Official Communique of the Executive Committee of the Pan African Youth Union rejecting the allegations of the African Union Commission.

The Executive Committee of the Pan-African Youth Union learned on Friday, January 19, 2018 with regret and disappointment the statement of the African Union Commission ending the collaboration between the newly elected Executive Committee. This baseless statement, on the regularity of the electoral process and the conduct of the 5th PYU Congress, aims at destabilising the Pan-African Youth Union, and further divide the youth of our continent and its diaspora.

The Executive Committee of the Pan-African Youth Union, composed of the African Union Member States, rejects with the utmost energy any allegations aimed at destabilising it.

Taking advantage of the fact that we are on the eve of the Heads of State and Government Summit of the African Union, which could adopt the implementation of the African Youth the Development Fund, for which the Pan African Youth Union advocated for to the Heads of State, the African Union Commission chose to exclude the Youth of the Continent based on false allegations regarding the recent transparent elections of the PYU.

In accordance with the current legislation of the PYU, the votes are held by showing of hands or by consensus and it is the vote by raising hands that was use in this elections. The Electoral Commission set up in accordance with the provisions of the same legislation proceeded to counting votes casted. This system is the most transparent one and makes it difficult to manipulate the results.

Also, we wish to bring to the attention of the continental and international opinion that some African Members States from Nord Africa had requested the invalidation of the candidacy of Morocco because of their usual conflicts, and therefore considered that the PYU. Members attending the PYU’s elective congress took note of the wishes of some members but opted for the integration of Morocco into Union on the basis that Morocco is once again a full member of the African Union.

The African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology who arrived in Khartoum on the eve of the Congress failed to accompany the PYU in this work. Moreover, she never considered it reasonable to meet the PYU Executive Committee when she arrived in Sudan, or even to ask for clarification regarding the procedures of the Congress prior to the elections.

The rise of the PYU on the Continent and outside the Continent, in regards to the advocacy of youth by the youth for the youth seems to disturb some officials in the African Union Commission, who also envy the support given by African Heads of State to the PYU.

It is necessary to remember that for the past 6 years the PYU has been working without any funds from the African Union, which it used to enjoy in the past to ensure it functioning, regardless of obstacles the PYU had raised multiple challenges and this thanks to the support of the Members States.

Some African Union Member States who were unfortunate during the elections in the PYU and have a representation in the African Union Commission have influenced this inappropriate decision of the African Union Commission. A maneuver led mainly by some countries of North Africa in their long conflicts with Morocco, which do not tolerate see Morocco elected in the new committee of the PYU.

We call on the African Union Commission for more responsibility and equity. We urge it to ensure that States with functions within it do not influence it to make decisions that discredit it.

More than 32 member states were represented in the recent Elective Congress of PYU, and considering that, less than 45 African Countries have National Youth Councils who are full members of the Pan African Youth Union and having the power to vote. This therefore means that the quorum was thus largely met. We therefore denounce the Commission’s allegations that the quorum was not met.
We attach to this press release the report of the Electoral Commission of this election containing all the details of the elections of the Executive Committee.

The Pan African Youth Union will never be intimidated by any accusations and defamatory decisions, influenced by individuals who do not accept losing elections.

We will not be distracted by this act, and appeal to the highest sense of responsibility of the African Union Commission to review, in the near future, their decision which aims at destroying the leadership of young people on the Continent.

We remain at the service of African Youth, and we will defend them during these 3 years by doing our job such as calling out our institutions in order for them to invest in the youth as we have always been doing, and which has led to several resolutions of the African leaders on the development of the youth.

We seek the support of the President of the AU Commission, and the African Members States during the 3 years of our new mandate, a mandate that we will exercise without any complacency.

We very much welcome the courage of all the National Youth Councils and other youth networks around the world who have been indignant at the release of this statement by the African Union Commission, and who have given all their unwavering support to the Executive Committee of the Pan-African Youth Union.

In the PYU, considering that we are young people, who aspire to great responsibilities, we confirm that we will never destroy our future for the sake of clinging to a position within the PYU, as we are aware that we inspire to be great leaders on the Continent.

We also wish to reaffirm our commitment to serving youth people in Africa and its diaspora, and we are willing to work with the African Union Commission for the best interests of our continent.

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