

MY AFRICAN UNION CAMPAIGN

“My African Union” is a campaign seeking to mobilize African citizens to be the voice that calls on African governments to implement the commitments they have adopted in the form of legal instruments and policy standards at the African Union (AU). It is hoped that through this campaign, African citizens will act/do/engage/speak-out on matters that affect their development, freedoms and rights. The Campaign is being championed by the State of the Union (SOTU) Coalition.

Background

Since the formation of the OAU/AU African governments have developed and adopted several instruments in the form of protocols, conventions, treaties and declarations. By January 2015, they had adopted 49 protocols and even more declarations covering issues that are pertinent to Africans’ lives such as food security, health, water and sanitation, education, children’s rights, youth issues, democracy, governance, economic development, infrastructure just to name a few. These instruments were developed on behalf of Africans and if implemented would make a tremendous difference in African citizens lives. The big challenge is that there is low and slow implementation of these and in some instances none at all. As such, there is a huge gap between these continental promises and the reality Africans face every day. In addition, African citizens are not even aware of these continental promises so they cannot claim their rights and hold their governments accountable on their delivery. Their implementation at national level will have great impact on the development, fundamental freedoms and human rights enjoyed by African citizens. Concerted public pressure and united political will are needed at both continental and national levels to make the benefits of implementing AU instruments and policy standards a reality in the lives of ordinary citizens.

Aims & Objectives

The “My African Union” campaign essentially seeks to inform, mobilize, and create an avenue for African citizens to act and claim their rights and freedoms by demanding implementation of African Union instruments and policy standards which have a direct impact on the improvement of their lives.

Objectives of the Campaign:

- 1) Build knowledge of citizens on the role of the AU and on the provisions of some key AU instruments
- 2) Foster public demand for implementation of AU instruments and policy standards
- 3) Facilitate and amplify voices of citizens on their issues.
- 4) Mobilise 1,000,000 Africans to act/do/engage/speak-out

Campaign Focus

The Campaign is focusing on promoting and monitoring AU instruments that cover these issues:

- 1) Good Governance, Democracy & Elections – The African Charter on Democracy, elections and governance
- 2) Corruption & Transparency – The African Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption
- 3) Human Rights – The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights
- 4) Gender Equality & Women’s Rights – The Protocol to the African Charter on Human Rights and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- 5) Health – The Africa Health Strategy
- 6) Access to Medical Services – The Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa.
- 7) Sexual & Reproductive Health Services – The Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalisation of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- 8) Youth Rights – The African Youth Charter
- 9) Children’s Rights – The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- 10) Conservation & Natural Resources – The Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
- 11) Food Security & Agricultural Development – The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)
- 12) Water & Sanitation – The Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa
- 13) Regional Integration – The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community
- 14) Parliamentary Oversight & Citizens’ Representation – Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan- African Parliament



ACTIONS CITIZENS CAN TAKE

African citizens have the opportunity to act/do/engage/speak-out by sharing their opinions, thoughts and messages to their governments and the African Union. African leaders can also respond on these platforms.

1. Take the Pledge – Africans take a stand by signing a pledge at <http://myafricanunion.org/i-pledge> to speak out and support calls on African governments to fulfil their commitments and implement the AU instruments.
2. Post a Selfie with your own comment – Africans put their name, face(s) and messages to African governments through posts on twitter: www.twitter.com/My_AfricanUnion (use #BeTheVoice) or Facebook: www.facebook.com/MyAfricanUnion and on our website www.myafricanunion.org
3. Have Your Say – Africans to share their thoughts, opinions and questions on the AU through posts on twitter: www.twitter.com/My_AfricanUnion (use #BeTheVoice) or Facebook: www.facebook.com/MyAfricanUnion and on our website www.myafricanunion.org
4. Learn and Empower – Africans to gain knowledge about the AU and its Instruments so that they gain awareness about the key issues promised in the AU instruments. To visit www.myafricanunion.org and read at least ONE instrument and share thoughts on what it says and to share with their friends/contacts.

Use the hashtag, #BeTheVoice to connect, be informed and take action:

On Twitter: @My_AfricanUnion

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/MyAfricanUnion

On the Website: www.myafricanunion.org

About SOTU

The State of the Union Coalition (SOTU), is a coalition of civil society organizations working together to hold African Governments accountable for the ratification and implementation of African Union decisions. SOTU together with its partners are carrying out the “My African Union” Campaign to support citizens’ actions in ensuring that compliance on AU instruments and policy standards are done. Specifically, SOTU is monitoring the implementation of 14 AU legal instruments and policy standards and publishing reports and doing advocacy work on the status of implementation in 10 countries across the five regions of the continent and at the continental level.

To learn more about SOTU visit www.sotu-africa.org

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