



The Second Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit

Ifrane Declaration

August 22, 2005

Morocco

We express our gratitude to His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Senegal, Maitre Abdoulaye Wade for their leadership and for promoting the Pan-African Youth Leadership Summits. We thank His Excellency Mr. Adolf Ogi, Under Secretary General and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Sport for Development and Peace for his support and leadership. We thank His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the people of Morocco for their warm hospitality in hosting this event. We are also grateful for the support and encouragement of the organizers of this Summit, namely the government of Morocco, the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace acting on behalf of the United Nations system, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Morocco, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and Arab States and the UNDP country offices, and the Global Peace Initiative of Women.

We, the delegates of the Second Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit from all African countries, re-commit ourselves to the Declaration made at the conclusion of the first Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit on June 30, 2004 in Dakar, Senegal and affirm the progress that has been made during this Second Summit held from 18th to 23rd August 2005 in Ifrane, Morocco. We have come together as the embodiment of the African Union of young leaders, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, gender, language, religion, and political opinion, national or social origin, unified in our diversity to:

1. Celebrate Africa as a continent rich in human talent, with a vibrant, strong and resilient people, bountiful natural resources, great wisdom traditions and immense potential;

2. Affirm our commitment to work toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), agreed upon by all member states at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000 and to be reviewed by member states at the Heads of State Summit in New York in September 2005;
3. Affirm our commitment to sport as an entry point towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals within the framework of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE 2005).
4. Strengthen the role of young people in efforts to realize the MDGs by mobilizing youth around activities that reduce poverty, promote gender equality, preserve the environment, stop the spread of HIV/AIDs, and improve access to education and healthcare;
5. Empower marginalized youth to be more visible and have a role in the betterment of their communities.
6. Promote greater awareness of the MDGs at the community level, among all sectors of society;
7. Build appreciation for diversity as an immense cultural asset and promote understanding of the values shared by Africa's different religious and ethnic traditions, thereby working toward a more unified voice and vision for Africa;
8. Increase the role of civil society, and young people in particular, in peace building, realizing that peace is the foundation for achieving the MDGs and that without peace there is no development;
9. Enhance awareness of the factors that challenge efforts to prevent and resolve conflict, including the dangerous proliferation of arms in Africa, and strive to address these factors;
10. Work toward an African model of development, one that integrates the values, traditions and beliefs that have guided African societies for centuries and yet incorporates the global consciousness that is emerging;
11. Envision and work toward a future where Africa controls its resources and direction, where Africa can play a leading role in guiding world affairs, and where Africa can offer its resources, to aid in the building of a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable world.

Having made these commitments, we recognize that we must employ the tools available to fulfill our vision for Africa. Therefore, we will support:

1. Sport as an important tool to mobilize young people in the effort to achieve the MDGs and as a vehicle for building peace, cooperation, tolerance, self esteem, confidence, and community spirit;
2. The regional structures that have been established by the Pan-African Youth Leadership Summits in the effort to build strong regional networks;
3. Communication activities regionally and continent wide that will help maintain the momentum set in motion at the Second Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit, strengthen the regional networks, and aid in the sharing of activities and programs among the network;
4. Better access to technology to increase awareness of MDG projects and to aid in communications within our regional networks;
5. The development of international partnerships with delegates from the other regional summits to help in building better understanding among cultures, a sharing of resources, and an exchange that could yield creative solutions to the challenges facing Africa;
6. An intergeneration exchange where we can share the successes and challenges of the generations before, as well as convey our vision for the future.

Hence,

1. We, youth leaders, call upon our African governments, private sectors donor communities to create a greater voice for young people in the decisions and actions that affect the daily lives of young people and that will affect their future.
2. We call upon our governments, the United Nations system, NGOs, civil society organizations and private sectors to integrate sport into their development agenda and to dedicate more resources to "sport for all" initiatives at home and abroad.

3. We call up on the African Governments to set up sustainable strategies for socio-economic integration, mainly in rural areas, of young handicapped, blind or with serious diseases.
4. We call upon the African Union, the United Nations to continue work with the leaders of the PAYLS to further support an ongoing Forum for young leaders to help determine the priorities of the international community.
5. We commit to working with the organizers, with our regional chairs for Africa as well as other regions, as we build toward the Global Youth Leadership Summit at the United Nations in New York next year, a Summit that will help carry our words and aspirations into actions and consolidate regional ties for the achievement of MDGs.
6. As we return home to our various countries, we commit to maintain a vision for Africa's future based on pride in Africa's many achievements, awareness of our cultural and spiritual treasures, and with the determination and courage to turn back hunger, poverty, HIV/AIDS and malaria, war and injustice, knowing the patience and steady work that will be needed to achieve our vision for our continent.

This is the Declaration of the Second Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit made on the 23rd August 2005 in Ifrane, Morocco. We, the young leaders of Africa, pledge to turn our words into actions for the betterment of our continent.

This Declaration will be presented to the United Nations General Secretariat and to the next African Union Summit.