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ORAL REPORT FOR THE YOUTH FORUM

PRESENTED BY

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**AT THE
11TH SUMMIT OF OACPS HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT**

**SUNDAY, 29 MARCH 2026
MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

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Presentation of Key Recommendations and Commitments

1. The OACPS Youth Forum was held on 26 March 2026, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, under the theme: "OACPS Youth Compact: Jobs, Resilience, Action", and under the patronage of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.
2. The holding of this Forum was timely, as youth across OACPS regions continue to face persistent and intersecting challenges, including limited access to decent work, barriers to entrepreneurship, unequal access to digital tools and opportunities, and constraints on meaningful participation in decision-making.
3. These pressures are compounded by continued economic uncertainty, disruptions to global supply chains, and heightened climate and environmental risks, which collectively undermine livelihoods and social cohesion, particularly for young people in rural, coastal and climate-vulnerable contexts, including rangelands and pastoralist communities.
4. The Forum also aligned with two UN-designated global observances: the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, reinforcing the urgency of youth-led resilience and volunteerism.
5. The Forum considered the following themes:
 - i. **From Skills to Livelihoods: Youth employment, entrepreneurship, vocational pathways and access-to-finance readiness,**
 - ii. **Future Skills for Resilient Livelihoods: Digital jobs, AI competences and climate-smart agrifood systems, including climate adaptation and rangelands/pastoralist contexts.**
6. The main conclusions of the Youth Forum were:
 - a. The urgent need to accelerate youth employment and decent work pathways, including through demand-driven skills development, internships and apprenticeship opportunities, and improved access-to-finance readiness for youth-led enterprises;
 - b. The importance of advancing future-ready skills, including digital skills and emerging AI competencies, to expand youth access to economic opportunities and support productivity and innovation across priority sectors;

- c. The need to strengthen resilient livelihoods and climate adaptation, including through youth-led solutions for climate-smart agrifood systems, smart farming, and rural and coastal livelihoods;
 - d. Recognition that young women face greater barriers in agrifood systems and employment, requiring targeted support to unlock their potential and ensure inclusive participation;
 - e. The importance of promoting reliable access to trusted digital ecosystems, anchored in responsible ICT use, while addressing misinformation and disinformation risks that affect cohesion, trust and stability;
 - f. The importance of strengthening partnerships with Member States, development partners, international organisations, financial institutions and the private sector to mobilise adequate technical and financial resources for scalable youth initiatives and youth-led solutions, and to advance a structured and meaningful youth voice and participation in policy deliberations and decision-making; and
 - g. The need to establish a Youth Action Pipeline along with a related financial facility to advance scalable youth-led initiatives, solutions and programmes with clear timelines and periodic reporting, while tracking implementation, and sustaining momentum beyond Malabo.
6. The Forum concluded by presenting key recommendations to inform the Summit Declaration on the following:
- a) The establishment of the OACPS Youth Compact on “Jobs, Resilience, and Action” to advance the above-mentioned conclusions, in collaboration with youth organisations from Member States, international organisations, financial institutions, other partner organisations, and private sector entities;
 - b) The set-up of an OACPS Youth Advisory Board in line with the Youth Compact and PACTE (Support Programme for Change and Transformation of the OACPS), setting out realistic, implementable commitments and priority actions;
 - c) the development of structured volunteerism, internship and young professional programmes;

- d) The operationalisation of the Youth Action Pipeline and a related financial facility to ensure implementation, accountability, follow-up, and sustained momentum beyond Malabo.

In summary:

- 7. The Youth Forum has demonstrated that youth are not marginal actors but central contributors to and changemakers in the transformation and renewal of the OACPS and across its Member States.
- 8. By endorsing these recommendations, the Summit will ensure that the voices, innovations, and leadership of young people, including young women and those in vulnerable contexts, are embedded in the Organisation's future trajectory.