



ALBERT SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL CENTENNIAL LAMBARENE DECLARATION JULY 7, 2013

I, Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic, and all participants in the international symposium to fight the Triple Epidemic (malaria, HIV, tuberculosis) being held in Libreville, Gabon, on July 6 and 7, 2013 for the centennial of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital,

- Acknowledge that the Triple Epidemic is the primary cause of morbidity and mortality in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. It is behind significantly increased rates of mortality, especially among young people, women of child-bearing age, and children. The Triple Epidemic is draining the life-blood from these countries.
- Foresee with great hope a global solution which is just waiting to be put in place in accordance with Albert Schweitzer's ethic of "Reverence for Life". With the help of the efforts of us all, we the political authorities, international institutions, NGOs, researchers and scientists, health care professionals, civil society, the private sector, organizations on the ground, and local populations will be able to conquer this Triple Epidemic.

On this basis, we declare our commitment to create and support a new dynamic undergirded by the following basic principles:

- The definition and application of a **comprehensive cross-border policy to combat the Triple Epidemic** with the support of the countries of Africa that will identify and promote effective, proven solutions
- A **new continuing training program** for ad hoc health care professionals and local populations that will produce specialists in the Triple Epidemic and increase inter-sector cooperation
- **Intensified research in Africa and internationally** to contribute to the development of new solutions.

These principles will require:

- Involvement by political, medical, university, religious, moral, national, and local authorities and synergy between Government services (health, research, higher education, defense and military health services). Rallying local stakeholders and the local population.
- A just and concerted rallying of local and international resources, along with a high level of collaboration from the private and public sectors within the context of innovative partnerships. In addition to our traditional partnerships with Germany, the United States, France, Switzerland, and now Canada, we will add other countries and territories.

Following our joint deliberations, which made it possible to break barriers and create new bridges between us, we also promise to continue our international and cross-disciplinary dialogue and collaboration on a permanent basis.

To accomplish this, we propose the following:

1. **The creation of a structure to coordinate and monitor the Lambaréné Declaration under the authority of a multinational and cross-disciplinary panel of experts.**
2. **With oversight from that coordinating structure, the creation and management of three permanent task forces that will offer concrete proposals and present the results of their efforts at the second Albert Schweitzer Global Health Science Symposium.**



These Task Forces will dedicate themselves to:

- i. The identification and promotion, support, and distribution of cross-disciplinary and inter-sector (medical, public health, etc.) solutions to the problems of the Triple Epidemic
- ii. The creation of cross-disciplinary training programs for local health care professionals and organizations..
- iii. The promotion of high-caliber research in Africa in cooperation with researchers internationally.

These task forces will make a commitment to meet at least twice a year and will come together in Gabon in January 2014 to share the initial results of their labors.

3) The creation of the international Albert Schweitzer Award for an individual or group that conducts a long-term cross-disciplinary and inter-sector project related to the Triple Epidemic in Africa.

4) The creation of a dedicated digital platform to enable communication between all actors and to increase the visibility of these initiatives.

We promise to present the interim results of all these projects at the next Albert Schweitzer Global Health Science Symposium in Gabon in July 2014.