



AFRICAN UNION
SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD AIDS DAY

1ST DECEMBER 2007

THEME: LEADERSHIP

SLOGAN: STOP AIDS. KEEP THE PROMISE

On the first day of December, people throughout the world gather to observe World AIDS Day. The Day provides an important opportunity to take stock of our progress, to re-energise our efforts, unite and to ensure that governments together with our partners are carrying out their pledges of access to treatment, care and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

This year, the theme for World AIDS Day is '**Leadership**' as determined in 1997 by the World AIDS Campaign. This theme is promoted with the slogan '**Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise**'. The campaign this year will refocus the attention of the world and its resources to the places and people that are affected by HIV/AIDS. Our task is to raise awareness on the impact of HIV/AIDS, to educate the public, to share experiences and more importantly to express solidarity with those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The African Union (AU) has come a long way in its commitment and leadership to sustain World AIDS Campaigns and the fight against HIV/AIDS. At the Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases held in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2001, African leaders recognized that women and girls were particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. The Summit also noted that poverty and associated poor nutrition intensifies this vulnerability, and that education in its widest sense plays an

essential role in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa. It was in this regard that they resolved to rally African society and to focus on a unified national policy-making and programme implementation, ensuring coordination of all sectors at all levels, with a gender perspective and respect for human rights. Furthermore, and most importantly, African leaders resolved to strengthen and develop special youth programmes to ensure an AIDS-free generation.

Today, as we commemorate the World AIDS Day, the containment of the pandemic is far from satisfactory in Africa. Without doubt, African leaders have, since the Abuja 2001 Declaration, taken the leadership role with high level of commitment with positive results in certain troubling areas of the impact of this pandemic. However, the indications are that there should be renewed efforts in leadership at all levels to effectively halt and reverse the spread of the pandemic in the continent. This, among other things, calls for strengthened related policy frameworks and their implementation through adequate financial and human resources.

AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Specialized Technical and representational Agencies

SARO Collection

2007

Commemoration of the World AIDS Day 1st December 2007 Theme: Leadership

AU-SARO

AU-SARO

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/1365>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository