

## **BAMAKO DECLARATION**

We, the Mayors and Municipal leaders of Mali, members of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa, gathered at Bamako to launch the National Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS, under the auspices of the Association of Municipalities of Mali, in line with the Abidjan Declaration, have adopted the following declaration, called "DECLARATION OF BAMAKO" :

Recognizing that, as locally elected officials, we have a lead role to play in the economic and social development of our country and that the HIV/AIDS epidemic gravely threatens progress and development in our cities;

Convinced that mayors and municipal leaders have a role to play in confronting the peril of AIDS;

Declare our common will to contribute to the implementation of solutions appropriate to the Malian situation and in conformity with applicable laws and rules. To that end, we are agreed to :

- effectively establish in our towns and villages, networks of community leaders and development partners to inform, raise awareness and take action on the situation of the HIV/AIDS infection in Mali;
- reinforce the role of the local authorities in prevention, treatment and in support to persons living with HIV; and determine their participation in the necessary financial and human resources to implement local strategies;
- support all programmes action for target groups, such as women and children;
- strengthen solidarity between our towns and municipalities and develop effective partnerships between all community stakeholder;

To attain these objectives we are committed to implement the following strategies which aim to:

- contribute to raising the awareness of community leaders, populations and partners regarding AIDS;
- create a framework for consultation and exchange between local authorities, citizens, development partners;
- encourage and facilitate solidarity within communities and the participation of citizens in defining, developing and implementing community strategies on HIV/AIDS;
- strengthen the capacities of local service providers in the fight against HIV/AIDS;
- create a national coordinating mechanism for Malian mayors and municipal leaders against AIDS at the local level, in order to optimize the commitment to the objectives of the Alliance and local participation in the implementation of the main goals of the Alliance's Biannual Action Plan.

*Signed at Bamako on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2002*