



Africa-Europe Youth Summit  
Sommet Afrique-Europe de la Jeunesse

# 4TH AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH SUMMIT REPORT



**Authors:** This report has been developed by the coordinator of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit with youth organisations engaged in the preparations of the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit namely: ACPYPN – African Caribbean and Pacific Young Professionals Network; ADYFE – African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe; ADYNE – African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe; PYU – Pan African Youth Union; YFJ – European Youth Forum; NIOYA- Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa.

The draft report was prepared by the coordinator of the Summit Andreia Henriques and edited by Assia Oulkadi from the European Youth Forum with the support of youth organisations.

Responsibility for the information and views set out in this document lie entirely with the authors.



The Africa-Europe Youth Summit was organised with the support of the following institutions



# Opening remarks from lead organisers and youth stakeholders

In October 2017, 120 youth representatives came together at the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit to shape conversations about the present and the future of youth in our two continents. As the lead organisers: ACPYPN – African Caribbean and Pacific Young Professionals Network; ADYFE – African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe; ADYNE – African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe; PYU – Pan African Youth Union; YFJ – European Youth Forum; NIOYA – Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa, who convened and organised this 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit in partnership with the European Union and the African Union, we committed to facilitate and amplify the perspectives of African, European and Diaspora youth in the processes of cooperation between our continents. There can be no future for the Africa-EU Partnership without a meaningful participation of young people.

The preparation of the Youth Summit demanded significant efforts and commitments from our organisations. The context was sometimes challenging and processes were not always smooth; but this is also the reflection on situations occurring in our two continents, where many young people face challenges everyday which makes it difficult for them to successfully navigate the path of life.

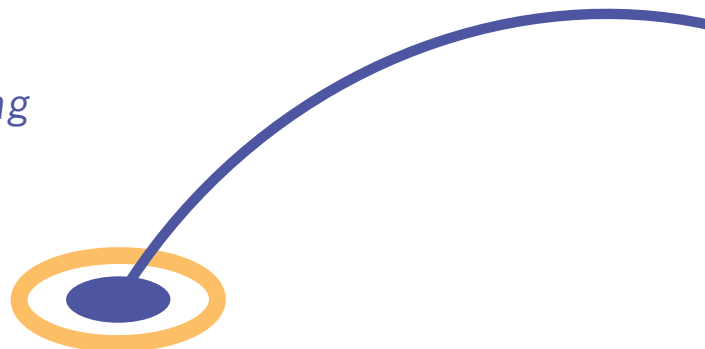
We are proud of the efforts and commitments we made to bring young people together to explore their challenges, suggest solutions and share common aspirations. We are proud of the constructive attitude, openness and spirit of collaboration we witnessed among the Youth Summit participants, of the contributions that they brought and the connections they took away. We are grateful for the hospitality of Côte d'Ivoire, and the financial and institutional support from the European Union, in partnership with the African Union, without whom the Youth Summit would not have taken place.

As with any process, there are lessons to be learned and improvements to be made in future. This report of the Youth Summit will be a valuable resource in ensuring that these can be taken on board to further support young people's participation in strengthening the Africa-EU Partnership.

We left the Youth Summit taking forward the Abidjan Declaration, a strong message addressed to our governments and institutions. It sets out demands for the future of youth in the Africa-EU Partnership and to advance the rights and the interests of young people both in Africa and in Europe. Building on the legacy of more than ten years of Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, this Youth Summit was an opportunity to renew our partnership and cooperation. We must now work towards the implementation of concrete activities to achieve the ambition of the Abidjan Declaration, and call upon our governments and institutions to do the same. We must work together in partnership as we seek to create a future in which our generation and those to come can thrive.



*We are proud of the efforts and commitments we made to bring young people together to explore their challenges, suggest solutions and share common aspirations.*



## Acknowledgements

The Africa-Europe Youth Summit has been realised in partnership between youth organisations from the African and the European Continent namely ACPYPN – African Caribbean and Pacific Young Professionals Network; ADYFE – African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe; ADYNE – African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe; PYU – Pan African Youth Union; YFJ – European Youth Forum, the African Union, the European Union and the hosting of the event from the Cote d'Ivoire. The AU EU Youth summit was organised with the financial support of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy Support Mechanism II.

## Acronyms List

**ACPYPN** – African Caribbean and Pacific Young Professionals Network

**ADYFE** – African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe

**ADYNE** – African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe

**AEYS** – Africa-Europe Youth Summit

**AU** – African Union

**AUC** – African Union Commission

**EEAS** – European External Action Service

**EP** – European Parliament

**EU** – European Union

**JAES** – Joint Africa-EU Strategy

**NIYOA** – Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa

**NSC** – North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

**PYU** – Pan African Youth Union

**UN** – United Nations

**YFJ** – European Youth Forum

**YPII** – (AU-EU) Youth Plug-In Initiative

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1.

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION



**A**frica and Europe share a geographic proximity but also history and future. Given that reality, both continents decided to establish a Partnership—the “Africa-EU Partnership” as the formal channel to work together. It is based on shared values and aims at promoting common interests and achieving shared strategic objectives. The Partnership strives to bring Africa and Europe closer together through the strengthening of economic cooperation and the promotion of sustainable development, with both continents living in peace, security, democracy, prosperity, solidarity and human dignity.

The **Africa-EU Partnership** aims to:

- Reinforce political relations between Africa and the EU along with jointly addressing common global challenges such as climate change or peace and security. Through joint positions, Africa and Europe have indeed more weight in global fora;
- Expand Africa-EU cooperation into new promising areas of common interest;
- Facilitate and promote a people-centered partnership by ensuring the effective participation of civil society and the private sector and by delivering direct benefits for African and European citizens.

The Partnership is driven through formal dialogue at various levels between African and European counterparts. The 1st Africa-Europe Summit (AEYS) took place in Cairo in 2000, under the aegis of the Organisation of African Unity and the European Union. In 2007, African and European leaders came together at the 2nd EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon to establish an Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, based upon a strong political relationship and close cooperation in key areas. Heads of State and Government adopted the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), which constitutes the overarching long-term framework for the Partnership. It is implemented through jointly identified priorities, which are of common interest to both the EU and Africa and significantly impact on the lives of citizens on both continents. The 2014-2017 Roadmap, agreed at the 4th EU-Africa Summit in 2014, sets out concrete targets within 5 priority areas of cooperation. For each of these objectives, actions have been implemented at inter-regional, continental or global levels<sup>1</sup>.

Joint priorities of the 2014-2017 roadmap of the Africa-EU partnership:

1. Peace and Security
2. Democracy, good governance and Human Rights
3. Human Development
4. Sustainable and inclusive development and growth and continental integration
5. Global and emerging issues

Embracing a people-centred approach, the Africa-EU partnership identifies a significant role for civil society organisations in the implementation and monitoring of the Joint Strategy and its roadmaps. The Africa-EU partnership highlights the commitment to encourage the participation of civil society into dialogue mechanisms and initiatives. However, the full potential of civil society is yet to be explored. Youth is also recognised as a key actor and the Joint Africa-EU Strategy identifies as a priority the empowerment of Europe’s and Africa’s youth.

## History of Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation

The 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit builds on a background of 10 years of Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation within the framework of EU-Africa Summits.

In December 2007, preceding the II EU-Africa Summit, the 1st Africa-Europe Youth Summit was held in Lisbon, jointly organised by the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Pan African Youth Union (PYU), the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC) and the Portuguese National Youth Council, in partnership with other international youth organisations and institutions. The Youth Summit aimed to increase the participation of young people in the Euro-African cooperation, to reinforce youth work in both regions and to influence youth policies in the Africa-Europe cooperation. The 1st Africa-Europe Youth Summit concluded with a Declaration that stated main priorities of African and European young people for the Euro-African cooperation<sup>2</sup>; the declaration was submitted to the EU-Africa Heads of State Summit.



## *Building on the longstanding cooperation, the 4th Youth Summit was a key milestone in the preparation process*

Along this line, the representatives of youth organisations from Africa and Europe, gathered in Tripoli for the 2nd Africa-Europe Youth Summit (November 2010), also stressed the “need for a yearly monitoring and evaluation of the Africa-Europe Youth cooperation, performed by all parties involved in the partnership. (...) therefore, mandate the partners in the Africa-Europe youth co-operation, namely the partnership between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the field of youth and the Joint Management Agreement between EuropeAid Cooperation office and the North-South Centre, to establish an Africa-Europe Youth Platform to institutionalise the instruments that allow young people to renew and reinforce the current Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation”.

Fulfilling this role, youth organisations from both regions have been working together with other civil society organisations and sub-regional institutions on following up Africa-Europe Youth Summits and the implementation of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy. The longstanding Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation led to the creation of the conditions for active youth participation in the development of their societies, in decision-making and in the implementation of the EU-Africa partnership. Facilitated by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the implementation of two consecutive Joint Management Agreements (2009-2015) with the European Commission allowed the development of sustainable partnerships and good practices

between both continents, delivered capacity-building for youth organisations, facilitated their participation at decision-making level and ensured outreach at grassroots level through a seed-funding scheme.

The 3rd Africa-Europe Youth Leaders' Summit in 2014 (Brussels, Belgium) that focused on “Prosperity, Participation and Peace”, geared the development of new initiatives as exemplified by the establishment of the annual programme African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe on Entrepreneurship and Employment.

With the Youth Summits, a notable of progress was made in increasing the dialogue and cooperation between African and European young people and youth organisations, empowering them to act in partnership and to contribute to the Africa-Europe cooperation.

Building on the longstanding cooperation, the 4th Youth Summit was a key milestone in the preparation process and as a recurrent side-event for the Heads of State Summit along with the Africa-EU Civil Society Forum, and the 6th EU-Africa Business Forum, amongst other pre-events.

## **The importance of 2017 for the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation**

2017 was a defining year for the Partnership between Europe and Africa. The 5th AU-EU Summit held 29-30 November 2017 provided a critical opportunity for African and European leaders to respond to an evolving global context as well as reshape and deepen the Africa-EU Partnership<sup>3</sup>. Due to the close relationship between both regions, Europe and Africa have much to gain from further increasing political and economic ties, but also a lot to lose if they fail to act and invest.

Demographic dynamics will be one of the most significant structural changes in the world in the 21st century. By 2050, Africa's population will be 2.4 billion of predominantly young people,<sup>4</sup> making investments in young people, financially and through human capacity, an imperative. Within the EU, on the other hand, the population is projected



to include an increasing proportion of older people. In this context, investment in young people, whose place as a minority population will be further cemented, will be necessary to ensure that the barriers they face in participating in democratic life and society are not further increased. In 2017, effectively investing in youth – in particular, in terms of education, enhanced employment opportunities and access to decision-making – will be crucial for the future of both continents.

2017 is also a crucial year for young people in Africa and Europe to be involved in the policy dialogue and as agenda-setters. The overarching theme of the 5th AU-EU Summit was “Investing in Youth for a Sustainable Future”, with a strong focus on ensuring quality jobs for young people. In addition, the African Union has devoted the theme of the year 2017 to “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in

Youth”, considering the urgent necessity to realise the potential of Africa’s large youth population<sup>5</sup>. At European level, the European Parliament, European Commission and Council released a Joint Statement in June 2017- the New European Consensus on Development- addressing youth issues in particular to “strengthen the rights of young people and their empowerment in the conduct of public affairs, including promoting their participation in local economies, societies and decision-making, notably through youth organisations and 2018 will see the development of a post-2018 EU Strategy on Youth, to replace the current 2010-18 Strategy.<sup>6</sup> The EU in its “Joint Communication for a renewed impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership” pays particular attention to the aspirations and needs of youth, whose involvement in the overall process is encouraged.<sup>7</sup>



*In 2017, effectively investing in youth – in particular, in terms of education, enhanced employment opportunities and access to decision-making – will be crucial for the future of both continents.*



2.

THE 4TH  
AFRICA-EUROPE  
YOUTH SUMMIT



The 4th edition of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit was a result of joint action of youth organisations from Africa, Europe and the Diaspora. It was organised by the European Youth Forum and the Pan-African Youth Union, the Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa (NIYOA), the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe (ADYNE), the African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe (ADYFE) and the Africa Caribbean and Pacific Young Professionals Network (ACP-YPN); with inputs from the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. The event was hosted by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, funded by the European Union and with the support of the African Union.

The objectives of the Youth summit aim to:

- Ensure process that is **participatory and inclusive** for all participants throughout the Youth Summit and that all perspectives are considered in the drafting of the Declaration.
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the **need and challenges of young people** and youth civil society in Europe and Africa, including common and diverging themes, as well as potential avenues for solutions.
- **Strengthen the framework for Africa-Europe youth dialogue and cooperation**, leading to a rejuvenated and sustainable cooperation between African and European and Diaspora youth organisations.
- Develop a **youth perspective on the priority areas** and topics to be discussed at, and in the lead up to, the Heads of State Summit.
- Contribute to the development of a **coherent and coordinated strategy on youth in the Africa-EU partnership**, considering the relevant policy and political frameworks at both regional and global level.
- Strengthen the **impact of and follow-up on recommendations from the Youth Summit** to be presented at the Heads of States Summit, as compared with previous years.

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*Develop a comprehensive understanding of the need and challenges of young people and youth civil society in Europe and Africa, including common and diverging themes, as well as potential avenues for solutions.*



# 3.

## THE AGENDA OF THE YOUTH SUMMIT



The agenda of the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit was developed by the lead implementers and youth stakeholders, with inputs from the institutional stakeholders. Different concerns, expressed in overall objectives for the agenda, were considered while developing it, such as:

- set the **framework of the Youth Summit**, by providing background and updated information on the Africa-EU partnership and the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation;
- provide the time and setting to **identify challenges, possible solutions and recommendations** in the different thematic sessions;
- create the **space to share good practices and network**;
- reflect about **participation of young people and youth organisations** in decision-making and governance along with the role of different actors;
- assure high-level representation of Heads of State, EU and AU, thus, **recognising the Youth Summit**, the role of **youth organisations** in the Africa-EU partnership and acknowledging **its outcome** constituted of the Abidjan Declaration.

Below, you can find a brief description of the plenary and thematic sessions. Further information is available in the annexes of this publication. You can also find the Abidjan Declaration (**Annex A – Abidjan Declaration**).

## AU EU Youth Summit:

October 9

The Opening Session was attended by a significant number of local youth and national and international officials. The main objectives of this session were to give visibility to organisers, to assure a high-level moment and at the same time to map expectations and understandings on the state of youth and the Africa-Europe relations.

The speakers present:

- **Mr Emmanuel EDIMA N’GUESSAN**, President of the National Youth Council of Côte d’Ivoire – that welcomed participants and underlined the role of youth in society.

- **Ms Francine MUYUMBA**, President of the Pan-African Youth Union – as representative of one of the lead implementers, highlighted the cooperation between different actors towards the summit and, among other points, the importance to recognise youth organisations and their role.
- **Mr Luis ALVARADO MARTINEZ**, President of the European Youth Forum—as representative of one of the lead implementers—referred to the long-term cooperation and shared inputs on the different summit themes.
- **Ms Birgitte MARKUSSEN**, Deputy Managing Director, MD Africa, European External Action Service – in representation of the EU, asked young people not to forget to be the voice of the voiceless and linked the Youth Summit with the AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative.
- **Ms Joséphine Charlotte MAYUMA KALA**, Special Representative of the Chairperson of African Union Commission – recalled the African Youth Charter as a key framework and the close work of the African Union with the young people in the continent.
- **Mr Sidi Tiémoko TOURE**, Minister of Youth, Youth Employment and Civic Service of Côte d’Ivoire – highlighted the commitment towards young people at national level that was strengthened with a 2016 national law and welcomed participants in Côte d’Ivoire.
- **Mr Daniel Kablan DUNCAN**, Vice-President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire – expressed satisfaction in hosting the Youth Summit and the 5th AU-EU Summit, wished good work to all youth participants and opened officially the Youth Summit.

The second plenary session “Looking back to move forwards” took place at the *Confederation Generale des Entreprises de Côte d’Ivoire* and aimed to set the framework of the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit. It started with the introduction of the moderators and a brief presentation of the programme.

The speakers and main inputs delivered:

- **Ms Rocío CERVERA**, Deputy Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe – brought an overview of the 10 years of Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation since the first Youth Summit in Lisbon (2007). She also shared

about the previous capacity-building, seed funding and institutional activities organised by the North-South Centre in collaboration with youth organisations and within the framework of a DEVCO funded project.

- **Mr Michel LALOGÉ**, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation in Côte d'Ivoire – focused his input on the milestones and achievements of the Africa-EU Partnership and the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. Mr Lalogé highlighted the role of the Partnership in working towards a common future in areas such as climate change, human rights and peace and security.
- **Ms Birgitte MARKUSSEN**, Deputy Managing Director, MD Africa, European External Action Service – mentioned the ambitious topic for the 5th AU-EU Summit and the need to engage young people and collect their contribution. Ms Markussen underlined peace & security, building resilience, including mobility & migration and governance, and jobs creation as main priorities for future cooperation.
- **Ms Prudence Nonkululeko NGWENYA**, Head – Human Resources & Youth Division, Department of Human Resources Science and Technology of the African Union Commission – highlighted the 2063 Agenda and the issues that bring Europe and Africa together, such as skills development, to fight youth unemployment, peace & security and human rights. Ms Ngwenya also mentioned the AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative as an opportunity to further collect the contribution of young people present in the Youth Summit and beyond.

The objectives of the first session of the afternoon were to introduce the facilitators and the themes of the Youth Summit and to provide with the opportunity to participants to contribute to the identification of challenges of the different themes.

The main challenges identified per thematic sessions served as a frame towards the drafting of the Abidjan Declaration.

## Themes and Facilitators of the AEYS

- Governance, Political & Democratic Inclusion and Activism- **Ms Ragh HAMID**
- Business, Job Creation and Entrepreneurship- **Mr Moses KATTA**
- Environmental Preservation and Climate Change- **Ms Joana Sousa PINTO**
- Education and Skills-**Ms Eliza POPPER**
- Culture and Arts- **Mr Bilal HASSAM**
- Peace and Security (including Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation)- **Ms Nana TOURE**

The final plenary session of the day included the Africa-Europe Project Marketplace. This session was created to give the opportunity to get to know good practices on Africa-Europe youth cooperation and to foster networking amongst participants.

### October 10

This day was entirely dedicated to the work on the themes of the Youth Summit. The facilitators were supported by rapporteurs in the different sessions. In addition, one representative of the lead implementers or youth stakeholders followed the work of the thematic sessions. This person was present to clarify any questions related with the declaration and the overall process. A proposal of methodology for the thematic sessions had been developed in advance and agreed with lead implementers and youth stakeholders, thus all facilitators had a similar approach to the different thematic sessions.

During the first session, and based on a summary of challenges proposed by the facilitator and rapporteur based on the outcomes of the joint work undertaken on October 9th. Participants had the possibility to agree on the final challenges and to identify root causes as well as start working on the exploring solutions. The second part of the morning was dedicated to developing key ideas for the recommendations and start with an initial draft of the declaration.

The afternoon started with joint work on thematic sessions in plenary format. It was the opportunity for the drafting committee to introduce themselves to the participants, to share the work developed so far and how they had been coordinating with facilitators. As the main objective of this session



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was to collect feedback to the already existing proposals, the members of the drafting committee also shared some tips on what to look at when going through the different recommendations.

After the break, participants went back to the parallel sessions to finalise their work. The rapporteurs, together with the facilitators, were responsible for finalising the report and sending it to the drafting committee.

### October 11

The morning started with a roundtable on Youth Participation and Governance. The main objectives of the roundtable were to discuss different ways of youth participation, the links between them and the role of different actors in supporting it. There was also the intention to explore how the actors represented in the roundtable could support follow-up of the Youth Summit, but due to a limited timing, there was no possibility to further develop the discussions.

The speakers and main inputs delivered:

- **Mr Fabio Massimo CASTALDO**, lead-Member of the European Parliament for the EP's Young Political Leaders – highlighted that only 1.9% of the parliamentarians are less than 30 years and that this means that there is the need to increase the trust of youth in decision-making processes. On how to do it, Mr Castaldo pointed at youth empowerment through education, technology and funding. He also assumed his commitment to take the declaration of the Youth Summit to the European Parliament.
- **Mr Dah SANSAN**, Parliamentarian, Côte d'Ivoire (*apologies*)
- **Mr Francis Huguet MONGOMBE**, President of the National Youth Council of Central African Republic (CAR) – referred to his personal experience in CAR to underline the need of young people to conquer their own place for participation Mr Mongombe spoke about the relations between youth organisations, young people and institutions and that youth wants to go beyond the role of observers and become stakeholders fully involved in all levels of decision making. He also mentioned that some limitations to youth participation are set by law and there is the need to pressure the governments to change it.



*highlighted the focus on youth employment and entrepreneurship and the need to partner with private sector and to facilitate loans for young entrepreneurs*

- **Ms Anja FORTUNA**, Vice-President of the National Youth Council of Slovenia – referred to her personal background and the challenges of young people from remote areas to participate. Ms Fortuna highlighted the need to balance participation in international and local settings, especially when young people reach decision-making levels. She recalled the collective responsibility to engage young people that don't have the same opportunities to participate.
- **Ms Celine FABREQUETTE**, Secretary-General of the African Caribbean Pacific Young Professionals Network – expressed the need for stronger recognition of diaspora youth organisations, as they bring an added value to youth in both continents. Ms Fabrequette shared her concerns on the need of diaspora organisations to represent all the existing diversity and on building relations with the institutions that go beyond tokenism.

The Youth Summit ended with the Closing Session attended also by external participants such as young people, national officials and representatives of international organisations based in Abidjan. As it was not possible to count with the contribution of Mr Dah SANSAN-parliamentarian of Côte d'Ivoire-during the roundtable, he shared few words in the beginning of the session. He highlighted the role of young parliamentarians to motivate young people to get engaged in governance and sent a message to invite AU and EU governments to facilitate access and participation of young people.

The session was then composed of two moments, a first one on the presentation of the declaration by representatives of the lead implementers and youth stakeholders and a second part, with closing remarks from institutional stakeholders and officials from both the EU and the AU member States.

The declaration was presented by:

- **Ms Tina HOČEVAR**, Board Member of the European Youth Forum – explained the declaration process towards and beyond the Youth Summit and how it has been a process of youth organisations working together, building bridges and strengthening common understanding. Ms Hocevar referred to achievements of the Africa-Europe youth cooperation process since 2007 and underlined that this Youth Summit and the 5th AU-EU Summit are a unique opportunity to advance on youth rights in both continents.
- **Mr Koudjo Mawuli KLEVO**, Chair of the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe and Mr Abdrahamane OUEDRAOGO, Board Member of the Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa – read the declaration.
- **Ms Francine MUYUMBA**, President of the Pan African Youth Union – shared some closing and thank you remarks addressed to the institutional stakeholders, host and participants. Ms Muyumba mentioned the work of participants towards consensus to contribute to common concerns with a reference made to thematic groups and that there is the expectation that the President of Côte d'Ivoire, as host of the Youth Summit, will be the spokesperson for the Youth Summit at the Heads of State gathering. She also mentioned that Africa-Europe cooperation is a win-win relation and it is possible to balance the interests from both regions.

At the end of the first part, youth representatives delivered the declaration to the institutional speakers of the closing session.

Below, you can find the speakers of the concluding panel:

- **Ms Ulla TØRNÆS**, Minister for Development Cooperation, Kingdom of Denmark – started by sharing her personal background in the youth movement and her understanding on the challenges to reach such declaration. She shared the work of Denmark in supporting youth, such



as through the UN Youth delegate programme and financial support for youth entrepreneurship and innovation. As to the declaration of the Youth Summit, the Minister expressed support on the youth rights approach, interest in the further development of the idea on the European Youth Charter (and how could the YPII support on this). Ms TØRNÆS highlighted the focus on youth employment and entrepreneurship and the need to partner with private sector and to facilitate loans for young entrepreneurs. She regretted the lack of focus on innovation and digitalisation. She also mentioned that the work doesn't end with the Youth Summit and the responsibility of the 36 youth fellows of the YPII. She finalised her intervention by sharing possible political priorities for the HoS Summit (investment & job creation, peace & security, governance, mobility & migration and knowledge & skills) and her commitment to carry the recommendations forward.

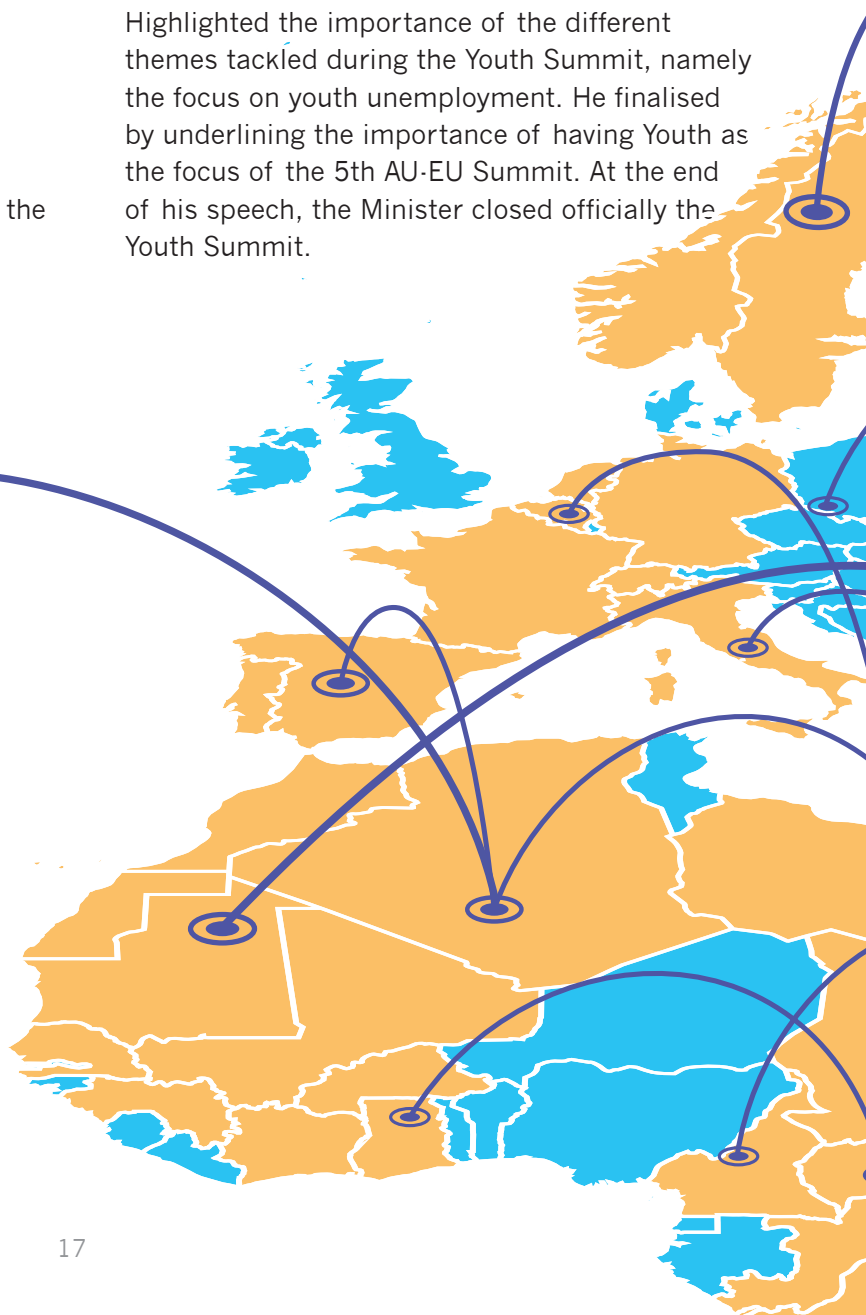
- **Ms Joséphine Charlotte MAYUMA KALA**, Special Representative of the Chairperson of African Union Commission and **Ms Prudence Nonkululeko NGWENYA**, Head – Human Resources & Youth Division, Department of Human Resources Science and Technology of the

African Union Commission – Ms Nonkululeko NGWENYA took the floor on behalf of the AUC highlighted the importance of following-up the Youth Summit, referring to the role of youth fellows of the YPII and the importance to engage more young people also beyond the summit. Regarding the declaration, she expressed the possibility of Europe to learn from the African experience with the African Youth Charter, to further advance youth rights. Ms Ngwenya also reacted to the outcome from the governance thematic session and referred to the African experience with the initiative “Not too young to run”. She finalised with a reference to the upcoming African Youth Day (November 1st) and to the role of young people in driving their own development.

- **Mr Sidi Tiémoko TOURE**, Minister of Youth, Youth Employment and Civic Service of Côte d'Ivoire – expressed satisfaction to host the Youth Summit and thanked all stakeholders involved. Highlighted the importance of the different themes tackled during the Youth Summit, namely the focus on youth unemployment. He finalised by underlining the importance of having Youth as the focus of the 5th AU-EU Summit. At the end of his speech, the Minister closed officially the Youth Summit.

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*She shared the work of Denmark in supporting youth, such as through the UN Youth delegate programme and financial support for youth entrepreneurship and innovation.*



4.

# THE DECLARATION



The key political outcome of the two and half working days of the Youth Summit was the final declaration. During the preparatory meeting of the AEYS, decisions were taken on structure, framework and next steps, including the creation of a drafting committee. Terms of reference for the drafting committee were developed and served as the starting point of their work. Guiding questions and a one-page briefing were created to assure that all experts and resource persons had the same level of information and to create a common understanding. The lead implementers and youth stakeholders also decided to develop a short briefing on the background of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation and 6 one-pagers (one per thematic session) with the aim to support preparation of the participants and frame discussions.

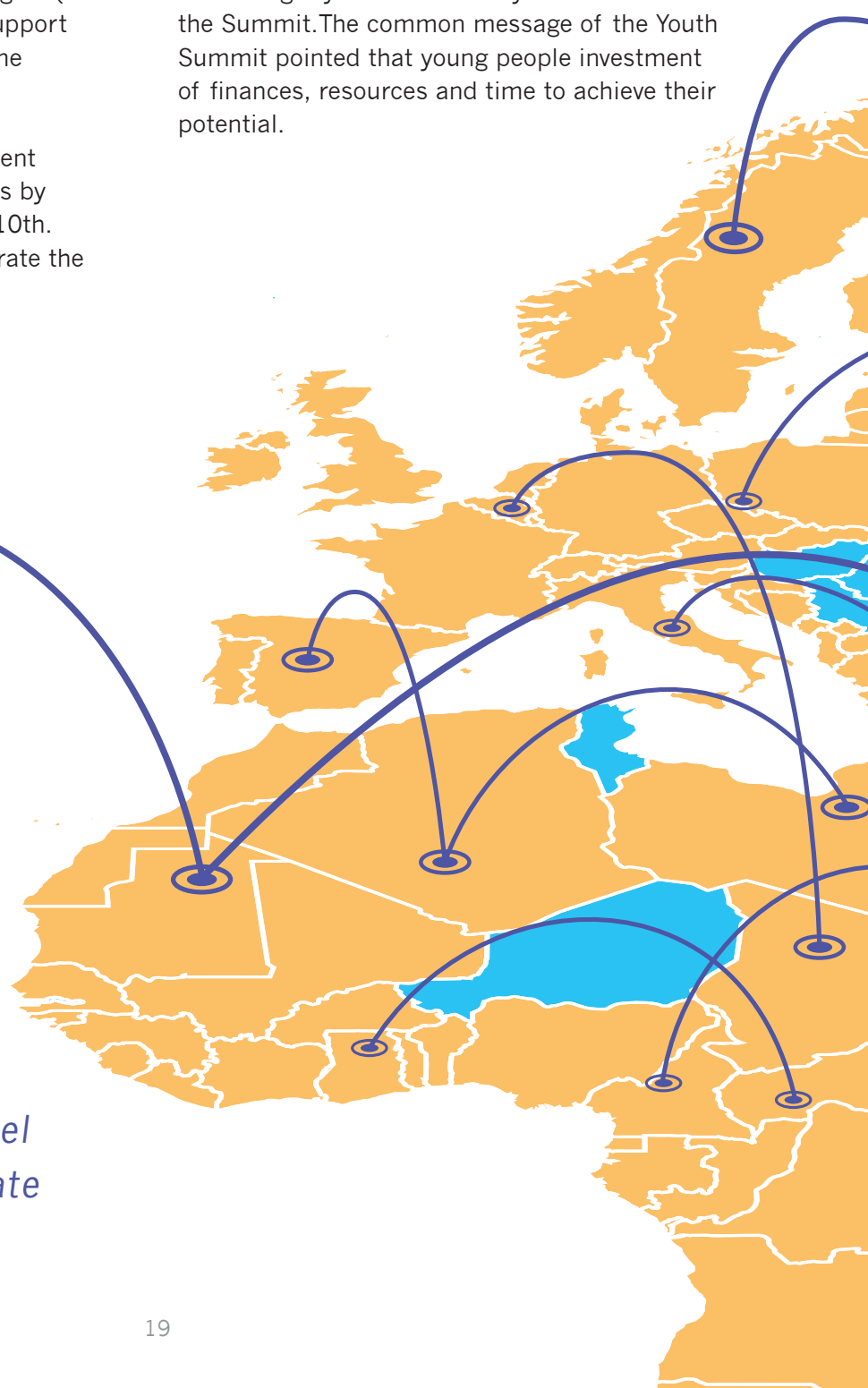
Rapporteurs of each thematic session sent their reports with final recommendations by the end of the working day on October 10th. The drafting committee worked to integrate the

recommendations from the thematic groups into the Declaration, through a process of streamlining and targeting, in order to ensure consistency, coherence and contextualisation within the framework of the Africa-EU Partnership. The drafting committee further continued its work until the document was finalised.

As lead implementers, Anna Widegren-Secretary General of the European Youth Forum- together with Francine Muyumba-President of the Pan-African Youth Union- presented the outcomes of the Youth Summit at the AU EU Summit. They addressed state leaders from the two continents, and brought youth civil society to the core of the Summit. The common message of the Youth Summit pointed that young people investment of finances, resources and time to achieve their potential.



*Guiding questions and a one-page briefing were created to assure that all experts and resource persons had the same level of information and to create a common understanding.*



# A. Abidjan Declaration

## THE ABIDJAN DECLARATION

### 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit

9 – 11 October 2017, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

We, representatives of the youth organisations from Africa, Europe, and the Diaspora gathered in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire for the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit, commit to build on the legacy of our existing cooperation and pave the way for its sustainable future.

The 4th edition of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit was organised by youth platforms in Africa and Europe (the Pan-African Youth Union, the European Youth Forum and the Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa) as well as organisations of diaspora youth (ADYNE, ADYFE and ACP-YPN), with input from the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

We wish to express our gratitude to H.E. President Alassane Ouattara and the people of Côte d'Ivoire for their genuine hospitality and hosting of the Youth Summit. We also recognise with appreciation the financial and institutional support from the EU, in partnership with the AU.

This Declaration, which we address to Heads of States and governments and the institutions gathering at the 5th AU-EU Summit, is the fruit of active discussions among the 120 youth representatives participating in the Youth Summit.

It builds on the past decade of Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, within the framework of the Africa-EU Partnership, during which three Youth Summits presented recommendations to AU and EU governments and institutions. In this context we recognise all that has been achieved<sup>8</sup>, but we regret the lack of implementation of many of these recommendations.

Welcoming the decision to focus the 5th AU-EU Summit on “investing in youth”, an overdue decision in which we foresee the potential to review the Africa-EU Partnership’s shortcomings in relation to youth, re-establish a long-term Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation framework and put in place a plan of action to support the recommendations presented here.

Investing in youth is a prerequisite for building a sustainable future. To achieve this we must collectively work to overcome the issues preventing progress within our interconnected societies. It requires support to and the advancement of education, skills development, mobility and access to markets, youth participation and young people’s access to rights. Investing in youth means providing the right environment for young people to reach our fullest potential and positively impact our societies.

We wish to highlight the vital role youth organisations in Africa and Europe, including those representing the Diaspora, play in the development of young people in our continents. Governments and institutions must increase investment in, facilitation of and support to our multiple roles and contributions to society, including as a bridge between the State and young people.

To support investing in youth for a sustainable future, we present the following general and theme-specific recommendations:

- Building on their commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, AU and EU governments must work together towards sustainable development as the overarching objective of national policies and the Africa-EU Partnership, focusing attention on the needs of future generations.
- Implement a cross-sectoral and participatory approach to youth policy, ensuring structures for effective coordination and mainstreaming of youth in all policies, and creation of, or support to, existing mechanisms that guarantee extended and improved youth participation in policy-making processes.
- Leverage the unique potential of the Diaspora Youth to inspire and channel positive change and effective cooperation between Africa and Europe.

## Education and Skills

1. We call upon AU and EU Member States to create and incorporate a framework for the recognition and validation of competences gained through non-formal education, including that provided through youth organisations, to ensure life-long learning and skills development.
2. We call for further collaboration under the Africa-EU Partnership to accelerate the implementation of the Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation Initiative and urge a move towards mutual recognition of evaluation systems and formal education diplomas between African and EU countries to enhance mobility of students and young professionals.
3. We call on AU and EU Member States to guarantee universal access to quality and inclusive education, recognising the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

## Business, Job Creation and Entrepreneurship

1. We strongly urge AU and EU Member States to work closely with economic actors and other relevant stakeholders to create a conducive business environment that boosts investment and makes it easier for young people to establish and operate enterprises within and across both continents.
2. We call upon AU and EU Member States to facilitate programmes that enhance sustainable access to finance, ensuring that young people from all backgrounds are enabled to access enterprise funding.
3. We urge the Africa-EU Partnership to create a framework that provides comprehensive and continuous capacity building programmes to enhance young people's employability and the ability of young entrepreneurs to run sustainable business.

## Governance, Political and Democratic Inclusion, and Activism

1. We call upon AU and EU Member States to invest in citizenship and human rights education providers and foster and financially support spaces for exchange and learning between them, to support the enhancement of the meaningful participation of all young people, including vulnerable groups, in society.
2. We call on African and European leaders to bring the age of candidacy in line with the voting age, as it is only rational that young people who are eligible to vote should be equally eligible to stand for election.
3. We call on governments and institutions to work with youth organisations towards the creation of a European Youth Charter, taking inspiration from the African Youth Charter and, in the framework of the Africa-EU Partnership, to define mechanisms for monitoring young people's access to rights on both continents.

## Peace and Security, including Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation

1. We call upon AU and EU Member States to urgently implement UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security, securing the necessary financial and other resources, and developing long-term national action plans, with the involvement of young people and youth organisations in their design, implementation and evaluation.
2. We call upon Member States in Africa and Europe to involve young people, including young migrants and the Diaspora, in the conflict prevention process in addition to supporting local initiatives such as awareness-raising campaigns and capacity building to curb forced migration, including internal displacement.

3. We call upon the EU and AU to support the participatory development and implementation of national strategies by the relevant institutions, civil society and youth at local and national level, to tackle racism and discrimination in all its forms, including that based on gender, ethnicity, religion, culture and geographical location.

## Environmental Preservation and Climate Change

1. To counterbalance existing tendencies and interests that work against the environment, AU and EU Member States must support youth-led initiatives, while establishing strong institutions and clear regulatory frameworks for environmental accountability.
2. We call upon the AU and EU to facilitate the implementation of sustainable agricultural programmes that promote technology transfer, sharing of good practices and provide subsidy programmes to promote organic farming, especially among young people.
3. We urge AU and EU Member States to develop incentives to move towards more environmentally-friendly economies, based on the Paris Agreement and recognising common but differentiated responsibilities, by financing sustainable production and investing in renewable energy while enhancing environmental education.

## Culture and Arts

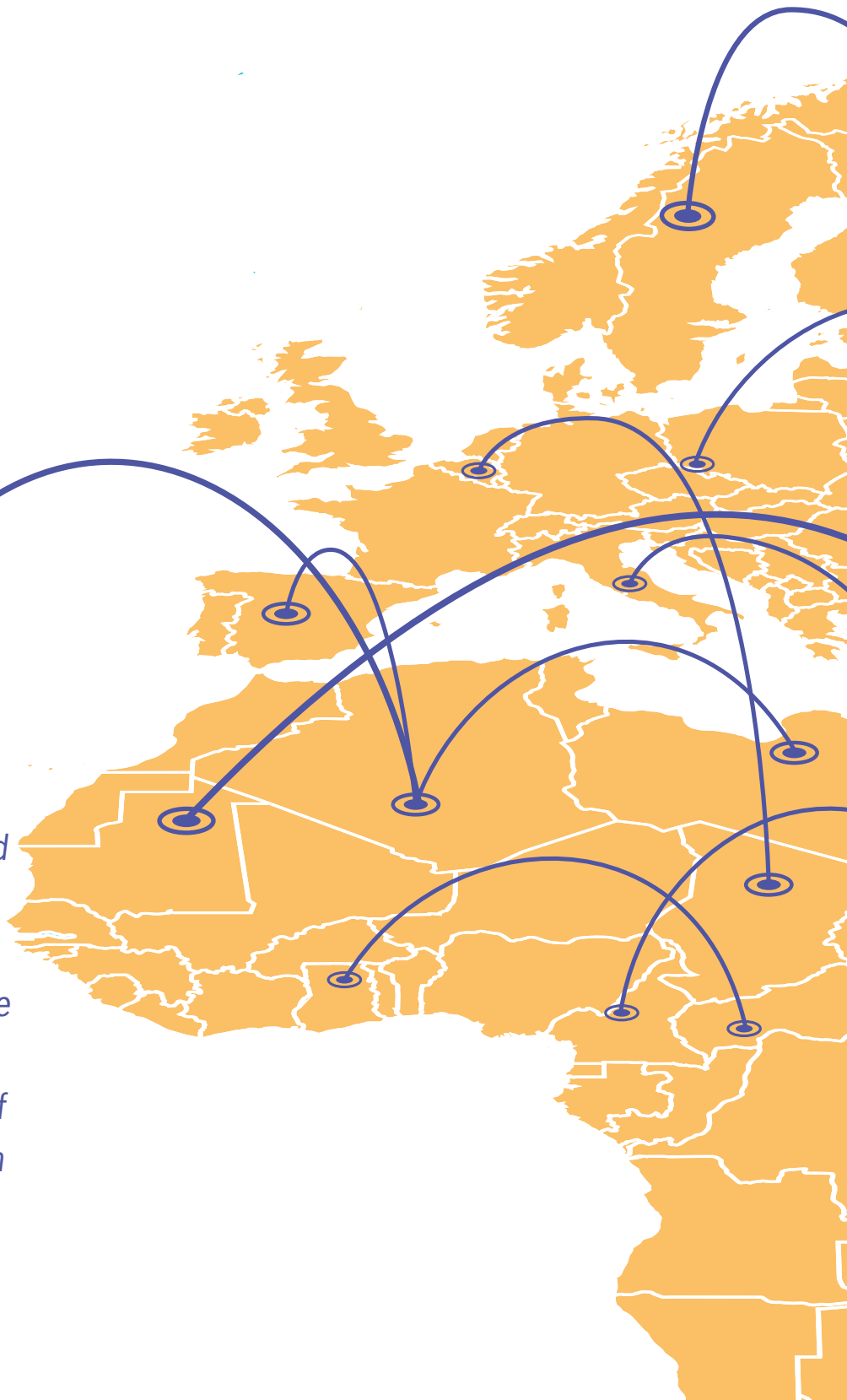
1. We call upon AU and EU Member States to put in place policies and action plans to support and promote emerging and innovative arts and cultural production, while promoting and preserving all art forms in their respective societies.
2. Within the Africa-EU Partnership, we call on AU and EU institutions to facilitate increased accessibility to funding for arts and culture, including support to an Africa-EU Programme on Culture and Creativity.
3. We call on AU and EU Member States to support young people working in creative industries, through local structures, investment in training, leadership, management, production and promotion of culture for young people.

## To guarantee the successful implementation of these recommendations we stress the undeniable need for:

- The establishment of a participatory mechanism to monitor and evaluate the progress of the Africa-EU Partnership, which ensures cross-sectoral collaboration between governments, CSOs, diaspora and youth organisations.
- The dedication of funding from the AU and EU institutions within the framework of the Africa-EU Partnership and Erasmus+ programme, as well as innovative mobilisation of additional resources to advance this Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, to further boost opportunities for real partnership and exchange and to support the implementation of these recommendations.

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We, representatives of the youth organisations from Africa, Europe, and the Diaspora gathered in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire for the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit, commit to build on the legacy of our existing cooperation and pave the way for its sustainable future.



# 5.

## FURTHER READINGS





### **General documents**

- UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Agenda 2063 "the Africa we want"
- EU Youth Strategy
- African Youth Charter
- CM/Rec(2016)7 Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Young People's Access to Rights
- Global strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy
- 2017 "New European consensus on development"
- UN Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on financing for development
- Paris Agreement on climate change
- UN Security Council resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security

### **Documents relating to the Africa-EU Partnership or ACP-EU Partnership**

- Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) 2007
- 2014-2017 JAES Roadmap
- May 2017 "EU Joint Communication for a renewed impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership"
- Cotonou Agreement
- November 2016 "Joint Communication on a renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific"

# References

1. JAES website: [www.africa-eu-partnership.org/en](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/en)
2. Available: <https://rm.coe.int/168070ab4e> (pages 29-48)
3. Joint Communication for a renewed impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership (2017)
4. UN, World population prospects, 2015
5. AU Roadmap: <https://www.africa-youth.org/new-release-au-roadmap-2017-theme-year/>
6. The New European Consensus on Development (2017) p.13
7. [https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/http\\_eur-lex.europa.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/http_eur-lex.europa.pdf)
8. Such as the support to the creation and consolidation of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform, Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations, the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe, the African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe on “Entrepreneurship, Employability and Civic Engagement”, the African Union Youth Development Fund and the support rendered to our cooperation.



