



Message from

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to the

SPRINGS OF LIFE
UNIVERSITY YOUTH MEETING WITH NONGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS

“THE CULTURE OF VOLUNTARY NON-REMUNERATED BLOOD DONATION”

10 November 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honourable Colleagues, Distinguished Guests.

It is my pleasure to address you on this occasion, among so much youth.

Blood transfusion is a vital component of health care. The threat to life due to insufficient blood stocks and the risk of transfusion-transmissible infections calls for a safe and adequate blood supply for all those requiring transfusion. As the need for blood increases globally, young people can make an important contribution by donating blood and by recruiting other young people to become donors.

In 2005, the Fifty-Eighth World Health Assembly made a unanimous declaration of commitment and support for voluntary blood donation, and resolution WHA58.13 designated World Blood Donor Day as an annual event to be held each year on 14 June. While this day creates awareness of the importance of voluntary blood donation and encourages more people to become regular blood donors, it also celebrates and thanks all those who voluntarily donate their blood without any reward.

This youth occasion by the Springs of Life focuses on young donors, inaugurating "Club 25 Egypt". It hopes that a new generation of idealistic and motivated voluntary unpaid blood donors will form a pool that provides the safest blood possible for use wherever and whenever it is needed to save life. In events and activities around the world, youth will be the focus of the day, especially university students.

Recruiting and retaining young donors not only improves the long-term safety and sufficiency of a country's blood supply, but also promotes safe and healthy lifestyles. Young people unable to donate for any reason can volunteer their service as advocates. With young people playing such a valuable role in helping to secure a safe and adequate blood supply, today is a good opportunity for governments, policy-makers and blood programmes to thank them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The need for blood is increasing in all parts of the world. Young people can make an important contribution by donating blood and by recruiting other young people to become donors.

Initiatives such as the Egyptian young ambassadors' programmes: Vein of Life and Springs of Life, as well as media campaigns directed towards young audiences and other youth-oriented activities will help bring "new blood to the world". Many activities are planned around the world to focus on the role of young people in ensuring a safe blood supply.

The scale and volume of World Blood Donor Day events increases every year. Support from government leaders and celebrities, along with media campaigns and community-based activities, results in a celebration of the selfless individuals who donate their blood and plasma to save the lives and improve the health of people whom they will never meet. Your involvement and support will help to ensure a wide impact for voluntary non-remunerated blood donation and bring the world closer to 100 per cent compliance with that principle.

I thank everybody who is sharing in this event with us today, especially those who made the effort of a long trip to celebrate with us. I also thank the United Nations Goodwill Ambassadors and the media personnel who are trying hard to bring this hot issue to the eyes and ears of the world. Please come again and give needy mothers, newborn infants and the sick at large the gift of life. Leading this group are Egyptian actress Mona Zaki and Dr Mohammad Rabieh, Head of VACSERA, who is working hard to place Egypt at the top of the countries of the Region who will start fractionation of blood products.

Again, I thank the regular blood donors and the youth nongovernmental organizations who support regular blood giving. I wish you a successful celebration.

Thank you and may God bless you all.