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AIDS 2006

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**The XVI International Conference on AIDS
Toronto, Canada, 13-18 August 2006**

Satellite Session

**Solutions to Poverty, Inequality and AIDS:
The Economic and Social Empowerment of People living with HIV and AIDS**

Organisers: UNAIDS and ILO

Time: Tuesday 15 August, 18:00 – 20:00

Venue: Session Room 7

HIV/AIDS is frequently both a cause and an outcome of poverty. It takes hold where livelihoods are unsustainable and seriously impacts social and economic conditions. The loss of skilled workers and managers undermine the capacity of nations to deliver essential goods and services, including those needed for a comprehensive response to the epidemic and for achieving universal access to treatment, care and prevention. The challenge is to ensure that persons living with AIDS have decent work and skill development, ensuring a labour supply and productivity. This session will explore practical and innovative mechanisms for the social and economic empowerment of persons living with HIV and AIDS. These include:

- ensuring that the poor and marginalized have access to prevention, care, treatment, and mitigation measures
- building skills and capacity of PLWAs and their families to participate in the formal and informal workplace
- negotiating credit to enable these families to establish home or community-based enterprises
- strengthening advocacy and public policy dialogue on HIV and employment at the municipal and state level
- building partnerships with local government, banking/private sector institutions and civil society
- using trade and foreign direct investment as a mobiliser of action
- strengthening the power of prevention with positives

Co-chairs:

Paul De lay, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNAIDS

Sophia Kisting, Director, ILO Global Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work (ILO/AIDS)

Vinod Thomas, Director-General for the Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank
Empowering the poor and marginalized for prevention, care, and mitigation

Sir Roy Trotman, Secretary-General, Barbados Workers' Union
Addressing poverty and HIV/AIDS through decent work programme

Carlos Passarelli, Director, International Center for Technical Cooperation (ICTC), Brazil
Beyond corporate social responsibility: What businesses should do

James Laing, Director, africapractice
Foreign direct investment, trade and AIDS

Elizabeth Gordon Dudu, HIV/AIDS Technical Adviser, UNDP, South Africa
Creating job opportunities for the HIV+

Closing remarks:

Dr. Purnima Mane, Director, Policy, Evidence and Partnerships, UNAIDS