

EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE;

Harness Demographic Dividend



NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 4
26/05/2016

“TRANSFORM CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES”



Under the high patronage of the President of The Gambia represented by the Vice President, Banjul+10 provided a high-level political platform to advance the agenda on investing in youth to harness the demographic dividend.

Her Excellency Njie Saidy closed the celebrations and high level youth forum by calling on all African countries to speed up the indigenisation and implementation of the African Youth Charter mindful of the size of the youth cohort and the crucial role it must play in transforming the continent through the demographic dividend.

During the preceding intergenerational dialogue, Ministers of Youth and youth delegates agreed on the

need for strategies and urgent action to empower young people, open borders, generate economic opportunities, provide skills, and lower the legal and political barriers blocking young people from political and elected office.

Deliberations on the last day focused on the next steps building on the momentum, energy and dynamism that was displayed at the Summit and reflected in the outcomes.

The Summit was an opportunity that was seized by the youth of Africa to remind all stakeholders that youth empowerment and development are at the core of the Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals) and that this Summit was a true platform to recommit to the African Youth Charter.

The agreed Outcomes are forward-looking and strategic, focusing on how to strengthen the implementation of the African Youth Charter and the Decade Plan of Action, as well as calling for concrete actions on the demographic dividend. Young people from across the continent called for stakeholders to strengthen their efforts to partner with and invest in youth to harness the Demographic Dividend... [More on page 2](#)

FATOU BINTOU MASSALY

“WE SHOULD PUT AN
END TO HARMFUL PRACTICES”



AfriYAN Girls, Member of the Youth
Network on Population and
Development SENEGAL

“I would recommend that young girls be able to complete their education. This will help them to hold decision-making responsibilities and contribute to the transformation of their countries. We also need to focus on girls’ empowerment in order to harness demographic dividend.

But all of this will work when we can put an end to harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, early marriages and early pregnancies. I would also like that young girls could have access to family planning.”

DJAMILA GHISSA ABATANE

“LET’S MAKE 2017 A YEAR OF ACTION
FOR AFRICAN YOUTH”



Niger Young Female Leaders Cell/Cellule
nigérienne des jeunes filles (CNJFL)

“It’s unfortunate that only 38 out of 54 African countries have ratified the African Youth Charter because for me this is crucial for the development of Africa. I believe it is also useful to harness the demographic dividend.

It is important that the young people take part in this because, especially young girls face harmful practices such as early marriages, female genital mutilation, early pregnancies, gender based violence etc.

I think the time has come for us to define a programme of practical actions for the next summit of the African Union.

I wish we could make 2017 a good year for us with concrete actions for African young people.”



#AUBanjulPlus10 #TheAfricaWeWant #DemDiv
#EndFCM #YouthPower #EndChildMarriage

wcaro.unfpa.org



... These included stepping up efforts to raise awareness and accelerate actions among Member States on the demographic dividend; implementing a capacity building initiative to strengthen the capacity of key institutions across AU Member States; scaling up affordable and youth-friendly health services linked to comprehensive sexuality education; and, ending harmful traditional practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Participants at Banjul +10 also reiterated the call for the establishment of a continental Youth Development Fund stipulated in the African Youth Charter that will promote youth development in different areas including youth health, education, employment, good governance, youth participation and youth entrepreneurship.



The outcomes of the event of Banjul+10 will feed into the second meeting of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sports also serving as the platform towards the preparation of the roadmap for the 2017 'African Year for Harnessing Demographic Dividends for accelerated Youth Empowerment'.

Banjul+10 showed the best of Africa, with young people coming together – engaging, challenging the status quo, and proposing solutions – to invest in youth to harness the demographic dividend.

During her closing address, Her Excellency Njie Saidu remarked on the high level of engagement and excellent inputs from youth, Ministers of Youth, UNFPA and other development partners during Banjul +10 and said that this 'shows that we are engaged and ready to transform constraints and challenges into opportunities'.



ENDING FISTULA WITHIN A GENERATION AND RESTORING DIGNITY

The commemoration of the International Day to End Fistula coincided with the Banjul+10, providing UNFPA and partners with an opportunity to highlight the importance to accelerate action to end child marriage, early pregnancies and ensuing maternal health complications like obstetric fistula.

In the presence of the producer and lead actor, UNFPA hosted a special screening of the inspiring movie on fistula - Dry (I want to be a girl again). Dry star and champion to end fistula, Stephanie Okereke Linus, expressed her gratitude to everyone stating that she hopes the movie will be screened by more women's groups across the globe. Dry is a thought provoking call to action against this unacceptable and avoidable condition that primarily affects girls.

UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Ade Lekoetjie, in her opening statement stated that it is essential to ensure that no girl or woman dies while giving birth or sustains fistula.

The representative of the Women's Bureau of The Gambia challenged governments and the private sector to invest in the improvement of maternal health in order to secure the lives of women and children in Africa.

Keynote Speaker Mr. Mabinque Ngom, Regional Director UNFPA West and Central Africa, also encouraged all states to work on harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in the wellbeing of young girls.

The movie focuses on the story of Fatima, a 12 year old girl that was sent of to marry an older man. She was eventually raped, abused and then lost her baby at child birth. Upon developing fistula, Fatima was sent out of her matrimonial home and with her dad refusing to take her back on the claim that she is a witch; is forced to live on the streets where she undergoes even more abuse and stigma until she meets Dr Zara who tries to save her. It highlights the importance of political will and adequate budgetary appropriations to end fistula within a generation.

After the viewing of the film, Mr. Kunle Adeniyi, Chief of Operations and Head of the UNFPA The Gambia asked leaders and participants to do more sensitization leading to enhanced action on the issue in order to eradicate the problem of fistula within our lifetime.



MOHAMMED HOSAM ELDIN



MA3LOOMA EGYPT

Through Ma3looma that means a piece of information, we work to engage young people through an online platform to provide sexual and reproductive health counselling.

In line with the aspirations of the African Youth Charter, Ma3looma believes in the rights of young people and their development. This is why, all the counsellors are young people who are below 28 years.

Going forward we must strengthen peer education to ensure it continues to play a significant role by reaching people through online platforms.

This will enable discretion and anonymity in the provision of sexual and reproductive health information and services to all irrespective of their identity.

Youth development could be enhanced through the use of social media and we need to build on ongoing initiatives and explore partnerships, this is why I feel proud to be part of #AUBanjulPlus10.



AFRIMA: EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ARTS AND CULTURE



Alongside the Banjul+10 commemoration, the All Africa Music Awards (AFRIMA), held a conference bringing together stakeholders in the business of Music, Entertainment and Culture from all over Africa to discuss the way forward.

Also as part of AFRIMA's events and as a way of contributing to the empowerment of young people, a donation of Educational Materials and Musical Instruments was handed over to the Bakoteh School.



A MEDIAMATIC PRODUCTION

EDITORIAL OVERSIGHT:
NELSON MUFFUH & KUNLE ADENIYI

MANAGING EDITOR: HABIBATOU GOLOGO
EDITOR IN CHIEF: KEBBA CAMARA
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: CHERNO DAKO

PHOTOGRAPHERS:
MEDIAMATIC & UNFPA WCARO

LINE REPORTERS:
EBRIMA DARBOE
MOMODOU LAMIN DAVIES.
MOMODOU MUCTARR JALLOW
NGENARR YASSIN JENG

SOCIAL MEDIA:
HADDY JONGA
JAMA JACK