AGA
African Governance Architecture

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
2016-2020

AGA
African Governance Architecture

CONTENT

ABOUT AGA

The African Governance Architecture (AGA) is inspired by the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) that expresses the AU's determination to 'promote and protect human and people's rights, consolidate democratic institutions and culture and ensure good governance and the rule of law'. This determination is buttressed by related objectives and principles contained in Article 3(g and h) and Article 4(m) of the Act on the promotion, protection and respect for human rights, democratic principles and institutions, and good governance. These ideals are further reinforced by norms, pronouncements, decisions and instruments adopted by the AU in particular the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG).

The mandate of AGA stems from the Decision of the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government (AU/Dec.304 (XV)) held in July 2010. The Heads of State and Government recalled the decision adopted by the 16th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU and endorsed by the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government to dedicate the theme of the 16th Ordinary Session of the African Assembly to the Shared Values of the AU, that was held in Addis Ababa in 2011 and provided a mandate for putting in place a 'Pan-African Architecture on Governance'.

In order to give effect to the Assembly Decision on the establishment of a Pan-African Governance Architecture, the African Union Commission (AUC) established AGA as a "platform for dialogue between the various stakeholders" who are mandated to promote and strengthen democratic governance in Africa, in addition to translating the objectives of the legal and policy pronouncements in the AU Shared Values.

AGA is operationalized through the African Governance Platform, the institutional mechanism composed of AU Organs, Institutions and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with a formal mandate for the promotion and sustenance of democracy, governance and human rights in Africa. The African Governance Platform is organised along five clusters and its operations are coordinated by the AGA Secretariat based at the Department of Political Affairs of AUC.

GOAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The principle objective of AGA is to create a framework for dialogue among stakeholders with the ultimate aim of harmonisation of AU Shared Values instruments and coordination of initiatives towards promoting and consolidating democratic governance on the continent.

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF AGA ARE TO:

1 Accelerate the ratification, domestication, implementation and monitoring of African Shared Values instruments;

2 Deepen synergy, coordination, cooperation and harmonisation of Shared Values instruments among AU organs, institutions and RECs on democracy, governance, human rights and humanitarian affairs;

3 Enhance the capacity of AU organs, institutions and RECs to support Member States to strengthen governance and consolidate democracy through implementation of the Shared Values agenda;

4 Enhance popular participation and citizen engagement in attainment of democracy, governance and respect for human and peoples' rights;

5 Coordinate evaluation and reporting on implementation and compliance with AU norms on governance and democracy as envisaged by Article 44, 45 and 49 of the ACDEG;

6 Foster dialogue and share comparable lessons on trends, challenges, opportunities and prospects for improving governance and democracy among Member States;

7 Generate, manage and disseminate knowledge on the African Shared Values agenda, and democratic governance in Africa;

8 Facilitate joint engagement and deepen synergy with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in strategic interventions, including preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa.

MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN GOVERNANCE PLATFORM

THE AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

THE AU COMMISSION
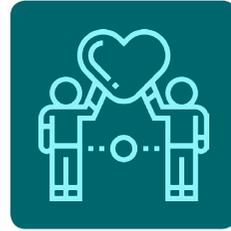
THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

THE AU ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL

THE AU ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION
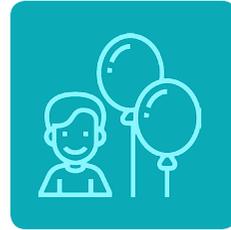
THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW
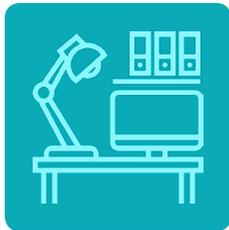
NEPAD PLANNING AND COORDINATION AGENCY

THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

SECTION 1: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN AFRICA

THE CHALLENGE

BACKGROUND TO THE STRATEGY

Africa's population has been on the increase over the past 50 years. The continent is home to over 1.2 billion people, over 60% of whom fall below the age of 25 [1]. This youthful population has acute needs for education, health, jobs and opportunities for self-advancement as well as for democracy and self-determination. Given its rapidly growing population, it is projected that by 2030 the number of young people[2] in Africa will have increased by 42%[3]. This projection presents both opportunities and challenges for the continent's peace and development agenda, as well as the advancement of democratic governance on the continent.

[1]Africa's growing youthful population: reflections on a continent at a tipping point; *http://mo.ibrahim.foundation/news/2017/africas-growing-youthful-population-reflections-continent-tipping-point/*

[2]According to the 2006 African Youth Charter, Youth or young people refer to every person between the ages of 15-35 years. As such, for purposes of AGA-YES, this will be the working definition of youth or young people.

[3]UNFPA, 2015. Population Facts No. 2015/1; *http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2015-1.pdf*

Over the years, the African Union (AU) Policy Organs have adopted normative and policy frameworks to enhance youth participation in socio-economic and political spheres of life. Specifically, the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) under Article 13 (1) recognises every citizens' right to participate freely in the government of his country, either directly or through freely chosen representatives in accordance with the provisions of the law. This right is reaffimed by the 2006 African Youth Charter (AYC) under Article 11, which provides for every young person's right to participate in all spheres of life. The right is further recognised in other African Union (AU) instruments, including the 2007 African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and policy documents like Agenda 2063[4] as one of the enabling factors for the realisation of Africa's democratic governance and development agenda. Despite the existence of these frameworks and youth being a critical mass for the sustainability of today's modest democratic governance and development gains in Africa, their meaningful engagement in these processes has remained insufficient with limited concrete reforms or sustained practices.

The challenges facing youth meaningful participation in democratic governance and development in Africa have largely been attributed to the gaps between policies, strategies, implementation and their resultant impact. This has further been worsened by institutional capacity gaps, entrenched inhibitive socio-cultural attitudes, and inadequate budgetary allocations to support and scale up effective and evidence-based youth programmes. Further to this, socio-economic inequalities continue to have a negative structural impact on the abilities of young men and women to play active roles in democratic governance processes, limiting their ability to actively engage in political space.

Moreover, capacity gaps at national, regional and continental levels in implementing normative frameworks, the limited capacity of youth networks and organisations to effectively engage with policy processes, amongst others, continue to hinder meaningful youth participation all spheres of life. Specifically, young women and girls on the continent disproportionately face varied challenges alongside their male counterparts. Similarly, socio-cultural and economic exclusions continue to manifest in the form of limited women's access to opportunities for recovery from the effects of violence, the ability to get redress for human rights abuses, and participation in reforming laws and public institutions in post-conflict situations [5].

Despite these myriad of challenges, Africa's growing youth population is characterized by great potential, dynamism, resourcefulness, resilience and aspiration. Today, African youth are increasingly claiming their rightful place in democratic governance and socio-political spaces affecting their lives. Youth are actively undertaking grassroots-based mobilization as well as the using of information and communications technologies (ICT), among other engagement mechanisms, to cast light on their plights. In addition, young people are prominently contributing to ongoing efforts in promoting credible democratic elections; inclusive constitutional reform processes; peace and reconciliation efforts and various types of service delivery programs and projects within their communities. Also, young people are driving innovative solutions aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability mechanisms; improving state-citizen relations and engagement; as well as deepening the culture of peace and democracy in Africa. The challenge, however, remains the sporadic nature of these interventions and their seeming disconnection from regional norms, policies and standards.

[4]Agenda 2063 is an AU shared framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development for Africa to be realized in the next fifty years. It was adopted in 2013 by the AU Heads of State and Government through the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration that was adopted during the commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organiation of the African Union.

[5]UN Women Peace and Security Brief ttp://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security#sthash.2WjkNybU.dpuf

RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY

Cognizant of the fact that young people are positioned to play a significant role in enhancing democratic governance in Africa, the African Governance Architecture (AGA) through its Platform recognizes these young people as key stakeholders in its efforts towards the promotion of good governance and consolidation of democracy on the continent. Specifically, the African Governance Platform Members are mandated to enhance greater engagement and participation of African citizens including women, youth and civil society in initiatives and programmes aimed at promoting good governance and consolidating democracy in Africa.

Young people are persistently emerging as change agents and partners, who can positively contribute to societal change processes and influence their peers and communities to join them in taking action towards better communities. The belief that young people play a key role in enhancing democratic governance in Africa is corroborated by the AU Heads of State and Government in the 2006 African Youth Charter, through which they acknowledged that "Africa's greatest resource is its youthful population, and through their active and full participation, Africans can surmount the difficulties that lie ahead".

Further to this, the demographic strength of Africa's young people and their increased interest in the socio-economic and political governance of the continent provides an unprecedented opportunity for the deepening democratic governance processes and institutions in Africa. Local, national, regional and continental policy implementation, in addition to socio-cultural attitudinal changes is a key enhancer of the creative potentials of Africa's heterogeneous youthful population. Ensuring greater access for young people to effectively engage and participate in political and governance spaces are critical enablers for the attainment of the goals and aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[6] .

Specifically, Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 envisages 'an Africa of good governance, democracy, and respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law', in which women are fully integrated into all structures of decision-making and governance, and where the youth play a leadership role. Furthermore, Agenda 2063 opines that, increased empowerment and effective participation of Africa's youth represent a huge opportunity for technological transformation, democratic governance and economic growth. On the other hand, Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provision of access to justice for all and building of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

[6]The Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs), referred to, as the global Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. They are 17 Goals, which build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals. They came into force in January 2017.

In view of the above, several efforts are being undertaken to enhance young people's participation in democratic governance processes. At the continental level, the AU Policy Organs have adopted normative and policies frameworks that are intended to provide guidance to AU Member States towards meaningful engagement of youth in democratic governance processes. These have included ACHPR, AYC and ACDEG. In addition, the AU adopted the AU Youth Decade Plan of Action (DPoA) 2009 – 2018, a framework for multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional engagement of all stakeholders towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of AYC. Although several initiatives have been undertaken by both AU Policy Organs, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), State and non-state actors to mainstream youth perspectives into their programmes and interventions within the context of the DPoA, there are still gaps in effective mainstreaming of youth in democratic governance initiatives, characterized by sporadic engagements mechanisms.

At the regional and national level, RECs and AU Member States are increasingly undertaking legal and policy reforms aimed at providing an enabling environment for young people to actively participate in democratic governance processes. Several countries have adopted National Youth Policies and created Youth Ministries, Departments and Agencies to address youth development issues broadly. In many instances, National Youth Parliaments and Advisory Panels have been established to provide spaces for strategic engagement of young people in democratic governance processes, particularly at the national level. Additionally, young people, through youth-led or -focused networks and organisations, are increasingly organising themselves along national, regional and continental formations with the aim of aggregating and conveying youth perspectives into national, regional and continental policies, strategies and programmes. However, failure to institutionalise these efforts, coupled with capacity limitations, resource challenges as well as absence of formal platforms for sharing comparable lessons continue to limit the impact of these initiatives.

The African Governance Architecture-Youth Engagement Strategy (AGA-YES), therefore, seeks to provide a guiding framework for AU Policy Organs and RECs to ensure sustainable engagement of youth in democratic governance processes within the framework of the AGA. Furthermore, AGA-YES aims at fostering peer learning, capacity building, knowledge generation and dissemination as well as advocacy amongst AU Policy Organs, Member States, youth-led and oriented networks and organisations for increased engagement of young men and women in democratic governance processes in Africa.

PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AGA-YES

The idea of developing AGA-YES was conceived at the Youth Consultation on the second annual High Level Dialogue[7] on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights, which was held in Dakar, Senegal from 23 to 24 November 2013. Participants at the Consultation, under the theme 'Enhancing Constitutionalism and Rule of Law in Africa' called for a more structured, nuanced and strategic engagement of youth in democratic governance processes on the continent in general and in the African Governance Platform Members initiatives in particular.

In responding to this call, the AGA Secretariat, with support from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), conducted a youth perception survey on the AU democracy, elections and governance initiatives in 2014. The survey was designed to gauge African youth's interactions with the AU Policy Organs, and exposure to as well as understanding of AGA. The survey was electronically distributed to over 500 youth-led and/or oriented organizations across the continent. Some of the key findings of the survey suggested that youth across the continent want to be engaged as partners with the AU and to become more involved in activities to promote good governance and democracy at national regional and continent levels. The survey findings further suggested that young people have full understanding of their roles as catalyst for the attainment of stability, growth and transformation on the continent.
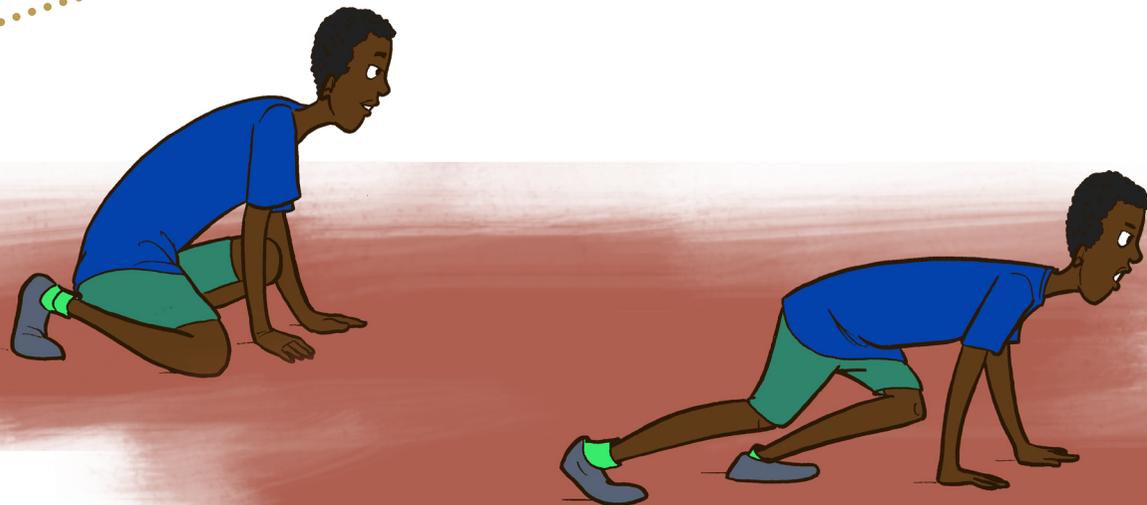
In light of the survey findings, the AGA Secretariat embarked on the development of the draft AGA-YES on Democratic Governance. The draft was presented for review at the Youth Consultation on the third annual High Level Dialogue on Democracy, Elections and Governance held in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2014. Participants at the Consultation contributed to the improvement of the draft, applauded the efforts and recommended that the draft be subjected to an experts' review. As a result, an experts' review workshop was convened in Midrand, South Africa in May 2015 to provide expert perspectives on the different components of the draft. Participants at the workshop were drawn from the five regions of the continent and included representatives of selected youth-led and oriented networks and organisation with thematic engagement on the five clusters of the AGA. The final draft was then completed at a finalisation workshop with selected youth leaders and experts in democratic governance from across the continent was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop facilitated the alignment of AGA-YES with the AU DPoA, focusing specifically on the 'enhanced Youth representation and participation in intergovernmental processes and decision making'[8] outcome.

The final draft AGA-YES was then presented to the AU Commission meeting in October 2015, where the members of the Commission – Chairperson and Commissioners – endorsed it as a policy document to guide youth engagement in democracy, elections and governance at the continental and regional levels. The meeting further recommended that the draft be presented to the African Governance Platform Members for final adoption. Subsequently, the draft AGA-YES was presented to and adopted by the Technical and Political Heads of the African Governance Platform Members at their statutory meetings that were held in Midrand, South Africa and Kigali, Rwanda, respectively, in December 2015.

[7]The High-Level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance is an annual convening for the African Governance Platform that is aimed at providing a forum to Platform Members, State and non-state actors, among other stakeholders to discuss democracy, human rights and governance trends, challenges and prospects on the continent.

[8]African Union Decade Plan of Action 2011

AGA YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

## IN PERSPECTIVE

ABOUT AGA-YES

The idea of developing AGA-YES was conceived at the Youth Consultation on the second annual High Level Dialogue on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights, which was held in Dakar, Senegal from 23 to 24 November 2013. Participants at the Consultation, under the theme 'Enhancing Constitutionalism and Rule of Law in Africa' called for a more structured, nuanced and strategic engagement of youth in democratic governance processes on the continent in general and African Governance Platform Members initiatives in particular.

AGA-YES envisages meaningful youth engagement in democratic governance processes at three inter-related levels: youth as today and tomorrow's leaders with the ability to create and lead innovative actions, programmes and initiatives on the continent; youth as partners playing specific roles in defining and implementing democratic governance initiatives as an integral part of the AGA overall objective; and youth as beneficiaries of AU Organs and RECs actions, programmes and initiatives.

THE AGA APPROACH TO MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

YOUTH AS:

LEADERS

PARTNERS

BENEFICIARIES
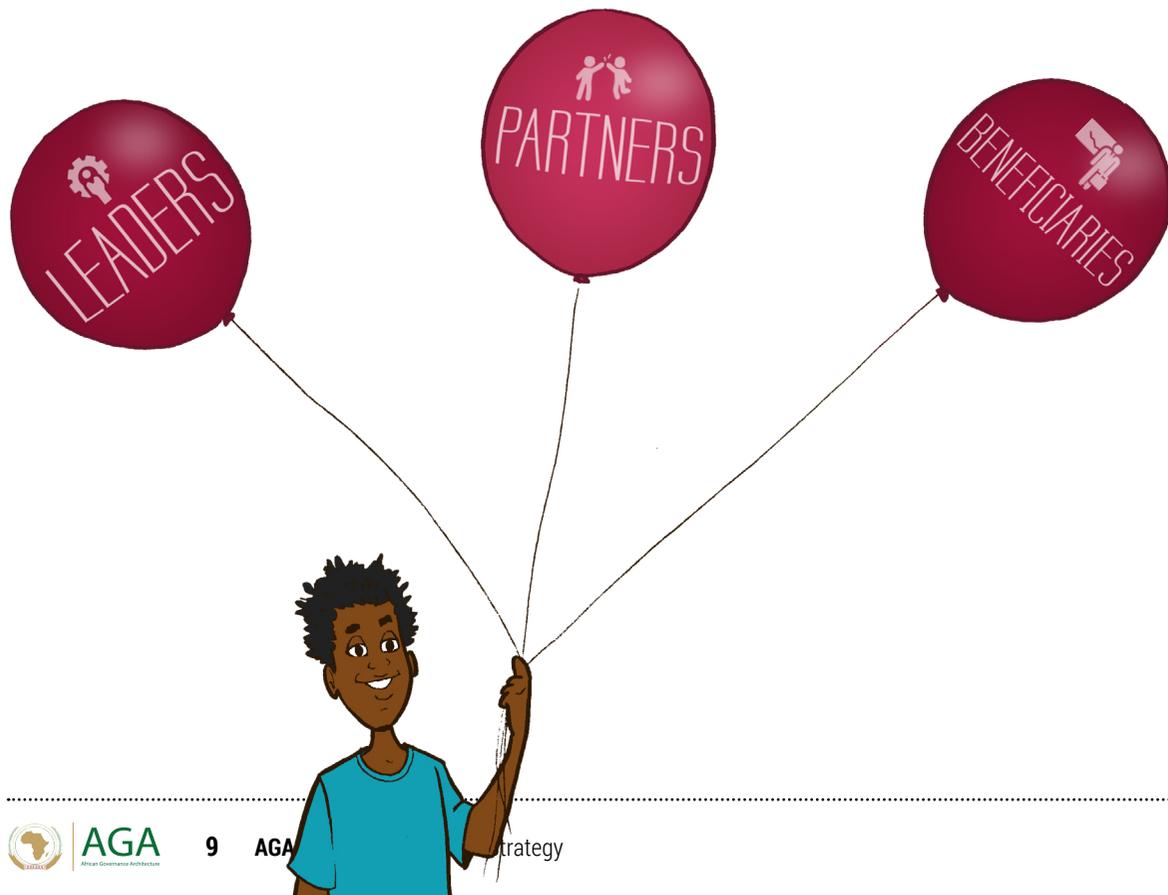
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Through the AGA three-lens approach to meaningful youth engagement in democratic governance processes, the specific objectives of the AGA-YES are to:

○ Provide a guiding framework for Africa's youth engagement in the AU Shared Values Agenda within the AGA processes;

○ Facilitate maninstreaming of youth in the democratic governance initiatives of the African Governance Platform Members and AU Member States;

○ Enhance the capacity of youth-led and oriented organisations as well as networks to facilitate meaningful engagement of youth in democratic governance initiatives at national, regional and continental levels;

○ Institutionalise intra and inter- generational platforms for engagement of youths in democratic governance policy formulation and decision-making platforms at regional and continental levels; and

○ Facilitate youth contributions to evidence-based research and policy development on democratic governance in Africa

AGA-YES TIMEFRAME

AGA-YES will provide direction to the workings of the African Governance Platform Members towards meaningful engagement of young people in democratic governance processes for over a period of five years (2016 – 2020). Specifically, AGA-YES is intended to complement the AGA Strategic Roadmap; youth-specific targets of the first 10-Year implementation plan of the AU Agenda 2063; and the African Youth Decade (2009 – 2018) Plan of Action.

OUR APPROACH

AGA-YES will be implemented through a range of approaches as guide towards the realisation of the objectives of these strategy. These approaches are:

1. INSTITUTIONALISED PLATFORMS FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:
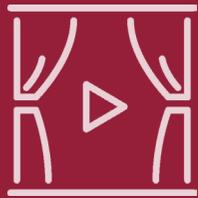
Facilitate the institutionalisation of constructive dialogues and fora for interactions between AU Organs, Institutions, RECs, Member States, civil society organisations, development partners and young people. These engagement mechanisms will be key in integrating youth perspectives, views and expertise in efforts aimed at promoting democratic governance in Africa at national, regional and continental levels. In the same vein, the platforms will be useful in creating awareness about the regional and continental democratic governance normative instruments among young people across the continent. This will be instrumental in building young people's capacity to meaningfully engage in advocacy efforts for their ratification, implementation and reporting in their respective countries.

2. "BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH" PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS:

"By youth, for youth" projects and programs: Participate in the design and implementation of "by youth, for youth" projects and programs, where young people are not only beneficiaries of, but also essential contributors, initiators and implementers of initiatives aimed at promoting democratic governance in Africa. This will involve deliberate efforts of mainstreaming youth participation in democratic governance initiatives of African Governance Platform Members and AU Member States. In addition, support will be rendered to youth initiatives at national, regional and continental levels that are geared towards advancing governance and consolidating democracy in Africa.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING:

Deliberate efforts will be undertaken to build the capacity of AU Organs, RECs, Member States youth-led and oriented organisations and networks in youth programming, particularly in democratic governance initiatives. This shall create a common understanding of youth-specific needs and contributions towards the democratisation processes of their countries.

4. KNOWLEDGE AND DATA GENERATION:

Create platforms for young people to express and document their views and perspectives on democratic governance issues in Africa. The envisaged knowledge products in this regard will include critical analyses of democratic governance trends, challenges and prospects from young academics, researchers, experts, leaders and individuals. This is intended to integrate youth views and perspectives and contribute to evidence-based policy formulation and decision-making processes at national, regional and continental levels, as well support academic research purposes.

5. INFORMATION SHARING & FEEDBACK MODALITIES:

Establish platforms for Sharing information and findings from knowledge products, including studies, papers, policy briefs and reports as well as comparable lessons and experiences on the promotion of democratic governance and well as youth engagement in the same. This shall be realised through robust use of traditional and new media, including leveraging social media platforms and establishment of an interactive web portal.

6. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES:

Conduct a stakeholder mapping to guide the establishment of strategic partnerships and alliances with development partners; civil society organisations, including youth-led and/or focused organisations; AU Organs, Institutions and RECs; as well as Member States to facilitate the meaningful engagement and inclusion of African youth and their views into democratic governance processes on the continent.

7. POLICY FORMULATION:

Facilitate the development and implementation of policies at national, regional and continental levels that enhance meaningful engagement of youth in democratic governance processes on the continent.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

RIGHTS BASED APPROACH:

The implementation of AGA-YES will be grounded in four pillars of the Rights Based Approach – empowerment, participation, non-discrimination and accountability. Through empowerment, the capacity of youth will be built to meaningfully engage with national, regional and continental actors, voice their views and perspectives and access remedies for violations or abuses of their fundamental rights. With participation, youth will actively and meaningfully engage in designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities that impact their lives. Under non-discrimination, priority and support, in principle and practice will be given to the most marginalised and vulnerable in society, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, economic state, location, etc. While accountability will facilitate implementation of the strategy in an inclusive and transparent manner that will ensure downwards, inwards and upwards accountability to all concerned as well as taking responsibility for the inactions and actions that may arise.

MUTUALITY:
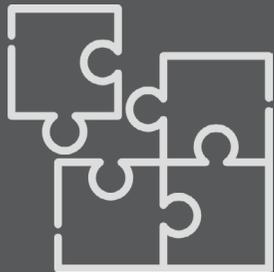
AGA-YES is envisaged as a framework to foster a mutually rewarding relationship and shared responsibility between the African Governance Platform Members and young people on the continent. At the African Governance Platform, we recognise that we have much to learn from young people as well as a lot to contribute to their meaningful engagement in democratic governance processes at all levels. This principle will therefore facilitate a two-way process of engagement, grounded in the appreciation of the value that young people bring to the table as equal partners in improving democratisation in Africa.

EQUALITY:

The implementation of AGA-YES shall be premised on the understanding that human beings are equal. As such, priority will be given to working with under-privileged and marginalised youth, including young women, the disabled, rural youth to address the circumstances, structures and social relationships that hinder their full participation in democratic governance processes in their countries and communities in particular.

INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY:

The conceptualisation and implementation of AGA-YES comes at a time when Africa is grappling with how to harness its youth bulge towards its democratisation process. In this regard, AGA-YES is cognisant of the need to tap into the innovating technological and tech savvy nature of Africa's youth towards meaningful engagement in democratic governance processes. As such, the realisation of AGA-YES objectives will rely largely on the creative and innovative ideas and approaches of all concerned.

COMPLEMENTARITY:

Initiatives proposed in AGA-YES are considered complementary to existing initiatives and programmes at national, regional and continental levels. This is cognisant of the subsidiarity principle and state sovereignty principles within the context of AU working modalities.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The strategic directions highlighted herein are envisaged as aspirations for youth engagement in the years to come. They will assist in shaping tangible actions geared towards enhancing governance and consolidating democracy at national, regional and continental levels.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1:

Increased awareness among youths about African Shared Values (norms and standards) on democratic governance;

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2:

Enhanced institutional capacity for the mainstreaming and engagement of youth in democratic governance initiatives by African Governance Platform Members and AU Member States;

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3:

Improved capacity of youth-led and oriented organisations to effectively faciliatte youth engagement and participation in democratic governance processes at national, regional and continental levels;

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4:

Strengthened platforms for inter-regional and inter-continental dialogue, exchanges and peer learning on youth specific trends, challenges and prospects for improved governance and democracy in Africa; and

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5:

Increased youth generated and focused knowledge on democratic governance in Africa..

OVERALL STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The overall strategic direction of AGA-YES shall be to ensure 'Increased participation of young people in democratic governance processes in Africa'.
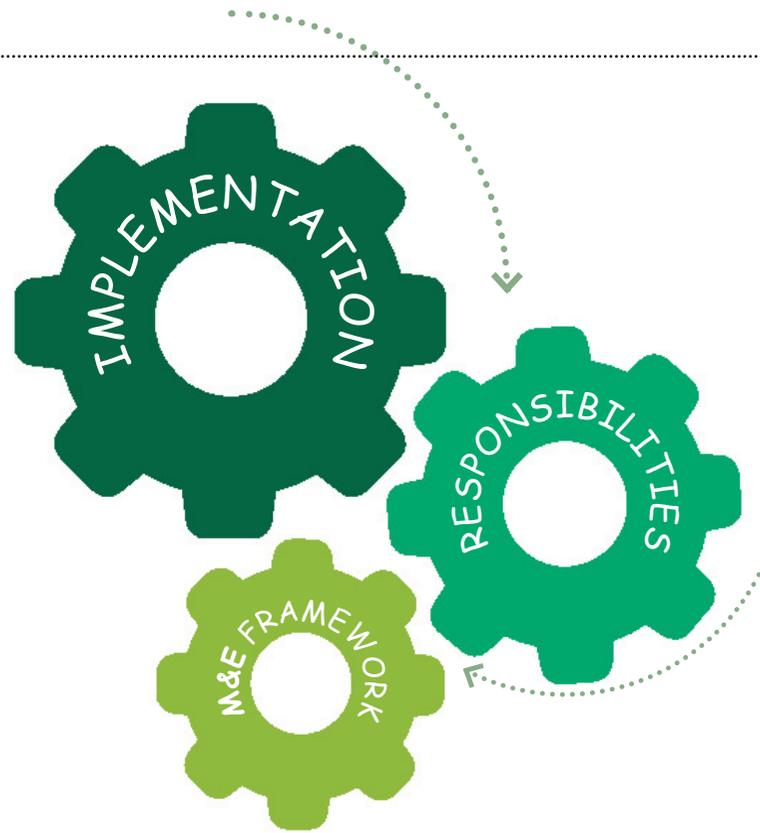
SECTION 3

IMPLEMENTATION, RESPONSIBILITIES AND M&E FRAMEWORK

IMPLEMENTATION OF AGA-YES

The overall implementation of AGA-YES will be coordinated by the AGA Secretariat. In line with the AU programming cycle, the AGA Secretariat will, in consultation with African Governance Platform Members, develop annual work plans aimed at designing initiatives to give effect to the strategic objectives of AGA-YES. In this regard, annual work plans shall serve as the results framework with which annual monitoring of AGA-YES will be undertaken to ensure the attainment of the set objectives.

The AGA Secretariat shall undertake initiatives to encourage African Governance Platform Member, AU Member States, development partners as well as youth-focused and oriented organisations and networks to adapt the Outcomes and Outputs Matrix (2016 – 2020)9 for their annual planning and programming. This is intended to enhance youth programming at all levels.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF AGA-YES

An overall impact assessment of AGA-YES will be carried out at the end of the five-year timeframe anticipated for 2020. Nonetheless, regular project monitoring will be undertaken annually through the proposed AGA Youth Advisory Panel[10] within the framework of the overall AGA process monitoring as well as a mid-term review in 2018. The monitoring and evaluation of AGA-YES is envisaged as an integral part of the overall AGA programmes evaluation.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITMENTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

YOUNG PEOPLE :

It is envisaged that young people will:
1. Partner with national and grassroots institutions to develop new and innovative projects aimed at promoting and consolidating democratic governance;
2. Keep abreast of democratic governance trends at national, regional and continental levels;
3. Participate in AGA programmes at all levels;
4. Contribute and participate in democratic governance initiatives at national, regional and continental levels; and
5. Encourage their peers to meaningfully participate in democratic governance initiatives at national, regional and continental levels.

9The Strategic Direction and Results Matrix is annexed.

10The AGA Youth Advisory Panel is envisaged as an advisory group for active engagement of youth within the African Governance Platform processes and initiatives. It is expected to be made up of youth representatives drawn from the five regions on the continent through a competitive selection process.

YOUTH LEADERS[11]

It is envisaged that young leaders will:

1. Represent their peers in various AU and AGA fora;
2. Act as a link, enabling young people to participate in democratic governance processes at national, regional and continental levels;
3. Share information, transfer skills and knowledge to their peers and adults on democratic governance in Africa;
4. Encourage other young people to play leadership roles at sub-national, national, regional and continental levels;
5. Act as advocates for a paradigm shift to increase youth engagement at all levels;
6. Create opportunities for young people to gain access to capacity building initiatives on democratic governance issues in Africa;
7. Share comparable lessons and experiences on democratic governance trends, challenges and prospects on the continent;
8. Partner with African Governance Platform Members in policy formulation and program development aimed at advancing governance principles and consolidating democracy in Africa; and
9. Steer the use of social media to advance the cause of democratic governance in Africa.

[11]For purposes of AGA-YES, young leaders are young people with demonstrable track record in youth organising, mobilisation and programming. Specifically, such individuals must have proven skills and knowledge necessary to participate and facilitate meaningful youth engagement in democratic governance processes at sub national, national, regional and continental levels

AU MEMBER STATES

It is envisaged that AU Member States will:

1. Provide the enabling legal and policy space for young people to participate actively in democratic governance processes through ratification, domestication and implementation of regional and international norms and standards for youth development;
2. Facilitate adequate budgetary support for the implementation of National Youth Policies aligned to the National Development Plans as well as continental and international frameworks such as AU Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals 2030;
3. Establish and strengthen platforms for strategic engagement and interaction with young people on a regular basis;
4. Ensure regular reporting on youth participation in democratic governance processes of the Member States in line with the ACDEG State Reporting responsibilities, among other state reporting mechanisms; and
5. Support youth-led and -oriented initiatives through incentivization mechanisms.

CSOS AND YOUTH NETWORKS
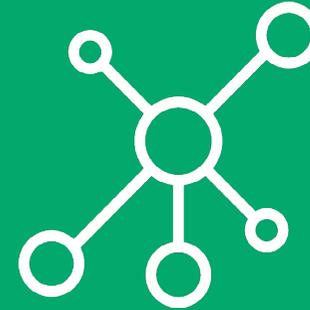
It is envisaged that CSOs and Youth networks at national, regional and continental levels will:

1. Facilitate partnerships for generating knowledge, sharing experiences, documenting lessons learned and promoting best practices in advocating for and consolidating democratic governance at their respective levels of work;
2. Participate in the development of AGA policies and strategies through elevating their respective contexts;
3. Ensure the popularisation of AU governance and democracy norms and standards at their respective levels of work;
4. Coordinate joint initiatives on democratic governance among their members;
5. Facilitate communication, coordination and collaboration between AGA and citizens, particularly youth; and
6. Promote youth leadership and exchange of concrete ideas, innovations and activities that enhance democratic governance programmes.

AFRICAN GOVERNANCE PLATFORM MEMBERS

It is envisaged Platform members will:

1. Involve young people in their respective programme planning, designing, delivering and evaluation;
2. Provide technical and logistical support to youth initiatives in line with their mandates;
3. Mainstream youth engagement within their policies and strategies;
4. Establish functional linkages with youth networks; and
5. Undertake joint programmes to create and sustain youth engagement in policy formulation and decision-making processes with regard to democratic governance at all levels.

AGA SECRETARIAT
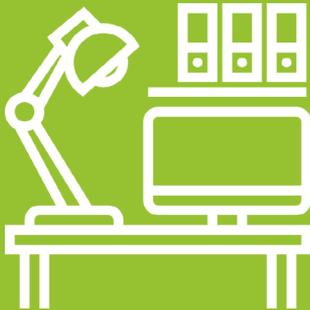
It is envisaged that the AGA Secretariat will:

1. Strengthen African Governance Platform capacity for youth engagement in democratic governance;

2. Conduct analysis of the needs and potential of young Africans and apply this information to, among others:

   · Involve young people fully as stakeholders in the decision-making processes and programmes of AGA through the establishment and operationalization of the AGA Youth Advisory Panel; and

   · Design capacity building programs for young people, to promote and reinforce their participation in democratic governance processes and sustenance of peace and security of the continent;

3. Assess the impact of AGA-YES on youth engagement in democratic governance processes at national, regional and continental levels;

4. Support African Governance Platform Members' programmes for youth engagement and empowerment;

5. Establish strategic alliances with development partners to promote inclusive democratic governance in AU Member States;

6. Undertake regular surveys, studies, opinion polls and assessments on youth engagement in democratic governance processes;

7. Represent interests, actively communicate and partner with regional youth networks to advance the cause of youth inclusion in democratic governance initiatives at national, regional and continental levels; and

8. Contribute to the development of AU model programs and initiatives on youth engagement in democratic governance processes.