



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Levels 20-21, Tower D, International Waterfront Centre, 1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago TEL: 627-1163

27 August, 2018

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE
HIV COMBINATION PREVENTION MEETING

Port-of-Spain: The Office of the Prime Minister, National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization is hosting a **HIV Combination Prevention Meeting** with national partners from 27th - 29th August, 2018.

The main objective of the meeting is to strengthen and enhance the national capacity to provide comprehensive HIV/STIs services for adults and adolescents. It is expected after the three days that the multi-stakeholder group will have:

1. a comprehensive understanding of the World Health Organization's recommendations for HIV combination prevention, and critical services for key populations.
2. knowledge of the HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) prevention services currently implemented in Trinidad and Tobago.
3. identified key innovative and appropriate interventions for HIV/STI, using innovative models of service delivery for adults, adolescents, vulnerable and key populations, based on the combination prevention approach.
4. documented the interventions which will be integrated into the draft National Strategic Plan On HIV/STIs; and
5. indicated the gaps and appropriate interventions to reach elimination status for HIV/STIs.

The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister in her feature address at the opening ceremony stated that ***“the empowerment of citizens to their sexual and reproductive health essentials, requires that we look at all the systems that need to be put in place to ensure that the policies, facilities, education, services and community support are available to prevent and control the spread of HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections”***. She emphasized that everyone has a part to play and that everyone can support the NACC to achieve its mandate to end AIDS by 2030 by reducing the population's susceptibility to HIV and AIDS”.

Dr. Eldonna Boisson, PAHO Country Representative stated that we know of the ambitious elimination goals for HIV/STI and that these goals require an accelerated response to HIV and STIs. She indicated that in order to achieve these goals, high-impact intervention, technologies and approaches were needed. She called for ***“focused actions tailored to the needs of those key population”***. Dr. Ayanna Sebro, Technical Director, NACC Secretariat in her address emphasized the need to ***“consider opportunities for the prevention of other sexual transmitted infections,***



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gender-based violence, poverty, social determinants and other matters that affect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago within one service. She noted that this type of integrative approach is one that will not only benefit the clients but will also improve the efficiency of services.

A special thanks to PAHO and all the other key stakeholders. The Office of the Prime Minister looks forward to continued partnership with all the participating stakeholders for improving the national response to HIV/AIDS. **#EndAIDSBy2030TT**.

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