



**PROSPECTS FOR AFRICA –
EUROPE'S POLICIES**

The EU Presidency Project of VENRO

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:
RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENTS & CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST
HIV AND AIDS IN AFRICA – THE WAY FORWARD TO 2015**

Wednesday, **23rd May 2007**, 1.30 pm - 10.00 pm

Thursday, **24th May 2007**, 9.00 am – 5.30 pm

Venue:

Deutsche Welle

Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 3

53113 Bonn

Germany

www.dw-world.de

Organizers

„action medeor“ in co-operation with Action against AIDS Germany, Behinderung und Zusammenarbeit (bezev), Brot für die Welt (BfdW), CARE Germany, Deutsche Lepra und Tuberkulose Hilfe (DAHW), Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED), Plan International Deutschland e.V., terre des hommes Germany (tdh) and World Vision.

The Conference focuses on the global response to HIV/AIDS in Africa, with particular emphasis to the German and EU response. It is part of the VENRO EU Presidency Project “Prospects for Africa - Europe`s Policies”.

Objectives

The International Conference takes place within the context of the German EU Presidency as well as the presidency of the G8. In the light of this, the objective of this conference is to discuss achievements and plans of governments in relation to HIV and AIDS. The Conference will seek to review German policy on HIV and AIDS during its EU presidency and draw up a list of demands for German political leaders on the eve of the G8 summit.

The Helsinki-Conference on Coherence (Finnish NRO-platform KEHYS) of October 2006 formulated an NGO position vis-à-vis EU policies. This conference takes account of the recommendations of the Helsinki Conference related to HIV and AIDS. This conference also draws on the “Manifesto” of VENRO (Association of German non-governmental development organisations). The “Manifesto” was formulated in November 2006 by a wide variety of African and German NGOs and sets out demands for the German EU Presidency on various development issues, one of them being HIV and AIDS. The results of this conference will constitute a basis for further NGO work for the Portuguese EU Presidency in the second half of 2007.

Scope and background

As one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) the United Nations leaders committed themselves „to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS by 2015“. In 2005 the G8 leaders obligated themselves to “Universal Access to treatment by 2010 to reverse the spread of HIV“. Later in 2005, at the UN World Summit leaders expanded the goals of Universal Access to include not just treatment, but prevention, care and support and the European Union committed itself to tackle the AIDS pandemic in a comprehensive and integrated way.

Now, there are merely three years left to achieve Universal Access and already half the time has passed towards achieving the MDGs by 2015. At the end of 2006 the German government announced that HIV and AIDS will be a priority for the German EU Presidency and that Universal Access will be on the agenda for the G8 Summit to take place in Heiligendamm (Germany) in June 2007.

Global responsibility and accountability are key factors in the fight against HIV and AIDS: Only if all stakeholders, i.e. political leaders, civil society and communities live up to their responsibilities and work together, the fight against HIV and AIDS will have the necessary scope and momentum so that the spread of HIV and AIDS and its negative social impact can be reversed.

A coherent approach to addressing HIV and AIDS has to cover the different dimensions of “Universal Access”: Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support. Sustainable financing is a key issue in this respect. This International Conference will address the various dimensions of Universal Access in their connection to sustainable political commitment and financing.

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Up-to-date information:

www.prospects-for-africa.de

Catering fee (participants of EU-NGOs): 20 EUR

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The conference takes place in co-operation with:

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