



**Press Release 27 May 2013**

**EMBARGO: None (for immediate release)**

**High level speakers to address HIV prevention at ICASA;  
Prevention to feature prominently in presentations**

Reflecting the conference theme **“Now More Than Ever: Targeting Zero”** and UNAIDS **“Getting to zero”** mantra of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths, HIV prevention will be an important feature of this year’s ICASA plenary sessions.

Starting at the very beginning of the HIV prevention spectrum, Dr Chewe Luo, Senior Advisor on HIV and AIDS at UNICEF, will present cutting edge strategies for the elimination of Mother-to-Child transmission (MTCT) in Africa. Shifting focus to youth Emmanuel Etim, the young and dynamic Project Co-ordinator of the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps, will in part address the road ahead for African youth to reach zero new HIV infections.

Professor Christine Katlama, Head of the AIDS Unit, Department of Infectious Diseases at the renowned Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris, will look at the long-term complications of living with HIV, including the impact that HIV drug resistance has on prevention efforts.

UNFPA’s Senior Advisor on HIV, Ms. Bidia Deperthes, will provide the broadest overview of Africa’s current effective prevention programmes and tools. Ms. Deperthes has 16 years of experience in Reproductive Health and HIV prevention. Between 1997 and 2005 she worked with the World Health Organization, Geneva, where she spearheaded the global research agenda on female condoms. In 2005, she joined UNFPA, New York, to lead the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Condom Programming Framework and the 10-Step Approach to intensify access and use of male and female condoms at country level. This approach is currently being implemented in 87 countries.

Ms. Deperthes believes that it takes multiple interventions to make a significant impact on HIV transmission. Her presentation will address the many prevention programmes and strategies that will overcome HIV. These include scaling up existing and new technologies, political and community engagement, legal support, for all but especially for the most marginalized communities. Driven by her background in epidemiology, she will present the most efficient and effective interventions in Africa for governments, donors and communities to consider.

ICASA is chaired by Professor Robert Soudré, the President of the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) and co-chaired by Professor Ian Sanne, the CEO of Right Care and Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand. Up to 10,000 participants from around the world are expected to attend ICASA in Cape Town from 7-11 December 2013. For more information on ICASA and to register for the conference please visit [www.icasa2013southafrica.org](http://www.icasa2013southafrica.org)

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

##### **About The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA)**

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), the custodian of ICASA was founded in 1989 at the fourth International Symposium on AIDS and Associated Cancers in Africa (now ICASA) held in Marseille, France by a group of African scientists, activists and advocates in response to this epidemic. SAA envisions and African continent free of HIV, TB and malaria and their debilitating effects on communal and societal structures, where people are socially and economically empowered to live product lives in dignity. For more information on SAA please visit [www.saafrica.org](http://www.saafrica.org).

##### **About Dira Sengwe**

Dira Sengwe is a South African-based non-Governmental Organisation established in 2002 by the members of the local organising committee of the ground-breaking XIIIth International Aids Conference, Durban, 2000. The organisation emerged at a critical period in the history of the struggle for recognition of HIV and AIDS as a disease, overwhelmingly in poor countries, especially on the African continent. The organisation was established in response to the slow uptake of AIDS treatment in South Africa and established the South African Aids Conference which is organised bi-annually since 2003 as a platform to promote a unified AIDS response. Other Dira Sengwe projects include the AIDS Bravery Award and an Oral History Project. For more information on Dira Sengwe please visit [www.dirasengwe.org](http://www.dirasengwe.org).

##### **About the secretariat**

The ICASA secretariat is an international network of conference professionals working in Ghana, Senegal and Switzerland however most of the staff is based in the South African Foundation for Professional Development (FPD). FPD is dedicated to building a better society through education and capacity development and annually provides management and clinical training to 30,000 health care professionals and managers across Africa. Through its courses it has supported the initiation of ART for more than 200,000 people with HIV. FPD also organizes national and international conferences as a conduit to shape public and policy perspectives. FPD's involvement in conferences dates back to the International AIDS Conference in Durban in 2000 and since then the experienced team at FPD has managed, among others, the SA AIDS Conferences, the Access to Healthcare in Africa Conference in 2009 and the World Toilet Summit in 2012. For more information please visit [www.foundation.co.za](http://www.foundation.co.za).

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