



OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE: DAY 2

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Scientific advances bring HIV/AIDS epidemic to an historic turning point as global leaders meet at AIDS 2012 to discuss investment priorities in HIV/AIDS during the global financial crisis

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci to address the Monday Plenary session

French President François Hollande to address the plenary via video

Monday, 23 July 2012 (Washington, D.C., – United States)--The huge scientific advances in the treatment and prevention of HIV infection over the past years have created unprecedented optimism that the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic can be won, but is being tempered by funding uncertainty amidst the ongoing global financial crisis, delegates heard today at the XIX International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012) taking place in Washington, D.C. this week. The reduction in global financing being devoted to HIV/AIDS is driving keen debate amongst policy makers, service providers, activists and scientists as to how best prioritize scarce resources.

“We now have the scientific tools to turn the tide of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and we need to seize that opportunity before us,” said Dr. Elly Katabira, AIDS 2012 International Chair and President of the International AIDS Society (IAS).

“To do so, we need to adapt ourselves to a changing environment and that means coming up with new and effective ways of delivering services to the most-affected groups of people in a tough global economic environment. But it is also incumbent on donors and national decision makers to bite the bullet and maintain funding of all facets of HIV/AIDS programmes now that we can see that tools such as scaling up treatment as prevention have the potential to turnaround the epidemic.”

Some 22,000 scientists, policy makers, people living with HIV and other stakeholders are attending AIDS 2012 this week in D.C.

“Continue to invest in science – that is my message to all the decision makers watching us this week in D.C.,” said Diane Havlir, AIDS 2012 U.S. Co-Chair and Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.” All the scientists responsible for the huge breakthroughs over the past few years are here at AIDS 2012 and accompanying them are many others who bring with them compelling new data on the latest HIV drugs, HIV cure

research, new TB drugs and creative financing models. The story being told here this week is that scientifically, when it comes to AIDS, there is more light at the end of the tunnel than there has ever been in the three decades of the epidemic.”

Monday Plenary Session

Ending the Epidemic: Turning the Tide Together

Speakers:

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Keynote Address

Anthony Fauci, Director, NIAID, *Ending the HIV Epidemic: From Scientific Advances to Public Health Implementation*

Basic and clinical science have provided us with highly effective interventions to treat and prevent HIV infection. If we markedly scale-up globally the implementation of these interventions, we can dramatically alter the trajectory of the pandemic towards the ultimate goal of an AIDS-free generation. We have a moral responsibility to do so.

Phill Wilson – President and CEO of the Black AIDS Institute, *Deciding Moment: Ending the AIDS Epidemic in America Together*

The AIDS epidemic in the United States is both a concentrated epidemic and a generalized epidemic. The tools exist to end the AIDS epidemic in America. The challenge is whether we know how to use those tools; whether we can make those tools available to those who most need them; and whether or not, when provided access to those tools, we will utilize them. To end the AIDS epidemic, we are going to have to combine the best of what we have been doing with the best strategies and tactics that are presented to us today.

Sheila Tlou, Director UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa, *Turning the Tide in Affected Countries: Leadership, Accountability and Target*

Political and other leaders have the responsibility to identify their own evidence-informed priorities, uphold human rights, and mobilize domestic resources for the AIDS response. Communities have a critical role to play in holding leaders accountable for honoring their commitments. We can reach zero only if we invest in the AIDS response, involve communities, respect human rights, and uphold the sexual and reproductive rights of all, including those of young women in their diversity.”

Monday, 23 July Highlights

- **Symposia Session: Improving Effectiveness and Efficiency in the HIV Response**
(11.00-12.30, Session Room 1)

The session will be webcast by the Kaiser Family Foundation and will be viewable through the conference website.

Speakers:

Chair: Dr. Elly Katabira, AIDS 2012 International Chair and President of the International AIDS Society

Mphu Ramatlapeng, Minister of Health of Lesotho and Vice Chair of the Board, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

U.S. Senator John Kerry

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham

Bill Gates, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank

Ambassador Eric Goosby, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator

- **Special Session: Can Public-Private Partnerships Help Those who Think Globally, Act Locally?** (13.00-14.00, Session Room 1)

Speakers:

Keynote speaker: **Sir Elton John**

Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health, South Africa

Ms Elena Salgado, Former Finance Minister, Spain

Mr John Megrue, CEO of Apax Partners US and Head of the Retail & Consumer Group, USA

Mr James Chau, Broadcaster and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador

Breaking Programme Update

Marisol Touraine, Minister of Health and Social Affairs, France, to address Celebrating the Frontline: The Red Ribbon Award for Innovative Community Responses to AIDS, (Wednesday 25 July, 13:00 -14:00, Session Room 2)

Genevieve Fioraso, Minister of Higher Education and Research, France, to address Symposia Session HIV Persistence and Eradication, (Thursday, 11.00-12.00, Session Room 9)

ENDS

Conference Organization

AIDS 2012 is convened by the International AIDS Society and the conference's international partners: the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+); the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO); the International Community of Women with HIV/AIDS (ICW) and the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC); Sidaction.

The U.S.-based Black AIDS Institute; the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH); the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA); the National Institutes of Health (NIH); the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) at the White House; and the U.S. Positive Women's Network (USPWN) are serving as local partners.

AIDS 2012: Join the conversation

Get the latest conference updates and share your thoughts and ideas through the Conference Facebook and Twitter. We are tweeting – [@aids2012](https://twitter.com/aids2012) – and hope many of you will tweet along with us, using #AIDS2012 to keep the conversation going. Become a fan of AIDS 2012 on Facebook and stay in touch with the latest conference updates and developments. Please visit www.facebook.com/aids2012 to become a fan. If your group or organization is participating in

AIDS 2012, we welcome posts of photos and videos of your work on this page. Tell us why you are coming to Washington and what you hope to gain from AIDS 2012.

About the IAS

The International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals, with over 16,000 members from more than 196 countries working at all levels of the global response to AIDS. Our members include researchers from all disciplines, clinicians, public health and community practitioners on the frontlines of the epidemic, as well as policy and programme planners. The IAS is the custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference and lead organizer of the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 30 June– 3 July 2013.

www.iasociety.org | www.ias2013.org

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