NEW YORK, N.Y. – The third symposium in the United Nations University-Cornell Africa Series, sponsored by UNAIDS and the Turkish Mission to the United Nations, will bring together leading academic experts from around the globe – including many from Africa, the United Nations, international organizations and non-governmental organizations – to review the economic and social impacts of the HIV/AIDS, as well as strategies and opportunities to reverse the devastating consequences of the pandemic in Africa.

Experts will share their knowledge on the effect of HIV/AIDS on household incomes, migration patterns, the health care system, poverty and children and youth. In addition, the symposium will explore various opportunities for, and the effectiveness of, prevention and treatment options and how they are expected to affect individuals, communities and the economy as a whole.

According to the symposium’s organizer, David E. Sahn, International Professor of Economics in the Division of Nutritional Sciences and the Department of Economics at Cornell University, “this event will provide a unique opportunity for academics, policy makers and practitioners to identify actions to reduce the prevalence and adverse economic and social consequences of HIV/AIDS in Africa, as well as gaps in knowledge that can be addressed by future research.”

The series was designed to prepare and educate UN agency staff, delegates and other interested parties to address the lack of progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa, and prepare the landscape for the General Assembly Conference on Africa in late September 2008.

Past symposia in the series have focused on food systems, health and nutrition and Africa’s governmental structure. In addition, two other UNU-Cornell Africa Series symposia are planned on the environment and higher education. A final event, to take place in the Spring 2009, will outline the lessons learned from the preceding events and make policy recommendations.

For more information, go to http://www.ony.unu.edu/events-forums/africa.