



United Nations Press Release

International HIV/AIDS Cartoon Exhibit to Open at the United Nations on World AIDS Day, 1 December

New York, 27 November: The United Nations will host an exhibit of 300 cartoons on the subject of HIV and AIDS, contributed by 50 graphic artists from around the world, starting from 1 December – World Aids Day -- until 9 January 2007. The cartoons, grouped into the themes of prevention, treatment and human rights, represent a unique artistic reflection on the HIV/AIDS epidemic and create a vibrant mosaic that enables the audience to approach this serious subject through the lens of humour and art.

The cartoon exhibit, called "*Drawing IT Out*", will be hosted in the General Assembly Visitor's Lobby at United Nations Headquarters, New York. It is the only exhibit of its kind, promoting awareness and discussion, and providing a comprehensive perspective of the global AIDS pandemic.

The exhibit is comprised of 300 cartoons by graphic artists from 50 countries, including Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Croatia, Cuba, France, Israel, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Serbia, Spain, South Africa, Turkey, Uruguay and the United States. The International HIV/AIDS Cartoon Exhibit originated in 2004, when the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Memorial Institute of Graphic Arts first used the art of cartooning to de-stigmatize HIV/AIDS. The exhibit was also presented in Mexico in 2005.

The cartoon exhibit at the UN is sponsored by the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the *International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR)*, in partnership with the Brazilian Ministry of Health. IPPF/WHR has brought these cartoons to New York to further promote their poignant messages about prevention, treatment and human rights and increase awareness of the presence of the disease in Latin America and the Caribbean. The UN viewing marks the fourth and final appearance this year of the exhibit, which was previously hosted at the premises of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the Hostos College Center for the Arts and Culture, and IPPF/WHR earlier this fall.

"By disseminating important messages on AIDS in a form that is understood almost universally, the cartoon exhibition is responding to a call made in the 2006 Political Declaration on AIDS to make HIV/AIDS information more accessible," said Bunmi Makinwa, Director of the UNAIDS New York Office.

Co-sponsors of the exhibit developed this multi-venue strategy to reach the most diverse audience possible. Organizers are projecting a total viewership of 125,000 for all venues, including the thousands of daily visitors to the United Nations.

The "*Drawing IT Out*" exhibit at the United Nations will be open to the public through 9 January 2007. For more information visit www.ippfwhr.org.

Media Contacts:

Newton Kanhema, UN Department of Public Information, tel +1 212 963 5602, kanhema@un.org and Franck Kuwonu, tel +1 212 963 8264, kuwonu@un.org