



### 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/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** 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 a video message from Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, the World Health Organization as well as direct messages, including the opening statement of Ms. Ghada Waly, the new Executive Director of UNODC, that underscored the role of the Commission as the world's central policy-making body on drug matters in driving action by UNODC to support Member States with a direct and real impact on the lives of people everywhere. In her closing statement, she said that in the 75<sup>th</sup> year of the United Nations and at the start for the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals we needed to do all we could to elevate support to developing countries to address the global drug challenges.

**The Commission adopted 5 resolutions** on issues including:

- 1) Partnerships with the private sector in efforts to combat the world drug problem;
- 2) Promoting and improving the collection and analysis of data to strengthen evidence-based responses to the world drug problem;
- 3) Promoting education and training to ensure access to, and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes;
- 4) Promoting the involvement of youth in drug prevention efforts;
- 5) Promoting alternative development approached to illegal crop cultivation.

**The Side Events:** One of the more than 100 side events we particularly focused on was: **Beyond 2019: African civil society common position on drugs:** This event launched the Africa Civil Society Common Position on Drugs, which was developed in response to the 2019 Ministerial Segment and has been signed now by 96 African civil society organizations (including

**African Action on AIDS**). The document incorporates the perspectives of a wide range of NGOs from across the African continent and aims to guide African civil society in their work to implement the African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control together with their Governments. One speaker drew attention to the fact that *in Africa people were incarcerated for use of cannabis, which is a traditional medicine. He would like to see a common position on the use of cannabis.* Besides this reaction, AAA was comforted by the following declaration of the African Union's Director of the Department of Social Affairs underlining that: **"the Agenda 2063 could not be achieved without civil society organizations, because they played a key role in education, prevention and harm reduction. She added that civil society organizations should capitalize on the young people and on finding alternatives to punishment."**

**Report by Herta Kaschitz-Wüstenhagen and Lilly Sucharipa, Representatives of AAA to the United Nations, Vienna**

For more information WEBSITES: [www.unodc.org/](http://www.unodc.org/) [www.vngoc.org](http://www.vngoc.org)  
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