

African Union/1.1

Sponsors: Botswana, Kenya, Zimbabwe

Signatories: Algeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda

Implementation of Mandatory HIV Testing in the African Union

The African Union,

Recalling Article 3 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which calls for the eradication of diseases,

Recalling United Nations Millennium Development Goal 6, which focuses on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,

Alarmed by the continued prevalence of HIV/AIDS among citizens of African Union member nations, and specifically by the high infection rate among newborns, which threatens the very future of these nations,

Noting Articles 3 and 25.2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantee to all people the right to life and promise special care and assistance in promoting the rights of children,

Further Noting Article 29.2 of this same Declaration, which states that the exercise of rights can be subject to limitation “for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society”,

Further Noting that the rate of new HIV-infected persons continues to outweigh the expansion of treatment,

Cognizant of the significant benefits of anti-retroviral therapy when administered to HIV-positive infants, but

Alarmed by the lack of such testing taking place,

1. Affirms the importance egregious nature of the threat presented by untreated HIV infection of newborns in the African Union, specifically the effects of a declining population economic and social stability;
2. Calls for member states to collaborate on a common policy of mandatory HIV testing for all newborn infants, so as to mitigate the disastrous effects of this disease on the populations of African Union nations;
3. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.