

'AIDS 2010' Conference, 18-23 July, Vienna, Austria

"Rights here, right now"

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In 2008, some 33.4 million people worldwide were living with HIV. Sixty-seven per cent of those living with HIV and 91 per cent of new infections among children were in sub-Saharan Africa (AIDS Epidemic Update 2009 [UNAIDS/WHO]). Though there has been progress in fighting HIV/AIDS, the statistics prove that much more must be done.

Under the theme 'rights here, right now', the biennial 2010 International AIDS conference focused on protecting and promoting human rights to combat HIV/AIDS. Organised by the International AIDS Society, 18-23 July in Vienna Austria, it gathered 19,300 scientists, practitioners, advocates and world leaders from 193 countries.

"I commend those leaders who have recognised that denial of treatment is a denial of the human right to life", said Archbishop Desmond Tutu in a video address at the closing ceremony.

Universal access to HIV prevention, care, treatment and support, strengthening the use of evidenced-based interventions, sustained financing and progress in finding a cure were other conference themes.

The Vienna Declaration, calling for more rational and scientifically sound drug poli-

cies to strengthen HIV prevention for drug users had been signed by more than 12,725 people by the conference's close. Moreover, global leaders were called to commit at least \$US20bn (€14.5bn) for the period 2011-2013 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The eventual commitment of \$US11.7bn (€8.5bn) made at the Fund's 5 October replenishment meeting fell short of this call. However, the European Commission pledged to scale up its contribution from €100M during 2008-2010 to €330M over the next three years.

For more information: www.aids2010.org



An HIV-infected woman takes her pills at a refugee camp near Gulu, Uganda. © Reporters / DPA

EU-South Africa summit

Education at the core of strengthened cooperation

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The EU-South Africa summit in Brussels on September 28, 2010 saw the signing of a sizeable cooperation agreement, the "Primary Education Sector Policy Support Programme" between the two parties in the presence of South Africa's president Jacob Zuma. The EU was represented by President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy and President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso.

The emphasis placed on all levels of education during the meeting is in line with the South African government's priorities. South Africa and the EU also agreed to strengthen cooperation in many other fields from economic matters to space research and a mutual agreement on visa exemptions. Additionally, they agreed on their priorities for the EU-Africa

summit taking place 29-30 November 2010 in Libya.

In his statement to the press, President Zuma stressed that both sides "share the objective to conclude, by the end of the

year, a final Agreement that will enhance trade and economic relations between the EU and SADC (Southern African Development Community) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) countries".



Jacob Zuma, Herman van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso. © The Council of the European Union