

11 July 2014

**Message of H.E. John W. Ashe
President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
for United Nations World Population Day**

On this World Population Day 2014, I call on Member States and other stakeholders to invest in this generation of young people who are at the center of the new Post-2015 Development Agenda. To help achieve this goal, I am committed to creating spaces for young people's participation and promoting their priorities.

Half the world's population is under the age of 25. This largest generation of young people in history is changing the world. Yet, these young people face disproportionate challenges and are often unable to get a quality education, access health services or find decent work.

In February of this year, I joined the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to launch the Global Partnership on Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Young people have responded enthusiastically to our call. Representatives of more than a thousand youth organizations from more than 140 countries have joined the partnership, and through a crowdsourcing initiative they put forward a Global Youth Call which proposes concrete targets focused on education, employment and entrepreneurship, health, good governance, and peace and stability, with a cross-cutting emphasis on gender equality and human rights.

The Global Youth Call was endorsed by young people and Member States, underlining an unprecedented consensus on how young people's priorities should be reflected in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We now recognize that we need to invest in young people in order to secure our future.

Let us remember that only by partnering with young people can we make the planet more resilient and our future more prosperous.