



**AFRICAN YOUTH PANEL**

**2012 – 2014 REPORT**



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# ABOUT US

The AYP is a platform of young people from different African Countries and consists of members with diverse skills and backgrounds including academicians, Civil Society experts and politicians as well as business experts. The AYP was initiated IN 2008 by the Danish NGO Forum to provide input to the Danish Africa Commission (DAC) on what youth can do in Africa's development as well as in what development partners should do to ensure that tangible results are achieved with their support.

In its report, DAC recognised the importance of investing in young people for development in Africa. Consequently, in 2010, AYP received a grant from the Roskilde Festival Association to carry out its advocacy and capacity building work and to further strengthen its membership. From the advisory panel in 2008, AYP became increasingly a strong network for lobbying and advocacy, and yet a platform for action and implementation.

## MESSAGE TO OUT SUPPORTERS

It is easy to become immersed in the day-to-day operations of youth development. By stepping back and taking stock, we are able to assess our broader achievements.

Promoting inclusion and participation of youth in development programs is vital the world over and particularly to Africa. As its core activity in regards to governance and participation, the AYP has supported the implementation of the African Youth Charter (AYC)

This process has engaged governments, Youth, Civil Society and International partners, with a framework which underlines the rights, duties and freedoms of youth, but also paves the way for the development of national programmes and strategic plans for their empowerment.

Over the years of its existence, the AYP has acquired experience in the field of advocacy and policy influencing, capacity building, networking and collaboration and offering expertise to different stakeholders in Africa and beyond to create an enabling environment and platform to champion the development and empowerment of African youth in a most sustainable way.

Every day we face new challenges in this quest. We are truly grateful to our supporters who appreciate these challenges and, despite them, stand behind our commitment to improving lives of African youth. Because of you, we are creating lasting change in the lives of African youth.

Ibrahim Ceesay  
Chairperson

# WHAT WE DO



PROMOTE – ADVOCATE – DELIVER – STRENGTHEN – SUPPORT - INNOVATE

YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT

PARTICIPATION  
& GOVERNANCE

ORGANIZATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

## UGANDA

In partnership with the Kampala Capital City Authority, the project provided a platform for discussion and recommendations from youth delegates concerning implementation of the African Youth Charter. Currently, the authorities have committed resources towards implementing a developed strategic plan for mainstreaming youth issues in line with the AYC.

## GAMBIA

This project was implemented in partnership with the Children and Community Initiative for Development (CAID). The project ensured the creation, improvement and reinforcement of partnerships and commitment from Government, the public and private sectors, and other stakeholders on the progress made over the post ratification process of the African Youth Charter

## NIGERIA

implemented by YouthHub Africa, Nigeria, THE project organised a National Essay Competition on the African Youth Charter to encourage young people in Nigeria propose to Government ideas on the implementations of the AYC. A mini-booklet was published to display the top 5 ideas on the implementation of the AYC. Other activities included radio talk shows and advocacy meetings.

## MINI GRANT SCHEME

## GHANA

This project was implemented in partnership with the Ghana Youth Empowerment for Life organisation. The project organised a series of meetings with relevant authorities to popularize the AYC and call for its implementation, the project also visited a number of schools and distributed AYC information materials to students.

## CAMEROON

This project was implemented in partnership with the Association Jeunesses Espoir du Cameroun (Youth and Hope Association). The project aimed at popularizing the AYC through visual arts and commemorating the African Youth day.



# RIPPLES OF PARTICIPATION



## THE AFRICAN YOUTH EXPERTS MEETING ON EMPLOYMENT (AYEME)

Youth led groups were encouraged to actively contribute to solving the unemployment problem in Africa. The AYP came on board to contribute to this process by organizing the African Youth Experts meeting on employment.

The meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May 2013 under the theme, “Unleashing the potential of Africa’s youth to reduce youth unemployment”. The AYP wished to commit itself to interventions aimed at reducing youth unemployment by 2% annually (as per the declarations from the heads of state in Malabo).

The meeting was attended by youth entrepreneurs; youth led organizations, Civil Society Organizations, and other relevant partners like ILO, Youth Employment Network, among others.

The opening ceremony was graced among others by Mr. Charles Dan, the Regional Director of ILO Regional Office for Africa. The meeting brought together youth experts, relevant civil society organizations and development partners who deliberated on initiatives for translating the commitments of reducing youth unemployment in Africa by 2% per annum into tangible programmatic actions.

At the end of the meeting, a think-thank working group was formed to provide recommendations and expert advice to the African Union on issues of youth unemployment and to identify options for the group’s engagements. A detailed report on this meeting is available on line. The report was presented to the AU who have been inviting the AYP to present this report to African ministers and heads of state to see how to incorporate its recommendations in their program activities.



# RIPPLES EMPLOYMENT



## AFRICAN YOUTH ALLIANCE ON POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

World leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2003 to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets - with a deadline of 2015 - the Millennium Development Goals. However, the issues of young people have escalated the problem as witnessed by the rampant poverty, poor health and illiteracy.

The AYP as a result formed this alliance to provide recommendations from a youthful point of view. The alliance was launched in September 2013 in New York and officially formed in April 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria. The Alliance members consists of continental networks from Africa. The goal of the alliance is to contribute towards an African position towards the post 2015 agenda.

Members of the Youth Alliance include:

1. African Youth Panel (AYP)
2. African Youth Network on Population and Development (AFRIYAN)
3. African Youth Initiative in Climate Change
4. Network on African Youth for Development (NAYD)
5. African Youth with Disabilities Network
6. Organization of African Youth
7. Pan African Youth Union
8. Africa 2.0
9. International Youth Council Africa
10. Young Volunteers for the Environment
11. Youth Hub Africa

Advisory members include United Nations Millennium Campaign, World Bank Youth Forum and African Union Youth Division

# RIPPLES OF ADVOCACY



## AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER AMBASSADORS TRAINING

Creative arts can serve as a tool for change and social transformation in form of edutainment (education through entertainment) and infotainment (information through entertainment) in form of peer education activities, outreach and media programmes.

***African Youth Panel*** beliefs that using other mechanisms of communication in form of films, music and other creative means creates a significant impact in the lives of people by informing and creating awareness about issues affecting them at all levels.

It is against this background that a training workshop was organised to explore creative and informal ways of advocating and accelerating the implementation of the African Youth Charter and Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018 in African countries August 2013 in Gambia

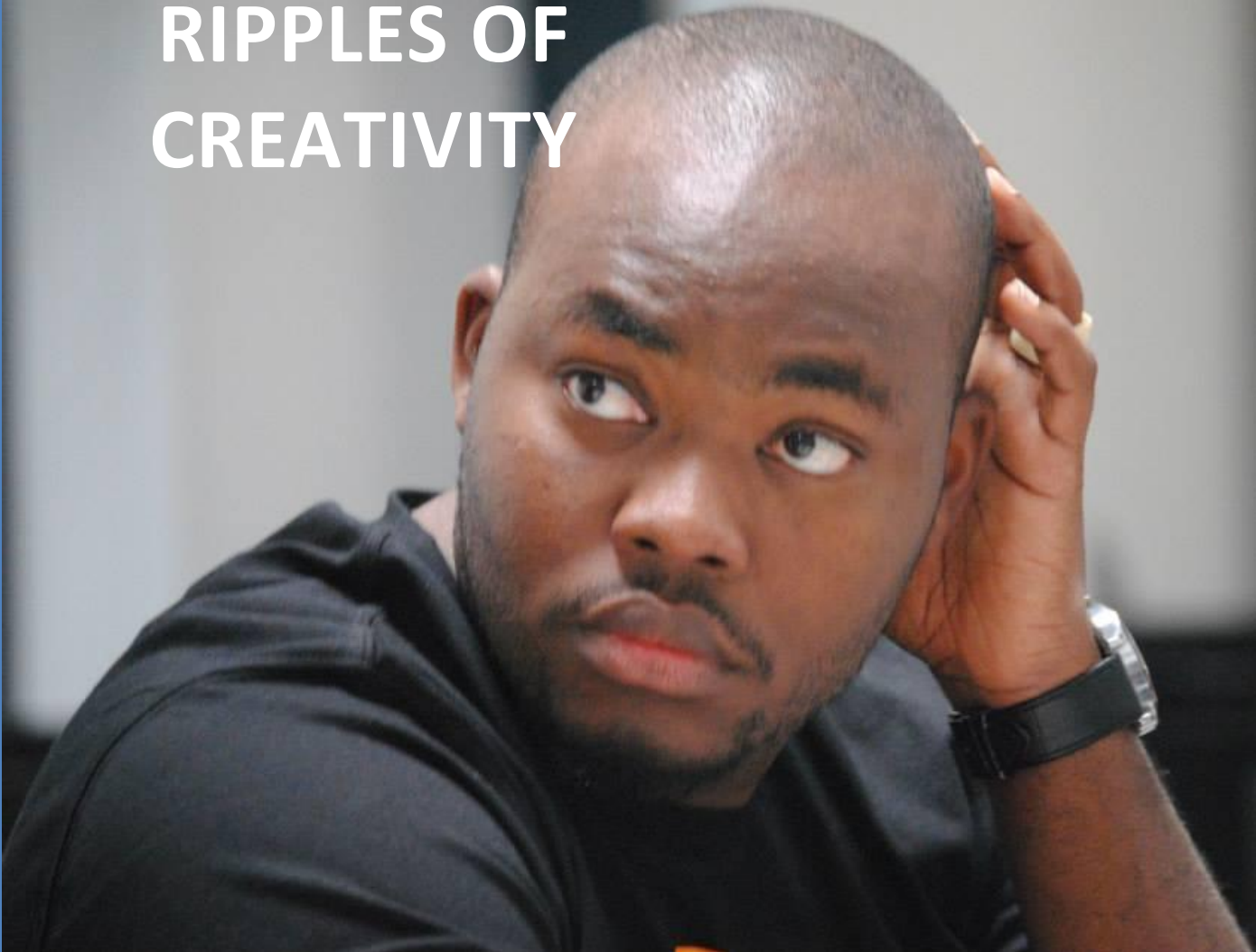
African youth leaders, musicians, actors, celebrities and the media participated in the training together with relevant partners like the Ministry of Youth and Sports of The Gambia, Gambia National Youth Council and the Mandingmorry Foundation for Performing Arts (MANFOPA).

The climax of the training was the spectacular launching of the African Youth Charter Mobil Application by members of the African Youth Panel. The App which can be downloaded in both smartphones and desktop computers contain information about the Charter, its various articles and can providers its users with an update on developments regarding the implementation and domestication of the Charter.

Among others, the training created a movement of African Youth Charter Ambassadors across all parts of Africa



# RIPPLES OF CREATIVITY



## REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOPS / SEMINARS

These meetings were held in two regions. One was in Lusaka, Zambia in October 2012 at the commonwealth youth center and also at the Lusaka International Conference Centre.

The other meeting was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in February 2013 and brought together members from Central Africa.

Both meetings provided an opportunity to recruit new members to the AYP and for the steering committee to interact with youth led organization in these two regions. The workshops also;

1. Provided a platform for youth leaders from the regions to meet, dialogue and share ideas and experiences on the needs of African youth of their respective regions in the areas of Governance, Youth Involvement and Unemployment.

2. Shared programme best practises in the region addressing Youth Involvement and Unemployment and creating linkages/networks among the AYP members including youth in the region.
3. Developed a Plan of Action (“roadmap”) as the next phase of work for activities, strategies and opportunities for promoting governance, youth participation and employment for 2012 and beyond;
4. Devised strategies for advocacy and lobbying for the implementation of the African Youth Charter in the region and coordinate and orchestrate more effective youth collaboration around Key Events.

During regional workshops, Steering Committee Meetings were held to review progress.



A photograph of three men engaged in conversation at an indoor event. The man on the left, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and light-colored trousers, is gesturing with his right hand while holding a white cup. The man in the center, wearing a dark blue traditional African suit and a gold chain, has his arms crossed and is smiling. The man on the right, wearing a dark blue pinstriped suit and glasses, is also smiling. The background shows a large mural of a landscape and other people in the distance.

# RIPPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

## THE ROSKILDE FESTIVAL

With support from the Roskilde Festival Society and DanChurchAid as the administrative hosting institution to the Danish NGO Forum and the grant allocated to the AYP, SC members were brought on board to attend the Roskilde Festivals for 2012 and 2013.

Attendance to the Roskilde Festival saw the opportunity to enable AYPSC members to meet as a team, review progress made since its last meetings and discuss the way forward for AYP.

Overall, the objective of this programme was for the team to participate in the Roskilde Festival as official guests of the Roskilde Festival Society and also to hold the SC meetings (to review, finalise and endorse key documentation that was pending from previous processes). The team was first hosted in Copenhagen where they held strategic meetings with partners and later travelled to Roskilde where they participated in the Festival.

SC members convened their Steering Committee meetings almost throughout their time in Denmark. Most of the meetings were held in the mornings with a few late night meetings. The team participated in other activities alongside these meetings, such as Strategic meetings with partners. Such partners included;

2. Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Danish Youth Council
4. Roskilde Festival Society
5. The Media

*"It has been a pleasure. It has been fun. It has been a lot of work. It has been a number of victories, some struggles, some discussions but the final result is something all involved (me, African Youth Panel, the Steering Committee, Roskilde Festival, DANIDA, Africa, Denmark) would be proud of."* **Thomas Ravn-Pedersen – Senior AYP Advisor.**



# RIPPLES OF PARTNERSHIP



## NETWORKING MEETINGS AND ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT

Members of the AYP engaged in strategic meetings both locally and internationally. The objective was to influence decisions in favour of African Youth. The following were attended:

- The UNESCO Youth Conference in Paris, France 2013.
- The Mo-Ibrahim conference in Dakar, Senegal 2012.
- The Africa 2.0 Summit 2013
- The World Bank spring meetings in Washington, USA 2013.
- COP 17 in South Africa 2011,
- The UN Summit in New York 2013
- The UNESCO Pan African Forum for a culture of peace 2013

During its tenure of office, the steering committee with support from the rest of the members of the panel worked tirelessly on a number of initiatives for the development and sustainability of the panel. Among such initiatives included;

- Development of the African Youth Panel strategic plan;
- Holding six AYP steering committee meetings and several online meetings;
- Development of the draft AYP resource mobilization plan
- Assessment of membership motivation and development of recommendations for improved member participation.
- Development of project proposals.
- Development of AYC advocacy strategy

# RIPPLES OF NETWORKING



## IEC MATERIALS

The AYP has been producing newsletters annually. Copies of these can be assessed both in hard copies and online.

The AYP also developed advocacy brochures / posters on the African Youth Charter. The message was to call upon governments to ratify / domesticate the AYC.

The AYP website has been continually updated as well as information shared on Facebook and twitter.

Further to this, the AYP hired the services of an expert, Loukeman Jaji to develop mobile phone apps focusing on the AYC.

## AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

AYP recognises that the last two years has not been a smooth path towards achieving its aims. The panel was affected with both internal and external challenges that affected its efforts. As we move forward, the following areas require improvement for the much need AYP success story;

- Strengthened resource mobilization;
- Improved membership engagement and participation in AYP activities;
- Collaboration building, networking and engagement with different partners
- Local/ national advocacy – much of AYP advocacy initiatives have been done at regional level.
- Better documentation & communication of results, achievements, and lessons learned.





### Summary of the African Youth Charter

The African Youth Charter is a political and legal framework, which serves the purpose of providing a strategic framework and direction for youth empowerment and development activities at continental, regional and national levels across Africa. The charter was endorsed in Banjul (Gambia) in July 2006 by African Union (AU) Heads of governments.

### Definition of Youth

The Charter defines youth as any individual between the ages of 15-35 years.



LEADERSHIP AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION

### Articles in the Youth Charter

The charter contains thirty one (31) articles and some of the key selected ones are summarised Below ;

### Article 11: Youth Participation

It calls on state parties to guarantee the participation of youth in parliament and other national decision making bodies as well as facilitate the establishment or strengthening of national, regional and continental platforms for youth participation.



YOUTH PARTICIPATION



### Article 12: National Youth Policy

The Charter calls on member states to develop a cross-sectoral nature in considering the interrelatedness of the challenges facing young people.



### Article 13: Education and Skills Development

The charter recognises that every young person shall have the right to **education** of good quality and that the multiple forms of education including formal, informal, non-formal, distance learning and lifelong education shall be embraced in order to meet the diverse needs of young people.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



### Article 14: Sustainable livelihood and youth employment

State parties shall ensure the availability of accurate data on youth employment; unemployment and underemployment, promote youth entrepreneurship by including entrepreneurship training in the school curricula, providing access to credit, business development skills training, mentorship opportunities and better information on market opportunities.



### Article 16: Health

State parties shall take measures to make available equitable and ready access to medical assistance and health care especially in rural and poor urban areas. Institute programmes to address health pandemics in Africa such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH

### Article 17: Peace and Security

State parties shall strengthen the capacity of young people and youth organisations in peace building as well as institute mechanism to promote the culture of peace and tolerance among young people to discourage their participation in violence.

### Article 19: Sustainable Development and Protection of the Environment

State parties shall ensure the use of sustainable methods to improve the lives of young people and recognise their vested interest in protecting the natural environment.

### Article 22: Leisure, Recreation, Sportive and Cultural activities

State parties shall make provision for equal access for young men and women to sports, physical education, cultural, artistic, recreation and leisure activities.

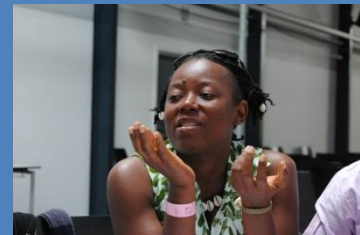
## STEERING COMMITTEE



SABA BADI – ETHIOPIA (2013/2014)



IBRAHIM CEESAY - GAMBIA



VERA JAWOL – GHANA (2013/2014)



HANNINGTON SEGERINYA – UGANDA



FELIX LIMBANI – MALAWI



ROBERT MKWANGU - UGANDA



ROTIMI OLAWALE - NIGERIA



CHRISTIAN KAM - CAMEROON



MARWA JABOU – TUNISIA (2011/2013)



DIANA BULANDA – ZAMBIA (2011/2013)

## THANK YOU

### **ROSKILDE FESTIVAL SOCIETY**

For the financial support towards a project whose aiming at contributing to the strengthening of the capacity of African youth as actors in the development process especially in advocacy and strengthening linkages with relevant stakeholders.

### **DANIDA**

This project focused on Youth Participation in Political and Socio – Economic processes through Capacity Building and Youth Grassroots Mobilization. It aimed at strengthening the capacity of African youth as actors in the development process in Africa by popularizing the African Youth Charter, empowering youth for sustainable development, documenting best practices and networking with relevant stakeholders.

### **OTHER STAKEHOLDERS/PARTNERS**

1. African Union Youth Division
2. Danish NGO FORUM/ DanChurchAid
3. International Labour Organization  
Regional Office for Africa
4. The World Bank Youth Forum
5. UN Special Envoy on Youth
6. United Nations Millennium Campaign
7. Africa 2.0 Foundation





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