

## CHARTER PREAMBLE

The future is not what it used to be. It changes almost all the time. It presents opportunities and threats. Increasingly the world is inter-connected, multi-cultural, diverse, fast, & technology driven. Those who master these trends see that such opportunities open up multiple futures.

Don't be defined by others. Don't be defined by history. Don't discriminate. Choose your passion. Choose your identity. Choose hope over fear. Acquire global skills. Seek direction. Seek several directions. Change your directions. Your values not theirs. Your decisions not theirs. Your future not theirs. **BE ADVENTUROUS. BE BOLD. BE ACCEPTING.** Be global. Be local. Never accept the world as it is. Make it what you want it to be.

### WE KNOW THAT HEALTH IS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE.

We recognise that health and particularly, **SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS (SRHR)** plays a key part in the wellness of teenagers and young people. The health of teenagers growing through our adult lives.

**TEENAGE HEALTH** affects the health of entire populations and the economic development of nations.

Because of this we view, we view adolescence as a life phase in which the opportunities for health are great and future patterns of adult health are and must be established. We believe that only by placing teenagers and young people at the centre of their own holistic health can we create enough opportunities to improve health, both in adolescence and later in life.

**GENDER INEQUALITY** will continue preventing universal access to SRHR, hamper health, hold back entire nations, and grind down on the future of current young men and women as they grow into adults.

**GENDER DISPARITIES** increase and discriminatory social practices are often reinforced during adolescence. The reality we grapple with is that adolescent girls are often forced to abandon their childhood and take on adult roles before being physically and emotionally ready.

### BUT TEENAGERS AND YOUTH HAVE THE POWER TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN HEALTH.

**YOUTH CENTREDNESS, YOUTH POWER AND THE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT** of all youth in all our diversity must be harnessed and propelled into policy and dialogue spaces across global institutions, nation states, universities, schools and civil society to achieve the ideals of a fair, inclusive and equitable society.

**WE ARE YOUNG PEOPLE, CITIZENS OF AFRICA AND CITIZENS OF THE WORLD.** We are committed to the ideals of Africa's Agenda 2063, the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and achieving Global Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4 and 5, to **ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

We have come together to celebrate a **HISTORIC LANDMARK IN SRHR!** It is our Regional SRHR Youth Hub! Let us own it, let us support one another, let us be bold for change for gender equality, and bold for change for SRHR. Although we are all different and work in different sites across the region & on different SRHR issues, **WE COMMIT** and we **CALL ON ALL OTHERS TO COMMIT** to striving for an Africa we want in which all teenagers and young people:

- ○ Believe in themselves & their own potential and have the agency to make productive life decisions
- ○ Are safe & secure and never suffer sexual or any other form of abuse
- ○ Finish school before deciding when & whom they will marry after the age of 18
- ○ Complete their high school education with a wide range of life skills
- ○ Fully understand their own bodies & SRHR, and are able to make happy, healthy & safe sexual & reproductive choices
- ○ Have continued & uninterrupted access to SRH services

## VISION STATEMENT

An Africa we want in which universal access to SRHR supports the health of teenagers and young people which in turn allows them to participate fully in their own health, their own futures and the future of their nations, of Africa and of the planet. We envisage young activists for health innovating, dialoguing, advocating, and using technology to contribute to better futures for all.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We will grow a regional network of empowered young SRHR activists by providing online and real world safe spaces that are dynamic, enabling, open, accepting, educational & interactive. We will reach out through these spaces to young people in all their diversity, and increase and support youth leadership for SRHR. We intend to help policy makers, implementers, funders, business, United Nations (UN) agencies and many, many others put us at the centre of SRHR.

## VALUES

Our values are as follows. We need all young people who join the Youth Hub or who seek to work with us to live these values. We truly believe that through these values we are preparing ourselves to be citizens of the world:

1. Activism, Voluntarism, & Contribution
2. Inclusivity, Acceptance & Non-Discrimination
3. Gender Equality & Non-Sexism
4. Meaningful Youth Participation
5. Collaborative Working
6. Open, Honest & Constructive Communication
7. Dignified Representation of Ourselves, Our Peers & The Youth Hub
8. Zero Tolerance of Sexual Harassment
9. Zero Tolerance for Corruption
10. Respect for Privacy & Confidentiality
11. Youth Adult Partnership
12. Respect for the Planet and Stewardship of the Future

