

**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL
23 NOVEMBER 2004, 1200 GMT**

Press conference (under embargo): Monday, 22 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 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).

Participants will discuss key findings of the new report 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: Press conference room, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 9th Floor
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8916, Japan

Time: 2:00 PM (local time in Tokyo)

Speakers: Dr Paul De Lay, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNAIDS
Dr Soichi Koike, Senior Adviser, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNAIDS
English-Japanese interpretation will be provided

Embargo: **Information from the *AIDS Epidemic Update 2004* is embargoed until 23 November at 12.00 GMT** (Print journalists: This report may be used in newspapers on Wednesday, 24 November)

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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.