



## **UN SYSTEM POSITION WITH REGARDS TO AIDS TREATMENT IN THE GAMBIA**

The UN system in the Gambia takes note of the announcement by His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Gambia, concerning a cure and new treatment for AIDS in the Gambia.

To date, no cure for AIDS has been announced internationally. Once a person has been infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), he or she remains infected for life. However, anti-retroviral treatment prolongs life and improves the quality of life of people diagnosed with AIDS. Such treatments have been approved by the WHO and UNAIDS and are being supported by the Global Fund, amongst others.

WHO supports the research and development of both modern and traditional medicine and work to ascertain their efficacy in the treatment of HIV-related illness in its member countries.

The UN System would like to recommend that the effects of the recently announced treatment for AIDS in the Gambia be assessed by an international team of experts. WHO and UNAIDS would be willing to facilitate such a process which would help determine whether this treatment has the potential to benefit the whole of humanity.

The UN System encourages all patients currently receiving anti-retroviral treatment to continue to comply with their recommended treatment regimens while the efficacy of the new treatment is being assessed.

UN Resident Coordinator's Office  
The Gambia  
9 February 2007