

Press release

UNAIDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. PETER PIOT PRAISES PRIME MINISTER BERTIE AHERN AND THE IRISH PEOPLE FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN THE AIDS RESPONSE

At the UN General Assembly 2006 High Level Meeting on AIDS, UNAIDS Executive Director recognizes Ireland's increasing contribution to global AIDS efforts

New York, 1 June 2006 – UNAIDS Executive Director Dr. Peter Piot met today with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, as both attended the United Nations High Level Meeting on AIDS in New York. UNAIDS released the following statement from Dr. Piot on the occasion:

“As someone who travels the world encouraging governments to do more and give more generously to the global AIDS response, I am deeply appreciative of the leadership of Prime Minister Ahern and the Irish people against this terrible epidemic.

With the doubling of its core contribution to UNAIDS to €6 million, which is part of increased funding to a range of other measures in the fight against AIDS, the Irish State has taken on the kind of leadership role that will help to bring us closer to the goal of a world without AIDS.

Ireland is also moving into a five year strategic cooperation agreement with UNAIDS that will help ensure long-term sustainability, as well as increase the predictability of resources available for the AIDS response. This type of support is critical as we work to promote a more long-term, strategic and sustainable response to AIDS.

The prominent position that the response to HIV and AIDS has in the overall development policy of Irish Aid is a model for other donors. We appreciate Ireland's leadership, and look forward to expanding and deepening the collaboration between UNAIDS and Irish Aid in the global effort to halt and reverse this devastating epidemic.”

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Contact

Jonathan Rich | UNAIDS New York | cell. +1 917 650 5697 | jr@jrichconsulting.com

Sophie Barton-Knott | UNAIDS New York | cell. +1 917 379 6948 | bartonknotts@unaids.org

Dominique de Santis | UNAIDS Geneva | tel. +41 22 791 4509 | desantis@unaids.org