



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture
Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura

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**Director, Bureau of Strategic
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cc: ADG/ED
DIR/IIEP
ADG/AFR

To: **All National Commissions for UNESCO in Africa**
All Permanent Delegations to UNESCO in Africa

We are pleased to inform you about the **Pan-African Youth Forum on "AIDS: A Matter of Education"**, which will take place in Dakar, Senegal, from 22 to 26 March 2004.

This event is being organised by an alliance of the seven largest youth movements working in Africa at both regional and continental level: the Young Men's and the Young Women's Christian Associations, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Award Association and the International Youth Foundation. Together these organisations reach some 20 million young Africans, and another 200 million through families and peers, in all fifty-one African countries. Further background information on the aims and objectives of these organisations in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa are attached here.

The Dakar meeting aims to mobilise young Alliance members at a national level in order to:

- examine the HIV/AIDS situation in each country and the strategies already in place to fight its spread;
- establish a joint national HIV/AIDS prevention action plan which ties into national strategies already in place;
- strengthen cooperation between Alliance member organisations and the national AIDS prevention body in each country;
- strengthen cooperation between Alliance member organisations and specialised international organisations, particularly the United Nations; and
- strengthen the Alliance at a national level by implementing a joint plan of action.

Each country will be represented by up to seven (one from each organisation) young people aged under 30. Participants will be required to take part in a preparatory phase (before arriving in Dakar), the forum itself, and follow-up activities. For more

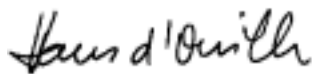
information on these three phases, the forum's themes and its proposed agenda, please see the programme attached here.

We strongly encourage staff in UNESCO National Commissions and Permanent Delegations for African countries to support this event as much as possible. This support could take any number of forms, including:

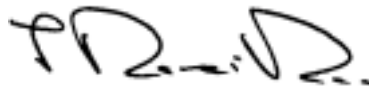
- assisting in the identification of suitable youth delegates,
- contributing towards the cost of the representatives' return trip,
- actively working with the Alliance to ensure that the youth delegates are familiar with UNESCO's strategies against HIV/AIDS in their country before leaving for Dakar,
- attending the forum as technical experts, workshop hosts, presenters etc, and
- supporting the follow up activities of youth delegates once back home.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Maria Helena Henriques Mueller, UNESCO Section for Youth (mh.henriques-mueller@unesco.org) or Mr Jean-Luc Bertrand, World Organisation of the Scouting Movement (astm@world.scout.org).

Thank you,



Hans d'Orville
Director
Bureau of Strategic Planning
UNESCO



Dr Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General
World Organisation of the Scout Movement