

## WHO consults Nigerian stakeholders on new Global Health Sector Strategy for HIV/AIDS



**Abuja: August 30 2010:** The Minister of Health, Prof Onyebuchi Chukwu said yesterday that he was pleased that Nigeria was being consulted by WHO as part of the development of its Global Health Sector Strategy for HIV/AIDS 2011-2015. Represented by Dr Balami, National Coordinator of the HIV/AIDS division, Federal Ministry of Health, welcomed the opportunity to ensure that national priorities as outlined in the NSHDP and the National Strategic Framework would be taken in to consideration.

The WHO representative Dr Peter Eriki, explaining the need for a new strategy said that the current WHO HIV/AIDS Universal Access Plan was developed to cover the period 2006-2010 and therefore is coming to an end. He also noted that the development was timely because of the changing HIV and health context and the need to incorporate lessons learned and new information that has come to light during the period. "The strategy will need to build on the achievements and experiences of the "3 by 5" initiative and will identify existing and agreed global targets to motivate countries to plan for bold HIV/AIDS responses through to 2015." He said.

The one-day consultation brought together a wide range of organisations and groups including donors and development partners, civil society and government ministries and agencies.

Prof John Idoko, Director General of National Agency for Control of AIDS, welcomed the initiative. Speaking through Dr Ibrahim Atta, Director, he commended WHO for its consensus building initiative.

The consultation process has already involved over 50 countries, and will continue through early October 2010. In addition, an on-line consultation is also being conducted to solicit input from a broad audience. Interested parties were asked to visit

[http://www.who.int/hiv/aboutdept/strategy\\_consultation/en/](http://www.who.int/hiv/aboutdept/strategy_consultation/en/) to register and contribute.

At the end of the meeting, the draft strategy document had significant input ranging from topics such as access to treatment and care for physically challenged people, to the uptake of family planning services and community health systems strengthening.

The final draft of the strategy will be submitted to the WHO Executive Board in January 2011.