

Side Event: **Ending AIDS by 2030: The 90-90-90 Target as a platform for sound investments, social entrepreneurship and economic development**

Cosponsors: **UNAIDS, Republic of South Africa, UNECA, AUC, Diagnostics Access Initiative**

29 March 2015, 6.30 – 8.30pm, Sheraton Addis, Ethiopia

Despite recent appreciable gains against HIV/AIDS in Africa, the battle is far from being over. Not surprisingly, *Ending the AIDS Epidemic* is a key priority for the African Continent that has been clearly articulated at the highest level by Heads of State and Government, including at the ‘Abuja + 12’ Special Summit and in the ‘Common African Position for the Post-2015 Development Agenda’. To *End AIDS*, more bold and targeted policy responses and strategies are needed at global, regional and national levels. Against this background, the UNAIDS in partnership with the ECA, Republic of South Africa, AUC, and the Diagnostics Access Initiative will host a side event during the forthcoming 8th AUC and ECA Joint Annual Meetings for African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development whose theme is “Implementing Agenda 2063: Planning, Mobilizing and Financing for Development”.

The side event “Ending AIDS by 2030: *The 90-90-90 Target as a platform for social entrepreneurship and economic development*” will bring together high-level personalities from the AUC, Member States, UNAIDS, PEPFAR, Clinton Health Access Initiative, Global Fund, AfDB, among other stakeholders to tackle three interrelated broad objectives of:

1. Increasing awareness of the investment case for Ending AIDS by 2030 and accelerated HIV treatment scale-up towards the 90-90-90 target;
2. Exploring how scale-up towards the 90-90-90 target can strengthen national industrial development, galvanize local manufacturing and enhance opportunities for social entrepreneurship;
3. Sharing the experience of the global agreement on viral load test price reduction and examine how it can be leveraged to accelerate treatment scale-up and generate further economic returns.

The expected outcomes of the event include an expressed commitment of the member states to invest in achieving the 90-90-90 target and Ending AIDS by 2030; concrete planning for leveraging viral load price reduction for drugs and other commodities for health; a set of recommendations to be tabled to the Ministers of Finance meeting on investments to end AIDS and resulting opportunities in trade and industrialization for the continent.

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