



Media advisory

**REPORT EMBARGOED UNTIL
23 NOVEMBER 2004, 12.00 GMT**

Press conference: Tuesday, 23 November 2004

UNAIDS to release new Global AIDS Epidemic Update report for World AIDS Day

Global Number of People Living with HIV Reaches Highest Level Ever

UNAIDS will present data from the new UNAIDS/WHO report, *AIDS epidemic Update 2004*, highlighting the global and regional estimates on AIDS and new trends in the epidemic's evolution. There will be a special focus on women, girls, HIV and AIDS — the theme of the World AIDS Campaign 2004 (including World AIDS Day – 1 December).

Key findings of the new report will be discussed including:

- Prevention programmes urgently needed for women and girls to slow spread of AIDS
- The number of women living with HIV has risen in every region over past two years
- Diverse epidemics are underway in various regions, some still in early stages
- Epidemics growing rapidly in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and East Asia—mainly driven by injection drug use and unsafe sex

Location: European Commission, Berlaymont building, main press room; accredited journalists only.

Time: **08:45 LOCAL TIME**

Speakers: Hosted by Development Commissioner Louis Michel with Dr Peter Piot, Executive Director, UNAIDS

Embargo: Information from the *AIDS Epidemic Update 2004* is embargoed until 23 November at 12.00 GMT / 13:00 Brussels local time.

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UNAIDS is the leading advocate for worldwide action against AIDS, bringing together ten United Nations organizations. It leads, strengthens and supports an expanded response to the epidemic that will prevent the spread of HIV, provide care and support for those infected and affected by the disease, reduce the vulnerability of individuals and communities to AIDS, and alleviate the impact of the epidemic. www.unaids.org.