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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/SD LP/SAC). 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:

- 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.

HIV/AIDS: TEST and TREAT

Strengthening the Means of Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring an **AIDS-Free generation by 2030** is part of important debates taking place around the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Friday the 25th of September was the day the Pope spoke at the UN. At 1:15 the same day, there was a programme organized by the Nigerian Mission to the UN on: **"Strengthening the Means of Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring an AIDS-Free generation by 2030: Elimination of mother-to-child transmission as an imperative for Nigeria"**. The programme was chaired by H.E. MUHAMMADU BUHARI, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria himself. The debate led to the following commitments:

AIDS free generation by 2030, Nigeria is committed to:

- Increase domestic funding to achieve a fully funded AIDS response
- Fully operationalize 90-90-90 strategy to eliminate progression to AIDS, premature death and HIV transmission
- Ensure comprehensive combination prevention of all populations
- Expand HIV consulting and Testing (HCT) antiretroviral Treatment (ART) and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) service points
- Address barriers to access HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services
- To pursue a policy of local manufacture of essential commodities (antiretroviral drug, HIV test kits and condoms);

Connecting debates and commitments around the world on this important Global Goal, we would like to draw your attention on two key points:

a) AAA salutes the Nigerian commitment, especially when it pertains to pursuing a policy of local manufacture of essential commodities like condoms and HIV test kits.

b) On an article of The New York Times issue of 5th October 2015. In this article, it is reported that the **World Health Organization** just issued new guidelines for the treatment and prevention of HIV in which the agency called on the rest of the world to do much of what San Francisco is already doing: **Every HIV patient should start antiretroviral drugs as soon as they test positive rather than waiting for measures of immune system strength to drop, the agency said, and everyone at risk of infection should be offered preventive drugs. San Francisco adopted the test and treat practice 5 years ago.** The results, we learn, have been striking: In 2014 only 302 new HIV diagnoses, the lowest recorded number. In 1992, the epidemic's peak, there were 2,332 diagnosed positive with 1,641 deaths from AIDS. And the New York Times to conclude "...If the city that was once the epidemic's ground zero keeps doing what they are doing...they will be successful at ending the epidemic as we know it. **And then there's no excuse for everyone not doing it.**



Ruth Bamela Engo, President AAA - based on report from Huguette Streuli and Yoko Komori Olson - AAA UN Representatives

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