

# APAYE

## AFRICAN PLAN OF ACTION FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

2019 - 2023

The Africa We Want: Building and Unleashing The Potential of Young People





# **African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (2019-2023)**

The Africa We Want: Building and Unleashing The Potential of  
Young People

## Chairperson's Foreword



Africa is on the cusp of turning its significant and much-discussed youthful population into a demographic dividend that will break intergenerational poverty, and address inequalities that have dogged the continent for decades, and ensure a stable Africa, free from conflict.

Despite progress on the continent, our young people still face significant challenges that undermine their productive and reproductive potentials. Yet solutions exist on our continent to address these challenges.

What is required is sustained commitment from Member States, Partners and young people to work together to accelerate, scale up and sustain action.

The 'Africa We Want' can only be achieved by providing our young people with education, entrepreneurship, employment and engagement opportunities. Agenda 2063 provides a solid foundation for action. It prioritizes the development and empowerment of Africa's young people and provides a framework for unleashing the potential of young people to make a meaningful contribution to Africa. This is the only way we can achieve a prosperous, integrated and peaceful Africa.

As a demonstration of my commitment to our young people, in November 2018 I appointed a Special Envoy on Youth and in April 2019, I also launched the 1 Million by 2021 Initiative which seeks to unite Africa for its young people and provide them with concrete opportunities that would transform our continent.

As we move forward, we need to urgently answer fundamental questions about our approaches to solving Africa's existing and emerging problems. How can we test new ideas and solutions, and scale up promising ones continent-wide? How do we work with our Members States and young people to own and accelerate action at country level? How can we embolden and unite stakeholders in support of the continental youth empowerment agenda?

The African Plan of Action on Youth Empowerment (APAYE) seeks to answer these questions. By bolstering our foundations of youth development, catalysing action at Members States level and accelerating implementation of flagship programmes linked to the 1 Million By 2021 Initiative, I strongly believe that we will dramatically improve the youth development landscape in Africa. With coordinated and focused implementation, where all stakeholders' pool efforts and resources together, our collective impact on the lives of young people will reverberate across our continent and lift us to new heights of progress.

The time to act is now! Children today are youth tomorrow. Africa's children and young people cannot wait, we need to act together to achieve the targets in APAYE.



## Commissioner's Preface



The African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government themed 2017 the year of “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”. This invigorated continental and global interest in Africa’s youthful population. The 2017 AU theme built on existing frameworks and decisions, notably Agenda 2063, and the Africa Youth Charter and its Decade Plan of Action.

These frameworks and decisions serve as the basis for the African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (APAYE). The sixth Aspiration of Agenda 2063 hinges on the potential of Africa’s youth as a key ingredient for development. APAYE outlines priority areas for youth empowerment, and strategic actions to achieve its goals. It also takes cognizance of lessons learned and the limitations of previous youth programming efforts.

The visionary leadership of the Chairperson of the AUC, H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat is recognised and appreciated. His commitment to the issues of youth development saw him appoint a Special Envoy on Youth in November 2018 and launch the 1 Million by 2021 Initiative in April 2019. These actions set us on a path of accelerating the youth development agenda, our quest to improve the lives of young Africans is a ceaseless one.

This document has been developed, reviewed, and finalized based on the tireless work and inputs from many stakeholders, including the AUC, AU Member States, development partners and African youth. The Commission also appreciates the efforts of the Bureau of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sports to validate the Plan of Action. It thanks stakeholders who made concrete recommendations for the improvement of the document. A special nod is made to the participants of the validation meeting hosted by the National Youth Authority in Ghana on July 16 – 18, 2019 for their substantive inputs.

The Commission also heartily thanks Dr. Eddie Addai, Representative of United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to the AU for his technical support and valuable insight towards the development of this document. The Commission recognizes the superb efforts of the Youth Division under the AUC Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology towards making the APAYE a reality.

APAYE is a tremendous tool for the AU and other stakeholders to accelerate Africa towards people-driven success. Its efficacy lies in its implementation. The onus is upon AU Member States, the AUC and partners to engage each other and African youth for the effective implementation.



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# Introduction

The African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2019-2023 (APAYE) is a five-year continental framework and plan of action for implementing the African Youth Charter, the African Union (AU) decision on harnessing the demographic dividend through investment in youth, and the targets on youth articulated in the Agenda 2063 Ten Year Implementation Plan.

APAYE serves as the AU's overarching programmatic document to guide and influence the efforts and contributions of key partners and stakeholders engaged in youth empowerment on the continent. It builds on the achievements and lessons of the Decade Plan of Action (DPoA) and serves as an implementation mechanism for youth programming.

In line with the Agenda 2063 commitment, the third Specialized Technical Committee meeting on Youth, Culture and Sports (STC-YCS 3) called for development of the APAYE. The document was developed through a participatory process involving relevant stakeholders including Member States, partners, the private sector and young people. It was validated at a meeting of stakeholders and endorsed by the STC-YCS 3 Bureau for implementation.

## Purpose of APAYE

APAYE is a living document and an adaptable framework for driving youth empowerment on the continent. It is designed to be responsive to youth empowerment programming in different country contexts. It is intended to enable actions and serve as a practical guide and framework for accountability to key stakeholders, including Member States, the AU Commission (AUC) Youth Division, other AUC departments and AU organs, Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), partners and youth involved in programming on youth empowerment. Its primary purposes are to:

- Identify priority and strategic actions for youth empowerment in Africa.
- Guide the development and implementation of high-impact programmes and policies. This includes measures to accelerate action on key flagship programmes and initiatives, and mainstreaming youth issues into work across other sectors.
- Mobilize, convene and coordinate stakeholders at national, regional and continental levels to work coherently and synergistically to achieve youth empowerment outcomes on the continent.
- Monitor progress on youth empowerment to serve as a framework for mutual accountability among key stakeholders. This will require support from a strong research, monitoring, evaluation and learning agenda.



## Background

### The situation of young people in Africa

Africa is the most youthful continent in the world and has the highest proportion of young people. The continent's population reached 1.2 billion in 2015 and is projected to grow rapidly, reaching 1.7 billion in 2030 and 3 billion in 2063. Of these, about 35 per cent are aged 15-35 and over 75 per cent of Africa's total population are under 35 years of age.

Africa has the potential to turn its youthful population into a demographic dividend. A youthful population can lead to increased savings, higher productivity and economic growth. But for this to happen, Africa must invest strategically and adequately in its human capital, and especially on education, employment, health and engagement of its young people. A demographic dividend will help break intergenerational poverty, address inequalities, and ensure a stable, peaceful and prosperous Africa, as envisaged by Agenda 2063.

Even though progress has been made, this is not keeping up with population growth. Young people in different contexts, particularly those in conflict situations and young people on the move such as refugees, internally displaced persons (IDP's), returnees, and those living with disability, on the continent, still face significant challenges in accessing education, skills, employment, engagement and health and reproductive services. According to the AU's 2019 Status of African Youth Report (SoAYR), despite the continent's growth and potential, quality jobs for youth remain scarce, youth unemployment is still significant, vulnerable employment is high and the proportion of youth who are working poor is on the rise. Challenges remain in access to relevant education, and alternative training options are lacking. Stronger alignment between the education curriculum and labour market requirements – as well as increased opportunities for on-the-job training apprenticeships, internships and continuous training programmes – are required to ensure a smooth school-to-work transition. Gender inequalities among young people are still prevalent on the continent.

With regards to sexual and reproductive health of young people on the continent, teenage pregnancy and child marriage are still prevalent and access to comprehensive sexuality education is limited for young people. The mental health of young Africans also requires attention, given the challenges they face with employment, education, reproductive health, identity, gender disparities and meaningful engagement in society, and associated increases in levels of depression, addiction and suicide.

Young people face major barriers in their inclusion and participation in programmes, projects and decision making, and contributing effectively to civic and political processes. This is usually because they do not have the capacity and are not adequately represented in decision-making positions and discourse on the continent. Limited participation of increasingly educated, unemployed, globally exposed and technologically-savvy young people often leads to frustration and a sense of disenfranchisement, which, if left unaddressed, may threaten social cohesion, peace and security.

An urgent comprehensive response is required to the current state of youth in Africa to harness the potential of Africa's young people. This will require accelerated and at-scale increases in education and entrepreneurship opportunities, creating an enabling environment for economic growth. Targeted interventions to promote young people's health, well-being and engagement are required for a prosperous society.

## Youth development programming in Africa



Programming for youth development has been evolving. In 2004 the Youth Development Division of the AUC was established as a cross-cutting division to drive the AUC's youth empowerment agenda for the continent. AU Heads of State and Government endorsed the African Youth Charter (AYC) in July 2006, and it entered into force on 8 August 2009. The Charter, as a rights framework, reinforces provisions contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to promote and protect young people. Its entry into force was a paradigm shift in the definition of youth and their contribution to Africa's development, and also illustrates political commitment to improve the situation of youth in Africa.

A 2006 Executive Council Decision proclaimed and instituted 1 November as Africa Youth Day. The purpose of Africa Youth Day is to promote increased recognition of youth as the main agents for social change and economic growth in all aspects of African society. To further reinforce the AU's commitment to the engagement and development of African youth, the AUC Chairperson appointed an AU Youth Envoy and Advisory Council on the 2018 Africa Youth Day.

In 2008, the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union declared 2009-2018 the African Youth Decade and endorsed the African Youth Decade Plan of Action (DPoA) as the roadmap for implementation of the Charter. In 2014, having reached the middle of the decade, the AUC Youth Division embarked on a mid-term review (MTR) to assess progress and chart the course for the second half of the decade. Steps were then taken to implement critical actions to accelerate implementation and respond to Agenda 2063.

Agenda 2063, developed in 2013 by the AUC, is Africa's blueprint for development. The document provides a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent. Aspiration 6 of the Agenda calls for unleashing of the potential of Africa's youth. The first ten-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 calls for the development of the APAYE as a guiding document for youth development programming in Africa.

The African Assembly devoted Demographic Dividend through Investments in developing a roadmap with key deliverables and 2017 to "Harnessing the Youth" and requested the AUC to milestones to guide Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and partners on concrete actions to be undertaken to empower young people in Africa from 2017 and beyond.

## Lessons Learned

Lessons emerging from implementation of the DPoA suggest that APAYE needs to respond to a multicultural, diverse, fast-changing and competitive context, associated with increasing access to technology and a growing youth population on the continent.

Over recent decades much progress has been made in advancing youth development on the continent. Member States have demonstrated political commitment to youth development by putting national plans in place and establishing bodies and institutions to steer the youth development agenda. However, several challenges persist including:

- **Weak implementation.** It is not always easy to translate continental policy into action and results at country level. This is mainly due to lack of focus, inadequate resources and expertise, weak engagement and lack of ownership by Member States, and disconnect between national and continental-level plans,
- **Inadequate engagement of young people.** Continental programmes and policies are not owned and driven by young people, because of weak engagement and capacity of young people. Consequently youth-led accountability is weak at country and continental level,
- **Data availability.** Weak data, monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning systems are major challenges to implementation of youth policies and programmes.
- **Coordination and mainstreaming.** Several youth empowerment programmes are being implemented by Member States, RECs, AUC departments, AU organs and partner institutions. While these programmes have the potential to enable at-scale delivery of youth empowerment results they are not well coordinated, leading to duplication, misalignment and lack of synergy. It has also been difficult to sustain and accelerate progress.
- **Partner leveraging.** The existence of several partners in the youth empowerment landscape provides opportunities to leverage partner resources. Consequently, the partners' competing, overlapping frameworks and initiatives need to be harmonized.

This context calls for increased agility, coherence, scale, speed, innovation and resources for youth programming. It also requires strengthened partnerships, consistent implementation and effective communication and coordination among stakeholders, as well as continuous monitoring and accountability.

## Why the African Union Commission?



The youth development agenda in Africa is expansive, multi-layered and multi-faceted. APAYE therefore presents a strategic framework for harmonizing and coordinating efforts towards achieving youth empowerment and the goals of Agenda 2063. The AUC is best placed to lead continental action on youth development, given the mandate to act on youth issues granted through AU Assembly decisions, Agenda 2063, Youth Charter and other related frameworks.

The AU possesses the convening power to mobilize, synergize and leverage national, international stakeholders towards a common goal and has over the last decades been strengthening its institutional capacity and legitimacy to lead and steer the implementation of youth empowerment programmes. The AUC also sits as a nexus between key actors to generate momentum and leverage linkages to accelerate rapid youth advancement in Africa. It brings together governments, youth voices, civil society, development actors and the private sector, and legitimizes the efforts of all stakeholders on the continental stage.

The AUC will use a mix of approaches to accelerate the implementation of APAYE on the continent. These include:

- Advocacy to place youth empowerment issues high on the agenda of Member States and key stakeholders and thereby transform commitment into action and results. Hence a robust Communications and Advocacy strategy will be put in place to support the implementation of APAYE.
- Brokerage by establishing a platform to facilitate interactions between and among stakeholders based on their comparative advantages. The brokerage role will also be used to facilitate inter-country learning and peer reviews. A technical assistance platform will also be established to support country level action.
- Catalyzing action at country level, given results for young people will be achieved at country level. AUC will work with Member States to establish country acceleration strategies that spell out contribution of Member States to the key APAYE targets.
- Demonstrating what works and does not work. APAYE will be solutions oriented and will focus on supporting AU Member State to adopt, replicate and scale up of fit for context solutions. Consequently a solutions book will be developed to support this process.
- Engaging for collective impact. A partnership and mutual accountability framework will be put in place to facilitate collaboration for results and coordination of activities / investments by the diverse stakeholders involved in youth empowerment ecosystem on the continent.



## Objectives and guiding principles

APAYE speaks primarily to Goal 18 of the Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 and (given the cross-cutting nature of youth issues) contributes to all the other goals and seven aspirations of Agenda 2063. It unleashes the potential of African young people and thus positions youth at the center of Africa's development

### Foundations of APAYE

Though several AU frameworks, decisions and documents guide youth development in Africa, APAYE needs to serve as a central document for harmonizing these frameworks and galvanizing stakeholders towards key targets on the continent over the next five years. The key guiding documents for APAYE are:

- Agenda 2063
- The African Youth Charter
- The SDGs, the United Nations Youth Strategy and Generation Unlimited
- The AU Demographic Dividend Roadmap
- Regional and other continental frameworks on youth
- National youth policies and plans

### Definition of youth

The African Youth Charter defines a youth as a person between the ages of 15 and 35. While this age group is the primary focus of APAYE, the interventions proposed in this plan of action will build on, contribute to and benefit from the results in childhood. As the children of today are the youth of tomorrow, the plan of action takes account of the transition from childhood to youth, and therefore also makes deliberate efforts to address this transition. Further reinforcing this principle and because critical aspects of developing human capital in Africa are dependent on making investments in children, the African Union's Report on the Implementation of the AU theme of the year 2017, recommended that investment in youth should focus on (i) youth between 15 and 35 years of age; and (ii) young people below 15 years of age.

### Objectives

The goal of APAYE is to empower young people in Africa to make appropriate life choices and contribute meaningfully to the socioeconomic and political development of the continent and the AU's vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. The specific objectives of APAYE are to:

- Improve the health and well-being of Africa’s young people and provide them with education, entrepreneurship, employment and engagement opportunities; and
- Create necessary conditions – including supportive legal frameworks that foster inclusion, peace and good governance – at continental, regional and country levels that enable young people to own the continent’s development agenda, act as drivers of Africa’s renaissance and make meaningful contributions to the continent’s development.

## Strategies

APAYE will pursue three interacting and mutually reinforcing strategies to achieve the above objectives:

- Accelerate implementation of game-changing continental flagship programmes and initiatives in health, education, entrepreneurship, employment and engagement (H+4Es)
- Provide technical assistance and capacity building support to catalyse action at Member State level for at-scale implementation of relevant solutions
- Strengthen the foundations – including data, coordination, partnerships and resource mobilization – for sustained implementation of youth programming.



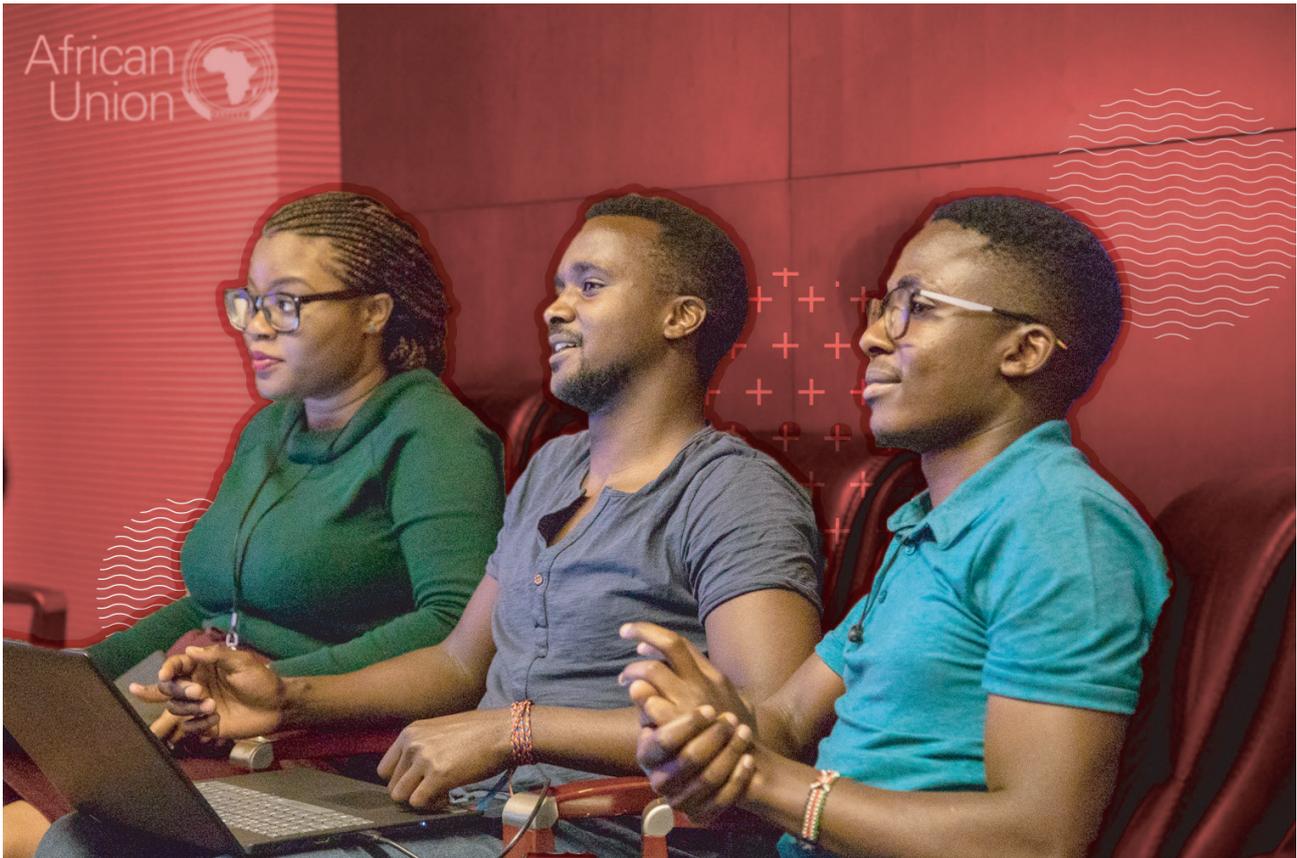
## Guiding principles

APAYE implementation is guided by the following principles:

- **Solution-oriented:** APAYE is solution-oriented, evidence-based and adaptable to different country contexts and emerging issues. It is thus designed to be flexible and relevant for programming in all AU Member States.
- **High impact:** The solutions target high-impact and high-multiplier interventions to be implemented at scale in countries and the continent.
- **Country Focus:** APAYE recognizes that results will be achieved in countries and hence places Member States at the center of implementation. In doing so, it also recognizes that a one 'size fits all' approach will not work given the diversity of Member States. Such diversities include population structure, stability, conflict and post situations, gender differences, hard to reach and underserved, rural and urban populations and socio- economic differences.
- **Leverage partnerships:** APAYE provides a platform for convening partners to work together within an ecosystem to advance the young people agenda on the continent. It prioritizes cross-country learning and sharing and exchange of experiences and promising practices. It also leverages the AU's mandate to promote affirmative action for youth.
- **Mainstreaming and coordination:** APAYE provides a mechanism to mainstream, coordinate and harmonize youth and gender development issues and actions across all sectors.
- **Youth engagement:** APAYE prioritizes and facilitates meaningful engagement of young people and, through this, ensures that youth development programmes are designed and implemented with young people.
- **Mutual accountability:** By clearly spelling out the various and complementary roles of partners, APAYE enforces an environment of joint ownership and mutual accountability across partners and sectors.



## Key strategic actions and deliverables



### **Pillar 1: Strengthen foundations of youth programming**

1. Put in place mechanisms, platforms, policy and programmatic frameworks and guidelines for the delivery of the flagships. This includes developing a solutions book to guide the rolling out of the flagships
2. Convene stakeholders on youth development issues – including around the flagships – every two years and leverage other existing continental platforms such as SME Fairs.
3. Establish and strengthen platforms for partnership coordination, management and accountability
4. Operationalize the Youth Development Fund and a strong resource mobilization strategy and sustainability plan

5. Develop and implement a communications and advocacy strategy for youth development. This includes ensuring an up-to-date website and robust social media engagement.
6. Put in place a framework for accountability, underpinned by a research agenda, country score cards, the African Youth Report, and lessons on what is working, and establish a knowledge exchange platform.
7. Establish a knowledge hub including production of a biennial report on the Status of African Youth, and country reports of the status and impact of youth programmes in countries; their focus, priorities, gaps, challenges and opportunities.
8. Undertake a mid-term review of APAYE and use the lessons learned to guide further implementation.
9. Launch and implement the “1 Million by 2021 Initiative” which seeks to reach 1 million of African youth with opportunities and interventions in employment, entrepreneurship, education and engagement, by the year 2021.



## **Pillar 2: Catalyse action at Member State level**

Given the diversity of youth programmes among Member States, a contextualized approach will guide the roll out of APAYE. To this end, country engagement will be stratified based on operational feasibility and readiness for implementation. The first wave of countries will provide the environment for testing and refining models, tools and approaches for country implementation. The key priority and essential actions include;

1. Develop a framework and strategy to accelerate youth programming in Member States (Country Acceleration Strategy).
2. Set up a multi-sectoral technical support team to support Member States, AUC Departments, AU Organs and RECs to mainstream the youth agenda across sectors.
3. Provide technical assistance and capacity building support to Member States to implement education reforms linked to job skills mismatch and develop, mainstream, implement, coordinate, monitor and report on country acceleration strategies for youth empowerment.
4. Organize and facilitate biennial inter-country peer reviews, learning and experience sharing.



### **Pillar 3: Implementation of continental flagship programmes**

The AU will pursue seven main game-changing interventions – the flagships – to provide a big push and propel continental action on youth development issues. These flagships are high-impact areas and will serve as points of focus and confluence for stakeholder mobilization, investment, actions and accountability.

1. Alternative pathways to education	Engage relevant partners to reach at least 10,000 young people with alternative pathways models for learning and skills development, including remote learning,
2. Young teachers' initiative	Establish a continental "Teachers without Borders" programme, reaching at least 5,000 young people in at least 25 countries to address quality of delivery and availability
3. Internships and apprenticeship	Engage Member States, AUC Departments, and partners (including private sector partners) to provide at least 100,000 young people with professional internships and apprenticeship programmes to contextualise learning to the world of work
4. Nurture youth-led start-ups	Engage and leverage partners to identify and implement scalable models on nurturing at least 100,000 young entrepreneurs
5. Leadership programme	Roll out leadership programmes including training, mentorship and job shadowing, reaching at least 100,000 young people
6. Youth Movement	Establish a framework for youth consultations, including an annual consultative forum and regional consultations
7. Campaign on youth well-being and mental health	Develop and roll out a continental campaign on mental health that focuses on the intersection between substance abuse, crime, suicide and mental health



## Roles and responsibilities

Given the multisectoral nature of youth empowerment, different stakeholders operating at continental, regional, national and local levels need to be engaged and supported to deliver on their mandates and contributions to Youth programming. The following are the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders;

### Member States

- Put in place country policies and programmes aligned to APAYE
- Mobilize public-private partnerships to deliver on youth programmes
- Increase financial allocations to youth programmes at country level
- Convene youth conversations using face to face and digital spaces, to mainstream youth voices into policy development and implementation. This may include meetings with youth at community level and opportunities for youth to participate in key meetings.
- Document and send regular reports on progress of youth programmes to AUC and RECs, aligned to specific indicators in APAYE and the SoAYR. This should include partner contributions to results.

### African Union Commission Youth Division, Departments and Organs

- Coordinate continental planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of APAYE
- Convene youth conversations, using among others digital spaces, to mainstream youth voices into policy development and implementation
- Identify and mobilize stakeholders and resources towards implementation
- Provide guidance and technical assistance to Member States on implementation and alignment
- Provide technical assistance and advocacy to AU departments and organs to mainstream youth development into their programmes
- Advocate and build the capacity of civil society organizations and relevant AU organs to report on youth issues

## **Regional Economic Commissions**

- Define and coordinate regional youth priorities aligned with continental frameworks on youth that respond to APAYE
- Provide oversight, technical assistance and quality assurance to countries for implementation
- Document progress and lessons, and report to the AUC
- Facilitate inter-country learning at regional level

## **Young People**

- Mobilize young people on different platforms to advocate for APAYE and actively contribute to its implementation
- Support resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring and accountability for youth-led programmes at country level
- Partner with relevant organizations to accelerate implementation of APAYE
- Disseminate APAYE to various youth platforms

## **Partners and Civil Society**

- Provide technical and financial support and knowledge transfer for implementation of APAYE
- Review and align programmes to APAYE
- Mobilize country offices to support Member State implementation of APAYE
- Advocate for implementation of APAYE
- Assess and report on the impact of APAYE at national and subnational levels (shadow report)



## Measuring Success



Over the last decade the AUC has been strengthening systems for monitoring and reporting on youth empowerment programmes on the continent with the establishment of the Status of Africa Youth Report (SoAYR). The SoAYR includes clear metrics for assessing progress, and systems and processes for data collection, quality assurance, cleaning and analysis.

The biennial SoAYR, which measures progress on the state of youth in Africa and is mandated by the Africa Youth Charter, will provide the core indicators for APAYE, complemented with country scorecards on youth development. The nine core performance indicators to be tracked systematically in the SoAYR to provide progress at Member States and Continental levels, as well as in establishing foundation for APAYE are:

### Member States

1. Member States demonstrate increased investment and progress towards achieving the continental targets for youth.
2. Member States create enabling conditions for youth engagement.
3. Youth parity index

## **Continental level**

4. Increased number of youth benefiting from youth empowerment opportunities.
5. Expanded and increased opportunities for youth empowerment.
6. Expanded spaces for amplification of youth voices in continental programmes.

## **Foundational**

7. A robust coordination mechanism is in place that ensures mutual accountability and strong alignment of key stakeholder efforts on continental youth priorities.
8. The implementation of continent-wide youth programming is guided by evidence of progress and what works.
9. The youth programming environment fosters innovation and emboldens stakeholders to consider new perspectives.

Data will be generated and collected through existing country systems, which need to be strengthened to include better monitoring, quality assurance and data use mechanisms. The data collection process will follow the regular reporting process already put in place by the SoAYR.

For the first three years, monitoring of the performance of the APAYE will be directly linked to targets set under the “1 Million by 2021 Initiative”, and therefore progress will be measured on the 4Es and the 12 Pathways, as outlined in the project strategy, embedded within the SoAYR indicators.

A mid-term review of APAYE will be undertaken in the third year, to guide priorities and programming for the rest of the APAYE term, and to prepare for the successive continental youth programming framework. A research agenda, including thematic and country reviews and evaluations, will be put in place help explain emerging patterns and performance issues and inform implementation of corrective actions.

The AUC will also institute a peer-review and accountability mechanism under which stakeholders will report on and peer review progress during meetings of the Specialized Technical Committee of Youth, Culture and Sports (STC-YCS).



# Action Plan

Key Strategic Actions	Time Frame					Implementing Partners
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
<b>Strengthen foundations for sustained implementation of youth programming, including data, coordination, partnerships and resource mobilization</b>						
And programmatic frameworks and guidelines for the delivery of the flagships. This includes developing a solutions book to guide the rolling out of the flagships.						YD and partners
Produce the biennial African Youth Report that includes taking stock of the status of youth programmes in countries, their focus, priorities, gaps, challenges and opportunities.						YD, partners and Member States
Convene stakeholders every two years on youth development issues, including around the flagships, and leverage other existing continental platforms such as SME Fairs.						YD, partners and Member States
Establish a platform for partnership coordination, management and accountability.						YD, partners and Member States
Operationalize the Youth Development Fund and a strong resource mobilization strategy and sustainability plan.						YD, partners and Member States
Develop and implement a Communications and Advocacy Strategy on youth development. This includes ensuring a website that is up to date, and robust social media engagement						YD, partners
Put in place a framework for accountability, underpinned by a research agenda, country score cards, the African Youth Report, lessons on what is working and a knowledge exchange platform						YD, partners, Member States and RECs
Undertake a mid-term review of APAYE and use the lessons learned to guide further implementation.						YD
Establish the knowledge exchange platform.						YD
Launch 1 Million by 2021 Initiative.						



# APAYE

## African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (2019-2023)

### The Africa We Want: Building and Unleashing The Potential of Young People

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