



**UNAIDS**  
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNHCR  
UNICEF  
WFP  
UNDP  
UNFPA  
UNODC  
ILO  
UNESCO  
WHO  
WORLD BANK

*Executive Director*

Reference: EXO/2010/160

Mr Mark Heywood  
Executive Director  
AIDS Law Project  
PO Box 32361  
Braamfontein 2017  
South Africa

5 May 2010

Dear Mark and friends,

As you gather to celebrate the establishment of Section 27, I wish to salute the extraordinary contribution of the AIDS Law Project to the HIV response in South Africa and globally, and express my strongest support to this initiative.

For almost two decades, the work of the AIDS Law Project has illustrated the profound importance of the law as a tool for delivering positive health outcomes to those on the margins of our societies. Through a skilful combination of activism, advocacy and litigation, the AIDS Law Project has contributed to safeguarding human dignity and advancing HIV-related human rights and jurisprudence in South Africa, and through out the world.

HIV highlights the deep inequities and injustices that characterize many societies. Your decision to expand the reach of your efforts to broader social and economic rights issues through Section 27 is a testimony to your commitment to transform society for the better.

UNAIDS is committed to advocating and pursuing an HIV response that integrates, benefits and advances all the Millennium Development Goals. Indeed, this is essential to ensure that the movement for universal access leverages progress on peoples' rights to food and water, education and social security.

I am confident that Section 27 will foster social and economic justice by addressing the underlying causes and consequences of inequity, prejudice and injustice in all aspects of public and private life.

I hope that by building on the experience of the AIDS Law Project, Section 27 will provide a further opportunity for experience sharing that would inspire current struggles for social and economic justice in other parts of the region and worldwide.

I wish you a productive meeting and all the very best to Section 27.

20 AVENUE APPIA  
1211 GENEVA 27  
SWITZERLAND

Tel +41 22 791 4722  
Fax +41 22 791 4179  
www.unaids.org

Yours sincerely,

  
Michel Sidibe

Uniting the world against **AIDS**