

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE  
AFRICAN YOUTH AND GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE, ACCRA, 2011  
“THE ACCRA YOUTH ACCORD 2011”

**PREAMBLE**

**WE**, the youth of Africa gathered in Accra for the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Youth and Governance Conference dubbed the African Youth Economic Forum, anchored on the five sub-themes of Education, ICT, Natural Resources and Environment, Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment, and Agriculture,

**CONVINCED** that Africa’s greatest resource is its youthful population and that by harnessing the opportunities that the continent’s youth bulge presents, Africans can surmount the challenges that lie ahead,

**TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION** the continental focus on youth development at the recent 17<sup>th</sup> African Union Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea with a call on African governments

*“to advance the youth agenda and adopt policies and mechanisms towards the creation of safe, decent and competitive employment opportunities by accelerating the implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018) and the Ouagadougou 2004 Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation”*

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the efforts of African governments so far achieved in tackling youth unemployment, challenges in the education sector, the promotion of ICT and agriculture,

**FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING** with great delight, the drive among African youth towards self-empowerment and innovation, as well as their tireless, optimistic, and constructive contributions to the advancement of African nations,

**GUIDED** by the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the African Youth Charter and the Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009 - 2018),

And following two days of deliberations and active participation of 180 youth delegates from the 10<sup>th</sup> August to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra,

**HAVE NOTED:**

1. The educational systems of many African countries continue to produce a mismatch between training received in schools and universities and the skills required in the job market. This challenge is accentuated by the increasing global competitiveness among the world’s knowledge based societies, heavily reliant on ICT.

2. The lack of an enabling environment and adequate resources fail to provide the catalysts for scaling up best practices in both, the private and public sector.
3. The lack of country-based, national agendas that clearly outline long-term, properly-funded, sustainable, and transformative programs dedicated to the advancement of Africa's youth.

## **THEREFORE CALL ON:**

### **African Governments**

1. To ensure the active involvement of young people in their decision making and policy development process;
2. Make sufficient budgetary allocation to youth development and to support programs which contribute to youth development;
3. To increasingly invest in the agricultural sector which has the potential of employing millions of African youth
4. To invest in ICT infrastructure in order to expand access to modern technology and to enable African youth to make indigenous ICT products competitive in the global market;
5. To develop a holistic educational system wherein polytechnics and universities alike provide young people with the skills they aspire to attain and provide essential guidance and career counseling;
6. Expand the investment made towards higher education, providing university graduates with the infrastructure and resources to develop internationally demanded skills and tools;
7. To develop local content policies in the natural resource sector that are appropriately linked to other sectors of the economy as well as spawn new sectors for employment. This is to provide a more sustainable development strategy for tackling youth unemployment;
8. To intensify its partnership with the private sector and development partners in providing incubators to prepare African youth for the job market, and particularly to assist young entrepreneurs in establishing their businesses at regional, national and sub-national levels;

### **Young People in Africa**

9. To empower themselves through continuous learning and knowledge seeking using modern technology;

10. To partner and strategically network with peers to facilitate information and experience sharing as well as unleash the national and regional lobbying potential of Africa's youth;
11. Realize and exploit the opportunities for employment, wealth creation, skills development and diversification in the agricultural sector and other sectors pertaining to natural resource exploitation;
12. Embrace volunteerism as a cost-effective means to develop skills and gain experience;
13. To be bold, risk taking and innovative entrepreneurs with a sustainable and scalable vision in building successful, young and global businesses in Africa;
14. To bundle resources through partnerships and cooperatives as a means to garner seed-money and improve eligibility for credit from financial institutions;

#### **Private Sector and Civil Society Stakeholders**

15. To engage in educational sponsorship and provide employment, internship and volunteer opportunities to African youth;
16. To combine efforts with African youth thereby fostering young people's leverage in lobbying activities;

#### **All Development Partners**

17. Promote sustainable partnerships, networking and integration of youth in national development efforts; and
18. Expand and deepen direct engagement with Africa's youth as partners in designing solutions to development challenges.

Dated 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2011