

# DRAFT Document

## The Global Youth Summit on HIV-Mali 2011

### Call for Action

Today more than 33.3 million people are living with HIV worldwide. 30 years since the start of the HIV epidemic some 7000 people are newly infected everyday and its young people aged 15-24 who account for 40% of those infections. Encouragingly, new evidence suggests that the rate of new HIV infection is decreasing due to

- a) Increased access to information and service
- b) The removal of punitive laws that hamper the HIV response
- c) Safer sex practice

Bolstered by a new and uncompromising movement of youth leaders and activists, our efforts can be scaled up to reinvigorate the HIV response to ensure maximum impact and sustainability.

This call to action departs from business as usual. These are not recommendations, these are **Demands** from young people who are already leading the AIDS response in their communities. We are young people who know the realities of our peers and the challenges they face. But we are also the young people with the potential to bring about sustainable change.

Yet it is clear that our effort alone are not enough. Now is the time to deliver on the 2001 **UNGASS Declaration of Commitment and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS**. If we are ever to achieve the goal of *Zero New Infection, Zero AIDS Related Deaths and Zero Stigma and Discrimination*. Governments must act upon the commitments they made to ensure access to information, education and service for 95% of young people by the year 2010.

Therefore, we the young people of the Mali Youth Summit 2011, representing youth from around the World with particular attention on young key affected populations call on Heads of States and Governments and all leaders to

#### **1: Empower Young People to take leadership of the AIDS response**

- ❖ Implement the UN General Assembly resolution 58/133 calling the member States to include young people as part of the official delegations to relevant UN and Regional general assembly meetings and related activities; this includes the High Level Meetings on AIDS.

- ❖ Create formal spaces for key affected populations of young people, specifically young people living with HIV at the highest level of decision-making bodies as well as in the creation formulation and implementation of policies and programs.
- ❖ Create and institutionalize youth forums within the National AIDS Coordinating bodies where youth leaders will get legitimacy from and be able to provide feedback to the constituency of young people.

## **2: Protect Human Rights to Eliminate Stigma and Discrimination from Legal Frameworks**

- ❖ Fully repeal punitive and discriminatory laws, policies and practices, specifically those that target key populations such as young drug users, young men who have sex with men, young people living with HIV and young sex workers.
- ❖ Lift bans that restrict harm reduction services for young people in these key populations including modern and evidence-based drug-replacement therapy, mandatory parental consent laws and treatment and dependency service for young people who use drugs.
- ❖ Domesticate the commitments made in International Human Rights instruments that highlight young people's rights to non-discrimination, education, highest standard of health, gender equality and equity etc, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Convention of Economic, Social and Cultural rights etc.
- ❖ Take positive action to ensure a human rights based approach to issues that put young key affected populations most at risk, with a particular focus on passing progressive laws and updating policies and laws that may restrict young people's access to HIV prevention, services and commodities.

## **3: Deliver HIV information and service that meet the diverse needs of young people specially including key populations (YKAP)**

- ❖ Collect strategic age-disaggregated data for informed planning and programming, including data for the age brackets 15-24 and 25-30, gender, marital status and other relevant indicators for YKAP.
- ❖ Involve YKAP in designing, implementing and evaluating comprehensive and confidential health service for youth in both urban and rural areas.

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Key Young Affected population(KYAP) is defined as young people living with HIV (YPLHIV), young men who have sex with men, young women LGBTQ youth(lesbian ,gay ,bisexual, transsexual, queer)

young sex workers, young people who use drugs, young immigrants, internally displaced persons, child soldiers and young persons with disabilities

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- ❖ Ensure young people's access to evidence-based prevention tools, including (but not limited to) comprehensive and targeted sexuality education in and out of schools, harm reduction programs and access to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) as prevention, acknowledging the specific needs of young key affected populations.

#### **4: Secure Resources and Funding for a sustainable HIV response**

- ❖ Ensure core funding for programming and research for youth-led movements and initiatives, accompanied by necessary capacity building.
- ❖ Support sustainable involvement of young people in decision-making regarding funds allocated to the AIDS response.
- ❖ Implementation and formulation of transparent monitoring and evaluation mechanism for government commitments to HIV and AIDS.
- ❖ Sustain youth-specific and youth-led funding mechanisms, acknowledging best practices such as HIV Young Leaders Fund.

#### **In recognition of these facts we young leaders and participants of the Global Youth summit on HIV:**

##### **Call upon governments to**

- Strengthen partnerships and collaborations with youth activist working on AIDS.
- Collect Strategic information for informed planning and programming
- Develop essential capacities of young service providers to ensure better quality prevention service including those already living with HIV.
- Integrate effective, evidence-based and programming intervention to HIV tailored to young people into national strategic plan on HIV.
- Improve the delivery of services by ensuring that they are age appropriate and by meeting their various needs irrespective of gender, nationality, socio-economic background and sexual preference.
- Create harm reduction treatment and dependency service for youth who use drugs.
- Procure, supply, subsidize and distribute prevention commodities including condoms, lubricants and syringes while investing in communications programs that make them more user friendly for young people.

- Remove legislation that hinder delivery of prevention service penalize same sex relationships and breach HIV anonymity and confidentiality norms.
- Ensure youth focused resources for HIV are availed and spent where they can make the most impact irrespective of political palatability.

**Call upon donors, bilateral, civil society and the private sector to:**

- Involve young people as organizers, speakers, leaders and peers on HIV research, planning and programme development and implementation.
- Supply resources to youth led initiatives that support leadership, research, planning and programme development and implementation.
- Advocate for greater inclusion of young leaders and activities in decision-making forums.

**We the young people of the Mali Youth Summit on HIV/AIDS 2011 pledge to:**

- Build the capacity of youth leaders and youth organizations through mentorship, global and local partnerships and networking.
- Mobilize our global networks and stakeholders through online and offline mechanisms including social media.
- Hold governments accountable to their commitments
- Utilize this Call to Action at the UNGASS High Level Meeting and beyond.

We accept the responsibility we have as young leaders and pledge to hold our selves accountable to the same degree that we will hold you accountable.