

**XIV WAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FEBRUARY 2005**

**MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

On behalf of the Government and people of Namibia, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates and observers attending this historic General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth.

It is an honour and privilege for the country to have this opportunity to host the General Assembly.

The theme of this conference is very pertinent to all young people. HIV/AIDS is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and it is the young people who bear the brunt of this deadly pandemic. Through initiatives such as this meeting, it is our hope that young people can become more aware of the dangers of irresponsible behaviour. National youth councils play an essential role in formulation and implementation of national responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The Government of Namibia applauds the efforts of the World Assembly of Youth in mobilising young people towards global development. It is essential for youth to be imbued with the right values, ideologies and progressiveness which will lead them to contribute to the national and global development processes.

I congratulate you on the convening of this XIV General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth and hope that you will have fruitful deliberations.