

## **Declaration from the 1<sup>st</sup> African University for Youth and Development , Tarrafal, June 12 - 19 2009**

We, the participants welcome the creation of the 1<sup>st</sup> African University for Youth and Development. We see this as an important follow-up to the declaration from the Africa-Europe Youth Summit in 2007 as well as being key to the preparations for the 2010 Heads of States Summit. We therefore ask the African Union, the European Union and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe to ensure that this important space for enhancing the cooperation between youth organisations in Africa and their partners remains an opportunity in years to come.

The time for African youth to rise has come, with only one more country to ratify the African Youth Charter for the charter to come into force. In Europe a process is launched to ensure that also young Europeans can have their rights recognised in a convention. African and European Governments must commit to these processes now. During the week at the University we have identified a number of other processes that we are also strongly committed to contribute to and for which we have the following demands:

**Youth Participation:** Youth from both continents, in unison, request that governments recognize and promote non-formal education and specifically the need to further develop volunteering in Africa and Europe. Real youth participation is a key to strengthening democracy and enable youth to become responsible members of their society, and we strongly encourage governments of all countries to continuously include youth representatives in decision-making processes in different institutions at all levels.

**Youth Policy:** Investing in young people means investing in our countries. To ensure the recognition of young people as a target group and as key actors of change, we demand implementation of cross-sectoral national youth policies within all countries. To ensure full and active participation of independent youth-led organizations and young people governments should ensure independency and sustainability of youth councils at all levels.

**Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):** Achieving the MDGs will contribute to a fair and more sustainable development of the world. Therefore we call upon our governments and stakeholders in this time of uncertainty to reaffirm their commitment to working towards the MDGs by 2015. The current problems that plague the world must be taken into account but not delay the work to achieve the MDGs. We are convinced that implementing the declaration from the Africa-Europe Youth Summit in 2007 will have a positive impact in different countries.

**Peace-building and good governance:** As youth organizations we commit ourselves in all our capacities to maintain and preserve the principles of good governance, peace-building and conflict-resolution in line with the African Youth

Charter and our continuous work for a better society. We demand that our governments ensure respect for the rule of law, justice, democracy and equality.

**Climate change:** Climate change is the greatest challenge of the 21st century – and we are running out of time. Melting ice caps, disappearing coast lines, extreme weather events, decreased agricultural output, more frequent outbreaks of diseases and climate refugees are just a few of the adverse effects of climate change, some of them irreversible. While some governments put a lot of effort into reducing their emissions and reversing the effects of climate change we still need to put much more urgency in our mitigation and adaptation measures.

**Youth Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue and Employment:** By breaking barriers and opening borders, we want to create intercultural dialogue and encourage sustainable development. Governments should facilitate and support our work to create a global youth village where young people are empowered and our actions are visible. We aim to open minds, however to achieve this, states must open borders and issue visas without discrimination.

We strongly demand the member states of the UN to support and promote the resolution on youth presented by Portugal, Senegal and Moldova in the next UN General Assembly, representing a step forward on the global youth aspirations. We also encourage the institutionalization of this University in Cape Verde to continue the support and empowerment of youth in Africa.

This declaration results from the **First African University on Youth and Development** and it was build using the amplifying power of Non-Formal Education.

# **Annex: Outcome documents of working groups of the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa-Europe Training Course**

## **Group 1: Youth Participation**

Today strong partnerships between Youth NGOs in Africa and Europe exist and youth from the two continents contribute in making a change. However there is still a huge untapped potential in both of the continents – therefore youth of Africa and Europe, in unison, strongly recommend that the governments recognize the need to further develop volunteering in Africa and Europe. This must be done by supporting young volunteers in independent NGOs both politically and financially and by recognizing the skills gained through non-formal education.

Special attention must be paid to create a strong platform for networks, ranging from the microcosm of local organizations to the broad international level, for example by supporting independent national youth councils.

The young volunteers of Africa and Europe invite the European Commission and the African Union to report on the progress of the initiatives undertaken as a result of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit declaration in 2007. Failure to deliver on these recommendations not only display a lack of commitment from governments but also undermines future commitment from youth, as their voiced opinion does not carry weight and is not taken into consideration.

Co-operation between youth NGOs in Africa and Europe creates responsible and independent individuals. It is based on values such as respect for diversity, entrepreneurship and equal rights using educational methods like learning by doing. Nevertheless, these productive partnerships face serious challenges in achieving a long-lasting impact on both continents and youth of Africa and Europe call on the respective governments to support instruments to facilitate sustainability in our work.

Concretely, youth of Africa and Europe demand that the European Commission and the African nations create a yearly Project Bazaar, where partnerships can be developed and crystallized. Politicians with capacity to allocate funding as well as donor organizations and high-wealth individuals should frequent the Bazaar and be invited to choose a project to fund, enabling youth to take the new project ideas into action right away.

As a resourceful partner, we strongly encourage governments of all countries to continuously improve inclusion of youth representatives in decision-making processes at all levels. Volunteering youth representatives can provide a crucial perspective: that of an expert on the very lives we seek to improve. Furthermore, real youth participation is a key to strengthening democracy and in building ownership of society among youth|.

Lastly, we call upon the governments of both continents to celebrate and appreciate youth volunteering in a joint effort with existing NGOs, enabling more young people to discover and realize their own potential in the struggle for a better world.

## **Group 2: Youth policy**

To build a strong framework for Euro-Africa cooperation, it is very important to have constructive youth policy within the involved countries, which ensures the full inclusion of young people within this process.

To ensure that young people are recognized as a target group and as key actors in the future of our countries, we, the participants of the 6th Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organizations, highlight the importance of the implementation of cross-sectoral national youth policies. To fulfill those needs it is crucial to establish and support ministries dealing with youth issues in all governments.

With the establishment of independent national youth councils or their equivalent, national youth organizations have the opportunity to mainstream and deal with national youth policies and to ensure the participation of young people in the process of policy making.

To guarantee that the young people's needs are addressed, it is necessary that youth-led organizations and young people are consulted as partners in implementation, monitoring and evaluation at all levels.

To meet the special situation young people are facing it is a must to collect youth specific data in all the issues, which affect young people. On basis of this data we demand the formulation and implementation of specific goals and targets regarding youth policies to make sure they respond to the needs of young people and to monitor the outcome of these policies.

For the fulfillment of the above demanded tasks, the participants of the 6th Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organizations underline the importance of adequate funding from governments and other bodies. We stress that investing in young people means investing in one's countries future.

To ensure that young people can fully participate in society the entire respect of the universal human rights is crucial. All the young people have to be sure to enjoy their full rights and not fearing punishment while participating in society and decision-making.

## **Group 3: Millennium Development Goals**

We, the youth of the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa-Europe training course, believe that the key activities for the achievement of the MDGs should include; lobbying, advocacy, creating partnerships, information exchange, dialogue and illustrating results and successes.

We urge the governments of Europe and Africa to create a periodic evaluation system that shows the specific objectives and results of the MDGs regularly.

We recommend the formulation of a partnership agreement between the governments of Europe and Africa and youth organisations to use the skills and creativity of youth to work towards achieving and raising awareness about the MDGs.

We call on the governments of Europe to reaffirm the target of allocating 0.7% of GNP to Overseas Development Assistance during this time of financial crisis.

We believe that universal access to primary education is a human right, we encourage the governments of Africa and Europe to ensure that each child benefits from an education and that the results of gaining an education are correlated with the socio-economic development of African countries.

We reaffirm the need for greater co-operation between European and African governments on the global health issue of HIV and AIDS particularly concerning prevention and access to treatment.

We are conscious that the majority of youth live in extreme poverty as a result of unemployment, and a lack of availability of jobs that improve and use the skills of today's youth. We believe that through the ministries of youth, employment and training policies can be introduced that will result in the improvement of the socio-economic prospects of youth.

We believe that the achievement of the MDGs is still possible by 2015. The MDGs can be realised through a participatory partnership between the governments of Europe and Africa, youth organisations and indeed through the actions of the wider population.

Youth are the future leaders of tomorrow and as such youth organisations must ensure that youths are represented at summits of both European and African governments.

#### **Group 4: Good Governance, Peace Building and Conflict Resolution**

**Definition of Good Governance:** The form of leadership which represents the voice of the masses and the rule of law which leads to good democratic values in accordance with statutes of a particular nation and which promotes sustainable human development while emphasizing the principles of accountability, participation and enjoyment of human rights by all young people, within a strong and active society.

#### **Good governance recommendation**

- To ensure the respect for the rule of law, justice and equity.
- Ensure egalitarian society, with due democratic norms and culture.
- To pursue vigorously the principle of transparency and accountability in governance
- To fight for zero tolerance corruption in all level of governance.
- To enforce political will and policy evaluation in all public dealings.

- To ensure youth participation in the above mentioned points with reference to social contract.
- Ensure a freedom of civil society in a democratic environment to sustain and deepen the process of good governance

### **Peace Building and Conflict Resolution**

Definition of Peace Building and Conflict Resolution: Recognition of the right to decent living and social justice, where no young person's access to basic social and productive resources shall be discriminated against on basis of color, race or social or any other status. These rights include the right and freedom of political, culture and religious expression.

### **Peace building and conflict resolution**

We seek to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and all fundamental freedoms of all young people within the Africa-Europe Partnership.

### **Governments and youth organizations should:**

- Ensure capacity building for young people in relation to peace-building.
- Ensure tolerance and respect for all fundamental human rights
- Ensure human protection and safety at all levels.
- Encourage the partnership to establish monitoring body of arms trade in order to limit the illegal use of weapons.
- Encourage education on inter-cultural learning, conflict prevention, civic education and mutual respect for ethnics and religious diversities

### **Conclusion**

As youth organizations we commit ourselves in all our capacities to maintain and preserve the principles of good governance, peace-building and conflict-resolution in line with the African Youth Charter and our continuous work for a better society.

### **Group : Climate Change**

Climate change is the largest threat to humankind. If our prosperity is tied to the health of the planet, then no one's well-being is secure unless the environment is protected. If we can not prosper in a world that suffers from poverty, inequality, war and poor health than our future is intimately bound up in the future of other people and places. Sustainable development means inspiring people in all parts of the world to find solutions that improve their quality of life without storing up problems for the future, or impacting unfairly on other people life.

By ensuring "some, for all, for ever", we can make sure the earth's resources are left behind for future generations. Right now the system of development which has been in existence is not sustainable; we are living beyond our means. We've not inherited our natural resources from our previous generations; we are borrowing them from our future generations.

Being aware of that impact and stressing the outstanding threat of climate change, we call all people and governments to set up ambitious frameworks and mitigation measures. The current financial and economic crisis can not be used as a scapegoat for slowing down efforts.

We call upon all state leaders to stick to the commitments they have made. In 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, world leaders came together to talk exclusively about the environment and our impact on it and produced a blue print for the 21st century that will guide us. Ten years later in New York the leaders met again and adopted the MDGs, one of which focuses on sustainability.

At the regional level, the African Youth Charter stresses in Article 19 the necessity of using sustainable methods to avoid jeopardizing opportunities for future generations. The European Union already committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2020. In the negotiations leading up to the Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen 2009 the EU has indicated will to take on further commitments but only given that other countries with high emissions also take on concrete commitments to cut their own emissions. These are just three examples of the many cases where states have made promises. Now it's time for action. We, the youth, demand that these commitments have to be honoured.

We as the generation of the present want to stress the importance of shared responsibility and shared burdens between the North and the South of our common world. The South is already suffering the consequences of irresponsible behaviours mainly by the population of the Northern hemisphere. The South has to be empowered to be able to leapfrog; the developed countries have to share their green technologies to enable the developing countries to adopt clean alternatives. We believe that sustainable development, education and awareness is a key to achieving all this – care for one self, care for each other (across cultures, distances and generations), care for the environment (near and far). Sustainable development is a way of thinking about how we organize our lives and work – including our education system, so that we do not destroy our most precious resource, planet. Youth organizations should play a key role in raising awareness and promote sustainable lifestyles among the youth.

To get a deeper understanding of how climate change affects the youth, more youth specific surveys are needed and necessary. The governments have to promote and fund these surveys. The outcome will further enable stakeholders to include youth organizations in the process of fighting climate change.

Fighting climate change is not a “quick fix”, it is a long and expensive process. It is much more than recycling bottles, or giving money to charity. It is about thinking and working in a profoundly different way.

## **Group 6: Youth Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue (Exchange Programmes) and Employment**

By breaking barriers and opening borders, we want to create intercultural dialogue and encourage sustainable development with the aim to open minds. This would create a global youth village to empower all the youth and give visibility to their actions.

The youth mobility, intercultural dialogue and employment set for itself the following objectives to be attained:

Firstly, volunteering. We recognize volunteering as a broad and complex domain, however we believe that the employment sector and the financial crisis can positively benefit from voluntary work. From the perspective of Europe and Africa, volunteering enhances your employment possibilities and develops the skills of the youth.

We stress the importance of intercultural dialogue in all local, national and international levels. We also would like to emphasize the importance of development in relation to:

- Global Citizenship and social awareness
- Local, national and international community development
- Developing a multiplying effect by reflecting in the community and organization on personal and professional experience. This also occurs when volunteers return to their home country through sharing of experiences.

Brilliant ideas bring challenges which need to be tackled. Therefore the following needs urgent attention:

- Visa application process to be re-addressed
- Access to human, material and financial resources to accomplish the objectives and vision
- Recognition of non-formal education by governments, which can be accomplished through an accredited network with the African Union, European Union and the Council of Europe.

The way to accomplish the global youth village and the above challenges would be through the creation of a center of resources for Europe and Africa, with a name CREATEAM (Center of Resources for the Europe and Africa Team).

The resource centre will cover the following areas :

- To serve as a networking forum to give visibility and recognition to youth work
- A pool of trainers and training materials
- Links to all organizations part of the network
- Publications
- Certificates (to recognize non-formal education)
- Newsletter (to promote exchange programs and training events)