SELECTION OF THE SECOND COHORT OF 
AFRICAN YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE (AYAP) 
AND CELEBRATION OF THE AU YOUTH DAY 
AU COMMISSION ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA 
9 – 12 November 2021 

I. Background

The Youth for Peace (Africa) Program was launched in September 2018 to advance the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda of the AU with the primary objective of facilitating the meaningful participation of African youth at all levels of peace and security and dissuading youth participation in violence. The program has recorded notable achievements since it was inaugurated about three years ago. These include the annual PSC open sessions on YPS held in November in commemoration of the African Youth Day; the finalization and endorsement of the study on the roles and contribution of youth to peace and security in Africa; as well as the finalization and adoption of the Continental framework on YPS and its 10-year implementation plan. The program also facilitated the launch of national chapters of Y4P-Africa programs in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Côte d’Ivoire and oversees the process of appointing 5 African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAPs) – one from each of the continent’s five geographical regions.

The appointment of AYAPs is pursuant to the decision of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) at its 807th meeting wherein the Commission was requested to appoint five regional AYAPs to work with the AU Youth Envoy in championing the promotion of peace and security on the continent. Subsequently, the first cohort of AYAPs were selected, in collaboration with the relevant RECs/RMs, after rigorous screening and presented to the PSC at its second open session on YPS in November 2019, for consideration and subsequent submission to the Assembly for endorsement. On recommendation by the PSC, the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments held in February 2020, endorsed the appointment of the 5 regional AYAPs for a two-year, non-renewable tenure from February 2020 to February 2022.

The AYAPs are mandated to work under the direct supervision of the leadership of the Political Affairs and Peace and Security (PAPS) Department through the Y4P(Africa) Program to champion the promotion and advocacy of youth participation in peace and security issues at the regional level and across Africa. Specifically, the AYAPs promote the actualization of the five priorities of the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace
and Security, which are guided by Article 17 of the AU Youth Charter (2006). Since inception, the AYAPs have been instrumental in advocating for, and promoting, the mainstreaming and inclusion of young Africans in peace and security by amplifying their contributions and resilience and encouraging policy and programmatic actions to address the challenges and to enhance their contributions.

Against this background, the Y4P(Africa) Program is planning to commemorate the AU Youth Day together with the selection of the second cohort of AYAPs. Although the AU Youth Day is celebrated widely on 1st of November, the AU commemorates the month of November with different programs and activities. As such, the Y4P would like to use the presence of the AYAP finalists during the selection week to commemorate the Youth Day by live streaming some of the sessions of the selection process, particularly the debate and the presentations of their innovative project design, as well as the opening and closing ceremonies of the AU Youth Day celebrations.

II. Rationale:

As the tenure of the first cohort of AYAPs is ending, the Y4P (Africa) Program published a call for applications for the second cohort of AYAPs in September 2021. The program invited 5 young people – one from each of the five (5) regions in Africa – to identify and select 25 eligible finalists (5 from each region). The purpose of the pre-selection process was to ensure fairness, transparency, and the active participation of young people. Following which, the Y4P (Africa) Program in consultation with RECs/RMs further selected 15 finalists (3 per region). The 15 finalists have been invited to the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa from 9 – 12 November 2021 for the final selection process which will comprise of capacity building exercises, interviews and presentations amongst others. On 11 and 12 November 2021, the Y4P-Africa Program, representatives from relevant AU Departments, the AYAP finalists and the invited guests will join the continent to celebrate African youth in peace and security, as part of activities to commemorate the AU Youth Day in the month of November.

III. Methodology:

The 4-day program will be facilitated by seasoned trainers on peace and security who are familiar with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The finalists will be tasked - individually or collectively - on possible options for response to existing and emerging peace and security threats. They are expected to design innovative, impactful and sustainable youth interventions to promote peace and security in Africa. Specifically, the finalists will be tasked to develop and elaborate on an innovative pet project for their region, which will be supervised by the Y4P (Africa) Program and implemented in collaboration with relevant stakeholders at national and regional
levels within and beyond the elected AYAP’s tenure. The proposed pet project should include key strategies to reach broader youth constituencies, especially those in rural areas as well as in displaced camps.

The sessions will be hybrid, with the online participation of young people from across the continent, through the Zoom online platform, to engage with the finalists through questions and comments on the training, presentations, proposed projects etc. The online interactive sessions (webinar) and live streaming will thus serve as a platform to educate and inform the public on the workings of the AU/RECs/RMs as well as elicit contributions on modalities to promote a peaceful and secure Africa. The interactive session with the audience is imperative to facilitate ownership of the process as well as acceptance, commitment and cooperation by Africans particularly the youth, who are expected to work with the AYAPs to prevent, mitigate and resolve violent conflicts in Africa.

A panel comprised of representatives of the Y4P (Africa) Program, RECs/RMs, the facilitators and partners (such as TFP, IPSS, GIZ) will select the AYAPs based on a selection criteria that will include knowledge, skills and character.

IV. Venue and Date:
The 4-day selection process for the AYAP finalists will be held at the Julius Nyerere Building, African Union Headquarters, from 9 to 12 November 2021, as part of the PAPS Department’s activities to commemorate the AU Youth Day, with a focus on youth, peace and security.