

AIDS PHILANTHROPIST APPOINTED AS SPECIAL ENVOY OF UNAIDS

Geneva, 7 December 2004 -- UNAIDS is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Mero Kececioglu-Kylicas as Special Envoy of UNAIDS.

Mero Kececioglu-Kylicas is the President of Greek Action for Africa, a non-profit organisation which is involved in improving health care availability in Africa. Since 1980, Greek Action for Africa has started several hospitals, strengthened health centers and supported development programmes aimed at employment generation for young people. She is also currently the Consul of Côte d'Ivoire in Greece.

Through her work with Greek Action for Africa, Mrs Kececioglu-Kylicas has been instrumental in resource mobilization for the various initiatives supported by the organisation. Through charity events held in London, Athens, New York and Paris she has raised money to support community projects both in Ethiopia and in Tanzania. Her work on empowerment of women and supporting children affected by AIDS is noteworthy. In addition, she has played a major role in supporting institutions dealing with the Buruli disease.

“Mrs Kececioglu-Kylicas is an outstanding advocate for HIV and AIDS issues. As Special Envoy of UNAIDS, she will play a major role in raising public opinion in Europe about the scale and magnitude of the epidemic”, said Dr Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS.

For more information, please contact Annemarie Hou, UNAIDS, Geneva, (+41 22) 791 4577, or Dominique De Santis, UNAIDS, Geneva, (+41 22) 791 4509. You may also visit the UNAIDS website, www.unaids.org, for more information.