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Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/S AC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

"JUST KNOW" Campaign emphasizes" MA YEM, MA BO":

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

"Health before Wealth" Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands (hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicin

"Women's economic autonomy" through our Scholarship Programme. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

The opening session was addressed by video messages from the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as well as direct messages of Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the UNODC and Dr. Viroj Sumyai, President of the INCB. They highlighted the important role of the Commission in bringing the world together with political commitment, expertise and experience for reinforcing international drug control conventions and human rights obligations and working towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Commission adopted 10 resolutions on issues including:

- 1) Protecting children from the illicit drug challenge and strengthening efforts to prevent drug abuse in educational settings;
- 2) Strengthening international and regional cooperation and domestic efforts to address the international threats posed by the non-medical use of synthetic opioids;
- 3) Promoting measures for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C and syphilis among female drug users;
- 4) Promoting the implementation of the electronic International Import and Export Authorization System for licit trade in narcotic drugs;
- 5) Promoting the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related commitments;
- 6) Addressing the specific needs of the most vulnerable members of society in response to the world drug problem; and
- 7) Promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes to ensure the availability and delivery of health care and social services for drug users.

There were close to 100 SIDE EVENTS. The one closer to AAA activities was:

HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use stimulants:

This side event demonstrated that UNODC was the UNAIDS convening agency for HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs. Together with national and international partners, UNODC supports countries in their efforts towards ending AIDS by 2030 in a three-pronged approach: Advocacy (supporting reform, development and implementation of effective legislation and policies to facilitate access to evidence-informed HIV services); Reducing stigma, discrimination and promoting human rights approaches to drug use and HIV; Technical assistance (supporting the development of evidence-informed gender- and age-responsive strategies and programmes) and Partnerships (multisectoral alliances between drug control, justice and law enforcement and health and civil society organizations). Research found out that people who use drugs have multiple vulnerabilities to HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis and other infectious diseases. It has also shown that countries that have adopted a human-rights based, gender-responsive and health-oriented approach to drug use, including harm reduction for HIV, are delivering better health outcomes to injecting drug users.

For more information please visit WEBSITES: www.unodc.org; www.vngoc.org; <http://mp.vngoc.org>

Reported by Dr. Herta P. Kaschitz-Wuestenhagen, Representative of AAA to the United Nations, Vienna



Contacts: www.africanactiononids.org - www.facebook.com/africanactiononids

HONG-KONG	USA	Europe	Cameroon
Vivek Aranha AAA Representative in Asia Unit 103, 7 May Road, May Towers one, Mid-levels HONG-KONG y_aranha2000@yahoo.com	Laraine Lippe Vice Chairman AAA Board of Directors P.O. Box 1680 New York, NY 10163- 1680 E-Mail: ljlippe@aol.com	Herta P. Kaschitz- Wuestenhagen AAA Representative in Vienna Schottenfeldgasse 20/9 - 1070 Vienna, Austria E-Mail: hpkaschitz@aol.com	Ruth Bamela Engo President AAA B.P. 4340, Yaoundé Cameroon ruthengoaaa@gmail.com