

DAILY BULLETIN



AIDS 2010

News and Information from the XVIII International AIDS Conference

17-18 July 2010 | Edition 1

Opening Session Sets Stage for Examination of *Rights Here, Right Now*

As the XVIII International AIDS Conference opens on Sunday, 18 July, scientists, world leaders, advocates and people living with HIV will welcome delegates with a call to action on human rights and renewed commitments to basic research, evidence-based interventions and universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. See box on reverse for the complete Opening Session line-up.

A key focus of the Opening Session will be three plenary presentations on the state of the epidemic. Yves Souteyrand (France) will provide updated global and regional epidemiological data, examine the combined impact of HIV prevention interventions and antiretroviral therapy on HIV incidence, mortality and prevalence, and outline the complex interaction between human rights and the development of the epidemic among most-at-risk populations.

Explaining the recent advances in understanding HIV replication, latent infection and avenues for future research, Sharon Lewin (Australia) will call on funders, policy makers and affected communities to move promising strategies for a cure into clinical trials. Paula Akugizibwe (Rwanda) will highlight the social, economic and political challenges to achieving universal access and note the urgent need for the HIV response to be based on concrete human rights principles.

Security

Security will be elevated. Only registered conference participants who have their badge can attend. Arrive early, as seats are limited and the security queues will get longer as the 19:00 start time approaches.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation into Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and German will be provided. Interpretation receivers will be available onsite.

Alternate Viewing

Delegates may view the Opening Session via live video feed in the Global Village Session Room 1 and in Session Room 6, and registered media may view it in the Media Centre. In addition, it will be webcast live at www.kff.org/aids2010.

Towards a Paradigm Shift in HIV Treatment and Prevention

Sunday, 13:30–15:30, Session Room 6

Hosted by UNAIDS and the International AIDS Society (IAS), session participants will discuss a new vision to reinvigorate the global movement to achieve universal access. National and global leaders will examine emerging opportunities to expand access to better treatment and significantly reduce HIV transmission, while shaping a more efficient, sustainable global response. Participants include South African Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé, US Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Lesotho Health Minister Mphu Ramatlapeng and IAS President Julio Montaner.

Message from the Co-Chairs

By Drs. Julio Montaner and Brigitte Schmied

On behalf of the AIDS 2010 organizing partners, welcome to the XVIII International AIDS Conference. With the convergence of key milestones in the global response to AIDS and a strong scientific programme, AIDS 2010 promises to be a landmark meeting.

We are gathering this week under the theme *Rights Here, Right Now*, recognizing that all actions taken to prevent new infections and treat and care for those living with HIV must be rooted in a firm commitment to human rights. For too long, the need to eliminate gender inequality, stigma and discrimination, and to reform policies contrary to scientific evidence, have been seen as important, yet, in some ways, parallel goals. In Vienna, we are putting these issues front and centre, recognizing that they are, in fact, the building blocks for universal access.

We've seen tremendous progress toward the goal of universal access since Mexico City, with five million people in low- and middle-income countries now on treatment. Along the way, we have documented how HIV scale up leads to broader health benefits, including reduced TB incidence, improved maternal and child health and stronger health systems. A growing body of evidence also demonstrates the preventative impact of HIV treatment, suggesting that, from this point forward, HIV treatment should be viewed as a powerful "double agent" that simultaneously saves lives and prevents new infections. The pace and success of the recent scale up in HIV programmes demonstrates that universal access is possible. Still, we face a number of formidable obstacles, including a faltering by world leaders on the commitment to adequate financing. With both momentum and evidence on our side, AIDS 2010 is an opportunity to hold our leaders accountable, and to insist that sufficient resources exist to ensure continued progress. In particular, we must advocate for a successful Global Fund Replenishment Meeting this October.

Resources alone will not bring success. Resistance to evidence-based interventions is widespread, and in many places key affected populations are ignored or underserved. In many countries, sound interventions such as harm reduction services are not used or are even outlawed. This week, you can lend your voice to the call for illicit drug policy based on science rather than ideology by signing the Vienna Declaration (www.viennadeclaration.com) and encouraging others in your networks to do the same.

Continued overleaf >>

Women's and Girls' Issues at the Vienna Conference

Sunday, 11:15-13:15, Mini Room 10

In order to increase the visibility of girls' and women's agenda at the conference, this session will launch the activities of Women ARISE, a new global coalition of women's networks. Keynote speakers include UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé and UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific Nafis Sadik, as well as plenary speakers Meena Seshu and Everjoice Win and others. A Women's Roadmap compiled by ATHENA Network lists sessions on women and girls throughout the week (available through the PAG).

Sunday Programme Highlights

Global Partnerships in AIDS Vaccine Research

Location: Session Room 7, 13:30–15:00

The progress being made in AIDS vaccine research is dependent upon the collaboration of multiple actors around the world in partnerships across geographical and disciplinary divides. This session will highlight some of these partnerships and emphasize opportunities for parties worldwide to become involved.

Gender Programming and Practices: Practical Approaches for Integration with HIV/AIDS

Location: Mini Room 8, 13:30–15:30

Representatives from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), civil society, partners and the private sector will examine best practices on addressing gender issues within PEPFAR, with a focus on gender-based violence.

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The lack of access to these interventions is persistent in many areas, including Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where drug use fuels the epidemic. The desire to better engage leaders, scientists, implementers and advocates from this region is one reason Vienna was chosen to host AIDS 2010. Our hope is that one of the lasting legacies of AIDS 2010 will be a strengthened regional response to HIV there, as well as in every region, including sub-Saharan Africa, which remains the most heavily impacted.

We wish you a successful conference and a pleasant stay in Vienna. In addition to attending meetings and visiting the Global Village, we encourage you to get out and see the city and enjoy its welcoming spirit. We also look forward to seeing you at the Human Rights March and Rally on Tuesday!

Opening Session Programme

19:00 in Session Room 1, Hall D of the Reed Messe

Doors open at 17:00. Entertainment preceding the session will include performances by the Schönbrunn Palace Orchestra. Prior to the session at 18:15: Red Ribbon Award presentation.

- 19:00 Welcome to the Conference
Julio Montaner, Canada
Brigitte Schmied, Austria
- 19:10 Community Welcome
Vladimir Zhovtyak, Ukraine
Alexandra (Sasha) Volgina, Russia
- 19:20 Plenary: State of the Epidemic: HIV
Epidemiology—Progress, Challenges and
Human Rights Implications
Yves Souteyrand, France
- 19:40 Alois Stöger, Federal Minister of Health, Austria
- 19:45 John Dalli, European Commissioner, Health and
Consumer Policy
- 19:55 Plenary: State of the Epidemic: Strategies for a Cure
Sharon Lewin, Australia
- 20:15 Rachel Arinii Judhistari, Indonesia, Youth Leader
- 20:25 Right to End the Epidemic
Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, UNAIDS
- 20:35 Kgalema Motlanthe, Deputy President, South Africa
- 20:40 Plenary: State of the Epidemic: Human Rights and
the Response
Paula Akugizibwe, Rwanda
- 21:00 Message of Hope and Mobilization
Annie Lennox, UK
- 21:10 Welcome to Austria
Heinz Fischer, Federal President, Austria

Online Resources

Webcasting

Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) is the AIDS 2010 official webcaster and the full schedule of 50 plus sessions and interviews to be webcast is available at www.kff.org/aids2010. The Opening and Closing Sessions, the daily Plenary Sessions, the Special Session with Bill Gates and the Rapporteur Session will be webcasted live. Others will be tape-delayed and posted on the day of the presentation. KFF will also provide transcripts of all webcast sessions along with English- and Russian-language podcasts and corresponding slide presentations.

Internet Access

Get online in the free Internet Café in Hall B. The café offers use of computers and printers with access regulated by free tickets at the café entrance. An area for those with their own laptops is equipped with power, and cabled and wireless Internet access. Free wireless Internet access is also available in the Exhibition Area (Hall B) and Global Village (Hall A).

Join the Conversation

AIDS 2010 is blogging (<http://blog.aids2010.org>) with updates and great guest posts. Sign up for an RRS feed. Find us on Facebook ([/aids2010](https://www.facebook.com/aids2010)) for frequent updates and also follow the Global Village ([/aids2010globalvillage](https://www.facebook.com/aids2010globalvillage)) and Youth Programme ([/aids2010youth](https://www.facebook.com/aids2010youth)) page and share your thoughts, experiences, pictures and videos. Twitter ([@aids2010](https://twitter.com/aids2010), [#aids2010](https://twitter.com/aids2010)) is already atwitter with comments, ideas, and feedback. Join the conversation!

Announcements

Positive Lounge

Located on the 1st floor, Foyer D, the Positive Lounge is designed as a place of rest, support and networking for HIV-positive delegates only.

Overflow and Alternate Viewing Sites

Overflow viewing of the Opening Session and all Plenary Sessions will be available in the Global Village Session Room 1. Registered media can view in the Media Centre.

Security

Vienna is considered one of the safest cities in Europe. It is still important to remember basic safety principles: always travel with someone, do not carry large sums of money, and carry identification (including a passport copy) and your hotel's contact information.

Cultural@ AIDS 2010

This week, Reed Messe Wien and the Global Village will be brimming with culture. Another 40 contributions in fine art, film, dance, music, design and architecture comprise the Vienna Cultural Programme, with installations and shows occurring throughout the city. Visit www.aids2010.org for more information.