

29th May 2017.

To the Chair,
Kenya Coordinating Mechanism,
Nairobi, Kenya.



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Focal Point,
Kenya Coordinating Mechanism.

REQUEST FOR A VOTING SEAT FOR ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH AT THE KENYA COORDINATING MECHANISM.

With this letter, Lean on Me Foundation would like to request for a voting seat in the Kenya Coordinating Mechanism for Adolescents and Youth specifically adolescent girls and young women. This is because, despite gains in the HIV response countrywide and reduction of new infections among the general Kenyan population, we see disturbingly rising new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women. Since the Kenya Coordinating Mechanism brings together the various HIV response stakeholders and we feel this is a space the young people's voice should be represented so that we have evidence informed decisions.

Lean on Me Foundation provides comprehensive care and support to adolescent girls and young women living with HIV and affected by tuberculosis. We appreciate the efforts of the Kenya coordinating mechanism in creating space for non-state actors specifically ensuring inclusion of disease-based representatives from communities and the key affected populations. We give further gratitude that the Kenya Coordinating Mechanism created an extra seat for key affected populations giving them 2 voting seats. Indeed, Kenya has one of the most inclusive Country Coordinating Mechanisms.

We however note the gap with representation of young people. We believe that their inclusion will further strengthen the oversight impact of the CCM giving us greater impact in the response to the 3 epidemics. We hope that your office will support the decision for inclusion of a voting seat for the young people once it comes up for discussion.

Looking forward to continued partnership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Atieno'.

Maurine Atieno Murenga.
Executive Director,
Lean on Me Foundation.