We, the undersigned African communities of people living with HIV, young people, particularly young women, adolescents, trans-diverse persons, women who have sex with women, sex workers, people who use and inject drugs, men who have sex with men and our allies;

Concerned by the growing prevalence of HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths among key populations and marginalised communities, including among young and adolescent key populations, particularly those between 15 and 24 years old;

Also concerned by the legislative, policy and social frameworks that deny legal gender recognition, perpetuate violence, stigma, discrimination, and exclude young key populations from accessing comprehensive basic healthcare, including sexual reproductive health services, sexuality education and HIV-related services;

Further concerned by the unwillingness by governments and funding partners to acknowledge the resilience and crucial contribution of key populations and marginalised communities of regional collectives and networks within the HIV response;

Appealed by an evolving development agenda that does not recognise interlocking systems of oppression, that is not people-centered or youth-inclusive, that de-prioritizes human rights, access to justice and the health needs of key populations and other marginalised groups.

WE, CONDEMN state violence marked by inadequate or failing health systems, lack of gender affirming healthcare, continued denial of the right to abortion, including stigma, discrimination, and laws that criminalise key populations and exclude us from accessing information, justice and health services;

CONDEMN the sustained hostility of health systems to key populations that serve to deny young key populations and young women the ability to exercise their agency, the ability to assert multiple forms of autonomy, including bodily autonomy, and that limits the exercise of their right to health, and hampers access to health;

CONDEMN the role that health systems and service providers play in the arrest, detention, violation and objectification of our bodies and our subjection to cruel and degrading treatment;

CONDEMN the lack of investment, particularly domestic investment, in key populations and marginalised communities as part of the national HIV response;

CONDEMN the arbitrary cessation of investment, particularly global investment in key populations and marginalised communities in the HIV response;

CONDEMN political statements, declarations, strategies, and national plans that instrumentalise and commodify our identities and communities to attract and access international donor funding;

FURTHER CONDEMN the exclusion of key populations and marginalised communities from programmes and interventions by national and regional mechanisms through the denialism of existence of key populations despite the overwhelming domestic data on these communities;

DENOUNCE the encroachment of donors from the Global North on the limited civil society organising spaces on the continent;

Hereby DEMAND urgent action and investment to address increasing HIV infections and AIDS-related death among key populations, particularly among youth and adolescent key populations;

DEMAND sustained context specific investment in community and youth-led systems, as well as the resourcing, complementing, upscaling and integration of community-led interventions;
THE ABIDJAN DECLARATION CONTINUED...

DEMAND the involvement of key populations and marginalised groups, particularly youth and adolescents, in the planning, design, implementation and monitoring of strategies, policies, plans, and programmes pertaining to them;

DEMAND genuine intergenerational and cross-sector partnerships in research in an equitable, dignifying and beneficial manner that guarantees community ownership;

DEMAND that healthcare providers abide by the Hippocratic Oath by delivering quality, appropriate, nondiscriminatory services and youth-friendly services, that respect confidentiality and the needs and choices of the individual;

DEMAND that the contribution of communities of key populations and marginalised groups, especially youth and adolescents, in the HIV response be acknowledged, valued and adequately remunerated;

DEMAND explicit targets, indicators and investments be made in the development agenda that prioritise human rights, social, economic and health needs of key populations and marginalised groups, especially youth and adolescents;

DEMAND the eradication of the pervasive economic exclusion and exploitation of youth and adolescents that exacerbate their vulnerability to HIV, and hinder their access to social services;

DEMAND appropriate allocation of funding, particularly national and global funding, and other resources be made to key populations and marginalised community-led initiatives;

DEMAND for autonomous spaces for key populations and marginalised groups, free from neo-liberal, paternalistic own agenda-driven involvement of international organisations and funders;

WE CALL on HIV and human rights organisations, broader civil society and other stakeholders to demonstrate and stand in solidarity with and demand accountability and investment in key populations and marginalised community-led initiatives in order to deliver differently and achieve zero discrimination.

AS KEY POPULATIONS AND MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES, WE COMMIT TO SUSTAIN OUR ORGANISING, WHILST TAKING STOCK OF THE CHALLENGES AND SMALL WINS OVER THE YEARS. IN THE SAME SPIRIT, WE COMMIT TO CONTINUE HOLDING OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE, AND TO CONTINUE OPERATING WITH PROFESSIONALISM AND TRANSPARENCY.

WE COMMIT TO CONTINUING TO WORK IN SOLIDARITY WITH EACH OTHER, AND WITH OTHER MARGINALISED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS, INCLUDING YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS LIVING WITH HIV, WOMEN AND GIRLS, PEOPLE LIVING WITH DIFFERENT BODILY ABILITIES, MIGRANTS AND DISPLACED PEOPLES.

WE COMMIT TO CONTINUING TO MOBILISE AND ORGANISE OUR COMMUNITIES, AND TO SUPPORTING EVERYONE WITHIN OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING THOSE OF US LIVING WITH HIV.

WE COMMIT TO THE INTENSIFICATION OF OUR EFFORTS TO ENGAGE WITH GOVERNMENTS, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL BODIES, AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS; AND TO THE EDUCATION AND SENSITISATION OF OUR GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS AND OUR PEERS. WE COMMIT TO BEING PRESENT, TO BEING IN THE FOREFRONT OF INTERVENTIONS, AND TO CONTINUE TO HOLD OURSELVES, GOVERNMENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS ACCOUNTABLE.