

NIGEL FISHER, PRESIDENT & CEO OF UNICEF CANADA AND ALISON LAWTON, CHAIR OF THE UNITE FOR CHILDREN. UNITE AGAINST AIDS CAMPAIGN

TORONTO (November 3, 2006) -- In anticipation of World AIDS Day, Nigel Fisher, President & CEO of UNICEF Canada and Alison E. Lawton, Venture Philanthropist & Chair of UNICEF's Unite for Children. Unite Against AIDS campaign, are in Africa to witness, first-hand, the progress of UNICEF's work to elevate the status of children on the global AIDS agenda.

According to Fisher, funding for HIV/AIDS programmes has increased but children have been largely missing from the picture of this global pandemic. Children affected by HIV/AIDS are missing from government policies, programmes and reports, funding priorities, pharmaceutical priorities, private sector programmes, media coverage and most importantly, from the public consciousness.

UNICEF's Unite for Children. Unite against AIDS campaign identifies four key priorities to mitigate the worst effect of HIV/ AIDS on children: prevent mother-to-child transmission; provide paediatric treatment; prevent infection among adolescents through education and life-skills; and protect, care for and support orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS. "This campaign provides a child-focused framework for holding the world to its promises while accelerating a faster and stronger response to help children globally", says Fisher.

The week-long visit encompasses four African nations (South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi and Kenya). They will see youth prevention programmes in action that will include: paediatric hospitals, youth friendly health services, counselling centres, interactive community youth theatre, and child-to-child radio programmes. They will also visit paediatric HIV clinics, prevention of mother-to-child transmission clinics and child care centres caring for children orphaned by AIDS. In conjunction with her work with UNITAID, Ms. Lawton will also visit Clinton Foundation programmes in the four African nations.