



VIP Speaker Bios

Peter Piot, MD, PhD (*Switzerland*), *Executive Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)*

Dr. Peter Piot was appointed Executive Director of UNAIDS and Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1994. Dr. Piot joined UNAIDS from a position as Associate Director of the Global Programme on AIDS of the World Health Organization. Dr. Piot had previously served from 1980 to 1992 as Professor of Microbiology and Head of the Department of Infection and Immunity at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. During this period, he also launched and expanded a series of collaborative projects in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Tanzania and Zaire.

Dr. Piot was Associate Professor of Public Health at the Free University of Brussels from 1989 to 1992, and Associate Professor of Microbiology at the University of Nairobi from 1986 to 1987. In 1978-1979, he was Senior Fellow in infectious diseases at the University of Washington in Seattle. In 1976, he became co-discoverer of the Ebola virus. He served as the President of the International AIDS Society from 1991 to 1994.

Dr. Piot qualified as a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Ghent and received a Doctorate in Microbiology from the University of Antwerp. He has received many awards for scientific achievement and public service, and has published over 500 articles and 15 books. H.M. King Albert II of Belgium awarded him a baronetcy in 1995.

Jeannette Kagame (*Rwanda*), *First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda and President, Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA)*

Madame Jeannette Kagame has been the First Lady of Rwanda since April 2000. She returned to Rwanda in 1994 at the end of the war to the insurmountable horrors of the genocide and immersed herself in various associations that support vulnerable groups, in particular widows and orphans of the genocide, and children in difficult situations.

Madame Kagame is actively involved in mobilizing resources to support community-based projects for the prevention of HIV/AIDS among youth, women and children. In 2001, she hosted the first-ever gathering of the African First Ladies at the Kigali Summit on Children and HIV/AIDS Prevention. The Summit produced a decisive declaration outlining recommendations for each First Lady to undertake in her country, region and on the continent. In July 2001, in collaboration with national and international partners represented in Rwanda, Madame Kagame developed the national plan of action of the Kigali Declaration. Madame Kagame was also actively involved in the creation of OAFLA, a formal framework that enables the First Ladies from 40 African countries to join their efforts and lend their voices to the continuing fight against HIV/AIDS. In 2004, Madame Kagame was elected as President of organization for a two-year term.

Madame Kagame is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Financial Management.

