

2nd ACP EU Youth
Conference
Nairobi, KENYA
18th December 2016

Nairobi Declaration

*“THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH IN THE ACP and EU OF
TOMORROW”*

PREAMBLE

We, the youth and diaspora youth of the African Caribbean and Pacific group of states (ACP) meeting in our 2nd Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, on 18th December 2016, under the theme “ *The Role of the Youth in the ACP and EU of Tomorrow*”;

- A. **Affirming** that the inclusion of young people in the SDG Agenda is non-negligible as youth are the next generation to inherit the legacy of the SDGs and the future generation to write the post-SDG Agenda;
- B. **Observing** that in 13 years time, the youth will be the future leaders discussing post-Agenda 2030 context and setting new priorities;
- C. **Taking note** of the 2030 Agenda, and other regional agendas such as but not limited to, the AU Agenda 2063;
- D. **Further affirming** the desire of the youth to be included and represented in future ACP, and ACP-EU talks;
- E. **Aware of** the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement in 2020;
- F. **Deeply concerned** by the non-implementation of Article 26 of the Cotonou Agreement;
- G. **Recalling** the success of Youth Inclusion in other regions of the world such as Europe;
- H. **Welcoming** the initiative taken by the ACP Young Professionals Network and the European Parliament for the organization of the JPA Youth Conference;
- I. **Noting that** that youth make up half of the world’s population today, and we are witnessing new forms of under-development, including unpaid internships, low quality jobs for over-skilled youth, and the lack of decent jobs;
- J. **Noting the need** for deepened youth inclusion initiatives especially targeted towards enhancing their participation in governance and trade;
- K. **Guided by** the desire to develop our countries;

HEREBY:

YOUTH

- A. **Encourages** more and better inclusion of Youth in ACP member states and diaspora youth in European States by supporting existing non-political youth organizations;
- B. **Further encourages** member states to protect the right of assembly, the right of association and the freedom of expression of youths;
- C. **Calls upon** member states to further deepen the nomination of youth to elective position;
- D. **Calls upon** member states to safeguard the rights of the youth in the ACP EU post-Cotonou discussions and other governance mechanisms by consulting them and by being more transparent;
- E. **Emphasizes** on the importance of the implementation of Article 26 of the EU-ACP Cotonou Partnership Agreement on youth issues. There are provisions 'for realizing the potential of youth so that they are better integrated into society to achieve their full potential';
- F. **Recommends** a Youth conference en marge of every Joint Parliamentary Assembly;
- G. **Further Recommends** that youth be included in the formulation and implementation mechanism of future EU-ACP relations and the future configuration of the ACP group as a trans-continental organization beyond 2020;

SDGs

- H. **Notes** the fact that there is not one SDG dedicated to youth and youths are mentioned 5 times in the 169 targets;
- I. **Draws the attention** to the fact that youth are mentioned 4 times in the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the European Council *SWD (2016) 380 final*;
- J. **Calls upon** all stakeholders to engage the youth throughout the entire SDG implementation, monitoring and reporting process, as part of the collective endeavor;
- K. **Calls upon** ACP member states and the European Union to work toward more youth friendly trade agreements as part of working toward empowering youth enterprise and leaving no one behind;

- L. **Encourages** member states to facilitate the opportunities of youth to participate in governance monitoring, entrepreneurial growth and policy development;

DIASPORA

- M. **Encourages** ACP member states to work on the integration and engagement of its diaspora;
- N. **Further encourages** European Union member states to support, include and engage ACP diaspora in governance mechanisms;
- O. **Calls upon** the facilitation of trading opportunities for the diaspora and the youth diaspora in both ACP and EU countries;
- P. **Invites** ACP states embassies to keep updated data of their diaspora, youth diaspora and diaspora organizations;
- Q. **Recommends** a discussion on the recognition of certificates and diplomas of ACP diaspora in Europe and elsewhere;
- R. **Further invites** all parties to co-create our future together.

END