

THE BANGUI DECLARATION

We, the Mayors and Municipal Leaders of the Central African Republic, gathered at Bangui on the 29th of October 2004, on the occasion of the launching of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in the Central African Republic, abridged « AMS-CA », a national Chapter of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa, have approved the Bangui Declaration.

Recognizing that the socio-economic precariousness that characterises our towns and municipalities increases the impact of HIV/AIDS and STIs on the most vulnerable of our people, particularly women and youth and also hampers the implementation and success of our programmes and projects for sustainable development;

Recognizing that our towns and Municipalities are centres of development and of demographic growth as a result of accelerated urbanization; and that our municipal Councils can play an important role in addressing HIV/AIDS given the powers the laws of our Republic confer upon us;

We make the solemn commitment to contribute to seeking appropriate, effective and efficient solutions to respond to the realities and the needs of our local populations, respecting the goals and principles of the United Nations and our laws and regulations, in order to take decisive action on HIV/AIDS in our towns and municipalities.

Wherefore we are agreed to:

- ❖ Seeking to diminish the social, economic and cultural impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on our people through the effective implementation of measures to reduce the spread and transmission of HIV/AIDS;
- ❖ Promoting and coordinating local multisectoral approaches to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and to the care of infected/affected persons;
- ❖ Participating in the mobilisation of the financial and human resources required for the implementation of local strategies to fight HIV/AIDS;
- ❖ Encouraging and ensuring the active participation of the local population and of persons affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in defining and implementing local strategies;
- ❖ Strengthening the solidarity between our towns in the framework of the AMCA and between AMCA and other Associations of Mayors and Municipal Leaders in the African region;
- ❖ Developing an active and effective partnership with actors, public and private, at national and international levels in order to strengthen our capacities and multiply and increase our means and resources to reach our goals.

To attain this key objective, we are committed to:

- ❖ Taking all measures to ensure that the seeking of efficient and effective solutions to the HIV/AIDS pandemic shall be the priority of our priorities;
- ❖ Sensitizing our citizens and associate them in our initiatives and actions so that they may become actors in the local life and more active in the identification and development of strategies and in the implementation of responses to HIV/AIDS;
- ❖ Equipping our towns and municipalities with the appropriate services and strengthen their capacity to intervene and take action;
- ❖ Guaranteeing transparency through social and cultural dialogue and the democratic management of our programmes.

We, Mayors and Municipal Leaders, members of the AMCA, gathered at Bangui, approve this Declaration as the Charter of the AMS-CA, the civil arm of our national Association, to fight and to eliminate the HIV/AIDS pandemic and STIs.

Signed at Bangui, on the 29th of October 2004