



**AFRICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION**  
*Afrikanische Jugendhilfe e.V.*  
*Fondation de la Jeunesse Africaine*

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ORGANISATIONAL

AYF/ABEN/2006/1/Rev.1  
19 October 2006

English

AFRICAN BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
NETWORK (ABEN)  
First Session  
Bonn, 19 – 21 October 2006  
Agenda item 1

**PLAN OF ACTION (DRAFT)**

**REVISION I**

*This Strategic Plan is still in DRAFT form and as such, we would be pleased to receive any feedback on the document. Comments are very much welcome.*

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This document focuses on the challenges that the AYF (African Youth Foundation, Afrikanische Jugendhilfe e.V.) will address in the period from 2006 until 2008. The AYF is determined with this plan, to contribute to the global youth policies implemented, especially those in Europe for the inclusion of disadvantaged African youth. The challenges to the Organisation and the strategies for addressing each have been detailed in this strategic plan.

**II. BACKGROUND**

1. The African youth in the Diaspora and in Africa are facing some interesting changes and challenges. Some of these result from external factors beyond their control and some from the need to review and streamline their mobilisation and resources, both human and financial.
2. Europe is experiencing strong human resource capacity while Africa is lacking such capacities. This challenge is particularly important to the African region that has quite a number of its Diaspora professionals contributing to the success of other continents, while the African continent lacks a critical mass of development planners to plan and implement projects and initiatives to the benefit of the continent.

3. The youth, both in the Diaspora and in Africa, should enter this period on a relatively sound footing after a period of change and restructuring at the national level, leading to the international level. We must be in a position to ensure that we can respond to increased demand and as such, there should be opportunities for Diasporas to be involved in development issues in both host and countries of origin.

### **III. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

4. In this process, clear career paths are important, for the young people. The current proliferation of excluding the African Youth in Diaspora's participation in European civil society at the disposal of the young people leads to talents being dissipated and the overall quality being reduced. Whilst the need for choice is recognised, this issue must be addressed.

5. A distinctive strategy which will help young African people, to find ways of meeting both the challenges facing them and their own aspirations, as well as support the development of youth policies in Europe and the provision of suitable legislation and structures, in keeping with the specific features of each country to seek ways of promoting African youth mobility in Europe is very necessary.

### **IV. ONE COORDINATED INSTITUTION**

#### **10. African Business and Entrepreneurship Network (ABEN)**

*a. ABEN could be launched at the NEPAD African Business Summit in 2007.*

#### **11. eg. CoE support to youth NGOs**

12. There will be a need to set up a body of ambassadors and government officials (in the Diaspora and Africa) that is involved in such meetings and are mandated, as part of their portfolios, to attend such meetings, to exploit the involvement of the African Diaspora in projects and activities in both Europe and Africa. Emphasis should also be laid on representatives in the European region for the African youth in Europe who are not yet discovered.

13. The methods of funding projects must be addressed.

#### **(b) Technology and Communication**

14. New technology and improvements in communication means that organisations are reviewing how they are structured.

### **VI. KEY RESULT AREAS**

15. To support the AYF's objectives the following key result areas have been identified:

#### **(a) Increasing Participation in all aspects of the training projects**

16. Training is primarily a participation of education.

17. These objectives and priorities shall be implemented through the following methods:

*i. Acknowledging youth contributions, eg. Featuring Youth of the Month*

#### **(b) Improve information and communication networks**

18. AYF will have in place an active and developing website which will give young people access to information and new information technologies; offer free space to members for the systematic exchange of information and good practices and submission of articles to be printed in our quarterly journals or

newsletters. It is intended to develop this network over time linking to related organisations, teaching and training establishments.

**(c)The Media**

**19. Including other methods of modern technologies, eg. Internet radio**

**(a) Continue to develop AYF's competitiveness by**

- (i) *establishing* and promoting clear career paths for the youth by supporting specific initiatives, workshops, creating milestone events and associated training programs,
- (ii) *encouraging* all aspects of training, particularly those courses in Information technology, leadership and entrepreneurship, which would build specific knowledge and skills transferable to a variety of young people;
- (iii) *identifying*, supporting and promoting key events, to encourage a high training standard;
- (iv) *Setting up* an effective database to promote the networking and collaboration between the youth and youth organisations in the Diaspora and Africa, e.g Euro-med networking group.
- (v) *Developing and proposing* practical strategic approaches and programmes for the inclusion of youth in the Diaspora that will educate them on the importance of contributing to their communities and more importantly, equip them with the knowledge on how to effectively invest in training and development projects.

**(b) Ensure appropriate delivery networks by**

- (i) *working* with AYF and other stakeholders to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all organisations involved in the delivery of training;
- (ii) *offering* youth education programs and, in collaboration with AYF, forums which provide opportunities to discuss and develop "best practices".
- (iii) *improving* the standards of living for the youth by establishing and promoting programs to encourage and educate young people.

20. The final strategic paper will be presented to some institutions and organisations for partnership and support, including:

- 1. BMZ (German Federal Ministry of Economic and development)**
- 2. Ministry of generation, family, women and integration (MGFFI)**
- 3. Other African Diaspora Organisations**

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