

# Regional Youth Peace Forum for the Horn of Africa



## *Asmara Declaration*

- **Inspired by** the historical relations and strong ties between peoples of the region in general and youth in particular, emanating from a shared desire and sense of responsibility for realizing sustainable regional peace and development;
- **Convinced** that peace is of vital importance for allowing youth to develop and contribute to national and regional prosperity;
- **Conscious** of youth as primary victims of protracted armed conflicts within and between countries of the region in terms of lives lost, massive damage to future opportunities for education, training and development;
- **Aware** of the extent of which youth in the age of globalization have become primary targets for psychological warfare, propaganda and deceptive media campaigns serving external agendas and the interest of foreign domination;
- **Affirming** that all conflicts in the Horn of Africa are interlocked and cannot be addressed in isolation from each other nor outside the broader regional context through a collective framework by countries of the Horn;
- **Cognizant** of how external intervention, competing and often rival mediation processes have served only to deepen conflicts;
- **Determined** that youth of the region must shoulder their responsibility in building sustainable peace and development;
- **Committed** to empowering and unifying initiatives by young people in the Horn of Africa to stand firm in the face of regional as well as global challenges;

Representatives of youth organizations from Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya have agreed to work together to establish a regional network according to the strategic paper ratified and adopted in Asmara this day, the 24th of July 2008.

**Asmara, 24 July 2008**