

Media Advisory

Challenges facing access to ACT

WHAT: Press briefing by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the Permanent Delegation of the African Union on access to Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACT) - the most effective anti-malaria treatments available today.

This year, Africa Malaria Day calls on the entire malaria community to :

Get your ACT Together ! Universal Access to Effective Malaria Treatment is a Human Right.

WHY: To highlight the need to provide universal access to Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACT) as a human right and call for these treatments to reach those who need them as quickly as possible. ACT are especially needed in Africa where the incidence of malaria is greatest and deaths from malaria are at their highest.

The right to good health - the right to access ACT - requires changes in health policy and action plans which will lead to available and accessible health treatment for all in the shortest possible time. Equally, the right to access ACT depends on sustained financing in order to both encourage endemic countries to scale-up implementation of effective treatment policies and guarantee production of these medicines. The cost of estimated global ACT requirements far exceeds the current level of ACT financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) - currently the largest financier of ACT treatments - and other funding initiatives.

WHEN: Wednesday 19 April, 2006 at 2:00pm

WHERE: Le Club suisse de la presse

SPEAKERS:

- Prof. Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Executive Secretary, Roll Back Malaria Partnership, Geneva, Switzerland
- Madam K.R. Masri, Ambassador, Permanent Observer, Permanent Delegation of the African Union
- Representative of the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Geneva, Switzerland

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