

**XIV WAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 2005**

**MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PERVEZ MUSHARRAF
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

It is my immense pleasure to reach the youth leaders of the world through this message on the eve of the 14th General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth, who have gathered to deliberate and reflect on “Youth Rise to Meet the HIV/AIDS Challenge” here in Namibia.

I believe the youth have always played a major role in changing the course of history or destiny of a people. The youth are by nature endowed with physical energy, emotional drive, zeal and the strength to move forward. Their urge to take on challenges and unmatched enthusiasm makes them catalysts for progress and a highly potent human resource. I believe that youth’s energy works best when it is guided by the experience and wisdom of their elders for the benefit of society. It is also a fact that with a little carelessness, youth could also become vulnerable to social hazards and exploitation by anti-social vested interests.

In Pakistan we are making every effort to provide the youth of our country with an enabling environment, where they can realise their potential in the area of their interest and choice. We are also ensuring that we produce enlightened youth who are moderate, open-minded, and productive citizens contributing to the betterment of society.

Therefore, there can be no doubt that young men and women have the potential to make this world a better and safer place for all to live. I wish success and good luck to the World Assembly of Youth in the realisation of its goals; its mission and commitments to link youth the world over for global harmony, peace and social uplift.