



Panafrican Youth Forum on
AIDS : a matter of education

Forum panafricain de la jeunesse sur
Le **SIDA** : une question d'éducation

Exceptional event in Dakar

African Youth AIDS Prevention Forum

Under the title "Pan-African Youth Forum: AIDS, a Matter of Education", young people from the largest international youth organisations represented in Africa, supported by the International Youth Foundation, met in Dakar, Senegal from 22 to 26 March 2004. Between them, Scouting and Guiding, YMCA and YWCA, International Red Cross and the International Award Association have 20 million members in the African continent.

At the invitation of the President of Senegal, H.E. Me Abdoulaye Wade, and World Scout Committee Chairman Dr. (Mrs.) Marie Louise Correa, and with important support from Youth Minister Aliou Sow, some 300 young people and experts from 43 African countries prepared national plans to put into action when they return home as part of a concerted AIDS prevention effort.

With the technical support of UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, Francophonie (International Organisation of French-speaking Communities), the national AIDS-prevention committee and the World Bank, the young participants, most of whom were between 20 and 25 years of age, conceived, developed and established a joint contribution by their organisations to the national AIDS prevention plans in their respective countries.

United by the shared ideal of "developing autonomous, supportive, responsible and committed youth" who voluntarily play an active role in society and have a spirit of service to the community, the young participants are in an ideal position to convey convincing AIDS-prevention messages to their peers, and therefore represent a truly unique potential for coordinated action against this scourge.

Motion of support from Ministers present at the Forum is on the following page.

Motion of support from the ministers present at the Pan-African Youth Forum on AIDS, A Matter of Education

Alongside the Pan-African Youth Forum, the Youth Ministers of Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal met under the aegis of the Confederation of Ministers of Youth and Sport of French-speaking Countries (CONFEJES) on the subject of "Public Strategies for Mobilising Young People against AIDS".

Considering

- the danger that AIDS represents for the future of Africa;
- the high number of young people infected and affected every day by the AIDS virus;
- the need for the sustained involvement of young people in AIDS prevention programmes;
- the need to undertake action on a continental scale;

the ministers

- congratulate and thank CONFEJES for supporting the organisation of this event;
- express their gratitude to the Senegalese authorities for offering to host the Pan-African Youth Forum on AIDS: A Matter of Education in Dakar from 22 to 26 March 2004;
- express their support to the Pan-African Youth Forum, which brought together some 300 young people from all over Africa, and salute the voluntary and generous commitment of the Alliance of Youth CEOs (Big 7), which, with this initiative, has contributed to the development of healthy, committed and flourishing young Africans;
- congratulate all the young people who took part in the Pan-African Youth Forum on their commitment and self-sacrifice, and invite them to play an even greater role in the fight against the AIDS pandemic in the African continent;
- thank the development partners and commend them for supporting the real involvement of the Forum's youth participants in the issue of AIDS: A Matter of Education.

Dakar, 23 March 2004

The Ministers