

Press Advisory – July 15th 2004

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COMMISSION ON HIV/AIDS AND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA (CHGA) CONVENES A MEETING IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA ON THE PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS AND ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND CARE FOR PERSONS LEAVING WITH HIV/AIDS.

The Commission for HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa (CHGA) will convene its CHGA Interactive session in Gaborone, Botswana July 26-27. CHGA Interactive Botswana is the second in a series of five regional meetings the Commission will organize in Africa. The principle target of CHGA Interactive is civil society and agencies at the sharp end of service delivery. The purpose of the sub-regional interactive process – which is quite unique for a UN Commission – is to solicit and delineate the reflections of these key groups on CHGA's final report. This meeting tackle two pressing HIV/AIDS issues: (i) Access of Treatment and Care for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA); and (ii) Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS (PMTCT).

CHGA Commissioners Ms. Joy Phumaphi, Ms. Milly Katana, Dr. Alan Whiteside and Ms. Awa Coll-Seck, will be in attendance. Other participants including senior government officials and UN partner agencies have also confirmed their attendance. The core group of participants will derive from civil society organizations representatives working on HIV/AIDS related areas.

The focus of the meeting is on the challenge of scale-up of treatment and care for PLWHA, a central issue facing African governments. While increasing resources coupled with the decreasing costs of treatment and the emergence of simpler treatment regimes, provides an opportunity to scale up national AIDS treatment and care responses in resource-limited settings, African governments still face many challenges in scaling-up AIDS treatment including: (i) limited capacity of health systems; (ii) Issues related to equitable access to treatment and care; (iii) Fostering stakeholder buy-in.

(END)

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CHGA Interactive meeting documents are available on our website:
www.uneca.org/chga

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