of training African elites in the fields of Basic Sciences and Innovation, Engineering, Life and earth Sciences, Environment, Water, Energy and Climate Change as well as humanities, governance and regional integration equipping them with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to respond to the continent's challenges. The PAU admitted 458 (139 females and 319 males) new students. The Pan African University consists of 5 Institutes: The Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUSTI), hosted by the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya (Eastern Africa); The Institute for Life and Earth Sciences (including Health and Agriculture (PAULESI), hosted by the University of Ibadan in Nigeria (Western Africa); the Institute for Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences (PAUGHSS), hosted by the University of Yaounde II in Cameroon (Central Africa); the Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change (PAUWES), hosted by the University of Tlemcen in Algeria (Northern Africa); and the Institute for Space Sciences (PAUSS), to be Coordinated by the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) plus 7 other South African Universities (Southern Africa).
- The AU young professionals' program: the program is being set up by the AUC in order to create a generation of young professionals equipped to be the torch of African development.

*14<sup>th</sup> deliverable on Establishing and Strengthening Regional Educational Institutions that Create Learning and Exchange Opportunities for Students across Africa*

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 2) held in Cairo Egypt from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 called on Member States and Regional Economic Communities to popularize and organize local launching of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa as Africa's domestication of the global SDG 4 and Education 2030. The STC also called on Member States to support the work of the Commission, and to assign the responsibility of Focal Agency for CESA to National UNESCO Commissions in order to promote alignment of the local, continental and global frameworks. Member States were also urged to participate in Cluster activities and organize experience sharing events for Member States to learn from best practices in major areas of CESA. The STC also took decisions on

strengthening TVET, School Feeding, a culture of reading, promoting African writers and African content in education curricula. Member states were requested to utilize the UNESCO General History of Africa manuals in schools and colleges.

- Performance of children and young people in school, and their retention and ability to complete school are affected by many factors related to poverty, and hunger is one such factor. In 2017 the AUC participated in the commemoration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of African School Feeding Day in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Brazzaville, Congo. Celebrated under the theme: “Home Grown School Feeding: Investment in Youth and Children for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend.” the events drew more attention on the comprehensive nature of the AU Demographic Dividend agenda. Attended by First Ladies Ministers, Deputy Ministers and representatives from African Union Member States, Senior Officials and others, the school feeding day drew attention on Africa’s local production to meet nutritional needs of the youth of the continent. Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) is considered as part of the most strategic tool for ensuring quality education development, and the attainment of the education and skills revolution. It provides a framework for the monitoring and evaluation of education systems, providing information for policy analysis.
- Recruitment of staff for the Education Observatory at IPED in Kinshasa has begun, and an implementation strategy developed. Software and other tools for data collection, and analysis have been developed. The CESA monitoring and implementation framework has been adopted through discussions with major stakeholders, and the Education Planning Cluster has been launched.
- The African Union Research Grant Program is a platform for the implementation of the Africa’s Science Technology and Innovation Strategy-2024 which addresses the aspirations identified under Agenda 2063 and Priority 3 on Human development of the EU-Africa partnership.
- The assessment process of 265 proposals received during the open call for research proposals on the theme ‘Sustainable Agriculture’ continued from January to July 2017 by external assessors. Nine institutions in a partnership network with over 27 other collaborating institutions were selected and grants ranging from 500,000 to 1000,000 USD will be awarded in January 2018. In November 2017 a team of external auditors audited the grant process of the 2016 open call for proposals. In addition to the assessment of proposals, review of final financial and technical reports continued for previous projects of the first phase calls of 2011 and 2012, with 17 out of the 20 projects having rounded up their research activities. Preparation for launching of another call in January 2018 on the theme ‘Agriculture and food systems for nutrition’ is in progress.

- The African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) has been developed as a tool to facilitate a culture of continuous quality improvement in African higher education institutions through self-evaluation and external validation. The AQRM is now available for full scale implementation, following extensive piloting with over 50 Universities. The development and testing of an on-line tool is underway that enables universities to submit institutional data and their self-ratings electronically for efficient processing and analysis in determining quality status. The AQRM focuses on both program and institution levels, with major criteria covering the following focus areas.
- The Commission is working jointly with UNESCO to expedite the ratification and implementation of the Addis Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States. The Addis Convention is an important instrument for achieving the African Union’s vision of integration as articulated in Agenda 2063, where intra-Africa mobility and skills portability are necessary for integration, requiring that Member States mutually recognize qualifications from their various institutions of higher learning. The Convention provides a legal mechanism to strengthen cooperation between African countries in harmonization of higher education that facilitate continental integration and mobility of students and academics across various regions of Africa. It is also instrumental for reinforcing effective quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms at the national, regional and continental levels.

#### On Health and Well-Being

*The 17<sup>th</sup> Deliverable of the Roadmap on Fostering Sustainable Investments in Health Systems, Including in Human Resources and Infrastructure and the 20<sup>th</sup> Deliverable of the Roadmap on Scaling Up Age-Appropriate and Culturally-sensitive Comprehensive Education on Sexual and Reproductive Health.*

- The Second AU Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC2) was held at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa from 20-24 March, 2017 under the theme “Youth, Health and Development: Overcoming the Challenges towards Harnessing the Demographic Dividend”. The STC highlighted issues pertaining to the attainment of positive socioeconomic change through investments in the health, safety and social wellbeing of the African youth and made recommendations including the following:
  - Member States to respect Justice for Children: by decriminalizing status offences and minor drug offences for children and youth; introducing alternatives to prosecution and imprisonment for children and youth;
  - Member States to invest in development of life skills programs including sports

activities to build resilience of at risk youth as a safeguard against crime, violence and substance use.



- The African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2017) is to be extended to 2019 incorporating the UNGASS 2016 Outcome document and the Common African Position
- Requested the African Union Commission to form seven working groups along the thematic areas of the UNGASS Outcome Document to evaluate implementation ahead of the 2019 Political Declaration to provide an honest assessment of global drug
- Control failures and its negative impacts on health, security, human rights and poverty
- The African Union to align outcomes of the 2019 Political Declaration to the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control, including AU Agenda 2063 and 2030 SDG targets;
- Member States to respect Justice for Children: by decriminalizing status offences and minor drug offences for children and youth; introducing alternatives to prosecution and imprisonment for children and youth;
- Member States to invest in development of life skills programmes including sports activities to build resilience of at risk youth as a safeguard against crime, violence and substance use.
- The African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2017) is to be extended to 2019 incorporating the UNGASS 2016 Outcome document and the Common African Position
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thematic areas of the UNGASS Outcome Document to evaluate implementation ahead of the 2019 Political Declaration to provide an honest assessment of global drug

- Control failures and its negative impacts on health, security, human rights and poverty
- The African Union to align outcomes of the 2019 Political Declaration to the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control, including AU Agenda 2063 and 2030 SDG targets;
- Member States to respect Justice for Children: by decriminalizing status offences and minor drug offences for children and youth; introducing alternatives to prosecution and imprisonment for children and youth;
- Member States to invest in development of life skills programs including sports activities to build resilience of at risk youth as a safeguard against crime, violence and substance use.
- The African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2017) is to be extended to 2019 incorporating the UNGASS 2016 Outcome document and the Common African Position
- Requested the African Union Commission to form seven working groups along the thematic areas of the UNGASS Outcome Document to evaluate implementation ahead of the 2019 Political Declaration to provide an honest assessment of global drug
- Control failures and its negative impacts on health, security, human rights and poverty
- The African Union to align outcomes of the 2019 Political Declaration to the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control, including AU Agenda 2063 and 2030 SDG targets;
- The Economic Affairs and Social Affairs Departments of the African Union have prepared in response to the AU theme for the year 2017 a "State of African Population Report 2017". The Report focuses on the rights and welfare of the people. Specifically, the report addresses the rights of girls, adolescents and young women in Africa and underlines ways to enable African countries to harness the demographic dividend. It underscores the inter-relationship of human rights and population as well as the impact of these on the rights and welfare of Africa's population. The report notes that a demographic dividend is not guaranteed as many countries on the continent face the potential of missing their chance since the opening to maximize the opportunity for a demographic dividend occurs during a finite window.
- The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) was launched in

January 2017 as a continent-wide public health agency that will support Member States to respond to public health emergencies. Young volunteers have been trained and deployment to African CDC centers in Zambia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, Gabon and Nigeria. The center launched its 5 years plans to improve surveillance, emergency response, and prevent infectious diseases on the continent.

- Implementation of National and Continental Epidemiology Networks on Drug Use in Africa. A Training Workshop was carried out under the auspices of the African Union Project “Strengthening Research and Data Collection Capacity for Drug Use Prevention and Treatment in Africa”. It responds to the need for sufficient and reliable information on drug use patterns that can be used to guide development of appropriate policies and programs as well as resource mobilization. In this regard, the project formulated to support implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2017) seeks to increase evidence-based services for drug use problems in African Union Member States. This will be done through the establishment of epidemiological networks and observatories to provide evidence for policy formulation and service delivery.
- Education sector capacity for delivering good quality CSE through: teacher training using an online course module and complementary resource complementary resource pack developed for teachers on CSE; the development of CSE teaching and learning materials; and, mentoring and support for teachers and school management. All 21 countries implementing the targets of the commitment have CSE training programs for teachers; Learning visit involving the Ministry of Education Uganda, hosted by the Ministry of Education Zambia, on Zambia’s experience of scaling up CSE programs; Building country capacity for integrating CSE indicators into education management information systems (EMIS) to promote evidence-based decision making on CSE in the Ministry of Education. Over 30 African countries have received UNESCO training to integrate core HIV indicators in EMIS, and nine countries have completed the integration. Of these, Mauritius, Zambia and Namibia are now collecting and reporting EMIS data. Fourteen countries participated in an online course run by the UNESCO IIEP in September 2017.
- A report on measuring CSE delivery in the ESA region is currently being finalized; Engagement of religious leaders and parents to increase support to CSE through the development of a CSE handbook and the training of religious leaders. Support to development of national education sector policies and guidelines on the prevention and management of early and unintended pregnancy in South Africa, Namibia and Kenya;
- A campaign on preventing and responding to early and unintended pregnancy across

10 countries in ESA initiated; Publication and dissemination of a situation analysis on the status of sexual and reproductive health of students in tertiary institutions in the SADC region; Publication and dissemination of case studies documenting CSE scale up in the ESA region

- A policy brief was developed in partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Regional Office (IPPF ARO) and the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) elucidating the notion of demographic dividend and linking the theme of the year with existing policy frameworks in Africa especially the Agenda 2063. The first Policy brief published under the title: “The Demographic Dividend in Africa Relies on Investments in the Reproductive Health and Rights of Adolescents and Youth” puts an emphasis on the 3rd pillar of the AU road map on health and well- being. It made the case on key investments needed to harness the Demographic Dividend in Africa and presented some best practices recorded across the continent. The briefs was disseminated through online platforms including social media and printed in more than 7000 copies
- Specifically, during this period, in West and Central Africa, UNESCO contributed to the implementation of the Roadmap by supporting countries to address adolescent pregnancy, gender-based violence and HIV. In so doing, UNESCO joined efforts to ensure that adolescent and young people do not lose opportunities to access school, stay in it and achieve the highest education standards.

*35<sup>th</sup> Deliverable of the AU Roadmap on Strengthening Existing Youth Engagement and Participation Initiatives of the African Union*

- UNESCO also contributed to strengthen their capacities to benefit from sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning services. This was achieved through a range of activities including: Strengthening country capacities to implement comprehensive sexuality education programs through support for curriculum development (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Senegal), and teacher training (Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana); Sharing good policy and practice on education sector response to adolescent pregnancy, gender-based violence and HIV, and their link to education, in west and central Africa Developing tools to assess the education sector capacity to address gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health issues;
- Strengthening country capacities to address school- related gender- based violence through diagnoses of education sector responses, teacher training and enhancing regulatory measures (Cameroon, Senegal, and Togo).
- In Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA), UNESCO contributed to the implementation of the roadmap through its continued support to scaling up of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) care for young people

across the ESA region. In follow-up to the 2013 Commitment and a 2016 Call to Action where countries reaffirmed their earlier commitment, 15 of 21 countries now provide CSE in at least 40% of primary and secondary schools.

### On Rights, Governance and Youth Empowerment

*24<sup>th</sup> Deliverable of the Roadmap on Creating Inclusive Implementation Mechanisms for Regular and Periodic Reporting on the Implementation Youth Policy Framework.*

- The AUC Youth Mainstreaming guideline fosters the realization of the AU's aspiration to empower young men and women through a horizontal approach in the implementation of policies and programs. The mainstreaming program is a recommendation of the Decade plan of Action for the implementation of the African Youth Charter. To ensure a successful roll-out of the Mainstreaming Program to Member States and Regional Economic Communities is the AUC is piloting the Youth Development Mainstreaming within its own Departments and Units. The added value of Mainstreaming at the AUC



is to leverage on the resources available in the promotion of youth development. During this one-year pilot phase, the AUC set up a coordination structure and a guideline that will improve reporting on youth. From the lessons learned and challenges faced during this phase will help to fine-tune the program in the future.

- A Pan African Youth Forum was organized under the patronage of H.E. Idriss Deby Itno, President of Chad and Leader of the AU Theme of the Year 2017, from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July and attended by more than 100 youth delegates. Attended by the President of Guinea and Chairperson of the AU H.E. Prof Alpha Condé the Vice president of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue and the Chairperson of the AUC H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat the forum produced key recommendations that led to the establishment of the African Youth Development Funds and the declaration of 2018-2027 as "African Decade for Technical, Vocational and Entrepreneurial Training,

and Youth Employment."

- The EU-AU Youth Plug-In Initiative (YPII) is an initiative of the AU and EU to create a process that actively involves Youth as "Agenda-Setters". It encompassed a group of 36 young people (Fellows) from Africa, Europe and the African Diaspora chosen among the participants at the Youth Summit to develop deliverables through the proposal of concrete initiatives and solutions to the challenges young people face. The overall objective of the YPII was to provide a platform for African and European Youth to identify common deliverables to be brought forward for State Leaders at the 5th AU-EU Summit and beyond. The fellows worked in Addis and Brussels organized in 6 clusters focusing each on a priority theme in accordance with the Joint Africa EU Strategy (JAES). These themes are: Business, Job Creation and Entrepreneurship; Culture, Sports and Arts; Education and Skills Development; Environmental Preservation and Climate Change; Governance, Political and Democratic Inclusion and Activism and lastly; Peace and Security (including CVE and Radicalization). The Young Fellows, further presented the Youth Agenda consisting of executive summaries as well concise notes on to Heads of State and Government during a reception at the 5th AU-EU Summit. The agenda was received on behalf of the AU by the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union, H.E Thomas Kwesi Quartey, and on behalf of the EU by High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini. Both commissions committed to champion immediate implementation from the recommendations of the Agenda.
- The involvement of different groups and demographics of non-state actors is a key element in the operations of CIDO. In the year 2017, with regards to harnessing the demographic dividend, investment in youth, we have initiated a few programs. A summary of the different initiatives and programs undertaken is summarized below.
- The Interfaith Dialogue Forum (IFDF), is a program which is held biennially by CIDO where it invites the different interreligious councils of the AU member states to a forum, where they discuss different matters on the continent to advance peace, security and development and create a platform for the religious community to interface with policy makers. The last IFDF took place from 10-11 November 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria, was under the name "Leap of Faith: Advancing Religious Leaders Advance Justice, Peace, Security, Inclusiveness, Dialogue and Development in Africa". The forum brought together religious leaders and interfaith organizations and scholars from over thirty (30) AU member states and almost 40 nationalities. The IFDF culminated with a declaration which builds on the Abuja declaration on Interfaith, an action plan, and the election of a Steering Committee mandated to work with the AU to support and strengthen the process of interreligious and intercultural dialogue within African communities, as well as to enhance partnerships between

religious leaders and the policy makers at the AU. The steering committee was tasked to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan, the Terms of Reference and working modalities with the African Union. In 2017, the elected steering committee comprising of 12 individuals, 2 from every region, and 2 slots for women, met twice during the year to develop the strategic plan, TORs for the steering committee and the composition of the steering committee. To provide space for youth in these steering committee structure includes an added slot for a youth representative. In 2018, the third IFDF will take place, where a youth will be elected for a period of two years to serve as the youth representative in the AU Interfaith Dialogue Forum.

- The AUC- CIDO, GIZ and IPSS partnered with an aim to provide an innovative youthful approach to PVE that can bring about change by drawing on the soft power of religion. This partnership gave way to a pilot project under the name of Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism (iDove). The uniqueness of iDove lies in three main aspects :
  - Provides a cutting-edge approach which utilizes technology as a power to counter recruitment of youth into Violent Extremism (VE), de-radicalize target groups (particular focus on youth), and train respective stakeholders
  - Promote values of tolerance, mutual respect and better understanding center around intra- and interfaith, inter- religious and inter-cultural values that are the core principles for integration and peace
  - Implement iDove small scale initiatives- in African and Europe- run exclusively by youth who will prompt learning on the impact of those projects on PVE.

The small- scale initiatives include Communication and Virtual initiatives, and innovative community initiatives. Frameworks for small scale projects to be developed by youth leaders from Africa and Europe during an Intercontinental youth forum.

Together these aspects have formed the basis for developing a contemporary youthful understanding of the root causes of VE, the diverse approaches used to Prevent Violent Extremism, and a knowledge of the effective and impactful approaches. The uniqueness of running a program of such sensitivity with youth as leaders, has resulted in tangible and extraordinarily results which has led iDove to be one of the most relevant and advanced projects on youth and violent extremism on the continent

- The African-German Youth Initiative (AGYI) is a multi-lateral initiative of the German Government and the Department of HRST aimed at enhancing youth exchange and mobility between African countries and Germany in the context of education for sustainable development. The intention is to contribute to the development of essential competencies and skills in young people from African countries and from Germany skills that they can use in their private and professional lives and that can

apply in the context of global sustainable development and global citizenship. Three pilot countries (Benin, Tanzania and South Africa) have been selected, with one implementing organization selected in each of these countries.

Following stakeholder workshops held in Benin and Tanzania in 2016, the third AGYI Stakeholder workshop was held in South Africa in 2017. The stakeholder workshops presented the AGYI to partner organizations involved in youth exchange activities with Germany discussed their needs for capacity building, information and financial support in the area of youth exchange and further defined the role and services of the implementing organizations. The workshop, also, presented an opportunity to identify existing network structures among hosting and sending organizations and identify opportunities to strengthen these networks. Furthermore, participation of stakeholders, including governments, provided an opportunity to critically interrogate multi-stakeholder interests in youth exchange with a view to building effective partnerships. In order to effectively meet the objectives of the AGYI, particularly of promoting the dialogue on youth exchange amongst policy makers, civil society and private sector actors on the African continent and beyond, evidence regarding existing and potential impact of youth exchange will provide the background needed to stimulate further discussions on skills promoting youth exchange. To this end, a study was commissioned in 2017 to measure and provide evidence for skills promoting youth exchange including identifying good practice and areas of impact, with particular attention to sustainable promising practices in Africa. The extensive study reviewed available evidence, as well as engaged participants, alumni, organizations, as well as communities to investigate a) the impact the participation in a youth exchange program has in terms of the personal development on the participants, their employability and impact in the society, and b) models and formats that contribute to long term impact and key personal and professional competencies amongst participants. It is expected that the result of the study will spark more in-depth necessary conversation and analysis on the impact of exchange programs to all actors ad stakeholder. To further deepen knowledge and share lessons and experiences on youth exchange, a study tour was hosted by Engagement Global in Germany in 2017. Engagement Global coordinates the AGYI on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and are responsible for all youth exchange formats sponsored by the German government.

The study tour provided an opportunity for Engagement Global to share expertise on youth exchange methodologies and formats as well the content and methods of education for sustainable development currently employed in these programs. With participation from the implementing organizations, as well as government officials in the three pilot countries, the study also provided an opportunity to further strengthen

the structure in Africa.

- A Youth Advisory Board (YAB) a consultative body of 24 Youth led Networks from the 5 regions of Africa and the diaspora was set up to promote the implementation of the theme of the year's road map at national level. The YAB established in partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Regional Office (IPPF ARO) provides an opportunity for the Youth Division to expand the coordination of youth interventions across Africa.
- The AUC Youth Division conceptualized a media campaign to popularize the DD among African Youth, and as a part of the larger Youth Engagement Strategy. In July 2017, a three-day consultation was held with 13 young media professionals from all 5 regions of the continent to mine insights for the buy-in of youth into the DD agenda, conceptualize key messaging to effectively foster a sense of ownership among African youth to ensure people-driven development.
- The outcome of the consultation is a comprehensive communications strategy framework of youth engagement on various platforms to popularize the DD and create spaces for collective, cohesive action by young people towards African Development. The Africa – EU Civil Society Forum on the Joint Africa Strategy (JAES) was held in Tunis, Tunisia from 11 -13 July 2017. The Forum was preceded by a meeting of the civil society in Tunisia on the 9 July 2017. The Forum is a key activity towards promoting effective and relevant civil society participation in JAES. It discussed five main themes including migration and youth as a cross cutting topic. The thematic areas which were discussed are: Conflict Prevention and Peace Building and Refugees (Peace Building); Democratic Governance and Civic Participation (Governance and Political Leadership); Human Development (Human Development and Migration); Decent Work, Universal Social Protection and Sustainable Socio- economic Development (Growth and Jobs); Sustainable Future for our Planet (Climate Change) A final Declaration on each of the five themes was the outcome of the Forum.

#### On Setting Up an Enabling Environment for Africa to Harness the Demographic Dividend

*37<sup>th</sup> Deliverable of the Road Map on Strengthening Capacity to Coordinate, Monitor and Report on Progress in Implementation of Demographic Dividend Priorities (including Strengthening of National Data Systems to Ensure Timely and Quality Data for Planning and Decision- making).*

A Technical Steering Committee established to coordinate the effective implementation of the Roadmap at the continental level. The Technical Steering Committee is chaired by AUC's Department for Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) with the active participation of other departments within the Commission.

An integrated Demographic Dividend continental work-plan was developed in line with the

pillars of the demographic dividend to ensure harmonization and synergy of the activities on the theme of the year on a continental level.

This enables synchronization between partners and avoids duplication of activities and the existence of parallel processes. It also provides linkages among partners to strengthen the work being done and to optimize outcomes.

The African Union Commission (AUC) Department HRST, the Government of Guinea, and the United Nations Population Funds co-organized a High-Level Event on the "Demographic Dividend Roadmap for Africa: Moving from Commitment to Action" on the margins of the UNGA. The Event engaged key decision makers and stakeholders of development programs in Africa (Heads

of States, representatives of Member States, the UN Secretary General, members of diplomatic missions, Heads of Institutions, representatives of development institutions and African youth representatives) on key policies, programs and investments intervention implemented by Member States and planned for in the framework of the implementation of the AU roadmap on the theme of the year 2017. The event was a platform for Member States to share progress on the implementation of the road map and galvanize support from development partners for its national implementation at national level.

With the Support of the UNFPA a Demographic Dividend Atlas of country profiles was developed. The atlas provides a clearer indication of high impact areas requiring strategic investments to harness the demographic dividend.

*38<sup>th</sup> Deliverable of the Roadmap on Working with Academia, Research Institutions and Think Tanks to Generate Needed Research and Evidence Towards Harnessing the Demographic Dividend and Provide Technical Support Towards Building Country Expertise and the 48<sup>th</sup> Deliverable on Engaging Networks of Parliamentarians to Champion Demographic Dividend Initiatives and The 44<sup>th</sup> Deliverable on Ensuring Country Launches of the Theme of the Year 2017 on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth through Multi Stakeholder Engagement.*

The Department of HRST has supported the development of the 2017 edition of the African Gender Scorecard (AGS) which highlights the importance of investing in African youth in general (and young women in particular) for the continent to reap a demographic (and a gender) dividend in the long run. The African Gender Scorecard (AGS) is one of many instruments that have been sanctioned by the African Union Commission (AUC) to track progress made by member states in ensuring the ideals of people-centered and inclusive development that are enshrined in Agenda 2063. Specifically, the 2017 edition of the AGS provides AU Member States with an assessment of the investments they have made on their youth, in particular young women, in comparison with the other segments of the population, and how this investment promotes their participation in economic development, with reference to objectives of Agenda 2063. The AGS uses time use data collected from 13 countries within

AU to demonstrate the potential for a gender dividend in the continent. The 2017 AGS is formulated around the four pillars that guide the AU Roadmap on the theme of the year as discussed above.

More than 20 young researchers presented their research paper on the theme “Growth, Employment and Inequalities” during the Congress of African Economists a continental platform for dialogue with the ultimate objective of promoting economic research in Africa with a view to contribute to the consolidation of macroeconomic performances recorded and strengthening of the continent resilience in the face external asymmetric shocks.

Other papers around the theme “youth” have been submitted and presented by young researchers. These papers are being considered for publication in the Review of African Integration and Development along with other papers of interest.

An Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth Sport and Culture was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 13 to 15 September 2017 to adopt the Statutes of the African Audio Visual and Cinema Commission (AACC). The overall objective was to provide an opportunity for AU Member States to review the Draft Statute of the African Audio Visual and Cinema Commission (AACC). On the agenda of Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, the Extraordinary Session also provided opportunity for Member States be informed of the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.661(XXIX) declaring the 2018 – 2027 period African Decade for Technical, Professional and Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment. Member States were requested to provide their contribution to the Decade’s Plan of Action.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) was held in Dakar, Senegal with the theme “UN System Support to Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth.” A working session on the 2017 AU Roadmap on “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth” was held with decision makers to mobilize technical and financial resources. Ministers of Finance were particularly targeted and encouraged to expand successful initiatives such as the Sahel Women’s Empowerment and demographic dividend (SWEDD).

14 countries launched the theme of the year at National level. The national launches and consultations are to guide and facilitate the preparation of National Demographic Dividend Roadmaps. 13 countries have devised national action plans aligned with the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: Burkina Faso, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, and Malawi.

The Member States of Mali, Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria have developed a DD observatory other countries like Mauritania and Niger are also in the process to develop theirs.

A Forum of African Parliamentarians on Population and Development was also organized by the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Regional office (IPPF ARO) to sensitize

African legislators on the integration of Demographic Dividend issues into national bills. The UNFPA has supported the capacity building of experts from 40 countries across Africa on models of the Demographic Dividend essentially the National Transfer Account model, the Dem Div Model and the National Investments Mapping Model.

Some of the models have been piloted in Western and Central Africa and will provide a framework for investments in youth to harness the demographic dividend in Africa.

## IV. Challenges

### At Continental Level

- The impetus given by African Heads of States and Governments for increased investment in youth development interventions through the 2017 AU theme of the year must be sustained by all stakeholders at the regional and continental levels, so that the African demographic dividend agenda can significantly improve human development of the continent.
- The lack of communication in terms of continental interventions inhibit the AUC’s coordination efforts. The uptake of recommended reporting mechanisms for Member States and RECs to feed back their activities to the AUC is slow.
- The African countries are at different levels of the demographic model, and thus at different stages of their demographic transition. This challenge stresses the importance for conversations around the demographic dividend to take into consideration the heterogeneity of realities within the continent.
- Ownership and domestication of the roadmap at the regional level is still very low.

### At National Level

- At national level, the AUC and the Department in charge of Youth Development are not systematically engaged with country demographic dividend programmes, and this therefore has an inhibitory effect on follow-up by and reporting to the AUC.
- The domestication of the roadmap through its integration into programs and policies concerning youth is still low.
- The continental launch of the theme of the year and the recommended development of national strategies towards harnessing of the demographic dividend are yet to demonstrate effectiveness.

## V. Proposed Way Forward & Next Steps

### Coordination Mechanisms within the African Union to Regional Economic Communities, and Member States

Given that the demographic dividend is about integrated development involving a wide range of sectors as defined in the four AUC pillars, it is pertinent to have a strong coordination capacity and mechanisms to ensure that all concerned stakeholders have the opportunity to understand, own and drive the demographic dividend agenda. The coordination and integration of efforts should start at the African Union Commission itself where the HRST should be strengthened to effectively play the overall coordination role and be able to mobilize commitment and participation of the other relevant departments within the Union.

### Looking Beyond 2017

While the immediate interest was to develop a work plan to galvanize prioritization and action on the demographic dividend agenda during 2017, it is important that continental and country work-plans adopt a long-term perspective to highlight the fact that the demographic dividend agenda cannot be accomplished in one year. In this regard, the work plan will lay out a general framework to be used to sustain interest and action on the agenda over the next five years, with the provision to review progress and refine the strategies every five years. The AUC will provide technical support and monitor the implementation of the Demographic Dividend initiative as called by the decision on the theme of the year 2017.

The AU Summit decisions on the theme of the year will guide the implementation of the road map beyond 2017 and spur the harnessing of the Demographic Dividend in Africa. The Summit in July 2017:

- Called upon Member States to make available adequate resources for the leadership and the empowerment of African youth and the implementation of national plans for youth development;
- Invited the Leader of the theme of the year 2017 to follow-up on the conclusions of the Pan-African Youth Forum in N'Djamena and decided to institutionalize the Pan-African Youth Forum.

### On the youth fund the Summit

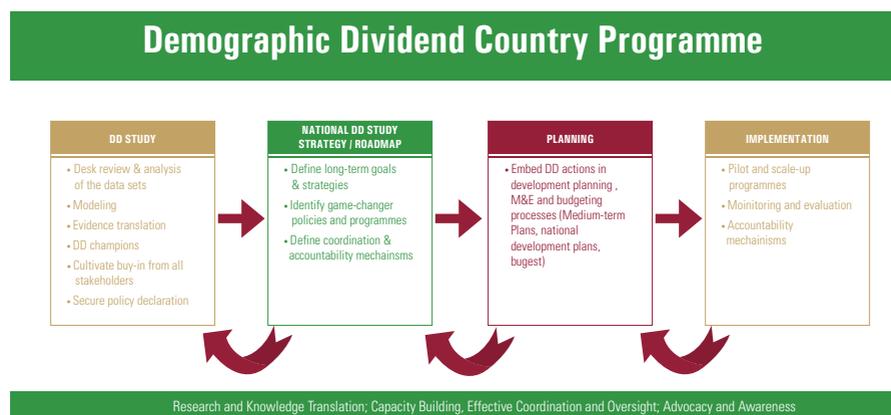
- Endorsed the establishment of the African Youth Fund; requested the Commission to present, at the January 2018 session of the Assembly, all the instruments for the management of the Fund, in accordance with the feasibility study of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Youth (July 2008);

- The summit authorized, pending the presentation of the said instrument, the allocation to the African Youth Fund of an amount at least equal to 1% of the Program Budget of the African Union Commission and requested the Commission to enlist the support of all partners of the African Union for the African Youth Fund.

### On the coordination of the implementation of the theme of the year beyond 2017 the Summit:

- Called on the AUC to strengthen the Demographic Dividend coordination mechanisms; including the secretariat and country technical mechanisms frameworks. And further establish an accountability framework for tracking progress within the AUC and Member States;
- Called on all Member States to redouble efforts towards the full implementation of the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend in 2017 and beyond, including country launches with clear commitments, creation of demographic dividend profiles and the development of country-specific roadmaps that feed into national development plans, bearing in mind the need for an institutional mechanism for coordinating the activities under the roadmap;
- Committed to annually report on progress of implementation of the AU Demographic Dividend Roadmap and requests the AU Commission with the support of partners to facilitate the preparation of annual reports;
- Called on the AUC to champion the framing and branding of the Demographic Dividend to reflect the African reality, to build ownership of the concept by Africans from the highest levels of Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Policy Makers and Youth.
- Called on the Chairperson of the Union, the Chairperson of the Commission and the Leader of the Theme to mobilize international support for Africa's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend by calling for a special session of the United Nations General Assembly and the creation of a global partnership on the demographic dividend;
- Expressed appreciation to the then Chairperson of the Union, H.E. Prof. Alpha CONDE, President of the Republic of Guinea and the Leader for the 2017 AU theme, H.E. Mr. Idris DEBY ITNO, President of the Republic of Chad for their leadership and commitment towards the commemoration of the theme and to key partners and stakeholders who responded to the call of AU Heads of State and Government in providing support to the continent's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend.

The summit urged Member States to integrate the Demographic Dividend in their country programs and this could be done through the following four-step approach framework:



Graphic Depicting a four-step Approach Framework for the Implementation of the Theme of the Year 2017 at National Level

### Concurrent Focus on Youth of Today and Youth of Tomorrow

It is important to note that while the youth as defined by the AU are those between the ages of 15 and 35, the strategy in making these investments has to focus on two levels: (i) youth between 15 and 35 years of age; and (ii) young people, who are children below 15 years of age. Critical aspects of developing human capital that are required for future success are dependent in making investments in children's education and health that would otherwise be too late if these were delayed until they become youth.

## Appendices

Guidance Note from H.E Alpha Conde, Chairperson of the African Union to H.E Idriss Deby Itno President of the Republic of Chad

Purpose:

Implement and Monitor the Implementation of the African Union Theme of the Year 2017: "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth"

Content of the Mission:

- Implementation of the roadmap with the joint action plan adopted at the July 2016 Summit in Kigali;
- Implementation and monitoring in AU member states

Invite AU member states to

- Extension and ownership at the national level of the AU Roadmap;
- Alignment of national youth programs with the AU roadmap;
- The involvement of national youth;
- Development of national implementation and monitoring mechanisms;
- Presentation of progress reports.

#### C. Continental-level Monitoring Mechanism

- Ensuring the Organization at the level of the AU Commission

#### D. Involvement of Partners

- Organizations / Association working for youth
- Private sector
- United Nations bodies
- European Union
- Involvement of African Youth Involvement of African youth through the organization of an African youth forum in the form of an intergenerational dialogue which recommendation will be taken into account in the report presented at the July 2017 summit.
- Consideration of continental or regional youth organizations such as PYU (Pan African Youth Union).





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