

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2008

Message by Ediola Pashollari, WAY Acting Secretary General

12th August 2008

This years theme for the International Youth Day, ***“Youth and Climate change: Time for Action”*** offers an opportunity for the youth to stand out and voice their concerns regarding a matter that affects their future.

These days, Climate change and its impact on our life, our environment and ecosystems is the forefront of public concern and political attention. Today’s youth population has a greater role to play when it comes to climate change issues and its for this reason that youth around the world are encouraged to take a front seat in the global debate on climate change.

It is an acceptable fact that human influence especially when it comes to energy use and land use has an impact on the climate. The consequence of this impact, although not discernable presently, will in the end affect our future in this case our youth. It is therefore our goal to empower and educate the world youth on ways to prevent, minimize and reduce the foreseeable destruction of our planet and way of life due to climate change.

The World Assembly of Youth is committed towards this end through the education and empowerment of youth around the world by providing information, offering dialogue sessions and support to enable them express their feelings and ideas on the way forward.

It is therefore our humblest and heartfelt appeal to all youth worldwide to rise up, join hands, and with one voice let their opinions be heard on this issue of climate change.