



Raising voices for African **education**
Porte-voix pour l'**éducation** en Afrique

PROGRAMME FOR CELEBRATION OF THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

As part of European Year for Development 2015

Each year around the 16th June, IDAY is celebrating the Day of the African Child. This year's event will be part of a participatory awareness and advocacy campaign across Africa and Europe focusing on Youth perspectives on their future and EYD2015 Objectives.

The present document details the campaign's proposed theme, activities and participants. Mrs McAvan's patronage and participation is sought specifically for - but not limited to - an event at the European Parliament. She is more than welcome to take part in any other activity of the programme.

IDAY has commemorated the Day of the African Child at the European Parliament in 2006, in Presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Mathilde, in 2007, in 2008 under the Chairmanship of the Parliament's President, in 2010 and 2011. IDAY wishes to renew this tradition to show the European Union's consideration for the African youth.

1. **THEME: « Youth dreams for a better world »**

Africa is the continent of the XXI century: its population grows more than twice as fast as the world average. It is estimated that it will reach 2 billion by 2050 and 1 youngster out of 3 -and 1 worker out of 4- in the world will be African. Nevertheless, and despite undeniable progresses, the number of illiterate young people continues to rise up to 1 million a year. Nearly 1,000 children are dying each day because of malaria. This poses a moral and socio-economic challenge for Europe: addressing Africa's development issues appears to be as important as tackling European ones.

IDAY stands to promote access to quality basic education for all children and young people in Africa, especially the most vulnerable ones (minors in prison, domestic workers, children in post-conflict areas, among others). By fostering a constructive dialogue between local civil society and the governments, IDAY promotes comprehensive, fair and sustainable solutions. Today, the IDAY network is active in 19 African countries and 5 European ones. With over 450 member organizations, IDAY directly contributes to the schooling of 150,000 children and youth (2013 census).

Raise Youth voices across the globe

IDAY and its partners will celebrate the International Day of the African Youth (IDAY) around the 16th June in accordance with the EYD2015 Objectives. This year's theme will focus on "*Youth dreams for a better world*". IDAY is launching a consultation across 4 African countries to collect their aspirations and recommendations of the youth for better future and the role they want to play in tackling development issues that concern them. 4 African Youth Ambassadors which will be appointed by their peers and invited to Europe to meet and exchange with European youngsters and associations. 2 days of exchange and advocacy activities across Europe and 1 day in Brussels are scheduled as well as youth consultation, advocacy & communication campaigns in Europe & Africa.

IDAY'S HONORARY COMMITTEE **Hauwa Ibrahim** (Sakharov Prize 2005) **Baaba Maal** (Singer, UN Envoy on MDG) **Luisa Morgantini** (Vice-President of the European Parliament 2007/2009) **Denis Mukwege** (Director of Panzi Hospital, King Baudouin Prize 2011, Sakharov Prize 2014) **Mampe Ntsedi** (Nelson Mandela Children Center) – **Hendrina Doroba** (Executive Director of FAWE) **Ousmane Sy** (King Baudouin Prize 2005 and founder of CEPIA) – **Pr Pamela Weathers** (Worcester Polytechnic Institute)

IDAY International Day of the African Child and Youth



Overall objectives

- Give visibility to and share the perspectives from young European and African people about EYD2015, their responsibility for the future and their commitment to build a better world
- Raise awareness of the European public about development issues as part of EYD2015
- Foster understanding about and support to an African-driven development of Africa

2. ACTIVITIES

IDAY will be launching consultations in 4 African countries to collect the “dreams” of the youth for a better future and their ideas for their countries’ development. 4 African Youth Ambassadors appointed by their peers will be invited to Europe in June 2015 to meet and exchange with European youngsters and associations. Two days of activities in 4 European countries and one day in Brussels are scheduled including youth consultations, an advocacy event at the European Parliament and communication activities. These activities aim at enhancing youth participation in Europe and Africa while informing about EYD2015 Objectives.

Activity	Description	Where, when
African youth consultations	Youth consultations will be organized in the DRC, Ghana, Kenya, and Togo to collect their views, demands and recommendations on development issues and the role of the youth. The recommendations formulated by youth groups in these countries as part of the Action2015 campaign will also be included. These consultations will be organized by IDAY coalitions together with youth organisations and youth clubs in schools. At the end of the consultation process, the youngsters in each participating country will nominate an ambassador – 4 in total – to represent them on a 4-day exchange and advocacy tour in Europe	The DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Togo February-May 2015
Exchange and Advocacy Tour in Europe	The tour will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-day tour in 4 IDAY European member countries for meetings between the 4 African Youth Ambassadors and youth groups, students and national development cooperation officials. • 1 day of meetings and consultations in Belgium between the African Youth Ambassadors and European counterparts, meetings with Belgian and European development cooperation officials 	France, UK, Switzerland, the Netherland 2 days in June 2015 (tbd) Brussels 1 day in June 2015 (tbd)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 advocacy event at the European Parliament (morning). The session would last about 4 hours, including a presentation on self-driven development, the presentation by the youngsters of their dreams, open floor discussions with participants from the development community, European institutions, etc. It will be concluded by a walking lunch. 	Brussels 1 day in June 2015 (tbd)

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	Bringing the live event online through video conference should be considered, to allow participation from various European and African countries.	
Art exhibition	<i>(optional)</i> An exhibition by African and European artists could be held at the EU Institutions	Brussels 1 day in June 2015 (tbd)

3. DATES AND LOCATIONS: Africa and Europe – Main Event at the European Parliament

This campaign includes activities in several countries across Africa and Europe (consultations, exchange meetings, etc.) from February until May 2015. It will culminate at the main event that would take place at the European Parliament around the 16th June, depending on the MEPs' calendar and the exam period in Europe and in Africa.

4. PARTICIPANTS: African and European Youth Ambassadors, international cooperation specialists, government and civil society representatives

The African Youth Ambassadors would be 4 youngsters aged about 18, preferably members of youth organisations or socially active youngsters. They will be selected by their peers during the consultations organised by IDAY members and partners in each participating countries.

4 European Youth Ambassadors would also be selected in a similar way, with support from the European Youth Forum and Belgian Youth Council.

European Institutions representatives and personnel, Ministry of Development Cooperation of Belgium, large and small European NGOs, African Ambassadors in Brussels as well as the media will be invited to support and participate in this event.

5. PATRONAGE

- Mrs. Linda McAvan, Chairman of the Parliament' Development Committee
- A member of the Belgian Royal Family
- African Ambassadors in Brussels
- Artists and Goodwill Ambassadors

6. BUDGET (Details in the attached Excel table)

Total costs of the 8 months campaign are estimated at 55 000 €.

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