



Geneva, January 16, 2004

To the National Member Organizations of

- World Organization of the Scout Movement
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
- World Alliance of YMCAs
- World YWCA
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- The International Award Association
- International Youth Foundation

on the **Africa Continent**

Dear friends,

You have all received an *invitation* to attend a "**Panafrican Youth Forum on "AIDS: a matter of education"** in Dakar, from 22 to 26 March 2004.

That invitation was dated July 2003, co-signed by H.E. Mr Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and by Dr Marie-Louise Correa, President of the World Scout Committee. It was transmitted to you by your respective roof Organization in Geneva, London or Baltimore, at different dates as of September 2003.

The text of that invitation, as well as a more detailed *programme of the event* (annexed) can also be downloaded with a document entitled "**What we can together do against AIDS in Africa**" (also annexed), on the following website, in English, French and Arabic:

<http://www.scout.org/wsc/dakar.shtml>

This Dakar Youth Forum has the potential of making a significant contribution to AIDS prevention throughout Africa. It can bring together the largest World Youth Movements which are active in Africa at both national and regional levels and encourage them to participate more vigorously in a joint effort to eradicate this terrible scourge, through combined forces and by means of peer education among young people.

There are funds to get the National Member Organizations (NMOs) of the "Big 7" to Dakar (where all costs are covered by the organisers): UNAIDS, the World Bank, your National Co-ordination Committee against AIDS, etc. But these funds will only be given when the potential donors will see that your national entities are both *willing and able* to make a difference *together* in the fight against AIDS and that you have the means and the intention to play a unique role in the fight against AIDS at home. Bringing all these potential national actors together in your own country is the *indispensable beginning* to showing such collective will and capacity.

IN SHORT: IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU HOLD THESE *PRE-DAKAR MEETINGS AT NATIONAL LEVEL* IF THE DAKAR YOUTH FORUM IS TO BE A SUCCESS.

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We are therefore asking all our National Member Organizations on the Africa Continent to take **now** the following **concrete steps**, in sequence, if not yet done:

STEP 1

In the invitation for the "Dakar Panafrican Youth Forum **please re-read** Para 3 a), entitled "Pre-programme" which says: " **Before** travelling to Dakar, the forum participants of a given country should get together to examine the state of national AIDS prevention efforts and to outline the elements of their future joint national AIDS prevention programme. It is suggested that one of the national organisations involved be elected by the others as co-ordinating body for their country."

STEP 2

Consult the enclosed chart that tells you if, in your country, there are National Organisations which are members of the following International Organizations:

- World Organization of the Scout Movement
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
- World Alliance of YMCAs
- World YWCAS
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- The International Award Association
- International Youth Foundation

STEP 3

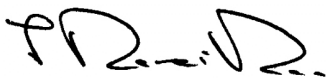
Find the addresses of these *national* entities

Find the addresses in *your country*, if any, of

- UNAIDS, Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, (UNICEF; WFP; UNDP; UNODC; ILO; UNESCO; WHO and WORLD BANK)
- Your *national* entity co-ordinating the fight against AIDS.

AND INVITE THEM ALL FOR A COMMON MEETING TO PREPARE FOR DAKAR

If you do not do this, nothing will happen and that historical opportunity will be missed. It is up to you, in each country, to see how to get organised. Just do not wait for others to take the initiative: take your destiny into your common hands, as we did at world level.



Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General
World Organization of the Scout Movement



Lesley Bulman
Chief Executive
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts



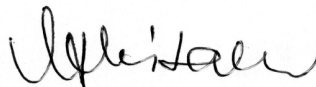
Bartholomew Shaha
Secretary General
World Alliance of YMCAs



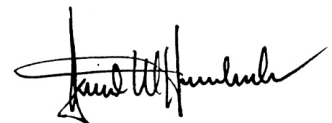
Musimbi Kanyoro
General Secretary
World Young Women's
Christian Association



Paul Arengo-Jones
Secretary General
The International
Award Association



Markku Niskala
Secretary General
The International Federation of
Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



David W. Hornbeck
President and CEO
International Youth
Foundation