



Press release by the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA): 30th November 2022

EMBARGO: None (For immediate release)

Outcomes of the 1st International Steering committee meeting of the 22nd Edition of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) 17th – 18th November 2022, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



Signing of the ICASA 2023 MoU, State House, Harare, Zimbabwe

From left(Front): Dr. Bernard Madzima, CEO of NAC assisting Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, SAA/ICASA 2023 President, with H.E. Dr. C. G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice President and Minister of Health and Childcare/ICASA 2023 Vice President, Zimbabwe, being assisted by Air Commodore (Dr.) Jasper Chimedza, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Health and Child Care, at the signing of the MoU at State House, Harare, Zimbabwe

In the background, From left: Mr. Luc Armand Bodea, ICASA Director, H.E. Emerson Mnangagwa, President of Zimbabwe, Prof. Morenike Ukpong, SAA Treasurer and Dr. Fikile Ndlovu, SAA Deputy Secretary General.

The Society for AIDS in Africa was established in Kinshasa in October 1990 during the 4th International Symposium on AIDS and Associated Cancers in Africa, a precursor to the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). The formation of the Society for AIDS in Africa, which was facilitated by the (W.H.O) to encourage the African continent to host international conferences on HIV/AIDS, a disease whose scourge had the hardest impact on the continent. This move encouraged and empowered Africans to directly address and respond to the challenges posed by the HIV and AIDS pandemic on the continent.

Since its inception, SAA has successfully organized 21 International Conferences on HIV /AIDS and STIs in 19 African countries. The 21st edition of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa was held in Durban- South Africa, under the theme “AFRICA’S AIDS RESPONSE: THE RACE TO 2030 – EVIDENCE. SCALE UP. ACCELERATE”. This was the first time in its history that the conference was held virtually. Over 4025 delegates from 83 countries across Africa and other regions of the world participated virtually.

The 1st International steering committee of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) was opened by the ICASA 2023/SAA President, Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa and Hon. Dr. John C. Mangwiro, Deputy Minister of Health and Childcare representing the government of Zimbabwe. The meeting convened 70 in person participants and 66 virtual participants. The Objectives of the meeting are as follows:

- Finalize new format, the Theme and objectives for ICASA 2023
- Select an appropriate ICASA 2023 logo.
- Agree on the key dates and road map
- Review ICASA abstract titles and sub-titles
- Identify best strategy for resource mobilization
- Ratify the Marketing and communication strategy for ICASA 2023
- Propose ICASA 2023 draft plenary session topics and speakers
- Validation of ICASA Young writers’ series stories

ICASA 2023 THEME AND OBJECTIVES

The ICASA Secretariat launched the Call for ICASA 2023 Theme and Objectives on 17th October 2022 to 10th November 2022. We received a total of 85 submissions for themes and 240 submissions for Objectives. Each of the 3 ICASA 2023 programme committees; Scientific, Leadership and Community programme committees were tasked to shortlist 2 themes with 2 sets of 5 objectives. After thoughtful deliberations, the steering committee members unanimously validated the final selection of the theme and objectives of ICASA 2023 as thus:

Theme: AIDS IS NOT OVER: Address inequalities, accelerate innovation and inclusion.

Objectives:

- **Mainstream respect for equity, inclusion and diversity in the control and mitigation of the impact of diseases.**
- **Sustain and increase domestic financing and community response.**
- **Accelerate the response to HIV/AIDS, and control COVID-19, Monkey-pox, Ebola and any other emerging diseases.**
- **Mitigate the impact of hepatitis, tuberculosis and malaria through health systems strengthening.**
- **Generate and provide evidence-based data for policy formulation.**

ICASA 2023 LOGO

The ICASA Secretariat launched the ICASA 2023 Call for Logo on 17th October 2022 to 10th November 2022. We received a total of 82 logo submissions from 17 countries. Out of the 82 logos, 10 were shortlisted and presented to the International Steering committee members for final selection. The below logo was unanimously validated:



WINNER OF ICASA 2023 LOGO COMPETITION

NAME: MOUKENDI GEDEON DIEUDONNE

COUNTRY: CONGO BRAZZAVILLE

MAIDEN EDITION OF ICASA YOUNG WRITERS SERIES

As part of efforts to amplify youth voices across the continent, the ICASA Secretariat launched the maiden edition of the ICASA Young writers series. The ICASA Secretariat received 125 Applications from 23 Countries covering the following thematic:

- Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)
- HIV (Prevention & PrEP)
- Mental Health
- Harm reduction
- Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs)

The best stories were evaluated during the 1st International steering committee meeting. Kindly see winners below:

Position	Ranking #	First Name	Last Name	Country	Thematic/Category
Winner	1	Jayson	Yiga Edgar	Uganda	HIV (Prevention & PrEP)
1 st Runner up	2	Bero	Phiona Patricia	Uganda	HIV (Prevention & PrEP)
2 nd Runner up	3	Chinyere	Urslar	Nigeria	HIV (Prevention & PrEP)
Winner	1	Aya Roxane	Koffi	Côte d'Ivoire	Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)
1 st Runner up	2	Mateenah	Odoi	Ghana	Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)
2 nd Runner up	3	Ana Paula Samuel	Botomane	Mozambique	Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)
Winner	1	Mutiat	Amao	Nigeria	Harm Reduction
1 st Runner up	2	Piter Matias	Pedro	Mozambique	Harm Reduction
Winner	1	Marvyng	Assy-Assamoua	Côte d'Ivoire	Mental Health
1 st Runner up	2	Van	OUALEMBO TENDART	Congo	Mental Health
2 nd Runner up	3	Laura	Maisvoveva	Zimbabwe	Mental Health
Winner	1	Brighton	Mavusa	Zimbabwe	Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs)
1 st Runner up	2	Nyako Cinthia	Njiti	Cameroon	Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs)
2 nd Runner up	3	Evans	KOLELA	Congo	Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Award

The award winner of the 15 selected entries will receive:

- The First award: **\$250.00**
- The first runner-up: **\$150.00**
- The second runner-up: **\$100.00**

The selected stories, after seeking consent, will be published in the ICASA 2023 programme book and website.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA)

The Society for AIDS in Africa 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 the HIV epidemic. The establishment of the Society was the effect of the agitations of some African scientists for the conference to be organised on African soil. These agitations began in the preceding year at the end of the third meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania in 1988. The cause of these scientists was supported by the then Deputy Director of WHO, Dr. Peter Piot.

At the 1990 conference held in the Democratic Republic of Congo, an Executive committee was inaugurated to oversee the establishment of the Society and to coordinate a subsequent international conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) conferences. The society was officially registered in Nairobi, Kenya with a functional secretariat in Nigeria. The permanent secretariat of the Society for AIDS in Africa was established in 2009 in Accra-Ghana. For more information on SAA please visit www.saafrica.org

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