International AIDS Conference Returns to the U.S. at Pivotal Moment

Under the theme Turning the Tide Together, more than 21,000 delegates from more than 195 countries are gathering in Washington, D.C. for the XIX International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012) to begin the march toward the end of the AIDS epidemic. AIDS 2012 is the first International AIDS Conference to be held in the United States since 1990, coming on the heels of recent scientific advances that have changed the landscape of the epidemic.

Following several days of pre-conference events, the conference Opening Session will set the stage for the coming five days in which delegates will present and review the latest scientific research and build momentum toward ensuring that financing and global leadership across all sectors keeps pace with scientific progress against HIV.

The Opening Session will feature voices from across the globe highlighting the challenges at hand and urging collective action toward lasting solutions.

Local and national leaders participating include U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Washington, D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray and Ambassador Mark Dybul. Joining them from the global arena are South African Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé, and Annah Sango of Zimbabwe. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will address the session via video. See schedule on reverse for full details.

Security

Security will be elevated. Only registered conference participants who have their badge can attend. Arrive early, as seats are limited.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish and sign language, both English (ASL) and Spanish (LSE), are available.

Alternate Viewing

Delegates may view the Opening Session via live video feed at the Global Village Main Stage and in Session Rooms 2-4, and registered media may view it in the Media Centre. In addition, it will be webcast live at www.kff.org/aids2012.

Co-Chairs Words of Welcome

By Drs. Elly Katabira and Diane Havlir

On behalf of the AIDS 2012 organizing partners, welcome to Washington, D.C. and the XIX International AIDS Conference. Our return to the United States after a 22-year absence comes at a time of extraordinary hope. A time when we believe that the end of the AIDS epidemic is possible.

The lifting of U.S. restrictions on the entry of people living with HIV was a significant human rights and public health victory that paved the way for our return and it is important that we gather again in the U.S. after so many years away. The U.S. is the most generous donor to the global fight against AIDS and the nation’s contributions to HIV research through the National Institutes of Health are extraordinary and pivotal to our progress to date. AIDS 2012 is an important opportunity to say thank you to the American people and highlight the millions of lives that have been saved as a result.

It is thanks to the investments, commitment and fortitude of so many the world over that we now have a tremendous new toolkit to fight HIV. The advances of the past few years are powerful reminders of the continuing potential for scientific progress and the pay-offs that can result from the efforts of determined researchers and courageous trial participants. So too, as we learn more and pursue promising avenues of research, our dreams of an HIV cure and vaccine appear more attainable.

Our fervent hopes for the future must be tempered by the realities of today – financial restraints, scientific mysteries, resistance to evidence-based HIV prevention strategies, widespread stigma and discrimination, and the real-world challenges of bringing effective interventions to scale. All of these challenges can and must be addressed head on. We must push ourselves, our colleagues, and our leaders to do more.

Please join with us in signing the D.C. Declaration. Whether you are here in Washington, D.C. or participating in a Hub or engaging in the conference online, we need your voice. Long after AIDS 2012, the declaration will remain our collective call for the action needed to begin to end the AIDS epidemic.

This week, as we nurture our hope and confront the challenges ahead, we stand with millions around the world at a pivotal moment in the history of AIDS and declare that we are committed to Turning the Tide Together.
Sunday Programme Highlights

Rethinking the Role of Social Sciences in the Context of HIV/AIDS
Location: Session Room 6, 9:00–11:00
Social and biomedical scientists will identify theories of behavior change that may be applicable to HIV prevention and facilitate innovative approaches that target vulnerable communities.

New Frontiers in HIV Research
Location: Session Room 6, 11:15–13:15
An examination of the key HIV research challenges ahead with presentations from NIH research leaders, a panel discussion, and Q&A.

The Strategic Use of Antiretrovirals - Bringing HIV Prevention and Treatment Together
Location: Session Room 6, 13:30–15:30
Session will discuss new and evolving guidelines related to the use of antiretrovirals for treatment and prevention, in light of recent research results demonstrating their role in prevention.

No "Getting to Zero" Without Scale-Up of Stigma Reduction
Location: Session Room 8, 13:30–15:30
Session will focus on the need to scale-up interventions to reduce stigma and discrimination in order to improve access and retention in prevention, care and treatment programs; improve the lives of people living with and affected by HIV; uphold human rights; and maximize investments.

Opening Session Programme
19:00 in Session Room 1, Level Two

17:30 Doors open
18:00 Cultural Programme begins
Presentation of inaugural amfAR/IAS

19:00 Opening Convocation
Rev. Charles Straight, United States

19:05 AIDS 2012 Co-Chairs' Welcome
Elly Katsebira, Uganda
Diane Havlir, United States

19:15 Welcome to Washington, D.C.
Vincent Gray, Mayor of Washington, D.C.

19:20 Time for Accountability
Annah Sango, Zimbabwe

19:30 Ending AIDS and Poverty
Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank Group

19:40 Our Journey to Zero: A New Era to Leverage Opportunities and Share Responsibility
Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS

19:50 Video Address
Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations

20:00 Beginning of the End of AIDS
Congresswoman Barbara Lee, United States

20:05 Ambassador Mark Dybul, United States

20:15 Kgalame Motlanthe, Deputy President, South Africa

20:25 Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, United States

Online Resources

Mobile App and Mobile Programme-at-a-Glance
For the first time, the International AIDS Conference has a mobile app, which works on iPhones, iPads and Androids. It includes the full Programme, abstracts, your personal itinerary, a venue map and an #AIDS2012 Twitter feed. Search for “AIDS 2012”.

The mobile online version of the full programme-at-a-glance is also available at pagmobile.aids2012.org and through a QR code on this bulletin.

Webcasting
Many AIDS 2012 sessions will be available for online viewing. Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) will webcast 50 plus sessions and interviews available at www.kff.org/aids2012 and accessible through their box on the AIDS 2012 homepage. The Opening and Closing Sessions and the Monday and Tuesday Plenary Sessions will be webcast live. Others will be tape-delayed and posted on the day of presentation.

A number of other sessions are being videotaped and made available on the Programme-at-a-Glance (PAG) on the AIDS 2012 website. Sessions available through the PAG and KFF are marked in their PAG listing with a icon. To see the full list of sessions available for online viewing, go to the “Sessions and Satellites” box in the PAG. Once on the page, check the box marked “Webcast” under “Recordings” and the sessions will appear. Click on the session for a link to the video recording or the KFF webcast once they are posted.

Internet Access
Free WiFi is available on all floors throughout the venue. Delegates can also get online for free in the two Internet Cafés. One is located in the Exhibition (Level Two, Hall D) and the other in the Hall C Exhibition (Lower Level). Both cafés offer a computer area where delegates can use a computer and a printer (for a limited time) and a laptop area equipped with power and Internet hook-ups (cabled and wireless) for those using their own laptops. The cafés are open Sunday, 22 July 12:00–18:30 and Monday, 23–Thursday, 26 July 10:00–18:00.

Join the Conversation
AIDS 2012 is blogging (http://blog.aids2012.org) with daily updates and guest posts. Find us on Facebook (/aids2012) for frequent updates and also follow the Youth Programme (/aids2010youth) page and share your thoughts, experiences, pictures and videos. Twitter (@aids2012) is already atwitter with comments, ideas, and feedback. Use and follow #AIDS2012, #TurningTheTideTogether, #DCdeclaration, and #GlobalVillage. Join the conversation!

Announcements

Arrive on Time: Morning Plenary Sessions
All morning plenary sessions start at 8:40 in Session Room 1. Arrive by 8:30 on Monday, Tuesday and Friday for award presentations.

Positive Lounge
Located on the Street Level, Rooms 143 A-C and 144 A-C, the Positive Lounge is designed as a place of rest, support and networking for HIV-positive delegates only.

Overflow and Alternate Viewing Sites
Overflow viewing of the Opening Session will be available at the Global Village Main Stage and Session Rooms 2-4. Registered media can view in the Media Centre.

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