

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE 2008 HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON AIDS **CIVIL SOCIETY TASK FORCE**

The United Nations Office of the President of the General Assembly has requested the UNAIDS Secretariat to convene a Civil Society Task Force to support effective and meaningful participation of civil society organizations and the private sector in the UNGASS Review Meeting to be held from 10 to 11 June 2008.

The Task Force will provide a link for and to civil society groups and coalitions interested in participating in the High Level Meeting. Task Force representatives will work with UNAIDS and the Office of the President of the General Assembly to advise on key aspects of the High Level Meeting. The role of representatives will be unpaid but expenses and travel will be met by UNAIDS.

I Mission of the 2008 High Level Meeting Civil Society Task Force:

The Civil Society Task Force will advise UNAIDS and the Office of the President of the General Assembly in key decisions relating to the effective and meaningful participation of civil society organizations and the private sector in the 2008 High Level Meeting on AIDS to be held in New York from 10-11 June 2008.

II Composition of the Civil Society Task Force:

A Task Force of 12 individuals has been appointed and includes a broad range of civil society representatives, who are from geographically diverse countries, and is comprised of:

- Three representatives of networks of people living with HIV
- Three representatives from marginalized communities (men who have sex with men; sex workers; people who use drugs)
- At least one UNAIDS PCB NGO delegate
- A representative of the labour sector
- A representative of the private/business sector
- A representative from a women's organization
- A representative from a youth organization
- A representative from a faith-based organization

Task Force members will play an important role and carry responsibility for communicating to organizations and networks within their constituency as widely as possible, and their country and region wherever possible.

UNAIDS has selected individuals with the advice and involvement of the Civil Society Support Mechanism (CSSM) and the Civil Society Support Group convened by the International Coalition of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) and the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC). This group has sought to ensure that collectively the Task Force representatives:

- represent all key geographical regions
- are able to speak on behalf of an organization or constituency
- represent stakeholders in all aspects of the response including care, treatment, prevention and stigma eradication
- include at least three people openly living with HIV
- are gender sensitive with a well 'gender balanced' group
- have been actively engaged in their national reporting process
- includes some continuity in terms of representation from the 2006 Task Force.

Task Force members have been selected on the understanding that they can commit to volunteer the appropriate time and effort from January to June 2008.

The members of the Task Force are:

- Claudia Ahumada, Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights/World AIDS Campaign
- Elina Azaryan, East European and Central Asian Union of PLHIV/ICW
- Robert Carr, Global Forum on MSM and HIV/ Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition
- Syed Asif Altaf Chowdhury, International Transport Worker's Federation
- Vince Crisostomo, Seven Sisters (Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS)
- Stijn Goossens, International Network of People Who Use Drugs
- Linda Hartke, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance
- Laxmi Tripathi, Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers
- Zonnibel Woods, International Women's Health Coalition
- Rolake Odetoyinbo, Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
- Liilian Mworkeo, International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS
- Patricia Mugambi, Ndegwa, Global Business Coalition
- Co-Chair: Kieran Daly, ICASO and on behalf of the Civil Society Support Mechanism
- Co-Chair: Kate Thomson, UNAIDS

III Task Force Operations

The Task Force will work by:

- Regular conference calls to be co-chaired by UNAIDS and CSSM
- Communication via an e-mail list serve
- Four face-to-face Task Force Meetings in New York in February, April, May and June.

The Task Force will agree on their way of working and mechanisms for communication with wider civil society.

IV Activities for the Civil Society Task Force

The Task Force will:

- Report to the Office of the President of the General Assembly
- Be co-chaired by the CSSM representative and UNAIDS, at the request of the Office of President of the General Assembly
- Include representatives of the OPGA in its meetings
- Invite guests to attend portions of meetings for specific areas of work. This will include representatives from NGLS, DPI, focal points from UNAIDS Co-Sponsors, the High Level Meeting Facilitators, and others as required and appropriate
- Arrange for a debriefing and assessment after the High Level Meeting.

The Task Force will lead on:

- Shaping and implementing the design for the Civil Society Hearing on the first day of the High Level Meeting including format, topics, messages and speakers
- Devising criteria and the call for nominations for civil society speakers
- Identifying, preparing and briefing civil society speakers for all formal sessions
- Briefing civil society participants in the High Level Meeting.

The Task Force will advise on:

- Issues related to accreditation and attendance by civil society representatives
- The themes of the panel discussions
- Civil society participation in the panel discussions
- Proposed civil society plenary speakers
- Recommendations to the chairs of the panel discussions
- Input into the development of key messages for the Review meeting to be used by UNAIDS at media and communications opportunities
- Advising on logistical issues and needs for civil society attending

The Task Force will communicate and consult with civil society by:

- Periodic and timely updates
- Open call for nominations for speakers
- Promoting the effective and meaningful participation of civil society

- Ensuring the operation of an email group for interested and involved civil society representatives
- Utilizing the Civil Society Support Mechanism and Civil Society Support Group to assist in various tasks.

The communication and consultation outlined above will be aimed to share timely and accurate information about civil society involvement in the High Level Meeting, promoting meaningful participation of civil society, and reaching out to gather input (e.g. ideas, suggestions, nominations) for the work of the Task Force.

V Administrative support to the Civil Society Task Force

UNAIDS Civil Society Partnerships Unit and the Civil Society Support Mechanism will support the Task Force.

VI Task Force Timeline

Agree on Draft Terms of Reference	18 January
Share draft TORS with the interdepartmental working group	18 January
Agree on Task Force Membership	31 January
First Task Force Meeting in New York	26-27 Feb
Second Task Force Meeting in New York	6-8 April
Third Task Force Meeting in New York	6-8 May
Fourth Task Force Meeting in New York	8 June
Pre-Meetings	9 June
High Level Meeting	10-11 June
Post meeting debriefing	Date t.b.c.
