



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH BRIEFING SESSION

Friday, 25 March 2011  
1.15 - 2.30 p.m.

*North Lawn Building, United Nations Headquarters  
Conference Room 6*

#### Youth and HIV/AIDS

The UN Programme on Youth is hosting a briefing session on youth and HIV/AIDS. The AIDS epidemic poses one of the most formidable challenges to the world at large. In 2008, young people accounted for 40 per cent of all new HIV infections in people aged 15 years and older.

Please join our panel in discussing the role young people play in HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and management as well as the role of the United Nations in supporting young people and halting the spread of HIV infections.

- **Mr. Pierre Robert**, Adolescent and Health Specialist, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- **Mr. Allen Frimpong**, Youth R.I.S.E
- **Ms. Mary Otieno**, Senior Technical Advisor, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- **Mr. Jean Claude Dusingize**, former volunteer, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/Aids

Of the 33.4 million people living with HIV around the world, 4.9 million are between the ages of 15 and 24. In countries with concentrated epidemics, programmes and resources must focus on youth who engage in risky behaviours, including injecting drugs, selling sex and men having sex with men. In countries with generalised epidemics, where the general population is at risk, all vulnerable young people, particularly young women, need to be targeted. Evidence shows that sex education helps to contain the spread of HIV and that young people themselves play an active and crucial role in curbing the epidemic. This briefing session aims to explore the impact HIV/AIDS can have on the lives of youth as well as the way young people can, and are, actively contributing to awareness-raising, prevention and management of HIV.

The UN Programme on Youth has organized this session as one of a series held to celebrate the International Year of Youth (2010-2011) under the theme "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding". For more information, contact: Ms Elizabeth Niland at [nilande@un.org](mailto:nilande@un.org)

