

Côte d'Ivoire: the Yamoussoukro Declaration

We, Ivorian Mayors, members of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa, gathered at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, on the 29th and 30th of November 1999, on the occasion of the seminar workshop of Ivorian Mayors and Municipal Leaders, to develop a programme of local government action on HIV/AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire, have adopted the following Declaration:

The Yamoussoukro Declaration

Recognizing that our towns and municipalities have a key role to play in the economic and social development of our country, and that HIV/AIDS constitutes a serious threat to the progress and development of our cities;

Convinced that mayors have a role to play in confronting the peril of HIV/AIDS;

Express our common determination to contribute to the implementation of solutions appropriate to Ivorian specificity and in conformity with existing laws and regulations.

Wherefore, we are agreed to:

- Effectively establish, at the level of our towns and municipalities, networks of municipal leaders and development partners to inform, sensitize and take action on the situation of the HIV/AIDS infection in Côte d'Ivoire;
- Strengthen the role of Municipal Authorities in prevention, treatment and in the care of persons living with HIV/AIDS and ensure their participation in mobilising the financial and human resources needed to implement local strategies;
- Strengthen solidarity between our towns and municipalities and develop effective partnerships between municipal actors.

To reach these objectives, we undertake to implement the following strategies towards:

- Creating a framework for dialogue and consultation between municipal authorities, citizens and development partners;
- Encouraging and facilitating municipal solidarity and the participation of citizens in defining, developing and implementing municipal strategies to fight HIV/AIDS;
- Strengthening the capacities of local services to intervene and take action on the HIV/AIDS epidemic;
- Establishing the coordination of Ivorian Mayors against AIDS at the local level to enhance the commitment to the goals of the Alliance and the local participation in implementing the main objectives of the biannual plan of action of the Alliance.

Signed at Yamoussoukro on the 30th of November 1999