



SENSITIZATION OF NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS (NYCs) ON THE COMESA GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE NYCs IN THE HORN OF AFRICA REGION

AND

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A ONE-STOP YOUTH CENTRE IN BARINGO, KENYA

6 – 8 SEPTEMBER 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A sensitisation workshop was held from 6 – 7 September 2025 in Baringo, Kenya, aimed at strengthening National Youth Councils (NYCs) across the Horn of Africa by popularising the COMESA Guidelines for the Establishment of Effective NYCs. convened by COMESA in partnership with the Horn of Africa Youth Network, the workshop brought together representatives of National Youth Councils to enhance their institutional capacity, foster experience sharing, and promote regional development, peace, and security. The workshop was informed by the Decision of the 19th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs that was held in Bujumbura, Burundi in October 2024 and ***“requested Member States to utilise the NYCs Guidelines to establish/strengthen their NYCs; and further called on the Secretariat to mobilise extra-budgetary resources to support the implementation of the Guidelines in Member States.”***

Key workshop objectives included deepening awareness of the COMESA Guidelines, sharing best practices, and launching the Baringo One-Stop Youth Centre. The sessions highlighted the critical role of NYCs, emphasising inclusivity, decentralisation, legal frameworks, and value-based leadership. Participants engaged in group work discussions to design model frameworks and action plans addressing challenges such as limited resources, political interference, and the need for structured representation. Financing, partnerships, and advocacy strategies for NYCs were also discussed, with a strong focus on capacity building and ensuring youth voices are equipped to influence governance.

It is worth noting that following the sensitisation workshop was the official launch of a One-Stop Youth Center in Kabarnet town of Baringo County, Kenya, on 8 September 2025. The official launch of the One-Stop Youth Center featured the donations of 40 refurbished laptops from COMESA – made possible through its partner Turing Trust. The Center also featured skills development facilities such as a recording studio with equipment for content creators, as well as outdoor games and knowledge product facilities. Commitments were made by local and regional leaders to sustain youth empowerment efforts.