



WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

REPORT

XIV GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**YOUTH RISE TO MEET THE
HIV/AIDS CHALLENGE!**

20-23 FEBRUARY 2005

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA



ABOUT WAY

The World Assembly of Youth (WAY) is the international coordinating body of national youth councils and organisations. The full members of WAY are national youth councils. WAY has 94 member organisations from all continents.

Founded in 1949, WAY has consultative with various agencies in the United Nations System, including UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNEP, UNESCO, WHO and UNCTAD. It acts as a bridge between the youth and the UN.

WAY recognises the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the basis of its action and services. WAY works for the promotion of youth and youth organizations in programme areas such as: democracy, environment, human rights, population, health, drugs, community development and leadership training.

As enshrined in its Charter, the World Assembly of Youth seeks to:

- Increase inter-ethnic respect and to foster inter-cultural and international understanding and cooperation.
- Facilitate the collection of information about the needs and problems of youth.
- Disseminate information about the methods, techniques and activities of youth organisations.
- Promote the interchange of ideas between youth of all countries.
- Assist in the development of youth activities and to promote, by mutual aid, the extension of the work of voluntary youth organizations.
- Cooperate in the development of national youth councils of voluntary youth organizations.
- Promote the democratic participation of young people both in their own organisations and in the society as a whole.
- Establish and maintain relations with the international organisations, both voluntary and governmental.
- Support and encourage the national movements of non-self governing countries in their struggle for national liberation.
- Promote tolerance, understanding, solidarity and cooperation among young men and women irrespective of race, sex, language, religion or political orientation.
- Encourage the full participation of young men and women in the development process of their countries.
- Improve the equality between young men and women.
- Act as a representative body of national youth councils to the UN and other appropriate governmental and non-governmental international bodies.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS RECEIVED FROM HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
2. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
3. PROGRAMME OF EVENTS
4. OPENING SPEECH BY H.E. PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
5. OPENING SPEECH BY YAB DATUK SERI HJ. MOHD ALI BIN MOHD RUSTAM, PRESIDENT OF WAY
6. ADDRESS BY WAY PRESIDENT TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE XIV WAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
7. REPORT BY WAY SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE XIV WAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
8. WORLD YOUTH AWARDS 2005
9. HIV/AIDS RECOMMENDATIONS
10. RESOLUTIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
11. RESOLUTIONS OF THE POLITICAL COMMISSION
12. RESOLUTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
13. RESOLUTIONS OF THE TSUNAMI DISASTER COMMITTEE
14. WAY OFFICE-BEARERS ELECTED FOR TERM 2005-2009
15. NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
16. LIST OF WAY MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AS RATIFIED BY THE XIV WAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
17. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PICTURES



1 MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT



**MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

On behalf of the Government and people of Namibia, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates and observers attending this historic General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth.

It is an honour and privilege for the country to have this opportunity to host the General Assembly.

The theme of this conference is very pertinent to all young people. HIV/AIDS is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and it is the young people who bear the brunt of this deadly pandemic. Through initiatives such as this meeting, it is our hope that young people can become more aware of the dangers of irresponsible behaviour. National youth councils play an essential role in formulation and implementation of national responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The Government of Namibia applauds the efforts of the World Assembly of Youth in mobilising young people towards global development. It is essential for youth to be imbued with the right values, ideologies and progressiveness which will lead them to contribute to the national and global development processes.

I congratulate you on the convening of this XIV General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth and hope that you will have fruitful deliberations.

**MESSAGE FROM THE RT. HON. DATUK SERI HJ.
ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA**

It is my great pleasure to extend warm greetings and regards from Malaysia, on the occasion of this 14th General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth being held in Windhoek, Namibia.

Malaysia is proud to be associated with the World Assembly of Youth, firstly as the base of its secretariat in Melaka, and secondly as the current holders of the presidency, through the Hon. Datuk Seri Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam.

Organisations such as the World Assembly of Youth have an important role to play in the twenty-first century. Many of the challenges besetting the world today can be overcome if young people are united towards global development. Instilling positive values in young people is the single most crucial step towards achieving global peace, justice and equity.

Young people continue to face serious problems including unemployment, HIV/AIDS infections and lack of opportunities to participate in decision-making processes.

I am pleased to note that the theme for this WAY General Assembly is "Youth Rise to Meet the HIV/AIDS Challenge," as this will serve to sensitise youth organisations and governments towards more adequately addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic.

I congratulate the World Assembly of Youth and all its members on the convening of this 14th General Assembly, and wish you successful deliberations.



**MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PERVEZ MUSHARRAF
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

It is my immense pleasure to reach the youth leaders of the world through this message on the eve of the 14th General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth, who have gathered to deliberate and reflect on “Youth Rise to Meet the HIV/AIDS Challenge” here in Namibia.

I believe the youth have always played a major role in changing the course of history or destiny of a people. The youth are by nature endowed with physical energy, emotional drive, zeal and the strength to move forward. Their urge to take on challenges and unmatched enthusiasm makes them catalysts for progress and a highly potent human resource. I believe that youth’s energy works best when it is guided by the experience and wisdom of their elders for the benefit of society. It is also a fact that with a little carelessness, youth could also become vulnerable to social hazards and exploitation by anti-social vested interests.

In Pakistan we are making every effort to provide the youth of our country with an enabling environment, where they can realise their potential in the area of their interest and choice. We are also ensuring that we produce enlightened youth who are moderate, open-minded, and productive citizens contributing to the betterment of society.

Therefore, there can be no doubt that young men and women have the potential to make this world a better and safer place for all to live. I wish success and good luck to the World Assembly of Youth in the realisation of its goals; its mission and commitments to link youth the world over for global harmony, peace and social uplift.

**MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY VINCENTE FOX QUESADA
PRESIDENT OF MEXICO**

(Translated from Spanish to English)

Dear participants of the XIV General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth

Firstly, I want to extend my sincere congratulations on this occasion of your fourteenth General Assembly. I am convinced that such positive interactions of young people contribute to global development and intercultural understanding.

I congratulate you because you have decided to dedicate this occasion to addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS, and the means in which you can contribute to prevention and raising awareness about the pandemic, which affects millions of youths around the world.

In Mexico, this pandemic has caused a significant number of deaths. Approximately 64 thousand people in the country are living with this disease, and an additional 150 thousand are infected by the virus. Between 1983 and 2002, 40 thousand people died due to HIV/AIDS related illnesses. The disease has provoked stigmatization and consequent discrimination of vulnerable groups.

The Mexican government has undertaken diverse actions to prevent infections and to assist affected people. I am pleased to inform you that through our National Center for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS (CENSIDA), we have made advances in political and national strategies for prevention, awareness and control of the pandemic. In 2003, we developed antiretroviral medicines for infected persons.

At the international level, Mexico participated in the preparatory process of the UN General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS in 2001 and presented proposals for the Declaration of Commitments on HIV/AIDS, in particular on the impact of AIDS on women and youth, with special attention on AIDS orphans and the human rights of infected people, to avoid discrimination and stigmatization.

I urge you to continue with the enthusiasm so that concrete actions are taken towards collaboration with your respective governments to address the disease head-on and rise to the challenge.

The contributions you are making will be a great asset in the fight to address the pandemic and advance the promotion of global health and development.

Receive warm greetings from the people of Mexico!

**MESSAGE FROM THE HON. CHUNG DONG-CHEA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

I would like to sincerely congratulate you on the 14th General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth being held in Windhoek, Namibia. AIDS is a disaster that has spread all over the world. Especially young people are easily infected and fall victim to it. In light of this, the World Assembly of Youth has adopted the theme *Youth Rise to Meet the HIV/AIDS Challenge* for the 14th General Assembly. The discussions among youth groups and leaders from all over the world about common measures to fight this calamity will be very significant and worthy.

The Korean government and I, personally, appreciate the National Youth Council in Namibia, the Namibia Government and the World Assembly of Youth for their dedicated efforts in preparing for this General Assembly.

The Korean government strongly supports this General Assembly and will join in the efforts of the World Assembly of Youth, the National Youth Council of Korea and all the youth groups around the world to protect young people from AIDS.

I trust that this General Assembly will be very successful and will make great advances in helping solve this calamity that affects all humankind. In addition, I hope that activities of the World Assembly of Youth and youth leaders will gain momentum, cooperation between all youth groups in the world will be strengthened and the World Assembly of Youth will be further developed through this General Assembly.

Thank you.

2 SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The XIV General Assembly (GA) of the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) was held from February 20-23, 2005, in Windhoek, Namibia. The GA was attended by over 300 delegates and observers from 43 countries and various international organizations.

The General Assembly has been declared a resounding success by all who attended, with some describing it as the best meeting they have ever experienced. Congratulations are due to the National Youth Council of Namibia for their hard work, commitment and professionalism.

Delegates and observers arrived mainly on 20th February, and they were met at the Hosea Kutako International Airport by staff of the GA secretariat. All delegates and observers were accommodated at Safari Hotel. At 1930hrs, the National Youth Council of Namibia held a Welcome Reception in the hotel.

On Monday 21st February the formal deliberations of the meeting began with an introduction and statement of objectives. The President opened the meeting and chaired the session, which was basically for delivery of messages, adopting the agenda and forming committees and commissions.

The next session was the HIV/ AIDS panel presentation on “The Dimensions of the Global HIV/ AIDS challenge.”

The opening ceremony took place at 1500hrs and was officiated by His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia. Also in attendance were Prime Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab and Minister of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation Hon. Nahas Angula. During this session, WAY conferred the World Youth Award to Dr. Nujoma for Exemplary Leadership in the Struggle for Total Emancipation of the African People.

In the evening the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation hosted a reception at the Polytechnic of Namibia.

On Tuesday 22 February the General Assembly convened for its second session, which was for delivery of reports and for holding of commission meetings. The secretary general, Donald Charumbira, gave a report on WAY activities between 2000 and 2004. A special session on WAY's response to the tsunami disaster was also held in this session. The credentials committee presented its report, and the various commissions held meetings. The commission reports were then received and adopted, and a drafting committee formed to finalise the outcome documents.

In the afternoon another HIV/AIDS panel presentation took place under the theme "Role of National Youth Councils in Meeting the Global HIV/AIDS Challenge."

In the evening, the World Assembly of Youth convened the World Youth Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner at the Heja Game Lodge. Prizes were given to the three outstanding national youth councils who submitted application forms.

On Wednesday 23rd February, the day began with the HIV/AIDS March of Hope led by the Rt. Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Prime Minister of Namibia. Participants marched from Safari Hotel into the city centre for an address by the Prime Minister.

Immediately following the march were visits to three orphanages in Windhoek, and WAY donated N\$10,000 (ten thousand Namibian dollars) to each orphanage.

After lunch was the fourth session of the General Assembly, during which elections for office-bearers for the term 2005-2009 were held. The fifth and last GA session featured adoption of the XIV GA declarations and outcome documents, and closing addresses by the Secretary General and the President.

A farewell dinner was held at the University of Namibia leisure centre to conclude the activities of the General Assembly.

Delegates and observers began departing on 24th February 2005.

3 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	AGENDA	VENUE
20 Feb	All day	Arrival and Registration	Hosea Kutako International Airport / Safari Hotel
	1930hrs	Welcome Reception hosted by the National Youth Council	Safari Hotel
21 Feb	0700hrs	Introduction and Statement of Objectives	Safari Hotel
	0800hrs	General Assembly Session 1: Messages, Agenda & Committee Formation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Roll Call and Opening of Meeting b. Delivery of Statements of Solidarity, Messages from Heads of State and Government and from friendly organizations c. Adoption of General Assembly agenda d. Formation of credentials committee e. Formation of elections committee f. Formation of Political, Administrative and Development Commissions 	Safari Hotel
	1500hrs	Opening Ceremony Officiated by H.E. Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia and conferment of World Youth Award	Safari Hotel
	1930hrs	Reception hosted by the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation	Polytechnic of Namibia
22 Feb	0800hrs	General Assembly Session 2: Reports and Commission Meetings	Safari Hotel

		<p>a. Report of Activities 2000-2004</p> <p>b. Special Session on WAY's response to the Tsunami Disaster</p> <p>c. Receive and Adopt Credential Committee Report</p> <p>d. Political Commission</p> <p>e. Administrative Commission</p> <p>f. Development Commission</p>	
	1100hrs	<p>General Assembly Session 3: Commission Reports</p> <p>a. Receive and Adopt Commission Reports</p> <p>b. Formation of Drafting Committee</p>	Safari Hotel
	1400hrs	<p>HIV/AIDS Session II: Panel Presentations</p> <p><i>"Role of National Youth Councils in Meeting the Global HIV/AIDS Challenge"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zimbabwe Youth Council (Africa) • Indonesian National Youth Council (Asia) • Trinidad & Tobago Youth Council (Caribbean) • Croatian National Youth Council (Europe) • National Council of Peruvian Youth (Latin America) • Commonwealth Youth Programme 	Safari Hotel
	1800hrs	<p>World Youth Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner hosted by the World Assembly of Youth</p>	Heja Game Lodge
23 Feb	0730hrs	<p>HIV/AIDS March of Hope led by the Rt. Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Prime Minister of Namibia</p>	Safari Hotel to Independence Avenue
	1100hrs	<p>Visit to Orphanages and Presentation of Donations</p>	- Helping Hand

			<p>HIV/AIDS Counselling Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pashukeni Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Home and Kindergarten, - Moria Grace Home
	1400hrs	<p>General Assembly Session IV: Elections and Plan of Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Receive and Adopt Report of Election Committee b. Election of Office Bearers for 2005-2009 	Safari Hotel
	1600hrs	<p>General Assembly Session V: Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adoption of XIV GA Declaration and outcome documents b. Address by the Secretary General c. Address by the President 	Safari Hotel
	1900hrs	Farewell Dinner	UNAM Leisure Centre

**4 OPENING SPEECH BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, 21 FEBRUARY
2005**

Master of Ceremonies

Right Honourable Datuk Seri Haji Mohammad Ali Rustam

President of the World Assembly of Youth

Honourable Ministers

Honourable Members of Parliament

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Esteemed Vice-Presidents and Executive Committee Members of the World
Assembly of Youth

Distinguished Delegates

Distinguished Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted and honoured to be with you today at this opening ceremony of the 14th General Assembly of World Assembly of Youth. It is indeed an honour and a historic occasion for Namibia to host this internationally renowned and important meeting of the World Assembly of Youth.

I would like to wholeheartedly and warmly welcome all the delegates to this important General Assembly. In particular, I would like to wish all the delegates from abroad a pleasant and enjoyable stay in our country.

I am informed that you are gathered here to discuss effective ways and means of addressing one of the greatest challenges of our time, the HIV/Aids pandemic. As you are aware, it is the young people who mostly bear the brunt of this deadly pandemic. Thus, it is fitting that you have chosen a theme that relates to young people and their awareness in respect of the HIV/Aids pandemic which is: *“Youth Rise to meet the HIV/Aids challenge”*.

Indeed, HIV/Aids is a serious and pressing challenge that young people in Namibia, in Africa and throughout the world are facing. Current statistics indicate that more than half of new HIV/Aids infections are to be found in young people who are between the ages of 16 and 24. As young people, you must take personal responsibility of ensuring that you are protected from infection and do not infect others. You must remember that you are the future leaders and your generation must exercise responsible behaviour to be able to lead our common home, the global village to greater social justice, equity and economic prosperity for all humanity.

Master of Ceremonies,

The world is integrating economically, socially and culturally but it is disintegrating politically. However, this disintegration can be contained and rooted out if you as young people, who are the future leaders, continue to come together and work together in unity like you are gathered here to deliberate on issues of mutual concern. Therefore, I would like to urge you to become proponents of a just socio-economic development order in your respective countries, regions and the world at large. As future leaders, it is now the time for you to look at and ponder the current and future challenges, especially in the fields of science and technology which are the backbone of economic growth and industrial development.

I believe that the youth can only effectively contribute to economic development when they have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills. It is for this reason that in Namibia, the Government has prioritised education and training of our youth to enable them to play a meaningful role in the socio-economic development of our country. Currently, two thirds of our national budget is allocated to the social sectors, including education and training.

Master of Ceremonies,

There is no doubt that the process of globalisation poses several threats to developing countries in various ways, including trade imbalance between the developing and industrialised countries, economic dependence caused by unfair trade regimes, high interest rates imposed on developing countries by international and multi-national lending institutions, as well as uneven distribution of resources and technologies.

This unjust system has undoubtedly caused suffering and hardships among the people of the Southern hemisphere. As the youth, it is your duty to seek to create a more human and just world order. Thus, it is only through your relentless commitment to positive and purposeful change that you can meaningfully address the prevailing social, cultural and economic realities that have subjected millions of people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere to hunger, poverty, disease and squalor. There are no reasons to justify such state of affairs.

I view this assembly as a beacon of progress and the basis upon which the youth can position themselves as active and dedicated citizens of the world. It is also pleasing to note that the World Assembly of Youth has been mobilising young people to participate in nation-building efforts in their respective countries. The World Assembly of Youth has also been harnessing the energies and potential of the youth to overcome the social and economic challenges. These efforts must be welcomed and encouraged, as a way of empowering the youth and making them active participants in the process of socio-economic development and the establishment of a just and humane world order.

Thus, as you continue to participate in important discussions in this Assembly, you must espouse a vision of a brighter future and work on new methods that will enable you to tackle the challenges that you will face along the way. It will not be easy, however, through determined action and commitment you will achieve your objectives.

Master of Ceremonies,

The youth have a responsibility to demand from their leaders to bring an end to the damaging and unnecessary wars which are taking place in some parts of the world. They must take a leading role and impress it upon their leaders to always advance and pursue peaceful solutions to conflicts. In fact, I urge you to always aim to create a world free from armed conflicts and civil wars so that humankind can live in total peace and harmony without the threat of war. You are the future leaders and the onus is on your shoulders to find ways and means of preventing conflicts so that countries can live at peace with their neighbours and within themselves.

I would therefore like to wish you all productive and fruitful deliberations as you tackle the important and difficult issues which are before you during this 14th General Assembly of the Youth.

I hope that unity of purpose and action will be your guiding light as you ponder and discuss various challenges that face humanity today, including, the danger of HIV/Aids and come up with useful insights and practical suggestions on how Governments, civil society and other stakeholders can address them to ensure prosperity of all our peoples.

With these few words, I now take this opportunity to declare the 14th General Assembly of World Assembly of Youth officially open.

I thank you.

5 OPENING SPEECH BY YAB DATUK SERI HJ. MOHD ALI BIN MOHD RUSTAM, PRESIDENT OF WAY, MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2005

His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia

The Right Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia

Honourable Nahas Angula, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation, Republic of Namibia

Mr. Pohamba Shifeta, Secretary General of the National Youth Council of Namibia

Honourable Ministers herepresent

Honourable Members of Parliament herepresent

Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners

Government Officials

WAY Vice Presidents, Secretary General and Executive Committee

Members

WAY members

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure that we gather here for the fourteenth General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth, in this beautiful city of Windhoek, Namibia.

For many WAY members, it is their first time in Africa, and the discovery of the beauty and friendliness of Namibia will be an experience that will be cherished for many years to come.

It is also a great privilege for all of us WAY members to have the presence of one of the most eminent leaders of Africa, and an inspiration to young people throughout the African continent and the world at large, President Sam Nujoma. For all of us, President Nujoma is an icon of emancipation and the struggle for economic and social justice.

This General Assembly is significant in that it is taking place at a time when WAY is growing and developing into a formidable force in the international arena. Our organisation is today the largest global youth organisation, and the apex body of youth movements worldwide.

We are charged with the responsibility of bringing national youth councils together and representing them at the international level. We work closely with various agencies of the United Nations system in order to ensure that youth issues are adequately catered for at inter-governmental meetings.

As many of you are aware, WAY moved its secretariat from Copenhagen to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in 1999. In year 2003 the secretariat moved to Melaka in southern Malaysia, which will be the permanent home of the organisation. Construction of the U\$2 million WAY headquarters of the organisation is underway in Melaka and will be complete by May of this year.

In the year 2000, we appointed a new secretary general of the organisation, Mr. Donald Charumbira from Zimbabwe. He has been

charged with re-establishing the organisation and setting up the new headquarters. Charumbira and his administration have managed to raise the profile of the organisation and successfully implement a number of programmes and activities around the world. The secretariat in Malaysia is now operating smoothly and I believe that WAY will continue to grow from strength-to-strength.

Among the key programmes that WAY has convened over the past years is the Melaka International Youth Dialogue. This is a meeting held in June or July every year, bringing together youth leaders from around the world to deliberate on issues of concern to young people. Four dialogues have been held from 2001 to 2004, and the meeting will continue to consistently take place every year. We hope that this can also be used as an annual platform for WAY members to meet and discuss thematic issues of concern.

Our intention has also been to convene regional youth dialogues, and we therefore convened the Latin American Youth Dialogue and the European Youth Dialogue. We intend to develop this idea to ensure that there is such a meeting in every region each year.

As evidence of WAY's increasing significance in the global arena, we convened the Roundtable of World Youth Leaders in May 2003. This was attended by more than 15 large international youth organizations, and we adopted a common declaration. We agreed that it was important for youth organisation to work together instead of cultivating antagonism

between us. We shall hold this event once in every two years, with the next scheduled to take place in Bali, Indonesia in September 2005.

The role of WAY has become increasingly significant in the new millennium, as challenges facing youth are continuing to impede development.

HIV/ AIDS, which is the theme of this conference, remains one of the most serious challenges facing young people the world over. Half of all new infections worldwide are among young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Every day, 6000 young people become infected with HIV – which is more than five every minute.

If we are to preserve future generations, it is essential to ensure that the acceleration of the HIV/ AIDS pandemic is halted, and we start to reverse the mountainous tide of infections experienced by young people. During this General Assembly, we shall debate and discuss this issue until we produce an action plan to guide our future interventions in this area.

Another key area of concern is youth employment. High global youth unemployment gives rise to many social and economic problems that impede national development efforts. We are actively advocating for young people to engage in entrepreneurial activities as a response to the lack of jobs in the formal sector. High unemployment in the formal sector can be addressed by building the capacity of the informal and small-scale enterprise sector and creating an enabling environment for young

people to start small enterprises. Unemployment is also linked to our theme of HIV/ AIDS as unemployed youths are vulnerable to risky behaviour due to boredom, prostitution and the general lack of care and concern due to the depression associated with unemployment.

At this General Assembly, we shall be discussing the WAY Millennium Plan of Action, which was implemented under the theme “Towards a Global Community.” This was taking account of the forces of globalization that were shaping our world and making us all members of a large global community.

The global community that WAY would like to see coming into existence is one which is predicated on the values of peace, justice and equity. We would like to live a world free of war, a world where justice is guaranteed for all people, and a world of economic and social equity, with fair distribution of global resources.

We are yet to see if globalisation, in its current direction, will lead to peace, justice and equity. Global developments in the past four years, however, have left us worried about the future of the world as a Unipolar World Order seems to have been created by the United States and its allies.

Following the unfortunate September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York City, the US government initiated a so-called War on Terrorism that saw governments of Afghanistan and Iraq toppled by force. These actions were undertaken unilaterally with no

sanction from the United Nations system. As a result, we now live in a world where the super powers can unilaterally do as they please. The lack of democracy in the UN Security Council, with the veto powers vested in the five permanent members, only serves to strengthen the existence of a unilateral world order. The significance of the United Nations systems has diminished and been replaced by the wanton desires of the United States and its allies.

WAY would like to see a new order of things at the United Nations. The organisation must be made more representative of the global community, and decisions should follow democratic procedures. Only through enhanced democracy at the UN can we expect the world body to be of greater significance to the entire community of small and large member states.

We are not satisfied with the handling of youth issues in the United Nations secretariat, as we have noted inconsistencies and discrepancies that only serve to relegate the importance of the UN Youth Agenda. Important meetings such as the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System have not been held consistently even though governments mandated the holding of this meeting every two years.

We must therefore continue to lobby for youth issues to be given a high priority in the UN system. We have proposed to the UN Secretary General that the UN must establish a UN Youth Programme as an independent agency charged with managing youth issues. Much as we have the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Women's Fund

(UNIFEM), we also need a permanent organisation catering for youth issues. We shall therefore strive to ensure that this vision becomes a reality for youth.

We must strengthen youth participation in global issues!

In March last year, we launched the book *Youth and Globalism: A Perspective*, as a call for young people to embrace the values of global peace, justice and equity in order to achieve a harmonious global community of the future.

Since the end of the Cold War, we have noted the lack of ideological foundations in young people and youth movements. Gone are the days when young minds were inspired by varying ideologies of socialism, communism, capitalism, and other ideologies. Although each of these ideologies may have had its flaws, the ideologies served to inspire young people in all facets of life.

It is important for youth to have an ideology which guides them and outlines their principles and values. This is the rationale behind the book *Youth and Globalism: A Perspective*. In the book, we offer a new ideology of Globalism, which is founded on the desire for global peace, justice and equity.

Our vision for the future of WAY is to ensure that the organisation grows into a formidable force, not just in terms of youth issues, but in a broad spectrum of global affairs. It is only through WAY that young

people have the opportunity to express themselves and be involved in decisions that affect the world at large.

The role of national youth councils in the new millennium is increasingly important. As implementers of national youth policies, national youth councils are key to the success of youth programmes at the national levels. Our goal is to revitalize national youth councils that are no longer functioning properly, and to encourage their growth as national partners in the development agenda.

This 14th WAY General Assembly therefore marks a turning point for the organisation. From here we must proceed with the mission of revitalisation of our national structures and to enhance our participation in international affairs.

We would like to express our appreciation to the National Youth Council of Namibia and the Government of Namibia for hosting this General Assembly. We thank you for your kind hospitality and excellent arrangements. We truly feel welcome in this “Land of the Brave.”

To His Excellency President Nujoma, we are sincerely grateful for your presence here today. Young people from throughout the world admire your leadership, and we shall strive to emulate your principles and values.



I do hope that this General Assembly will enable us to chart a bright future for the world's youth and for the achievement of global peace, justice and equity.

I thank you.



**6. ADDRESS BY WAY PRESIDENT TO THE FIRST SESSION OF
THE XIV WAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 21 FEBRUARY 2005**

WAY Vice Presidents

WAY Secretary General

WAY Executive Committee Members

WAY Members and Delegates to the General Assembly

Invited Guests including Honourable Ministers and Government Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is a special moment when we are all gathered as the General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth, an occasion taking place for the fourteen time since the formation of WAY in 1949. This organisation is steeped in history, and we are again making history today as we gather to chart a way forward for WAY.

It is pleasing to see the national youth councils present here. We are grateful for your commitment to the organisation and its objectives. I do hope that all of you will participate actively in this General Assembly, to ensure that we emerge a stronger, more objective, revitalized organisation.

Let me begin by sharing our history with those of you that may not be very familiar with the World Assembly of Youth.

WAY was formally established in Brussels in August 1949. The first Council of WAY, as a culmination of a series of preliminary meetings, met there to ratify the Charter,

signed by representatives of national coordinating committees of 29 countries who thus became the founding members of the organisation.

The end of the Second World War created a surge in global desires to create new international contacts. Young people were also eager to create a new international society, which would put aside all the tensions and divisions of the Second World War. It was in this climate that WAY was created.

The first WAY General Assembly was held at Cornell University, Ithaca, USA, in 1951. This meeting will be remembered for the full support that it gave the liberation struggles in colonized nations, and to the anti-apartheid struggles. It was there that WAY outlined its programmes for liberation movements and developing countries.

WAY grew rapidly both in terms of membership, strength of national committees and range of activities. Membership doubled between 1950 and 1965. WAY was active in the promotion of international youth work. It formulated statements and programmes that were a clear expression of the growing international solidarity among young people. The more dominant part of WAY's programmes soon became national and regional seminars or workshops, including specialised professional conferences where participants could exchange experiences concerning skills, techniques and training methods to be used in youth movements. WAY became a forum where youth leaders could meet and listen to prominent political leaders in their own regions, as well as to the best experts available in the various subject fields discussed.

The WAY Secretariat was first established in Brussels, then it moved to Paris, then back to Brussels, then to Copenhagen, and in 1999 it moved to Kuala Lumpur and then finally to Melaka in Malaysia. We are now completing construction of a U\$2 million building which will be the permanent headquarters of WAY.

WAY is a living testimony that illustrates that it is possible for international organizations to be based in a developing country. The stereotype of international organizations being based only in developed countries is no more applicable to us. We believe it is actually better for them to be based in the developing world where they can be free of influence from the unilateral forces of the world. This is why we have even called for the United Nations to relocate to a developing country after the United States displayed its indifference to the UN system when it invaded Iraq.

The past four years, under the WAY Millennium Plan of Action, have seen WAY growing into a stronger force and enhancing its status after the decline that had taken place in the late 1990s.

The WAY Executive Committee adopted our Millennium Plan of Action in July 2000. This was to guide WAY and its programmes and activities until this General Assembly. I am pleased to say that many of our targets were met, and success has been achieved in most of the WAY programmes organised to date.

Among the key goals of the Millennium Plan of Action were for WAY to lobby for the elimination of unjust and unsustainable economic practices that are leading to, and perpetuating third world poverty. We resolved to conduct training that will empower young people to start and run their own globally-competitive enterprises.

Other objectives were:

- To create awareness of the need for racial and religious tolerance
- To provide humanitarian and emergency relief to communities suffering due to hunger, poverty, natural disasters, economical and political crises
- To promote responsible behaviour among the youth, to combat the spreading of HIV/AIDS, to reduce the use of drugs including tobacco, to discourage juvenile delinquency and to create a physically and mentally healthy Community

- To encourage educational development of youth, improved educational delivery systems that reduce or eliminate illiteracy
- Foster gender sensitivity in youth organizations, as well as lobbying for equitable access to leadership positions by both men and women
- To undertake environmental conservation programmes that will ensure that the future generations will have a habitable and natural world as beautiful as it is today
- To instill the values of democracy, popular government, transparency and accountability in the youth, and ensure that this is observed at all levels of leadership.

By and large, I believe that we have achieved success in most aspects of the Millennium Plan of Action.

Today our main task as WAY is to ensure that all national youth councils are operational and viable entities, which are properly administering their youth development activities. There has been a noticeable decline in activities of national youth councils, with many ceasing to exist. This is largely due to the absence of donor funding that was once available at the time these national youth councils were formed.

One important factor is that a significant amount of money was provided to youth organizations during the Cold War. This money, however, was really meant to bring the youths to the warring sides of the war. Once the Berlin wall crumbled, there were no more funds made available to youth organizations, and today many have folded.

The United Nations has also scaled-down its budgetary allocations to NGOs, and this has affected youth NGOs. The multiplicity of non-governmental organizations has also compromised the actual funds flowing to youth organizations.

It is our role and function as the World Assembly of Youth to revitalize these youth organizations! Through capacity-building and establishment of permanent sources of income, national youth councils can become active and critical partners in the development process.

We should not have to limit our programmes and activities due to budgetary constraints, but we should rather focus on delivering high-value programmes for young people. The challenge is therefore to establish fixed sources of income that will ensure organizational viability for the long-term.

Engagement of governments is of critical importance. In coming years we would like to organise forums where national youth councils can meet with ministers of youth and senior governmental officials, to discuss their mutual roles in youth development. We need to have direct contacts with governments, which will also facilitate our interventions at intergovernmental platforms such as at the United Nations.

It is my hope that this General Assembly will help us to gather our thoughts and ideas on the future of WAY, and to develop a concrete action plan outlining the way forward until 2010. I urge all members to participate actively, not just at the General Assembly, but also throughout the years. It is not enough for members to only communicate with us once in three or four years when there is a General Assembly or important meeting. We need to cultivate a culture of communication and constant interaction that will enhance our cooperation.

WAY has a big global mandate, and it is important for us all to work together towards the fulfillment of that mandate. It is too big a task for just the president along, or the secretary general, or the executive committee. Our role in global affairs needs the input and cooperation of all members, to ensure that we achieve the maximum potential that we have.



Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Executive Committee that has served with me since the 13th WAY General Assembly. Our Vice-Presidents Bossoondyal Nurdkenswarsing from Mauritius, Hooghart Desire from Suriname, Zage Filipovski from Macedonia, Felix Gonzalez-Polar from Peru, Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan from Pakistan, Nana Yuliana from Indonesia, Imad Muttar from Iraq, Francis Ganyaglo from Ghana, Mohammad Fazlul Haque from Bangladesh and Bhuban Pathan from Nepal. I would also like to thank WAY Secretary General, Donald Charumbira, who comes from Zimbabwe, for his hard work and results-oriented administration which has seen WAY re-establishing itself in the world arena.

I would also like to thank all WAY staff, volunteers and supporters who have assisted the organisation throughout the years. It is your efforts that enable us to have successful programmes and activities!

I do hope that we will have fruitful and constructive deliberations at this General Assembly, which will feed into the Millennium Plan of Action Part 2, our guide to 2010 and beyond.

I thank you.

7. REPORT BY WAY SECRETARY GENERAL, DONALD CHARUMBIRA, AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE XIV GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 21 FEBRUARY 2005

At the 13th General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth, a clear mandate was given by WAY members: WAY must be revitalized and reestablished as the global coordinating body of youth councils worldwide.

Following the move from our former headquarters in Copenhagen, to our initial base in Kuala Lumpur, and now to our permanent home in Melaka, WAY has grown in leaps and bounds, and is now certain of a bright and sustainable future in the youth-friendly environment of Malaysia.

We are much ingratiated towards the President of WAY, the Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, who spearheaded the shifting of the WAY Secretariat to Malaysia and oversaw its permanent establishment. We are now based at a government bungalow provided to us by the Melaka State Government. Construction of a new youth complex is underway in Melaka, and this will be WAY's permanent home.

Being the first secretary general to be head the secretariat in Malaysia has come with some challenges. The main challenge has been the general perception that international organisations need to be based in Europe or the United States. Thankfully, I believe this perception is changing and more and more people are accepting the fact that the developing world can also play host to international organisations, often more successfully than the expensive bases in the developed world.

To characterize the activities over the past four years in one word, I would say that word is **Re-Establishment**. It was clear at the 13th General Assembly that WAY had become a shadow of its former self. Through the misadministration that occurred at the former secretariat in Copenhagen, the organisation would have died a natural death were it not for the personal intervention of the President and the subsequent transfer of the secretariat to Malaysia.

Against such a background, the major task for my first term of office was to re-establish the organisation, with a new vision, a new mission and a new lease of life. The majority of the work was in terms of public relations: making it clear to all stakeholders that WAY was alive and moving forward. Although resources may have limited our activities, we made full use of information and communication technologies to reach out to the global community and enhance the image and reputation of WAY.

Moving from Copenhagen was not without its negative consequences. The majority of European members were unhappy about this, even though they had offered no support towards addressing the challenges that the organisation was facing. As a

result, relations between WAY and some European organisations were strained, and even the entry of a new secretary general did not ease the tension.

Tense relations with Europe also affected our relations with the United Nations Youth Unit, which is heavily influenced by the European position. Continued frustration of our endeavours resulted in our release of some fairly strong statements, and an impasse that lasts to this date. It should be noted that we enjoy cordial relations with most UN agencies except the UN Youth Unit.

Notwithstanding the negative developments in the UN Youth Unit, I have personally served some prominent assignments with the UN system. In March 2001 I was elected chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Fourth World Youth Forum of the United Nations System. I was therefore responsible for drafting of the final declaration which was later passed on the UN General Assembly. The document is now referred to as the Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy. I was also appointed to the United Nations Secretary General's Youth Focus Group on Youth Employment, which gave rise to the Youth Employment Network in the UN/ILO secretariats. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) also invited me to be part of the group that founded the UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel.

Whilst it is important for WAY to work closely with the United Nations system, we must not compromise our values and standards when we feel that some developments are working against global youth development. I would like to emphasize that our activism in this regard is out of a serious frustration and concern at the negative developments in the UN secretariat in terms of youth issues.

Although the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System is supposed to be held once in every two years, it has not been held since 2001. This is further evidence of the lack of seriousness in the UN secretariat when it comes to youth issues.

There has been a notable decline in the activities of national youth councils around the world, with some no longer existing. This is largely due to diminished donor funding, and in some cases due to lack of leadership continuity structures. In some cases, national youth councils are government-controlled and thus experience unsustainable changes whenever there is a change of leadership, until structures become dysfunctional. This poses a significant challenge to WAY, as urgent work is needed to revitalize national youth councils around the world.

WAY now needs to take a leadership role in revitalizing national youth councils and spreading information on best practices. We shall be engaging governments more closely to ensure that they realise the significance and importance of national youth councils, and effectively support their youth development agendas.

In some cases, no communication has taken place with some national youth councils due to changes of address and telephone contacts which have made it difficult to locate them. We engaged diplomatic missions in Malaysia to assist us to identify the

latest contacts of their national youth councils, and this was a helpful exercise although a number of countries did not respond.

The majority of WAY members have been defaulting on their membership subscription payments. Fees were reduced to make it easier for members to pay, but it has still proved challenging to obtain these subscriptions timeously and consistently.

As a result, we have had to rely on UN, governmental and private donations to sustain the work of the secretariat. It is more so the private donations that have assisted us the most. We are grateful in this regard to the President, who helped to mobilise resources for the smooth running of the secretariat.

Over the past years, we have managed to convene important WAY meetings at national, sub regional, regional and international levels. One of the most significant was the establishment of the Melaka International Youth Dialogue. This is an annual meeting, the flagship event of WAY, which brings together young people from varied backgrounds to engage in a dialogue on pertinent global youth issues. We have since convened four dialogues between 2001 and 2004, and will continue to develop and promote this meeting.

A major success was the Roundtable of World Youth Leaders convened in Melaka in May 2003. This was a gathering of youth leaders from various large regional and global youth organisations. It was an unprecedented meeting which provided the opportunity for youth organisations to network and establish a common global youth development vision. As a follow-up, a second Roundtable shall be held in Bali, Indonesia, in September 2005.

WAY also convened regional meetings in Africa, Europe, Asia/Pacific and Latin America over the past four years. This helped to strengthen our networks and to develop WAY's structures in these regions. In future, more resources will be needed to ensure that such regional meetings can consistently be held on an annual basis.

The use of information and communication technologies afforded WAY the opportunity of communicating inexpensively with its international audience. In October 2000, we established the World Youth E-Group with the address worldyouth@yahogroups.com. This is now one of the largest e-groups on the Internet with over 2,000 members. Many of our programmes heavily relied on the use of email and Internet for coordination purposes.

WAY responded quickly to the recent tsunami disaster that struck the Asian region. We sent several teams of volunteers, and both myself and the President visited Indonesia and met with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to convey our condolences and arrange for WAY's long-term involvement in the rebuilding efforts underway in Indonesia.

Executive Committee

The following were elected into the Executive Committee at the 13th General Assembly:

President:

Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam
(Malaysia)

Vice Presidents:

Mr. Felix Gonzales-Polar
(Peru)

Mr. Zage Filipovski
(Macedonia)

Hon. Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan
(Pakistan)

Mr. Hoogart Desire
(Suriname)

Mr. Bossondyal Nurdkeswarsing
(Mauritius)

Executive Committee:

Ms. Nana Yuliana
(Indonesia)

Mr. Donald Charumbira
(Zimbabwe)

Mr. Imad A. Muttar
(Iraq)

Mr. Francis Ganyaglo
(Ghana)

Mr. Mohammad Fazlul Haque
(Bangladesh)

Mr. Bhuban Pathak
(Nepal)

Five executive committee meetings were convened as follows:

1 st Executive Committee Meeting:	January 28 th , 2000, Kuala Lumpur
2 nd Executive Committee Meeting:	November 12-15, 2000, London
3 rd Executive Committee Meeting:	June 25, 2001, Melaka
4 th Executive Committee Meeting:	May 12 th , 2003, Melaka
5 th Executive Committee Meeting:	June 28 th , 2004, Melaka

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Few members have fully paid up their subscriptions despite the reduction in membership fees.

Members are urged to pay up their subscriptions as soon as possible.

MAJOR WAY PROGRAMMES 2000-2004

2000

JULY	Seminar on Public Relations for Youth Organisations International Youth Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
NOVEMBER	Executive Committee Meeting, London, UK
DECEMBER	Forum for the Integration of Andean Youth Lime, Peru

2001

MARCH	Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Fourth World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, Dakar, Senegal
APRIL	Global Conference on Mental Health on World Health Day, Melaka, Malaysia
JUNE	Asia-Pacific Youth Forum, Bangkok, Thailand Melaka International Youth Dialogue, Melaka, Malaysia
JULY	UN Secretary General's Youth Employment Network



International Youth Forum, Seoul, Korea

AUGUST Fourth World Youth Forum of the United Nations System,
Dakar, Senegal

DECEMBER Latin American Youth Dialogue, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

2002

MARCH European Youth Dialogue, Brijuni, Croatia

APRIL Official Visit to Guinea-Bissau

MAY International Youth Work Camp, Ipoh, Malaysia

JULY High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council of the
United Nations System

SEPTEMBER Youth Employment Summit, Alexandria, Egypt

2003

JANUARY Visit to Botswana and Angola

MAY Roundtable of World Youth Leaders, Melaka, Malaysia

JULY Melaka International Youth Dialogue

AUGUST African Youth, ICT & NEPAD Conference, Windhoek, Namibia

International Youth Forum, Seoul, Korea

2004

APRIL Launch of "*Youth & Globalism: A Perspective*," Melaka, Malaysia

JUNE Melaka International Youth Dialogue

JULY International HIV/AIDS Conference, Bangkok

AUGUST International Youth Forum, Seoul, Korea

8. WORLD YOUTH AWARDS, 22 FEBRUARY 2005

The World Assembly of Youth (WAY) on its 40th anniversary instituted the World Youth Award to encourage national youth councils to become central agents in nation building and to commit themselves to addressing social and economic development of young people in their countries. The World Youth Award honours outstanding national youth movements and illustrates the examples and models that they set for the world.

The then Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, became the sponsor and patron of the award and supported all the past three ceremonies. The current Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Hj. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, has assumed patronage of the awards.

The World Youth Award is awarded to the youth organisation at the national level that has made excellent, noteworthy and effective contributions in national youth development. The Award is also presented to outstanding individuals who have contributed to the advancement of the cause of young people, and inspire them.

The objectives of the World Youth Award are:

1. To evaluate the success of national youth movements in promoting social and economic development;
2. To provide incentives to youth organisations to work harder in achieving greater success in their youth development agendas;
3. To inculcate the spirit of self-reliance amongst national youth movements;
4. To encourage youth movements to play major roles in highlighting challenges of youths and in attempting to solve as many of them as possible; and
5. To accelerate the involvement of youth in nation building.
6. To honour outstanding individuals who are exemplary and inspirational to young people worldwide.

The award is open to all national youth councils. The panel of judges considers the following criteria for the evaluation of each participating organisation:

- Leadership Effectiveness
- Organisational Structures
- Management Systems
- Utilisation of resources
- Quality of Membership
- Effectiveness and impact of programmes

The Fourth WAY-Prime Minister of Malaysia World Youth Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner was held at Heja Game Lodge, 42 kilometres south of Windhoek. Surrounded by wildlife and a beautiful, rustic African scenery, participants dined in a lakeside restaurant.

The panel of judges for the World Youth Awards was composed of:

Hon. Roger Boynes, Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago

Hon. George Chilunmanda, Deputy Minister of Youth and Child Development,
Zambia

Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, WAY President

The winners were:

Winner - National Youth Council of the Gambia

1st Runner Up - All-Mauritius Youth Council

2nd Runner Up - Croatian National Youth Council

The Hon. Roger Boynes announced the results and made the following recommendations on behalf of the panel of judges:

- National youth councils should write more detailed project documents that can convince the judges of the merits of its activities
- Physical, documentary and pictorial evidence is essential to prove that written detail is true and accurate
- Entry forms should be completed in full and provide all required information

During this round of awards, a special award for individuals was introduced. The winner was His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of Namibia, who was conferred the **World Youth Award for Exemplary Leadership in the Struggle for Total Emancipation of the African People**. This was presented to Dr. Nujoma by WAY President, Datuk Seri Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, during the Opening Ceremony of the General Assembly.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS TO ADDRESS THE HIV/AIDS CHALLENGE

“As future leaders, it is now high time for young people to look and ponder at the current and future challenges...” H.E. Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia; Opening Address of WAY XIV General Assembly, 21 Feb 2005

We, the participants of the XIV General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), convened in Windhoek, Namibia from 20-23rd of February 2005 to discuss how youth can rise to meet HIV/AIDS Challenge.

The world faces a life-threatening challenge to address the unique needs of young people - or lose the next generation to an avoidable and tragic cause: HIV/AIDS. National Youth Councils (NYCs) play an essential role in the formulation and implementation of national responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We, as the XIV General Assembly participants from around the world recommend the following actions and interventions for National Youth Councils to effectively address the HIV/AIDS challenge facing young people across the world.

Recommendations

Youth and Policy

1. National Youth Councils (NYCs) need to be involved throughout the development process of any policy affecting youth and HIV/AIDS
2. Create an enabling environment for appropriate laws and policies by promoting policy dialogue for HIV/STI prevention and care at all levels to mobilize resources, ensure ownership and sustainability, and promote a rights-based approach

3. Foster the participation of *all* youth in HIV/AIDS policy development and programmes, including those with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS
4. Work closely with a single-coordinating National AIDS Council and promote the decentralization of AIDS councils down to the local levels
5. NYCs need to be autonomous to prevent overly strong influence from their ministries to enhance their prominence at regional and international levels
6. Establish Youth Parliaments in countries where they do not exist to create a platform of consultation among lawmakers and youth

Gender Dimensions

7. Mainstream gender dimensions into all aspects of STIs and HIV/AIDS interventions, including: educational attainment, elimination of gender-based violence/coercive sex, empowerment of women and girls to exercise rights, empowerment to negotiate condom use, elimination of harmful traditional practices and all forms of stigma and discrimination, redefinition of stereotypical gender roles, and increased positive involvement of men and boys

Prevention

8. Prevention must remain the key strategy in combating HIV/AIDS. Preventive-education consisting of raising awareness, developing knowledge and skills to reduce infections, access to care, support and counseling, and empowering decision-makers from national to community levels

Multi-Sectoral Approach

9. Employ a multi-sectoral program approach as the roots of the HIV/AIDS epidemic are complex, reflecting cultural, economic, legal, and gender-based challenges

10. Policies and programmes must address the underbelly of the HIV/AIDS epidemic by simultaneously focusing on gender, culture, poverty, and human rights to eliminate the vulnerability barriers surrounding HIV/AIDS
11. Respect cultural dimensions of HIV/AIDS while addressing harmful practices, and supporting adherence to the internationally endorsed principles of human rights

Community Mobilization

12. Results-based programmes targeting behaviour change should be founded on evidence-based socio-cultural research of culture, attitudes, and practices of all beneficiaries reflecting young people, and the community leaders who are the custodians of cultural norms and practices
13. Engage community and its traditional, religious and cultural leaders in programme design to encourage ownership, acceptability, utilization and sustainability
14. Family-unit must be targeted in HIV prevention programming as the first agent of socialization among young people

Sexual and Reproductive Health

15. Capacity development for professionals, service providers, teachers and other members of the school community, as well as peer educators and parents to address youth sexual and reproductive health needs
16. Utilize Sexual and Reproductive Health programmes as entry point for HIV/AIDS initiatives (i.e. maternal health, family planning, and STI management) to provide HIV prevention counseling, HIV voluntary counseling and testing, male and female condoms, STI management, and antiretroviral drugs
17. Comprehensive condom programming to improve availability, access and use of both male and female condoms for dual protection;
18. Development of skills for prevention and management of STIs and counseling
19. Advocacy for voluntary counselling and testing for HIV (VCT) care and support;

M&E

20. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan must be integrated into any NYC-lead programme on HIV/AIDS, and NYCs should strive to provide monitoring assistance to government-driven HIV/AIDS programmes among young people

Knowledge Sharing

21. Adopt culture of information-sharing and cross-fertilization of good practices between countries at all levels
22. Networking between regional NYCs should be systemized
23. Networking with community associations and institutions playing critical roles in defining social norms
24. Take initiative to train ourselves as youth leaders to understand and enhance the role of young people in moving youth platform forward
25. Promote and package awareness and advocacy initiatives that build on the positive socio-cultural values and norms in communities to address the adolescent/youth SRH needs and concerns

Resources

26. Investment of modest resources to combat HIV/AIDS now will prevent high economic and human costs in the future
27. Programme design must ensure that maximum resources allocated through National Youth Councils are reaching intended beneficiaries
28. Advocate for government support towards research and development of nationally produced ARV's, and lobby for access to free and/or subsidized ARVs
29. Advocate for non-politicalization of the Global Fund to ensure funds are provided fairly and to countries with limited resources and worst affected by HIV/AIDS

30. Create and maintain partnership with governments, Donors, UN agencies, Breton Woods Institutions (BWI), regional and sub-regional institutions and others to mobilize resources, materials and technical assistance for HIV/AIDS programming

Actions for World Assembly of Youth

31. Establish a WAYAIDS Fund through the Secretariat to coordinate, catalyze and mobilize funds for NYC-managed HIV/AIDS Programmes
32. Utilize the central WAYAIDS Fund to expand strategic alliances with national governments, NGOs, bi/multi-lateral donors, private sector, media, FBOs, CBOs, PLWAS
33. WAY ExCo and NYCs should better reflect gender equity in its membership
34. WAY should define and practice a consistent classification of “youth” to ensure suitable participation, and that program and policy is addressing intended beneficiaries.

Our generation is being lost to HIV/AIDS. Business as usual is not enough. We, the young people of the world have made these recommendations to guide and inform the development of National Youth Council *Plans of Action*. Youth must rise to the challenge to address HIV/AIDS as fundamental condition for global human development.

10. RESOLUTIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1. Issue – ICT

Recommendation: In line with the UN Charter, which demands that every person has the right to information, WAY should make a strong case to regional organizations and the UN to raise the levels of IT literacy around the world

2. Issue: Regional Conflict

Recommendation: WAY should act as a watchdog by way of advocacy to Un and regional organizations, to ensure that member countries comply with peace accords or treaties. WAY should encourage the sharing of positive experiences and best practices in conflict resolution.

3. International Debt

Recommendation: While calling on indebted member countries to stamp out corruption and ensure efficient management of resources, WAY should make a strong case for debt cancellation to the IMF, World Bank, Paris Club and other lenders.

4. HIV/AIDS Pandemic

Recommendation: WAY should make the UN and regional organizations see the HIV/ AIDS pandemic as a developmental problem and consequently link it up with other issues such as debt cancellation, poverty, ICT and millennium development goals.

WAY should encourage donors to ensure the sustainability of funds and resources towards the fight against HIV/ AIDS.

WAY should establish an HIV/ AIDS fund at its headquarters that will be distributed via regional offices and national youth councils.

Programmes on HIV/ AIDS should be indigenously formulated by a bottom-up approach based on the particular needs of different communities to ensure maximum success and participation.

5 Issue: Globalisation

Recommendations: Globalisation has both negative and positive impacts on various countries in terms of socio-cultural, political and economic parameters. To dampen its negative impacts, its implementation should be in planned, deliberate steps and bridging the gap between rich and poor nations.

5. Issue: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Recommendation: WAY should be fully abreast with the MDGs and disseminate such information to its member countries. WAY should also encourage member countries to domesticate the MDGs based on their peculiar needs in order to achieve the goals by 2015. WAY should serve as a watchdog via the use of indicators to monitor compliance and progress.

11. RESOLUTIONS OF THE POLITICAL COMMISSION

1. WAY should encourage all countries of the world to participate in its activities. Countries that have not yet affiliated should be encouraged to join. WAY should therefore establish regional departments to fulfill its programmes and activities in all regions.
2. All countries including the United States of America and the United Kingdom should respect the resolutions of the United Nations. The US-led war against Iraq is an example of gross violation of the UN charter. WAY should raise awareness of such global injustices.
3. WAY calls for all nations to respect and appreciate the need for equitable distribution of resources. In that light, WAY condemns efforts by western nations to destabilise the essential and progressive land reform programme in Zimbabwe.
4. To promote youth development worldwide, the United Nations should set up a specialized United Nations Youth Programme that operates as a specialized UN agency. This agency should then promote and support youth activities at national and global levels, following the models of UNICEF and UNIFEM.
5. WAY recommends establishment of an International Genocide Fund for Rwanda.
6. There should be more interaction and collaboration between political leaders and officers of National Youth Councils for effective implementation of national youth policy.
7. WAY hopes for a lasting and peaceful solution to the crisis in the Sudan, and expresses its hope for success in recent government-led peace efforts. WAY applauds the signing of a peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM). WAY condemns the violence in Darfur and calls for identification of the external forces influencing events there.
8. WAY calls for the United Nations to recognize Macedonia by its official name, which is "Republic of Macedonia" and not "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia."
9. WAY recommends democratization of the UN security council, ensuring that all continents have permanent seats in the council.
10. All governments should have ministries of youth development.

11. WAY should establish a disaster-response mechanism to respond to any emergency in the world.
12. WAY supports the peaceful initiative of Ethiopia to settle border conflicts between Ethiopia and Eritrea for the benefit of the peoples of both nations.
13. WAY supports the Federal Republic of Nigeria for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council due to the role that the country plays in the African region.
14. WAY recommends that Weapons of Mass Destruction be abolished worldwide.
15. WAY recommends that more youth should participate in government;
16. The Assembly supports and congratulates the Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, President of WAY, for being elected vice-president of Malaysia's ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO).

12. RESOLUTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

1. All WAY members should pay their membership subscriptions on time rather than waiting to pay at the General Assembly;
2. WAY should lobby with the United Nations system and its agencies for allocation of funds to National Youth Councils;
3. WAY should develop benefits for member countries so that they appreciate the value of membership;
4. WAY should lobby for funding from the World Health Organisation for its programmes and activities;
5. WAY should develop capacity-building training on project proposal writing, ICT and other important youth development issues for its member countries;
6. WAY should establish regional and subregional offices. Brazil has offered to host the Latin American office whilst Trinidad and Tobago has offered to host the Caribbean office. Sudan has offered to host the African office;
7. WAY should develop inter-linkages and networking amongst National Youth Councils;
8. WAY should establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure attainment of set targets;
9. WAY should organise meetings for youth ministers and its members;
10. Permanent thematic committees should be set up in the headquarters, addressing issues such as HIV/AIDS, environmental issues and so forth;
11. WAY should serve as a facilitator whilst NYCs are the implementers;
12. The internship programme in WAY should have special funds set aside to achieve equal participation of all regions;
13. WAY should appoint a permanent Webmaster for maintenance of the website;
14. WAY should develop a Gender Policy;
15. WAY should offer consultancy services for youth development projects to be established in member countries;
16. WAY should work to establish national youth councils where they do not exist;
17. WAY should organise biannual meetings for member countries to meet.

13. RESOLUTIONS OF THE TSUNAMI DISASTER COMMITTEE

1. WAY expresses its condolences to the people of Indonesia, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Somalia and other countries and people affected by the tsunami disaster.
2. WAY should prepare for all types of natural disasters.
3. WAY should coordinate initiatives and activities with all youth councils globally on the tsunami disaster and any other future disasters.
4. WAY should facilitate aid workers' to travel to disaster areas and organise national youth councils to facilitate relief efforts.
5. WAY should encourage youth councils to adopt at least two children each at WAY's children's home in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.
6. WAY should lobby for the international community to create early-warning systems for all natural disasters.
7. WAY should establish a permanent committee on natural disasters.
8. WAY should ensure that the rights of vulnerable children are enforced in disaster situations.
9. WAY should give commendations to all national youth councils that have contributed to the tsunami victims.

14. WAY OFFICE BEARERS ELECTED FOR TERM 2005 TO 2009



PRESIDENT

Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Haji Mohammad Ali Rustam
President
World Assembly of Youth
10 Bukit Peringgit
Melaka 75400
Malaysia

Tel: +606-2869271
Fax: +606-2881711
Email: worldyouth@myjaring.net

Occupation: Chief Minister of Melaka

VICE PRESIDENTS

Hon. Idrus Marham
President
Indonesian National Youth Council
Gedung Pemuda/DPP KNPI
Komplek Gema Kuningan
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said
Jakarta
Indonesia

Tel: +62-21-5263826
Mobile: +62-81-1119009
Fax: +62-21-87754982
Email: nicokonokenbes@yahoo.co.uk

Occupation: Member of Parliament / Businessperson

Mr. Bossoondyal Nundkeswarsing
Vice President
Youth Council of Mauritius
12 Bourbon Street
PO Box 401
Port Louis
Mauritius

Tel: +230-2428224
Mobile: +2302543777
Fax: +230-2409964



Email: una.boss@intnet.mu, youthmauritius@yahoo.com

Occupation: Director

Mr. Felix Gonzalez-Polar
WAY – Latin America
Praca Osorio 400-901
CEP:80020-917
Curitiba –PR
Brazil

Tel: +55-41-99621295
Fax: +55-41-3227958
Email: felix@onward.org.br, felix@ampr.org.br

Occupation: International Business Manager

Mr. Ernesto R. Kesar
President
Trinidad Youth Council
The Malick Youth Facility
7th Avenue, Malick
Barataria
Trinidad & Tobago
West Indies

Tel: +1-868-674-3825
Mobile: +1-868-763-2660
Fax: +1-868-6503523
Email: trinidadyouthcouncil@yahoo.com, kesar_e@yahoo.com

Occupation: Materials & Logistics Technician

Ms. Irena Curin
Secretary General
Croatian National Youth Council
Zagreb
Croatia



Tel: +385-98-237175
Fax: +385-1-3745306
Email: nsmh@zg.htnet.hr

Occupation: Youth Worker

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon. Pohamba Shifeta
No. 7 Raben Way
Hochlandpark
Windhoek
Namibia

Tel: +264-61-2933367
Mobile: +264-811244092
Fax: +264-61-257662
Email: shifeta@iway.na

Occupation: Deputy Minister of Youth, National Youth Service, Sport and Culture

Mr. Mohamed Abusa Gaza
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
General Union of the Great Jamahirya Students
PO Box 12679
Tripoli
Libya

Tel: +218-21-3614061
Mobile: +218-91-3770189
Fax: +218-21-3611644
Email: gaza20052003@yahoo.com

Occupation: Student

Dr. Tanko Umar Yakasai
Secretary General
National Youth Council of Nigeria
No. 45 Sagir Kumashi Street
Yankaba, Hadejia Road

Kano
Nigeria

Tel: +234-80-23311040
Email: utyakasai2000@yahoo.com

Occupation: Medical Doctor

Mr. Dimitar Georgievski
International Secretary
National Youth Council of Macedonia
02 Koruska Br. 25
Skopje, 1000
Republic of Macedonia
Europe

Tel: +389-2-3132333
Mobile: +389-70-377-770
Fax: +389-2-3214631
Email: dimig@mt.net.mx

Occupation: Manager

Mr. Hussein Abdullah Mohammed Al-Ahmed
Executive Committee Member
Yemen Youth General Union
PO Box 19364
Sana'a
Yemen

Tel: +967-1-614745
Mobile: +967-73322233 / +967-77230373
Fax: +967-1-214212
Email: malaryni@yahoo.com, husein_alahmed@hotmail.com

Occupation: Youth Worker

Mr. Bhuban Pathak
President
Social Youth Council of Nepal



PO Box 7668
Kathmandu
Nepal

Tel: +977-1-412084
Fax: +977-1-429296
Email: sycnepal@ntc.net.np

Occupation: Youth Worker

Ms. Hagar Abdelmouti
Coordinator
WAY Regional Office in Africa
GSSU Hall
Jamao Street
Khartoum
Sudan

Tel: +249-1-83783102
Fax: +249-1-83775260
Email: waysudan@yahoo.com

Occupation: Youth Worker

SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr. Donald Tinotenda Charumbira
Secretary General
World Assembly of Youth
10 Bukit Peringgit
Melaka 75400
Malaysia

Tel: +606-2869271
Mobile: +6012-6875350
Fax: +606-2881711
Email: dtc@pd.jaring.my

Occupation: Secretary General

15 NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Thanks and congratulations are extended to the following national preparatory committee which successfully organised the XIV WAY General Assembly:

CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Pohamba Shifeta

EX-OFFICIO (WAY): Donald Charumbira
Andre Young

Subcommittee on Transport & Logistics

Convener - Maria Shililifa

Members - Neville Andre
Christiaan Hawala

Subcommittee on Information, Documentation and Publicity

Convener - Samuel Aochamub

Members - Evelyn Shilamba
Leonard Amadhila
Andreas Frai
Caroline Nghifitikeko
Brian Prince

Subcommittee on Protocol, Programmes and Security

Convener - Muesee Kazapua

Members - Cornelius Kamwi
Insp. J.A. Hidengwa
Pankrahus Kavura
Arcadia Katjipi
Fanuel Whisky
Penina Ita
Manuu Njavera
Conrad Eiseb
O'Brien Simasiku
Kanaki Tjejamba
Sarafina Tshilunga
Christophina Shilamba
Niishindi Antonius
P.W. Winkler

Subcommittee on Catering and Accommodation

Convener - Calista Schwartz



Members - Eveline Nawases
Chrissy Hoebes

Subcommittee on Finance and Administration

Convener - Julius Namoloh

Members - Mandela Kapere
Panduleni Wahengo