

**XIV WAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 2005**

**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.