

Tuesday, 10 June 2008, 11:00 - 13:00
Conference Room 4, United Nations, New York

Action for Universal Access 2010: Myths and Realities

AN INTERACTIVE CIVIL SOCIETY HEARING
at the United Nations 2008 High Level Meeting on the
Comprehensive Review of the Progress Achieved in
Realizing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on
HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS

Myths

Realities



The Civil Society Hearing at the 2008 UN High Level Meeting on AIDS has been planned by the Civil Society Task Force appointed by the President of the UN General Assembly to assist in facilitating civil society participation in the high level meeting. The members of the Task Force represent the diversity of civil society (region, gender, sector) and include people living with HIV.

The members 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, *Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition/Global Forum on MSM and HIV*

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*

Neeraj Mistry, *Global Business Coalition on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*

Lillian Mworkeo, *International Community of women living with HIV/AIDS*

Morolake Odetoyinbo, *Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS*

Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, *Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers*

Zonibel Woods, *International Women's Health Coalition*

Co-Chair: **Kieran Daly**, *International Council of AIDS Service Organizations, on behalf of the Civil Society Support Mechanism*

Co-Chair: **Kate Thomson**, *UNAIDS*

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Action for Universal Access 2010: Myths and Realities

An interactive civil society hearing

Date Tuesday, 10 June 2008
Time 11:00 – 13:00
Location Conference Room 4, United Nations, *New York, US*

Concept

High level representatives of UN Member States and Observers will take part in an informal interactive hearing, during which the views of a diverse group of people from civil society will be highlighted. This is part of the official proceedings of the United Nations 2008 Comprehensive Review of the progress achieved in realizing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. The civil society speakers will bring frontline experience to the session, addressing the challenging issues underlying the spread of the epidemic, while stressing the importance of accountability and involvement as we near the ten year target set to fulfil the Declaration of Commitment and Universal Access. The outcomes of the hearing will be documented and will contribute to the summary document of the President of the General Assembly.

Theme

The theme for the hearing is **Action for Universal Access 2010: Myths and Realities**

Twenty-seven years into the epidemic, millions of lives have been lost and hundreds of millions more have been changed forever. We are not keeping pace, let alone overcoming the impact of the AIDS epidemic. We are slipping behind on targets to reach Universal Access by 2010 and Millennium Development Goal Six. We are all falling short in the response to HIV – in matching action, commitment, leadership, and resources to our rhetoric.

The civil society hearing will address the current reality of an insufficient response to HIV and the impact it has on communities around the world. The hearing will also address some of the myths that themselves have become barriers to effectively responding to the epidemic. It will provide an open, honest and dynamic forum to discuss these myths and realities in the work to achieve Universal Access by 2010.

Aims

1. To actively engage with government representatives on key issues for the high level meeting.
2. To provide a space for the voices of those who face marginalization, stigma, and discrimination, in particular people living with HIV.
3. To push for accountability and urgent action to achieve Universal Access by 2010.
4. To demonstrate the strength, diversity and commitment of civil society in the response to the epidemic.
5. To provide official civil society input to the high level meeting and the President's Report.

Program

The hearing will be chaired by the **President of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Srgjan Kerim**, or his representative.

Following the opening remarks by the President of the UN General Assembly, the hearing will be addressed by the **Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon**.

The opening speaker from civil society is **Mr. Mark Heywood** of the AIDS Law Project in South Africa. His remarks will have a special focus on the hearing theme, and on **HIV and Human Rights**. The alternate speaker for Mr. Heywood and an active participant is Ms. Rathi Ramanathan from Indonesia.

Eleven civil society speakers will then make short presentations on the myths and realities of selected topics, and the call for "Action for Universal Access 2010".

Sex Workers and HIV

Ms. Gulnara Kurmanova of Tais Plus (Kyrgystan)

Alternate speaker: Ms. Alejandra Gil of Asociación en PRO Apoyo a Servidores (Mexico)

Access to Treatment

Mr. Loon Gangte Henminlun of the Delhi Network of Positive People (India)

Alternate speaker: Mr. Mellouk Othoman of Association Marocaine de Lutte Contre le SIDA (Morocco)

The Rights of Sexual Minorities

Mr. Leonardo Sanchez of Amigos Siempre Amigos (Dominican Republic)

Alternate speaker: Mr. Caleb Orozco of United Belize Advocacy Movement (Belize)

HIV-related Travel Restrictions, Mobility and Migration

Ms. Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga of the Bolivian Network of people living with HIV/AIDS (Bolivia)

Alternate speaker: Mr. Ron MacInnis of the International AIDS Society (Switzerland and United States)

People Who Use Drugs

Mr. Albert Zaripov of the Russian Union of PLHIV (Russia)

Alternate speaker: Mr. Richard Lines of the International Harm Reduction Association (United Kingdom and Canada)

Workplace Responses

Mr. Gary Cohen of Becton Dickinson (United States)

Mr. Romano Ojiambo-Ochieng of the Transport and General Workers' Union (Uganda)

Alternate speakers: Ms. Elaine McKay of Discovery Health (South Africa) and Ms. Yemisi Ilesanmi of Nigeria Labour Congress (Nigeria)

Women and Girls

Ms. Winnie Sseruma of Christian Aid (United Kingdom and Uganda)

Alternate speaker: Ms. Anna Grekova of The All Ukrainian Network of People living with HIV (Ukraine)

Civil Society Involvement and AIDS Accountability

Ms. Alessandra Nilo of GESTOS (Brazil)

Alternate speaker: Mr. Edgar Carrasco of Accion Ciudadana Contra el SIDA (Venezuela)

Children and HIV

Ms. Sylvia de Rugama of Positive Women of the World (Netherlands)

Alternate speaker: Martha Holley Newsome of World Vision International (US and South Africa)

Young People Living with HIV

Ms. Stephanie Raper of People Living with HIV/AIDS Speakers Bureau (Australia)

Alternate speaker: Mr. Igor Mocerro of Philippine Nurses Association (Philippines)

Following the presentations, the President of the General Assembly will chair an **interactive session** with alternating interventions from Member States and pre-identified civil society active participants (including the alternate speakers listed above).

The President will then introduce **Ms. Morolake Odetoyinbo** of Positive Action for Treatment Access (PATA) in Nigeria, who also serves as a member of the Civil Society Task Force for the high level meeting, who will provide a summary of the hearing.

***Note:** Speakers and alternates are listed here with their organizational affiliation. Many have been accredited for the high level meeting through umbrella organizations with which they or their own organization are associated.*

Speakers' Selection

Following an open call for nominations, which yielded more than 250 proposed speakers, the Civil Society Task Force recommended speakers and alternate speakers to the President of the General Assembly. The selection was based on criteria established by the Civil Society Task Force, which included experience, people living with HIV, gender and regional diversity. Around half of the civil society speakers are openly living with HIV.

Resource Materials

At the hearing, civil society will provide copies of the full texts of the remarks of speakers and background fact sheets on each selected topic.

The civil society hearing will be webcast by the United Nations at: <http://www.un.org/webcast/>

