



SADC  
DECLARATION DOCUMENT  
**Africa Institute of South Africa**

**We the representatives of a cross-section of youth civil society organizations in the SADC region convened a brief dialogue on August 22-24, 2007. We hereby declare the following**

## **1. Good Governance**

We maintain that human security represents the obligation of the state to provide a facilitating environment for equality and individual participation through democracy, adherence to human rights and the participation of youth civil society. Therefore, we emphasize on the following:

- 1.1. We emphasize** that human security should be prioritized by all governments internationally as a tool to promote institutions of governance effectively guaranteeing the right to health, adequate housing, sufficient food, quality education, fair justice and personal security
- 1.2. We emphasize** that governments should implement the necessary political will to ensure that human security, meaning the security of the individual, in this case be the youth be promoted for the effective youth development
- 1.3. We emphasize** that governments promote human security of the youth by ensuring effective public service delivery measures through youth civic participation, effective management of government resources and guarantee the realization of human rights
- 1.4. We emphasize** continued international pressure in both regions to practice zero tolerance towards corruption and promote ethical management frameworks that will ensure the ability of the youth necessary advantages that are currently unavailable to them
- 1.5. We emphasize** that the true test of "good" governance is the degree to which it delivers on the promise of human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights and thereby challenge our governments in excelling in this task. Furthermore, our governments should strive to facilitate and promote direct youth representation.
- 1.6. THEREFORE,** by linking good governance to sustainable human development, emphasizing principles such as accountability, participation and the enjoyment of human rights, and rejecting prescriptive approaches to development assistance, our declaration stands as an implicit endorsement of the rights-based approach to youth development.

## **2. HIV/AIDS**

**We Affirm** that AIDS is one of the biggest potential health problems among the youth in the SADC region. Governmental efforts need to be intensified and made more effective by

international cooperation and concerted campaigns to prevent AIDS from spreading further, and will have to ensure that the measures taken are in accordance with the principles of human rights. In the absence of a vaccine or cure, we believe the best hope for the combat and prevention of AIDS rests on a strategy based on educating the public about the seriousness of the AIDS epidemic, the ways the AIDS virus is transmitted and the practical steps each person can take to avoid acquiring or spreading it.

- 2.1. **We Request** that through further cooperation between Europe and Africa should be promoted for basic and clinical studies on prevention, treatment and the exchange of information.
- 2.2. **We Request** that strategic plans for HIV and AIDS premised on prevention, removal of stigma, treatment and communication should be monitored during all phases of implementation
- 2.3. **We Underline** our own responsibility to encourage, promote, and practice efforts to tackle effectively the scourge of HIV/AIDS

### **3. Peace and Democracy**

**We Maintain** that peace and democracy include stability, a system of checks and balances, independence of the judiciary, economic development, constitutional protection, and political freedom. We find it critical that governments in both regions to intensify their efforts in conflict prevention and crisis management by increasing consultations on current and potential crises, identifying ways to strengthen cooperation in crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction, and coordinating efforts to improve international crisis management capacities. We therefore insist on the following:

- 3.1. **We Urge** that the responsibility to protect should be implemented to address and prevent tragedies in East Africa, Central Africa & the Great lakes, West Africa, North Africa, and Southern Africa from happening
- 3.2. **We Urge** the need for governments to summon the necessary political will to deal with war economies, and that conflict situations should be demonstrated in an even-handed fashion wherever they occur.

- 3.3. We Urge** support for the capacity of Civil Society to monitor governance and human rights related issues and that structures such as the APRM processes, be enhanced
- 3.4. We Understand** the need to ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism comply fully with international obligations, including human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. However, **We Urge** that the *War on Terror* should not be used as a political tool in either Europe or Africa.

#### **4. Globalization**

**We Call** on other industrial countries to participate in the effort to sustain economic activity worldwide. We also call on newly industrialized economies with rapid growth and large external surpluses to assume greater responsibility for preserving an open world trading system by reducing trade barriers and pursuing policies that allow their currencies more fully to reflect underlying fundamentals

- 4.1. We Recognize** that there is still a need for more intensified efforts to improve market access and eliminate trade barriers
- 4.2. We Urge** for the need for the necessary political will to address the monopolistic power of global agri-business, to strengthen food security and food sovereignty, and to rectify the imbalances between rich and poor countries in agricultural trade.
- 4.3. We Urge** the need to establish means by which to monitor the corporation's and their suppliers' compliance with codes of conduct and international human rights standards through involvement with local human rights, religious and labor organizations
- 4.4. We Urge** the need to explicate ways in which corporate influence can influence the status of human rights in a particular country for the better
- 4.5. We Urge** the need for both regions to agree, to refrain from actions which would undermine democracy in developing countries, destabilize countries, promote dependency, and impede economic growth and development.

#### **5. Employment and a Decent Work Agenda**

The youth constitute the majority of the unemployed people in the SADC region. We strongly believe that effective solutions to youth unemployment must increasingly address its structural roots. We emphasize on the following:

**5.1. We Emphasize** rigorous prioritization of employment creation across governments and private sectors

**5.2. We Emphasize** long term programs that ensure growth in more labor intensive value chains, plus increased support for economic activities in rural communities

**5.3. We Emphasize** governments should work with youth societies to mobilize scarce human capacity and funds. Moreover, governments should also facilitate youth efforts in the informal market.

**5.4. We Emphasize** governments should promote youth development by enhancing effective youth participation in local government, and national institutions. There remains a serious gap with regard to the youth in decision-making

**5.5. We Emphasize** that capacity is also required with regard to mainstreaming the youth in the implementation of the millennium development goals.

**5.6. We Emphasize** that governments prohibit the use of all forms of slave labor, including forced labor, coerced prison labor, child labor, and the use of chattel slaves.

**5.8. We Emphasize** that our governments support the international labour movement's call that the MGDs be rights based and that labour be allowed to play a central part in the process

**5.9. We Emphasize** that governments support the core conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO), through direct reference to and support of these documents

## **6. Climate Change and Sustainable Development**

We understand that Climate Change and Sustainable Development are everyone's responsibility including the youth. We underline our own responsibility to encourage efforts to tackle effectively environmental problems of worldwide impact such as stratospheric ozone depletion, climate change, acid rains, endangered species, hazardous substances, air and water pollution, and destruction of tropical forests. We also intend to examine further environmental issues such as stringent environmental standards as an incentive for innovation and for the development of

clean, cost-effective and low-resource technology as well as promotion of international trade in low-pollution products, low-polluting industrial plants and other environmental protection technologies. Therefore:

- 6.1. **We Urge** that government implement effective measures of sustainable development in order to ensure that it meets the needs of the present society without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- 6.2. **We urge** that Science and technology should be effectively utilized to promote sustainable development as there is enough scientific knowledge and appropriate technologies that could be used to eliminate the ills of poverty and environmental challenges

## **7. Strategies and Instruments for Euro-African Youth Participation and Cooperation**

The international public domain including Europe and Africa must be opened up further to the participation of the youth whose contributions are essential to managing the path of globalization, peace, economic growth, and democracy. For both regions, success in meeting the challenges of globalization ultimately comes down to meeting the needs of peoples. Realizing our aspirations remains our key vision for the twenty-first century. Therefore:

- 7.1. Since no single nation can efficiently and effectively deal with global challenges such as climate change, counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, pandemics and natural disasters on its own, we the youth of both Africa and Europe **Commit** ourselves to strengthening our cooperation to address these challenges.
- 7.2. **We Emphasize** scientific exchanges among African youth and European youth through research and development organizations focused on knowledge production
- 7.3. **We Emphasize** that governments prevent discrimination based on ethnic origin, sex, color, language, national or social origin, economic status, religion, political or consciously held beliefs, birth, disabilities, or other status
- 7.4. **We Intend** to monitor and guide strategic cooperation and we will conduct an annual strategic review of AU-EU cooperation to the benefit of our youth.
- 7.5. **We Intend** to be more transparent as youth groups locally and internationally. Furthermore, dialogue and project participation to promote youth best practices will be encouraged
- 7.6. **We Intend** to promote firm support for the effective democratization of global financial institutions

7.7. **Finally, We Emphatically** stress that poverty alleviation encompassing development and growth must be at the core of any coherent strategy for the renaissance of Africa. Africa's tribulations were of recent origin, but not of its own making. The difficulties could not simply be dismissed as "an African problem". Indeed, the international community could do some honest soul-searching regarding its record in preventing intra-State instability and conflicts in that continent