

AIDS Advocacy Alert



Be involved! Be heard! Country Progress reports to be submitted to UNAIDS by March 31, 2010

Prepared by the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)

December 2009

In March 2009, UNAIDS launched the Guidelines on Construction of Core Indicators for 2010 Reporting. The Guidelines provide a guide for monitoring progress made towards the goals set on the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (DoC). The Guidelines also provide guidance for preparing the country progress reports to be submitted to UNAIDS by March 31, 2010.

The review and reporting process for the 2010 period should already be underway. Countries need to send their progress reports to UNAIDS by March 31, 2010.

ICASO and others have supported community sector groups in different countries to be involved in the review and reporting processes. Reviews done by the community sector, including by ICASO and its Regional Secretariats in 2008 indicate that involvement of the community sector has been varied: in some countries participation and engagement have been outstanding, while in others, exclusion has been the rule. The quality and completeness of the country progress reports also varied. Less than half of those countries that stated that the indicators on key populations were relevant to their epidemic were able to provide data on these same indicators.

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5 Key Actions You Can Take

NOW

to ensure meaningful involvement in the 2010 UNGASS review and reporting process between now and March 2010.

1. Mobilize your community sector colleagues and partner organizations to advocate for the meaningful involvement of the community sector in the review and reporting processes. Review 'Coordinating with Communities' as an aid to planning and supporting meaningful involvement.
2. Ask the UNAIDS Country Coordinator (UCC) or Partnerships Officer in your country what they are doing to facilitate input from the community sector throughout the review process. Request that UNAIDS facilitate an inclusive and participatory process among all stakeholders. A list of the UCCs is available by emailing universalaccess2010@icaso.org
3. **Review all relevant documents :**
 - ➔ The indicators in the current Guidelines on Construction of Core Indicators that were not changed from the previous reporting period. Although they may not capture the diversity of the epidemic and the response, they provide an indication of progress (or lack thereof). You can complement the information captured by the indicators (for example, on issues of quality or coverage.)
 - ➔ The 2001 DoC and the 2006 Political Declaration

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As more countries are submitting reports (54% in 2003, 63% in 2006 and 77% in 2008), the community sector is expected to play a more prominent role. **It is imperative that community groups start their engagement now, if they have not already done so.** The community sector holds the key to critical data and information that governments may not have or are not willing to report on, particularly with respect to the needs and challenges faced by key populations and those most at risk and marginalized. The current set of indicators does not reflect the true state of the epidemic and the response. Community groups can bring to the table relevant and updated information that will present perhaps a more realistic picture of the epidemic in the country.

Prepared by the International and Regional Secretariats of the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations.



The UNGASS Declaration of Commitment (DoC) on HIV/AIDS, adopted by UN member states in 2001, provides a comprehensive framework to halt and reverse the AIDS epidemic by 2010. Every two years, governments report on progress made towards achieving these goals. In addition, as part of the review on progress in 2006, UN member states made further commitments through the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS to scale up the response to the HIV epidemic towards the goal of reaching universal access to comprehensive prevention programs, treatment, care and support by 2010. The process to review progress on the implementation of the DoC is an opportunity to measure the effectiveness of national AIDS responses. However, community sector groups - and particularly key populations- are often not adequately involved or are excluded in these processes.

that contain the commitments and promises countries have made. The 2010 UNGASS review and report will be based on these two documents.

- ➔ The country progress reports that your government prepared in the past, particularly the 2008 country progress report. Determine if the process to review and prepare the 2008 report was inclusive and transparent and if the report submitted reflects the realities of HIV and AIDS in your country. Develop lessons learned and recommendations that can be applied to the current reporting process. Ensure that the current 2010 review and analysis is done with the involvement of community sector groups, especially with people living with HIV and other key populations. Contact ICASO at **universalaccess2010@icaso.org** for tools and referrals to resources to help undertake this community sector review.

4. Contact the National AIDS Program (or equivalent) in your country and ask how they plan to involve the community sector in the UNGASS review and reporting process. Find out who in your country will be leading the preparation of the report and try to arrange a meeting with that person. Provide support to develop and publish a calendar of action and budget, mapping out key milestones for consultation with the community sector. The review process and report preparation should involve meetings with all national stakeholders, including for validating the report. Request that you (or your organization) receive "viewing rights" to the online report¹.
5. Share all the information you find about these processes and the outcomes with community partners. This will increase accountability and transparency and will provide support for advocacy actions. Contact ICASO if you are interested in receiving more information or if you want to share your experiences with other community advocates.

If you have suggestions for topics, issues and challenges that need to be reported on by this review process, please direct them to **universalaccess2010@icaso.org**. During 2010, UNAIDS will initiate a review of the current UNGASS indicators, and we want to present concrete suggestions for additions or changes for future reporting processes.

1. The key person in each country who will managed the reporting process will be issued with a username and password as the sole editor of the data that is entered into the on line report. There will also be a second username and password that the lead person may circulate to key partners at a country level. This would grant others viewing rights to the on-line report.