

African Youth Decade Alliance formed

Part of unlocking the African moment is to take advantage of the demographic advantage of the African continent, in which over 60% of the population is between the ages of 15 - 35. This means that the energy and creativity of young people should form part of efforts towards ensuring that the continent indeed achieves a developmental breakthrough - particularly one that benefits the poor, disadvantaged and underprivileged.

At a meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 7 and 8 November 2011, the African Youth Decade Alliance (AYDA) was established by The African Monitor in partnership with the Inter-Faith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA) and various other youth organizations and networks; namely, The International Young Catholic Students, Association Jeunesse Verte du Cameroon (AJVC), Nahdet El Mahrousa, Southern Africa Youth Movement, Network for African Youths for Development, African University Students Network and the South African Youth Council.

The African Youth Decade Alliance seeks to unite African youth organizations and networks around the imperative of the implementation of the African Union Youth Decade Plan of Action and the African Youth Charter. To achieve this aim, the African Youth Decade Alliance will be embarking on a strategy of African Youth policy engagement, fostering partnerships and synergies between Alliance's members and facilitating the input of African Youth Organisations and networks into Africa's development discourse.

In this regard, the African Youth Decade Alliance will act as the interface between African Youth Policy and the organizations by providing youth organizations and networks with technical expertise and necessary tools for constructive African youth policy engagement. In this way, it seeks act as an aid to already existing youth organizations in their engagement with and pursuit of the Youth Decade Plan of Action and African Youth Charter.

The outcomes of the founding meeting of the AYDA were: to confirm the membership of the Alliance, to engage with a representative from the African Union Commission on the Youth Decade Plan of Action, to agree on the vision, mission and objectives of the Alliance and to conceptualize and ratify the founding document of the Alliance.

