

Media Advisory

December 1st, World AIDS Day in Montenegro

What: The Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare of Montenegro (MHLSW), the Institute of Public Health, representatives of the United Nations System in Montenegro and NGO CAZAS as representative of the NGO sector in Montenegro are jointly organizing a media conference to mark World AIDS Day.

Speakers at the conference will be:

Doc. Dr Miodrag Radunović, Minister of Health, Labour and Social Welfare, President of the Country
Coordinating Mechanism

Ms. Noala Skinner, Chair of the UN Theme Group for HIV/AIDS

Dr Boban Mugoša, Director of Institute for Public Health, Vice President of the Country Coordinating Mechanism

Dr Mišo Pejkočić, Executive Director of the NGO CAZAS

When: 1 December 2008, (Monday) at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Government Press Bureau, Jovana Tomaševića bb, Podgorica

Note: Media outlets interested in covering this event should forward their credential requests with names of journalists, cameramen, and photo-reporters to the Government PR Bureau, via phone: +382 20 242 566

World AIDS Day will be marked this year through promotion of the theme **“STOP AIDS. Keep the promise. Take the Lead”**. Since the beginning of the epidemic, experience has clearly demonstrated that significant advances in the response to HIV/AIDS have been achieved where there is a strong and committed leadership. Leaders are distinguished by their action, innovation and vision, their personal example and engagement of others. However, leadership should be demonstrated at every level of society - in families, communities, countries and internationally.

The United Nations Theme Group (UN TG) on HIV/AIDS was established in Montenegro in July 2006 and since then has been contributing to the unified national response to HIV/AIDS through its UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Funds (PAF). The UN TG supported the preparation of the Report of the Universal access plan and Mid-Term Review on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy in Montenegro. This Report recognizes the areas of the highest achievements and points out the areas where activities should be intensified and improved, with an aim to give guidelines on how to make a stronger response to this disease.

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The United Nations Theme Group (UN TG) on HIV/AIDS is comprised of **UNDP** (United Nations Development Programme), **UNHCR** (The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), **UNICEF** (The United Nations Children's Fund), **WHO** (World Health Organization), and **IOM** (International Organization for Migration), the invited member of the UN Country Team in Montenegro.

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