



**AIDS 2006**

*Time to Deliver • Passons aux actes*

Sunday, 13 August 2006

## **Statement of the XVI International AIDS Conference on Issues Related to On-site Registration and Check-in**

### **Delays**

The enthusiasm for AIDS 2006 has been tremendous. Due to an unexpectedly large number of delegates (15,000) registering on Saturday, including many eager to secure the limited on-site registrations, some delegates had long waits. The conference organizers apologize to those delegates inconvenienced by the registration delays. We understand that the waits were frustrating.

Organizers took a number of steps overnight to improve the flow of the registration process, including the addition of more registration desks. We look forward to welcoming delegates today for the start of AIDS 2006.

### **Letters of Invitation**

The International AIDS Conference has clear procedures for conference registrations. As outlined on the AIDS 2006 website, the conference provides an official Letter of Invitation for those who need one in order to obtain a visa. As stated on the website "The Letter of Invitation does not financially commit the Conference organizers in any way. All expenses incurred in relation to the Conference are the sole responsibility of the delegate. To receive a Letter of Invitation, delegates must first register for AIDS 2006 and submit payment in full."

Those with letters of invitation should be registered and paid in full. We are investigating the claim that several delegates with letters of invitation were turned away from the conference as the result of non-payment.

### **Forms of Payment**

The International AIDS Conference only accepts payment by credit card and bank transfers for pre-registration and credit cards and cash for on-site payment. No materials have indicated cheques or money orders as acceptable forms of payments. These forms of payment are not accepted because we are unable to verify the availability of such funds on-site.

### **Participation in AIDS 2006**

The International AIDS Conference regrets that it can not accommodate all of those who are interested in attending AIDS 2006. Conference organizers took two key steps to increase accessibility: lowering registration fees for all delegates, including a reduction of more than 30% for delegates from non-OECD countries, and increasing funding for international scholarships by more than 20%. Approximately 2,000 delegates received full or partial scholarships to attend.

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