



MEDIA ADVISORY

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to speak on his commitment to AIDS response

**A call for political will to keep commitments on AIDS;
Progress on funds, drugs but epidemic continues to spread**

UN General Assembly • Monday, 21 May 2007 • 10:00 am

WHO: United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the General Assembly

WHAT: UN General Assembly reviews progress towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. The Secretary-General will also meet with his Special Envoys for AIDS -- and, separately, with a group of UN staff living with HIV, commonly known as 'UN+'

WHERE: United Nations General Assembly Hall, New York

WHEN: Monday, 21 May, 10:00 am

Background: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will on Monday address, for the first time, the General Assembly session focused on the response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic. He will pronounce his commitment and intentions in response to the AIDS crisis.

This comes one year following a High-Level Meeting on AIDS, where UN Member States renewed pledges and set a new global objective towards universal access to HIV prevention treatment, care and support by 2010.

A report prepared for this year's review shows that expanded treatment efforts continue to gather momentum. As of December 2006, an estimated 2.0 million people were receiving antiretroviral therapy in low- and middle- income countries, representing 28% of the estimated 7.1 million people in need, an increase of 700,000 from the number estimated to be on antiretroviral therapy in December 2005.

However, over the past two years, the number of people living with HIV has increased in every region of the world. The report shows how the universal access process is a critical opportunity to scale up HIV prevention. Data from 2005 show little progress in increasing the coverage of prevention services. The proportion of pregnant women receiving services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV has increased from 9 per cent in 2005 to only 11 per cent in 2006.

If the current trend in scaling up care and treatment continues at the same rate, the number of people receiving antiretroviral drugs in 2010 will reach approximately 4.5 million, or less than

half of those in urgent need of treatment. To substantially scale up treatment, far greater investment is required in the infrastructure of health systems, including human, administrative, procurement and financial resources.

The report concludes that many countries, especially those with low incomes, cannot achieve the universal access goals without external resources; therefore there is a pressing need for more international funding for public health and development. Current estimates of global resource needs for HIV in low and middle-income countries are US\$18 billion in 2007 and US\$22 billion in 2008. An estimated US\$10 billion will be available for HIV-related programmes in these countries in 2007 – an increase over the US\$8.9 billion available in 2006, slightly more than half of what is needed.

Additional Event: New York AIDS Walk

On Sunday, 20 May, UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro will join 50,000 New Yorkers in the annual New York AIDS Walk. She will be accompanied by the UN Cares Team (UN staff), which raises money through this walk. This is the world's largest AIDS fundraising event, providing support for people living with HIV. The UN Cares Team has participated for many years, raising more than \$35,000 in 2006.

For more information, contact:

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