AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL

PRESS STATEMENT:

1ST MARCH 2022

ACTIVITIES ON THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL

Background of the AAYC

The Afro Arab Youth Council was founded on 9th March 2004 at the conclusion of the International Youth Festival for the African and Arab Youth in Khartoum, where a resolution was made to establish the Afro-Arab Youth Council.

On March 9th 2022, it shall be 18years since the African and Arab Youth Council (AAYC) was founded. In 2004, at the conclusion of the International Youth Festivals for the African and Arab Youth in Khartoum hosted under the auspices of the President of Sudan and Libya, a resolution was made on 9th March at the close of the festivals to establish the Afro-Arab Youth Council. Consequently, in 2005, an Executive Committee was formed for the Organization, that now forms the international executive committee as per the AAYC Charter.

The objective of the Committee was to follow up and fulfill the aspirations of the Youth of the Africa & Arab World as discussed in Khartoum. The Executive followed up the legal mandate and membership of the Organization especially with African Union and Arab League. By consensus, a decision was taken that the Secretariat be housed in Khartoum, Sudan, with the generous support of

the Government of Sudan until 2008, when a new decision was taken during the Afro Arab Youth Festival (AAYF) in Kampala. At the conclusion of the Afro Arab Youth Festivals 2008, two fundamental decisions were taken among others; that the Afro Arab Youth Council Headquarters be constructed in Uganda, and the festivals be held every two years, oscillating between African and Arab countries. This was unanimously supported by the over 5000 youths present, H.E Muammar Gaddafi of Libya and H.E YK Museveni of Uganda. H.E Muamar Qhadafi handed over as Patron of the Organization to the host President of Uganda H.E Y.K Museveni. The two presidents gave their initial support to the headquarter project by; an offer of prime land by H.E Y.K Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda and resources for the construction by H.E Muamar Qhadafi of Libya.

Several meetings for both the Executive and General Assembly have been taking place since 2004 to date in different parts of the member states including Khartoum, Damascus, Cairo, Kampala, Rabat, Casablanca, Tripoli, Qatar, etc. These have taken various decisions to all of which carries among the legal directives of Afro Arab youth Council.

Celebrating 18 years of existence despite the setbacks the organisation has had in the past due to the Arab spring that swept across many of its strongholds, the AAYC now emerges like a giant out of the debris to take charge of the affairs of the Young people in the African and Arab region once again.

Riding on its special status as a specialized youth Group recognized by the Arab League and African Union, the AAYC re-affirms its commitment to advocate, lobby and Network efforts of the Young People in the affairs of their Countries.

It is therefore; with the utmost delight that we look forward to celebrating the18th Anniversary of the AAYC this year under the theme; ***"Transforming Food Systems; Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health."***

Three major activities highlighting the role of the youth ensuring food security, climate change for planetary health, youth as human capital both intellectually and physically in innovative capacities for nations.

Anniversary Activities are as follows:

1. **Source of the Nile Bicycle Race in Jinja-Busoga sub region** scheduled on the 6th **March 2022.**

Attracting over 300 cyclists; in 3 categories of legends, women and general

"The Source of the Nile Bicycle Race", will be flagged off at the Busoga to the Amber coat round about to Busowooko falls and back at the Source of the Nile as finishing line.

The event is intended to highlight the strategic importance of the River Nile to both Arab and African region, demonstrating the fact the two regions are interconnected and therefore the call for working relations among the people are justifies especially on shared opportunities, unity, peace and development. The Nile River stretches from Jinja through to Egypt and pours into the Mediterranean Sea right into the Arab world.

Over 30 International Delegates from Jordan, Mauritania, Yemen, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Cameroon, Senegal, South Africa, Morocco, Tanzania, Nigeria, Iraq, and many other Arab and Africa Countries have confirmed attendance.

The Council is further making all necessary negotiations to have HRH the Kyabazinga of Busoga grace the occasion and is optimistic that the event shall be a starter for Developmental relations with the Youthful King of Busoga Kingdom; a program that is to be rolled out to spread to all other cultural institutions in Uganda.

2. **Fruit tree planting exercise in Teso Subregion:**

AAYC shall be planting orchards and has built local partnerships with communities and schools to promote food security, nutrition and rally the young people along the climate change agenda.

Three schools have been earmarked for this exercise which includes: Adere primary school in Toroma Katakwi district; Getom Primary school in Ngariam constituency; and Aligoi Primary school in Kachumbara constituency Bukedea district.

3. The Dialogue in Makerere University:

The theme of the dialogue shall be, "***improving food security through innovations for planetary health.***" The role of the youths.

This is stakeholders' dialogue intended to facilitate a conversation to develop sustainable solutions for food insecurity and encourage the youth to engage in agriculture so as to improve their standards of living.

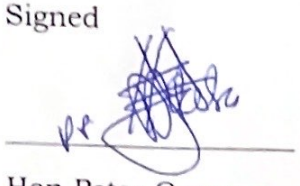
The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), is a strategic partner on this event as its vision is vibrant transformative Universities catalyzing sustainable inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa. ROFORUM is a network of 129 Universities both in Africa and beyond.

Participants include: the academia, policy makers, diplomatic core, and youth leaders in institutions of higher learning, secondary schools, NGOs, and the general public.
Over 40 international delegates are confirmed to attend, and by 4th march 2022, the first arrivals shall be received at Entebbe international airport.

This event positions Uganda once again on the international arena, for tourism, and leverages the country for possible investors across the regions.

Thank you for your attention.

Signed



Hon.Peter Ogwang
State minister for economic monitoring
Office of the President of the republic of Uganda