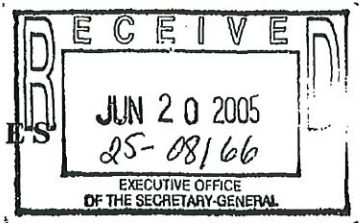


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CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE UNATIONS NEWYORK

H. Zlotnik
Central
16 June 2005

REFERENCE:

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Please find enclosed a copy of two new publications on HIV/AIDS issued by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The first is the wall chart entitled *Population and HIV/AIDS 2005* presenting the latest available data and information on HIV/AIDS for all countries and regions of the world, with emphasis on government policies and programmes for the prevention of the disease and for the treatment, care and support of persons affected by it.

The second is the report entitled *Population, Development and HIV/AIDS, with Particular Emphasis on Poverty*. This report provides a comprehensive look at the factors underlying the spread of HIV, the social and economic impact of the epidemic, the ways in which the disease affects and is affected by demographic dynamics (population growth, mortality, fertility and migration), and the response of Governments and the international community to HIV/AIDS.

These publications show that, despite the progress made in the introduction of comprehensive strategies to prevent the spread of HIV by raising awareness and promoting the avoidance of risky behaviour, national and international responses remain inadequate to address the severity of the epidemic. Although AIDS affects both the rich and the poor, the hardest hit countries are among the poorest in the world and have the lowest levels of national health expenditure. The prevalence of HIV in the least developed countries is nine times that in the more developed regions. The most effective approach to thwarting the epidemic is to implement a combination of strategies that reduce risk, diminish vulnerability and mitigate the negative impact of the disease.

These publications provided an essential backdrop to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held on 2 June 2005, which reviewed national and international responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic four years after the adoption of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

We hope you may find these publications useful and informative.

Yours sincerely

Hania Zlotnik

Hania Zlotnik
Director
Population Division/DESA

Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations, New York

