

Youth Leadership Forum Declaration
“International Institute for Peace through Tourism”
“Third African Conference”
Venue: Intercontinental Hotel, Lusaka
Date: 06th to 11th February 2005

Whereas we the Youth representative of Africa, mobilized and led by the International Institute for Peace through Tourism in partnership with Africa Travel Association and supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources in Zambia, realize that a need for youth to be mainstreamed and Integrated into the Tourism Development Programme is an ideal long overdue and must be fulfilled;

1. We are aware of the extent to which Youth have been marginalized in terms of tourism development
2. Noting that Tourism Industry remains a cornerstone of economies of many countries in Africa.
3. Further noting the skills deficiency that the young people of Africa have about Tourism Industry.
4. Acknowledging the lack of participation and involvement of Youth in the Policy development, implementation and monitoring within the Tourism Sector.
5. Recognize the major socio economic developments our governments have brought to our people in general and the youth in particular
6. Cognizant of the involvement of Youth in crime both as perpetrators and victims, which has a negative impact on Tourism.
7. Nonetheless we are conscious of the greatest and unique challenges we face as a Youth Sector within our continent particularly at a social and economic front

On account of the foregoing background and based on a common shared vision of “Peaceful and a Prosperous Africa” through advancing the course of Integrated Youth Development, we therefore commit ourselves to work in partnership with stakeholders and declare the following:

a) Economic Empowerment

To lobby and advocate for total cancellation of external debts.
To initiate and strengthen the existing Tourism Youth Co-operatives to embark on the following:

- The establishment of Tourism Knowledge Resource Banks.
- Provision of Financial support to Tourism Initiatives driven by Youth in an effort to acquire equity in the Tourism Sector.
- Establish Tourism Joint Venture businesses that would enhance youth ownership in the Tourism Sector.

b) Education and Training

- To embark on continuous Education and Awareness Forums for the School going and out of School Youth.
- To facilitate skills audit of young people that will help us in identifying skills gaps.
- To develop training programmes that would address the real gaps identified by skills audit.
- To showcase innovative best practice models.
- To embark on awareness and educational programmes of appreciating the importance of sustainable conservation practices.

c) Governance and Participation

- To launch various Advocacy and Lobbying Programmes that will target relevant Government Ministries, Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations.
- To advocate for the participation of young people in the Tourism Policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- To mobilize youth mass participation through outreach campaigns and roadshows.
- To lobby structures like NEPAD and African Union on the inclusion of Youth on matters of Tourism.
- To strengthen the existing Youth Networks and country's Youth Councils/ Commissions.

d) Social Transformation

- To embark on capacity building workshops that targets Youth Leadership in Africa.
- To convene Moral Re-generation Summit in an effort to promote moral values, peace and stability in the African Continent.
- To facilitate country community campaigns and road shows.
- To foster Partnership relationships with the global communities; adults and youth in our respective countries.
- To foster friendship, solidarity and mutual understanding, that will integrate refugee programmes.
- To promote international exchange programmes.

- To promote and preserve African cultural and traditional heritage.
- To support the fight against HIV/AIDS programmes as established and implemented by various structures within the African continent, such as NEPAD, SADC, etc.

In order to ensure that the above recommendations and resolutions of the IIPT Youth Leadership Forum are coordinated, implemented and monitored, we therefore declare the establishment of an IIPT Youth Coordinating Committee.

Composition of the IIPT Youth Coordinating Committee is as follows:

- **Kenneth Thlaka** - South Africa (Chairperson)
- **Renatus Masasi** - Tanzania (Secretary)
- **Thomson Sikamba** - Zambia (Projects & Programmes)

We therefore declare and commit ourselves to the implementation of the resolutions noted above, and the Integrated Youth Development Approach that will be advancing a Peaceful and a Prosperous Africa.