

**Closing Remarks to the Joint Meeting of the Regional
Advisory Panel and the Regional Clinical Coordination
sub-Committee,
By Israel Sembajwe, Chief,
Social and Human Development Section, ECA
Accra 18-19 January, 2007**

Chairperson

Distinguished Experts

Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

Some of us have spent a very fruitful week here. The first three working days were devoted to field missions to Ashanti, Eastern and Greater Accra Regions, and eventually sharing our findings among the mission teams here in Accra. In the recent two days we have shared experiences from the TAP countries as well as other member States dealing with the challenge of HIV/AIDS. It has been an enriching process and my colleagues and I are going back to our duty station with a great deal of satisfaction. Satisfied that we have shared and learned from each other; that something is going on in the project countries to make a difference in the lives of people, families and societies affected by HIV/AIDS; and that we are going away with renewed commitment to accelerate treatment and strengthen the learning agenda.

It is our hope in ECA that when TAP activities are properly institutionalized, it will lead to eventual long-term absorption of its activities into regular program activities of the Commission with the possibility of including the resources

needed for the learning agenda into our biannual requests for regular and extra budgetary resources. It is our expectation that with proper marketing to our member States and donor partners, resources will be found to make the learning agenda sustainable.

We therefore believe that by building on current positive experiences from the TAP, we can fashion a foundation together for an effective response to HIV and AIDS. This means that our partners in the TAP process, including the World Bank and WHO, have to keep their side of the contribution by ensuring that their input components in the acceleration of HIV/AIDS treatment are sustained.

In the immediate future, we see a need for rephrasing the TAP funds that will not be utilized this year, to 2008. This will give us ample time to complete outstanding activities, as well to plan well for the TAP II or the after TAP.

We look forward to working with you and the other partners to 'halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS by 2015', as we have committed to do in Millennium Development Goal 6. Let us continue to serve Africa and humanity together.

Thank for sharing with us and Bon Voyage.