



Press release

PAN CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST AIDS SELECTED AS INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE

12 December 2004, Montego Bay, Jamaica – The Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP) will be officially designated an “international best practice” by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) during a press launch of the joint CARICOM/UNAIDS Secretariats’ publication: ***Common Goals, Shared Responses: A Case Study on the Pan-Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP)***. The launch will be held in the Montego Room of the Half Moon Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 13 December, at 5 pm.

PANCAP is the umbrella mechanism which brings together key partners to accelerate the response against the spread of AIDS in the Caribbean and holds the distinction of being one of the first multisectoral, multi-level regional AIDS partnerships in the world.

In its response to AIDS in its three years of existence, PANCAP’s achievements include: political mobilization at the highest levels; significant new international resource mobilization; global visibility for the region in putting the issue on the international agenda and an expanded and strengthened response to AIDS with the inclusion of more than 70 institutions in its membership.

The Caribbean is the second worst-affected region by AIDS after sub-Saharan Africa. According to UNAIDS estimates, 440,000 people are living with HIV in the Caribbean, and AIDS has become the leading cause of death among adults aged 15-44. The rate of infection among women is also rising steadily, hence this year’s World AIDS Day focus on women and girls.

As in other regions of the world, the epidemic is more than a health issue – it is an unprecedented threat to the social and economic development of the Caribbean. “As in other regions of the world, the epidemic is more than a health problem – it is an unprecedented threat to social and economic development,” said Dr Peter Piot, UNAIDS Executive Director. “As a result of PANCAP’s work, we are one step closer to mitigating the social and economic impact of AIDS in the region.”

The launch will be chaired by Sir George Alleyne, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean Region and presentations will be made by the Hon. Owen Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados, the Hon. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Dr Peter Piot of UNAIDS; and Dr. Edward Greene, Assistant Secretary-General, Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat.

Dr. Hon. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis and Ms. Yolanda Simon, Coordinator, Caribbean Regional Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (CRN+) will make video remarks.

The PANCAP case study can be accessed on the UNAIDS website: www.unaids.org.

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