

12 August 2014

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

On this International Youth Day, let us celebrate young peoples' creativity and imagination. I encourage Member States, civil society and other stakeholders to recognize that youth participation will be essential for the successful implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

As governments consider the seventeen (17) proposed sustainable development goals, the concerns of young people should be at the heart of each and every goal and its implementation. Employment, health, education and this year's theme, "Youth and Mental Health", will be central to defining the final outcomes of this new development agenda.

We should be especially focused on addressing the needs of youth with mental health conditions, many of whom experience discrimination on a daily basis. We must work together to ensure that young people with mental health conditions can lead full and healthy lives.

I encourage the UN family to continue to support the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, which promotes a multi-dimensional approach to addressing the challenges faced by young people with mental health issues to enable all young people to achieve their aspirations and goals.