

**Strengthening the response to
HIV and AIDS
at local, country and global level**

**THE ROLE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CIVIL
SOCIETY IN TRACKING PROGRESS
TOWARDS UNGASS TARGETS**

**Report on a joint UNAIDS and civil society
planning meeting on UNGASS 2006 preparation**

1 NOVEMBER 2005

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**Report on a joint UNAIDS and civil society planning
meeting on UNGASS 2006 preparation:
Recife, Brazil 15–17 September 2005**

**Country host: GESTOS - Soropositivity, Communication
and Gender Issues.**

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Geneva, Switzerland

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Opening message

Mobilized by increasing political awareness about AIDS, world leaders gathered in June 2001 for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) where they agreed to a series of targets and promises to tackle HIV and AIDS. Their promises were captured in a *Declaration of Commitment* that has since served as a tool to measure progress at global and national levels.

Next year, in June 2006, governments will meet to review progress towards the first comprehensive set of targets outlined in the *Declaration of Commitment* for the end of 2005.

Civil society organizations have taken the lead to ensure governments and other actors account for their progress towards UNGASS targets. A number of civil society organizations have partnered with UNAIDS to intensify work on monitoring and evaluating progress and planning advocacy around next year's UNGASS Review Meeting.

Part of that planning was a joint civil society and UNAIDS meeting held in Recife, Brazil from 15–17 September 2005 to explore areas of UNAIDS and civil society collaboration around the UNGASS process.

This report aims to ensure that civil society organizations, particularly those working at national and local level that were not able to participate in the Recife Meeting, benefit from the fruitful discussions and sharing of ideas and initiatives.

We hope this report helps to inspire and inform civil society involvement as we engage with UNGASS 2006 as an opportunity to drive forward a strengthened response to HIV and AIDS.

We take this opportunity to say 'many thanks' to all the participants to the Recife meeting, and to the GESTOS and UNAIDS staff who assisted in organizing the meeting at short notice. Our thanks also to everyone involved in contributing to this report and to the various follow-up initiatives to ensure that the Recife meeting leads to constructive action.

Signed by the Recife co-hosts:



Alessandra Nilo, GESTOS - Soropositivity, Communication and Gender Issues, on behalf of Steering Committee UNGASS

Andy Seale, UNAIDS

How to use this report

Aim of report

This report aims to capture the discussions, spirit and vision of the joint civil society and UNAIDS UNGASS planning meeting held in Recife, Brazil from 15–17 September 2005. It reflects the voices of Recife facilitators and participants, and aims to inspire you to take more effective action in the busy months ahead.

This report is a practical tool to strengthen collective and respective efforts as civil society, governments and the United Nations (UN) in responding to HIV and AIDS challenges at local, country and global level. In the short-term, the report aims to focus and guide efforts in the lead-up to the UNGASS review of mid-2006.

In the report, the shorthand '*UNGASS 2006*' is used to refer to the UNGASS 2006 Review Meeting.

Finding information in this report

For a quick background on how and why this UNGASS civil society forum was convened, see *What brings us together?* on page 10.

For a review of the UNGASS process and civil society participation to date, see *Where are we now?* on page 12.

For a summary of discussion and action plans on future UNGASS mobilization by civil society and other partners, see:

- *What can be done at local and country level?* on page 17;
- *What can be done at the global level?* on page 25;
- *How can collaboration continue?* on page 34;
- *Our UNGASS action list* as an annexure on page 35;
- *Steering Committee and working groups* for civil society participation, as an annexure on page 40.

For useful *Contact and resource information* such as contact people and websites, see page 50 onwards. *Abbreviations and acronyms* used in this report are listed on page 8.

For a guide on how to participate in UNGASS procedures and reporting, see the *UNGASS 2006—Quick participation guides* from page 57 onwards.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
APCASO	Asian/Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations
BTS	Break-the-Silence (eForum)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DoC	Declaration of Commitment
E.g.	For example
GA	General Assembly
Global Fund	Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GIPA	Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS
GNP+	Global Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS
HDNET	Health and Development Networks
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICASO	International Council of AIDS Service Organizations
ICW	International Community of Women living with HIV and AIDS
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Foundation
ITPC	International Treatment Preparedness Coalition
IWHC	International Women's Health Coalition
KANCO	Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium
LACCASO	Latin American and the Caribbean Council of AIDS Service Organizations
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation

NAC	National HIV/AIDS Committee
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NY	New York
OSI	Open Society Institute
PCB	Programme Coordinating Board (of UNAIDS)
PLHIV	People living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV
REDLA+	Latin American Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS
SC	Steering Committee (on civil society participation in UNGASS 2006)
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UCC	UNAIDS Country Coordinator
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS
UNGASS 2006	UNGASS 2006 Review Meeting
US/USA	United States of America
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
WAC	World AIDS Campaign
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization

What brings us together?

This part focuses on why and how this UNGASS forum on civil society participation was convened in Recife, Brazil.

2001 UNGASS *Declaration of Commitment*

In June 2001, the governments of 189 countries gathered at the first-ever United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS). They recognized the scale of the AIDS pandemic and unanimously adopted a *Declaration of Commitment* (DoC) on HIV and AIDS as a comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS.

The DoC acknowledges the AIDS pandemic as:

} A global emergency and one of the most formidable challenges to human life and dignity ~.

Yet the DoC reminds the world that there is hope in the response to HIV and AIDS. Governments agreed to take action on 10 priorities, including leadership, prevention, treatment, human rights, resources and follow-up. To meet its goals, the DoC set clear, deadline targets to be assessed in 2003, 2005 and 2010.

The UNGASS DoC says that civil society groups, including people living with HIV, must be active participants in UNGASS implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Civil society participation in assessing 2005 targets

In mid-2006, the UN General Assembly will reconvene to assess progress in implementing the targets agreed in the 2001 DoC. To monitor UNGASS implementation, UNAIDS has requested governments to write a progress report. Past country reports have often not adequately included the voices of civil society and marginalized groups.

In many countries, civil society has not yet had the opportunity to participate in the review process and to present views on government successes and failures in implementing UNGASS. As a result, civil society organizations are increasingly organizing around how to maximise opportunities to be involved in national and global reporting, and around the 2006 UNGASS event itself.

Since January 2005, a Steering Committee of civil society organizations (CS Steering Committee) has been working on preparation for national and global reports to the 2006 UNGASS follow-up meeting, including through collaboration with UNAIDS.

UNAIDS has consulted the Steering Committee in the development of guidelines for the national reporting process and as a result is encouraging governments to integrate input from a range of civil society organizations into their country reports.

Recife planning meeting

UNAIDS aims to further support civil society in planning, coordinating and maximizing its involvement in UNGASS reporting for 2006. UNAIDS and the CS Steering Committee agreed that a planning and coordination meeting in September 2005 would greatly assist in ensuring civil society has a stronger voice in discussions around progress towards UNGASS targets.

UNAIDS and the Steering Committee agreed on a 15-17 September meeting in Recife, Brazil, to be co-hosted by GESTOS—one of the civil society organizations on the Steering Committee. The meeting aimed to improve UNAIDS' and civil society understanding and coordination of the different opportunities for civil society to feed into and strengthen reporting and reflection on UNGASS targets between September 2005 and mid-2006.

Specific Recife meeting objectives

- Exchange information on civil society-led UNGASS monitoring initiatives.
- Discuss ways for UNAIDS to support country-level work, including encouraging governments to act on UNAIDS recommendations on civil society participation in national reporting preparation.
- Discuss ways for civil society-led monitoring initiatives to develop input that will be useful and constructive for the UNAIDS Global Report.
- Discuss practical ways for civil society organizations to give input to UNAIDS for the Global Report.
- Develop ways to efficiently share information on the progress of work, including the www.ungasshiv.org website and relevant eForums.
- Strategize around how to ensure highest level participation in UNGASS.
- Plan how to select and prepare civil society participants for UNGASS 2006.
- Explore ideas for an event to present independent civil society reports, perspectives and findings.

Recife meeting participants included:

- Civil Society Steering Committee representatives;
- UNGASS monitoring organizations;
- Networks of people living with HIV;
- Other nongovernmental organizations, including people from specific sectors such as the women's, labour and faith-based sectors, and nongovernmental organization representatives on the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB); and
- UN structures and organizations.

For Recife participant and Steering Committee contact details, see page 50.

Where are we now?

This section covers the Recife meeting review of civil society participation in UNGASS and similar processes to date. Quotations are taken directly from discussions held during the meeting unless otherwise stated.

Key challenges facing civil society

} Nothing can be done without working together. It is possible to change the system we work within. Even when we have to work against prejudice, discrimination, vanity, power and war. ~ *UN participant*

In January 2005, a grouping of 30 civil society organizations sent a proposal to UNAIDS calling for:

- o clear opportunities for civil society to input into country UNGASS progress reports;
- o clear opportunities for civil society to feed into the global UNAIDS overview report; and
- o UNAIDS to set out guidelines for governments to get civil society input and to ensure these inputs were included.

Recife meeting participants reflected on civil society challenges under three broad themes:

- o the quality of reporting on UNGASS progress;
- o opportunities for civil society to engage with the UNGASS process; and
- o the receptivity or openness of governments and UN agencies to civil society participation and inputs made.

Quality of reporting

} The traditional UN approach has been to treat indicators of progress as numbers. These kinds of indicators do not usually reflect the realities being experienced within countries. ~ *Civil Society participant*

Civil society representatives felt a need to move away from *quantitative* towards more *qualitative* reporting. For example, if the mother-to-child-transmission rate in a country was down by 2%, we would need to know *why* this had happened. Was it because more women or children are dying? Or was it because antiretrovirals are working? The challenge is to make our reporting substantive and constructive.

In response, UNAIDS has further developed its core indicators of 2002 into its 2005 *Guidelines on Construction of Core Indicators* at both national and global level. Civil society organizations contributed to developing these indicators.

Opportunities for civil society

} The importance of securing input from the full spectrum of civil society, including people living with HIV and AIDS, cannot be overstated; civil society speaks with many voices and represents many different perspectives, all of which can be valuable in the monitoring and evaluation of a country's AIDS response. ~ (UNAIDS 2005 *Guidelines on Indicators*)

The challenge is how to turn guidelines on paper into real opportunities for civil society to engage in the UNGASS process.

- o How do we get this information to civil society groups?
- o How do we empower people to participate locally and nationally?
- o How do we support civil society groups to take up these issues with governments?

} From the experiences of trying to participate in UNGASS 2001 as people living with HIV, local level participation must be our priority. ~ *Civil Society participant*

Participants identified a need for local stakeholders to have a greater sense of 'ownership' and some influence in driving campaigns at country, regional and global levels. Realistically, our most effective impact would be at local rather than UN level.

Participants at this meeting were aware of civil society-led efforts to monitor UNGASS DoC implementation in approximately 50 countries (*see section on support for participation in country monitoring and evaluation for a list of some of these countries*). This presents an opportunity for civil society to build partnerships and assert a stronger presence within local and national policymaking processes. We need to work out what we wish to achieve in the UNGASS process as part of a longer-term vision.

} UNGASS is one marker in a much longer battle. We should define and consolidate new targets, such as 'universal access to treatment', going well beyond UNGASS 2006. ~ *Civil Society participant*

Openness to civil society

} Civil society and government do not always share the same commitments. In a polarized world, security is being used as an excuse to trample on the human rights culture we've helped to build. ~ *Civil Society participant*

The meeting reflected on the meaning of the UNGASS DoC five years on in a very different political environment, where religious, cultural and 'moral' differences often diverted and guided policies and responses. These differences are also increasingly present within civil society, with many new players reflecting the more conservative and political ideologies than in 2001.

Over the past several years in countries such as Brazil, government-civil society partnerships have been actively encouraged in responding to the AIDS epidemic.

} This doesn't mean we always speak with the same voice. But we share and work towards the same objectives. ~ *Civil Society participant*

In countries where government-civil society relationships were less friendly, a number of civil society HIV/AIDS organizations may find themselves on the outside of 'what government considered acceptable'.

In these situations, governments were likely to be less open or tolerant to hearing critical civil society voices. For example, a government favouring the 'ABC' approach to prevention ('abstain, be faithful, use condoms) may exclude or ignore a nongovernmental organization adopting a different approach. Additional challenges are faced in some countries where nongovernmental organizations are regarded as subversive, illegal or unwelcome.

Lessons from other forums

Civil society should learn from the experiences of 'what didn't work' at other big forums such as the UNGASS high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS in June 2005 and the Millennium Development Goals World Summit in September 2005. There was a need for clear criteria to guide the meaningful participation of civil society and to set realistic and achievable expectations.

We can turn these 'negatives' into 'positives' by trying to make sure that at future UNGASS events the following actions happen.

- Civil society participates in the setting of agendas and procedures before meetings.
- Civil society is sufficiently represented in country delegations and as an independent presence.
- There is more time for discussion and participation.
- Civil society is given enough reserved speaking time.
- Speakers alternate, e.g. a speaker from a member state followed by a speaker from civil society.
- Roundtable discussions happen earlier in sessions so that they can inform outcomes.
- There are interactive sessions with an opportunity for questions-and-answers and to comment on inputs.
- Parallel events and processes are well-organized and supported in order to increase civil society impact.

Potential approaches, values and principles

Based on the lessons of past initiatives, the Recife meeting summarised 15 approaches, values and principles that could inform future civil society efforts:

1. Be visionary

Have a vision of what change is required in the long-term.

2. Prioritize and be strategic

Decide what issues and opportunities are available and how they can be raised .

3. Be involved at all stages

Push for civil society participation at each stage of processes, e.g. being involved in the actual drafting of outcome documents.

4. Be inclusive with participation

Make sure that a cross-section of civil society organizations and networks in all relevant committees, meetings and delegations, and that a representative spread from different regions in global events and structures is achieved.

5. Practise the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS (GIPA) Principle

Work towards the active participation and leadership by people living with HIV and AIDS in all processes and at all levels—local, national, regional and global.

6. Think local and personalize

Emphasize and highlight local level work, and human stories and experiences, including 'success stories'.

7. Be qualitative

Give depth, detail and supporting evidence in our research and reporting.

8. Work 'inside' and 'outside'

Find ways to work with and within government and the UN system, and at the same time to independently pressure government and international agencies to meet internationally agreed targets and commitments.

9. Work together

Develop and strengthen partnerships to harmonize efforts—with each other, with government, with international agencies, and across sectors.

10. Defend the civil society position

Work to achieve and retain civil society independence, space and gains, and give support to civil society organizations in countries where civil society is under government pressure.

11. Build civil society capacity

Build the capacity and resources of civil society organizations and networks, especially at local level.

12. Be accessible by using different languages

Make information available in different local and national languages.

13. Be understandable by using 'plain language'

Make sure language is easy to understand, e.g. especially when technical concepts and processes are explained or discussed.

14. Be sensitive and destigmatize

Make sure language does not stigmatize, for example:

- say *children orphaned by AIDS*, not *AIDS orphans*;
- refer to *people living with HIV*, not *infected people*.

15. Be inclusive with language and examples

Include the experiences of different people and groups, for example:

- talk about *HIV/AIDS workplace* programmes, not just *AIDS workplace programmes*;
- refer to examples from a variety of most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, men who have sex with men, sex workers, migrants and prisoners.

What can be done at local and country level?

This part summarizes the Recife meeting sharing of experiences and ideas for action at local and country levels before and after UNGASS 2006.

Moments for local and national action around UNGASS 2006

} I bury people every week. I cannot afford formula milk for breastfeeding. ~
(Woman living with HIV to Recife participant)

} What will be the outcome of the meetings I attend? What will they do to improve the quality of life of people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS? ~
(Thoughts of Recife participant in response)

Meeting participants were reminded of the sobering realities on the ground in many countries. All advocacy and monitoring efforts should be linked to the primary aim of reducing the impact of HIV on the lives of people in our local communities.

Examples of key moments for potential local and national action around UNGASS 2006 were listed.

- o Continue to monitor and network locally and nationally, as part of our ongoing country work.
- o Raise awareness of the importance of UNGASS commitments with governments and all civil society stakeholders not already involved in UNGASS monitoring and evaluation.
- o Include an UNGASS focus in our World AIDS Day activities on 1 December 2005.
- o Make sure we feed into country UNGASS progress reports, due to be completed by December 2005.
- o Be part of reviewing and responding to country progress reports in January 2006.
- o Try to encourage inclusion of civil society organizations in government delegations representing each country at UNGASS 2006.
- o Develop quality shadow reports where we don't have space to participate in country reports or where our information conflicts seriously with government positions.
- o Creatively use the media to focus on local and national HIV/AIDS issues in the weeks leading up to UNGASS.
- o Take up the outcomes of UNGASS 2006 and feed these into our continuing local and national advocacy and networking efforts.

Brazil: a case study of cooperation at country level

Brazil's national management of its AIDS epidemic has shown the benefits of strong cooperation between government and civil society, including networks of people living with HIV.

The Brazilian government has aimed to produce qualitative reports on each of the UNGASS DoC commitments, setting out a programme and activities for each commitment.

Examples of commitments to civil society are to:

- incorporate the civil society report into the government UNGASS progress report; and
- support and fund a civil society UNGASS Forum once a year as part of the National AIDS Programme. The slogan of this forum is: } Civil society fighting for rights~.

A Brazilian resolution to formally include civil society participation within the UN system was not supported by other member states during the UN high-level meeting in New York in June 2005.

For Brazilian civil society, an important starting point in developing a relationship of cooperation with government was the invitation to eight nongovernmental organizations to participate in the original UNGASS in 2001.

Host organization, GESTOS, includes the UNGASS commitments as part of their strategic planning. They point out that, while overall goals are shared with government, the relationship is sometimes "complicated and ambiguous". It took until 2005 for government to include a nongovernmental organization report with the government report:

} You have to carry on advocating for what you believe in.~

GESTOS sees the goal of Brazil's UNGASS Forum as strengthening the UNGASS theme within the agenda of Brazil's HIV and AIDS movement.

To achieve this goal, the UNGASS Forum aims to:

- increase knowledge and awareness about UNGASS commitments and processes;
- plan actions to strengthen civil society participation and people living with AIDS in UNGASS processes; and
- monitor Brazil's progress in meeting the UNGASS DoC targets.

Other noteworthy aspects of the Brazilian HIV and AIDS movement include the following.

- Wide representation from states, HIV/AIDS forums and the Brazilian Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS, representing around 500 civil society organizations.
- A strong presence of most vulnerable groups, including people living with HIV, women, gay men, sex workers and drug users.
- The linkage of meetings and forums to advocacy such as 'access to treatment' sit-ins.
- The ability of civil society to maintain autonomy and develop its own approach to advocacy.
- The space created for civil society in an UNGASS monitoring environment to identify gaps, to suggest alternatives and to make constructive suggestions to government.

Examples of local and national UNGASS experiences

- While governments are responsible for formal UNGASS reporting to the UN system and their people, ideally representative National HIV/AIDS Committees (NACs) or their equivalents should actually take responsibility for drafting and finalizing the country reports. Often UNAIDS offices or the World Health Organization (WHO) draft such reports for NAC sign-off because of a lack of capacity within NACs. Or governments simply write reports with little 'outside' inputs.
- In some countries, capacity-building workshops have already been held to involve civil society in evaluating UNGASS country reports. These usually begin with a focus on knowledge of UNGASS, followed by monitoring and evaluating skills development. A practical challenge can be to access funds for capacity-building programmes.
- In some countries, it has taken a number of years to develop an understanding of the need for UNGASS country progress reports. The response of certain countries has instead been driven by the Millennium Development Goals.
- In a number of countries, governments see working towards UNGASS targets as one way of meeting national indicators and strengthening a country's monitoring and evaluation system.
- Some countries go through the motions of an annual end-of-year review, but do not always acknowledge civil society contributions to the HIV/AIDS response:
 - } As civil society, we don't feel recognised and involved.~
Civil Society participant
- Civil society has played a key role in monitoring services delivered at local level. Here civil society can be actively involved on the ground in gathering data and eventually in helping to shape a national report, e.g. in tracking access to treatment coverage nationally.
- In a number of countries, civil society groups feel the need to have the opportunity and resources to do their own shadow reports:
 - } We want the freedom to speak the truth.~ *Civil Society participant*
- In certain middle- and high-income countries, there is a lack of awareness and urgency on the need to report on UNGASS progress.

Support for participation in country monitoring and evaluation

PANOS

Examples of countries where active:

Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Haiti, Latvia, Malawi, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

Lessons

- Set up advisory panels with a range of stakeholders, including national networks of people living with HIV and AIDS.
- Convene national roundtables, e.g. in November annually, for civil society to feed into the official country progress review.
- Include people from the country's Ministry of Health and NAC to ensure government involvement.
- Create space for advocacy opportunities.

} In Malawi, civil society wished both to feed into the official report and keep a distance with its own shadow report.~

Civil Society participant

Public Health Watch

Examples of countries where active:

Nicaragua, Senegal, Ukraine, Vietnam, United States of America, Zambia.

Lessons

- Develop a questionnaire based on the specific commitments in the UNGASS DoC.
- Use roundtables to create space for constructive reaction to reports before they go public.
- Create an advocacy strategy in each country to address issues: } Develop a report with your advocacy targets in mind.~
- Empower people to help produce quality reports: } The report process is just as important as the product.~

International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)

Examples of countries where active:

Cameroon, Canada, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, South Africa, Thailand.

Lessons

- Identify a local partner nongovernmental organization, and collect data from people living with HIV and other most vulnerable groups.
- Be aware of the potential gap between government rhetoric and actual implementation.
- Try to ensure monitoring structures include civil society.
- Aim to strengthen civil society capacity to monitor and report, to participate in country M&E, and to input into country reports.

} It is a real challenge to move civil society data collection to become a credible source of information.~

World AIDS Campaign (WAC)

Examples of countries where active:

Brazil, Ecuador, Netherlands, Spain.

Lessons

Strive to improve the quality of your baseline information: } Your aim is to find out: what is the real situation on HIV/AIDS within the country?~

- Translate into different languages, and present the report in the language of affected groups.
- Put technical reports into plain, understandable language.
- Focus on key themes and most vulnerable groups in each country or part of a country, e.g. the stigma and discrimination faced by immigrant communities in Andalusia, Spain.

Summary: Potential local and country level action

- Raise awareness around the UNGASS DoC and processes with all stakeholders.
- Build civil society monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity in each country, e.g. through training, and sharing tools and how to access technical support.
- Convene a civil society workshop to input into a country's report.
- Identify who in each country is responsible for the national report and who actually drafts the report, and then share this contact information widely.
- Clarify the role of UN theme groups on different topics in engaging civil society in UNGASS M&E.
- Motivate for and reinforce the qualitative role that civil society can play in providing information for UNGASS reporting.
- Establish timelines and channels for local group inputs into UNGASS reporting.
- Decide on how civil society data will be used, e.g. to feed into a country report *or* to inform an independent shadow report.
 - } Think about and prioritise what you want to shout about, and where is the best place to do this. ~ *Civil Society participant*
- Work with partners to claim the right of civil society to participate in commenting on country reports before they are finalised.
- Constantly raise the GIPA Principle and create opportunities for the active participation of all people living with HIV and AIDS, including women and young people, in UNGASS and all other local and national processes.

Please see the *UNGASS action list* on page 35 for more details on follow-up action, and *Steering Committee and working groups* on page 40 for ways of getting involved.

To find specific information on UNAIDS Country Coordinators (UCCs), please consult the UNAIDS website (www.unaids.org). Go to *Geographical Area* and *By Country*. Under each country, you will find country information with contact details at the bottom of the text.

AN ADVOCACY IDEA

Make strategic use of sections of the UNGASS DoC to support our advocacy aims.

Example 1: At national level

Aim: Achieve full participation of people living with HIV and other most vulnerable groups.

} Involve... the full participation of people living with HIV/AIDS, those in vulnerable groups and people mostly at risk, particularly women and young people. ~
(Paragraph 37 of UNGASS DoC)

Example 2: At regional level

Aim: Build HIV/AIDS organizations.

} Encourage and support local and national organizations to expand and strengthen regional participation, coalitions and networks. ~
(Paragraph 42 of UNGASS DoC)

ANOTHER ADVOCACY IDEA

Use as an advocacy tool the cover letter from UNAIDS Executive Director that was sent out to Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva in August.

The letter accompanied the UNAIDS *Monitoring the Declaration of Commitment in HIV/AIDS Guidelines for Construction of Core Indicators* and emphasizes the need for a participatory and transparent approach throughout the report preparation process that includes civil society groups, including people living with HIV. The letter can be found as an annex to this report.

What can be done at the global level?

In this part, we reflect on experiences and ideas for civil society action and partnerships at a global level as we move towards UNGASS 2006.

Moments for global action around UNGASS 2006

} We need to clarify what we want out of UNGASS 2006. What are our agenda and priorities? Or do we just accept that we are being led by a system that largely excludes us? ~ *Civil Society participant*

Opportunities for strategic global action around UNGASS 2006 were highlighted.

- o Urgently participate in influencing the October 2005 UN Resolution that will guide the agenda and procedure to be followed leading up to and at the UNGASS 2006 meeting itself.
- o Continue to monitor and network internationally, as part of ongoing partnership work.
- o Ensure and take the opportunity to contribute to the UNAIDS Global UNGASS Report in early 2006.
- o Participate in preparatory committee meetings leading up to UNGASS.
- o Effectively use the media to focus on international HIV/AIDS issues and trends in the months leading up to UNGASS.
- o Participate in UNGASS 2006 itself and any linked parallel activities.
- o Ensure we are part of drafting an UNGASS 2006 outcomes document.

} Language is not innocent. We need to be part of shaping the actual wording of reports and resolutions. ~ *Civil Society participant*

- o Take up the outcomes of UNGASS 2006 and feed these into our continuing international advocacy and networking efforts.
- o Imagine and prepare contingency plans for possible back-sliding by the general assembly against the 2001 commitments

UNGASS participation: limitations and strategies

} We are focusing on increasing civil society participation around UNGASS 2006 [meeting]. We need to be realistic about thinking we can easily change 60 years of UN rules and practices. Let's remember that the UN's main focus has been on intergovernmental relations, rather than on the role of civil society. ~ *UN participant*

The UNGASS 2006 review event is expected to take place at the end of May or beginning of June 2006.

The purposes of UNGASS 2006 include the following.

- o Review and debate progress achieved in reaching the HIV/AIDS commitments agreed to in the 2001 DoC.
- o Use the report of the UN Secretary General (SG) as a basis for discussion—this is based on country reports by governments.
- o Identify opportunities and constraints in reaching set targets.
- o Make recommendations to assist us in achieving greater progress.
- o Produce an outcomes document reflecting the findings of the review and recommendations for future action.

} This is a review of progress we've made. It is not necessarily a review of the targets that were set—it is unclear if this will be allowed. ~ *UN participant*

Expected highlights of the formal process in the lead-up to UNGASS include the following.

- o The office of the General Assembly (GA) President will prepare a draft organizational resolution by early October 2005 to set terms for the 2006 meeting, e.g. number of days, dates, participants, level of representation.
- o The General Assembly President circulates the draft resolution to member states.
- o The resolution is revised after comments.
- o The General Assembly adopts the resolution—this then becomes the invitation to UNGASS 2006.
- o Nomination and invitation of national delegation members can take place from the date the resolution is adopted, but in reality membership of delegations is unlikely to be finalized until shortly before the UNGASS review.
- o Information is gathered for country reports between September and December 2005.
- o The 1st draft of the Secretary General's report appears in February 2006, and is finalised by April 2006.
- o The UNAIDS Global Report is developed between January and May 2006.

We reflected on potential entry points and issues for civil society engagement within and around the formal processes of UNGASS.

- Influence the UNGASS Preparatory Committee—this is made up of two facilitators for member representatives (one from the ‘north’ and one from the ‘south’) and two facilitators for the outcomes document.
- Continue to input into the country review process by participating in country reports:
 - } The ‘bread and butter’ work happens at country level—this is where civil society work counts the most. ~ *Civil Society participant*
- Work to ensure civil society ‘seats’ in country delegations *and* a sizeable block of independent civil society representatives at UNGASS 2006.

Lobby key member states to have speaking time-limits and speaking orders that fairly accommodate civil society: } We need to get our voices heard—not just get into the room! ~ Civil Society participant

- Prepare to also participate in parallel events, such as exhibits, community advocacy and the possibility of a civil society hearing prior to the general assembly.

Example of the civil society summit before the Millennium Summit in 2005. Held three months before the summit this meeting chose a group of nongovernmental organizations to advise the President of the General Assembly. We then convened again shortly before the actual summit. The UN Secretary General has committed to this kind of model to encourage and increase civil society input into UNGASS.

} Let’s try to use the changing environment of ‘UN system reform’ to create more space for civil society. ~ Civil Society participant

What outcomes are needed from UNGASS 2006?

Some of the civil society expectations of UNGASS 2006 are as follows.

- The process should reinvigorate the national and international response to HIV and AIDS as the key human rights issue of our time.
- Any possible reduction of targets set in 2001 must be avoided.
- A vision for future efforts around the umbrella aim of universal access to treatment for all people who need it should emerge from UNGASS 2006.
- The fullest possible participation of civil society, including people living with HIV, before, during and after UNGASS 2006, (e.g. a person living with HIV to address the UNGASS plenary).
- Participation in UNGASS delegations, as an independent bloc of civil society, *and* through advocacy efforts in the media and the streets.
 - } We have a wonderful opportunity to work through formal channels *and* to take our own, independent initiative. ~ *Civil Society participant*
- Key messages should be highlighted throughout the UNGASS process, e.g. 'keep the promise', accountability etc.
- The UNGASS outcomes document must name governments that do not report on their commitments, and frankly highlight countries that have not made progress since 2001.
- Stronger civil society-government collaboration in individual countries

Preparations for UNGASS 2006

Ideas on practical actions to prepare (between September 2005 and May 2006) to have an effective civil society impact on UNGASS 2006.

- Influence the October 2005 draft resolution, e.g. by proposing roundtable themes for UNGASS 2006, to include topics such as universal access to treatment, prevention, care, support, resources, strengthening health systems, TB/HIV and accountability.
- Identify key countries to influence on the October draft resolution and in the lead-up to UNGASS 2006.
 - } We should aim to encourage both 'donor' countries and 'recipient' countries to work closely with civil society. ~ *Civil. Society participant*
- Develop and widely circulate existing guides on how to participate in key areas, e.g. country processes, country reports and civil society shadow reports.
- Lobby for funding at national and local level to build capacity, e.g. on monitoring and evaluation, so as to improve civil society engagement in UNGASS and similar future processes.
- Share key contact information, such as country contact people to support civil society involvement and contact people responsible for producing national reports.
- Use the UNAIDS UNGASS monitoring indicators to guide civil society inputs into country reports, to comment on draft reports, *and* to possibly shape shadow reports.

Make sure success stories within countries and good examples of civil society engagement from other countries are shared: } Let's share our stories of networking and supporting each other as people living with HIV to encourage others to get involved. ~ Civil Society participant

- Translate key support materials into different languages, and simplify all paper or web materials into plain, understandable language.
- Ensure that civil society feeds into country reports, e.g. using workshops in the approximately 50 countries targeted by monitoring activities described on page 21.
- Request that country reports are available in the main language of each country.

- Creatively use national, regional and international events, such as meetings and conferences, to mobilize in the build-up and follow-up to UNGASS 2006.
- Push for a country-level forums between civil society and national delegations for countries to UNGASS 2006.
- Organize a parallel civil society hearing in New York at the time of UNGASS 2006 to create an opportunity for government and civil society representatives to openly and frankly discuss key issues.
- Network and lobby to ensure that people living with HIV are not denied entry to the USA in 2006 as part of national delegations or as independent civil society representatives.

Please see the *UNGASS action list* on page 35 for more details, and *Steering Committee and working groups* on page 40 for ways of getting involved.

Ideas for global networking and action

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFLUENCING REPORTS

We looked at the timing of three key reporting opportunities in 2006 and the aim of having a strategic civil society influence on them.

- The Secretary General's Report for UNGASS (inputs due by February 2006).
- The UNAIDS Global Report (inputs due by March 2006), commemorating the 10th year of UNAIDS.
- Reporting to the Toronto International AIDS Conference in August 2006 (probably using the Global Report).

The Secretary General's Report had more limited scope for civil society influence. While drawing on country reports, this report is likely to focus on regional trends, rather than being country-specific.

The UNAIDS Global Report carries far more scope for qualitative studies, including civil society participation, and for the influence of the CS Steering Committee in reviewing a draft of the report. UNAIDS reported that a possible Global Report theme was 'universal access' and likely subsections would include:

- the state of the pandemic;
- national responses;
- country profiles; and
- challenges ahead.

} All countries must report on all indicators as part of reflecting on progress made in the five years since UNGASS 2001. ~ *UN participant*

There is an opportunity for enhancing the report by including 'stand alone' civil society reports and inputs from UNAIDS offices, in addition to country reports.

Meeting participants felt that the report should connect with a rights-based approach to meeting the pressing challenges of the AIDS pandemic—going beyond just saying that we have not reached the 2001 targets.

} Can the report be more than a story of 'doom and gloom'? Can we find a way of feeding in a voice of hope and vision for the road ahead? ~ *UN participant*

INFORMATION EXCHANGE THROUGH THE UNGASS WEBSITE

The World AIDS Campaign, together with five independent project partners, has developed the www.ungasshiv.org website.

The website aims to facilitate:

- basic information exchange, e.g. support materials and guides to enable participation in UNGASS;
- sharing qualitative information, e.g. country information and reports; and
- building a global constituency around the UNGASS review process, e.g. with clear messages carrying the theme 'Keep the Promise'.

The website also provides civil society position papers and reports as they become available.

There is also a close link to the Break-the-Silence e-Forum (BTS), which encourages and supports sharing between various civil society stakeholder groups and between different countries.

Technical documents will be simplified and in plain language, and documents will be translated and made available in different international languages.

} Here's a space to write our own materials in our own language. We are not just one civil society voice, but rather different ideas, voices, languages and needs. ~ *Civil Society participant*

For more information, please go to www.ungasshiv.org

MAKING USE OF AN INTERNATIONALLY DEVELOPED STIGMA INDEX

} It's a 'stigma epidemic' too. HIV/AIDS-related stigma is complex and can be difficult to measure. ~ *Civil Society participant*

The stigma index presented by the US-based Synergy Project aims to evaluate stigma reduction efforts and programmes. One component of the index looks specifically at the experiences of people living with HIV and is being developed by networks of people living with HIV in collaboration with partners such as Synergy, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and UNAIDS.

Existing work measures stigma at three levels:

- stigma experienced by people living with HIV;
- stigma within the general population; and
- stigma at service provider level.

Examples of draft indicators from the people living with HIV component are:

- percentage of people living with HIV over the last year reporting experiences of HIV-related stigma and discrimination;
- percentage of people living with HIV over the last year reporting fear of HIV-related stigma and discrimination;
- percentage of people living with HIV who have disclosure issues related to their HIV status;
- percentage of people living with HIV over the past year experiencing internal stigma; and
- percentage of people living with HIV reporting issues related to access to and the quality of care and services.

The development of this people living with HIV component of the index and its eventual implementation through pilot testing in March 2006 depends heavily on the leadership of people living with HIV, and on collaboration by civil society and UNAIDS. If available in time, results from the pilot testing could be fed into the Global Report.

} It's a stigma index by and for people living with HIV. ~ *Civil Society participant*

For more information on stigma index work, please contact the Charles Katende at the Synergy Project: ckatende@s-3.com or Kate Thomson at UNAIDS: thomsonk@unaid.org.

AN ADVOCACY IDEA

Make strategic use of sections of the UNGASS DoC to support our advocacy aims.

Example: At global level

Aim: Pressurize for greater civil society involvement and participation.

} By 2003, establish and strengthen mechanisms that involve... civil society participants and people living with HIV/AIDS and vulnerable groups in the fight against HIV/AIDS. ~

(Paragraph 46 of UNGASS DoC)

How can collaboration continue?

In this part, thoughts on how civil society and UNAIDS can take responsibility, and on how UNAIDS can support civil society initiatives leading towards UNGASS 2006 are presented.

How can civil society take responsibility?

} We as civil society on the frontline need to take leadership ourselves. ~ *Civil Society participant*

Ways of broadening and consolidating coordination towards UNGASS 2006 were considered during the meeting. The CS Steering Committee agreed to review its membership with the aim of broadening the constituencies represented.

Working groups will be identified to review and take forward action tasks identified during the Recife meeting. These might include groups on political strategy, resources, reporting, and on communication and media, for example.

Working groups should cover UNGASS challenges ahead such as:

- o influencing the October draft resolution;
- o facilitating inputs into country reports, shadow reports, the Secretary General's Report and the UNAIDS Global Report;
- o advocacy with governments and other stakeholders; and
- o outreach and providing support for civil society groups before and during UNGASS 2006.

Please see *Steering Committee and working groups* on page 40 for more details.

How can UNAIDS take responsibility and support civil society?

Opportunities for UNAIDS to help involve civil society locally, nationally and internationally include the following.

- o Provide information about the UNGASS review process, e.g. indicators.
- o Give support for developing civil society M&E capacity.
- o Give direct support through M&E officers based in countries.
- o Help facilitate civil society meetings, including those with government.
- o Facilitate inclusive processes to discuss UNGASS and promote partnerships.
- o Facilitate access to existing structures for civil society groups, e.g. National HIV/AIDS Programme.
- o Help to create new spaces for civil society partnerships with government.

Please see the *UNGASS action list* on page 35 for more details.

Annexure

OUR UNGASS ACTION LIST: Key tasks, responsibilities, timelines and resources

This is a draft action list drawn up during the Recife meeting. Please read and use this list together with the annexure on page 40, detailing the civil society Steering Committee and working groups that you can contact to get involved.

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
Identify what civil society wants out of UNGASS	Recife participants	17 Sept	Key Criteria agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Want the process to reinvigorate the AIDS response * Honest review * No downward movement for targets * Emphasize exceptionality and urgency of AIDS * Full participation of civil society and PLHIV inside national delegations * At least one positive person addressing UNGASS * <i>Keep The Promise</i> and accountability should be key messages throughout UNGASS * Outcome document to name governments that do not report on promises
Capacity building and awareness-raising for civil society around UNGASS	UNAIDS/Civil Society Steering Committee	October	www.ungasshiv.org website, BTS eForum, HDN fact sheets, Summary of DoC Past reports UNAIDS website Report from this meeting
Identify who drafts the country reports and share contact information	UCCs and UNAIDS and Civil Society Steering Committee	October	Share information on UNGASSHIV website UNAIDS
Communication to country UN offices about UNGASS processes that also follow up on M&E Guidelines	UNAIDS Geneva	October	Report from Recife Meeting Primers UNGASSHIV
Mail hard copies of Country Guidelines and DoC to all meeting participants	UNAIDS	September	Country Guidelines

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
Create and distribute two-page fact sheet on UNGASS processes and opportunities for civil society engagement	UNAIDS	September	Fact sheet
PANOS/OSI/ICASO/WAC shadow reporting processes and results shared widely	PANOS/OSI/ ICASO/WAC/ LACCASO	September onwards	www.ungasshiv.org and individual websites, BTS eForum and national media
Clarify wider platforms for 50+ country reports—what will we do with this data?	ICASO Panos OSI WAC LACCASO UNAIDS	January	www.ungasshiv.org website, BTS eForum, Distribution lists UNAIDS
Distribute advocacy letter from Peter Piot (see annex) to UN Resident Coordinators and others to emphasize the need and opportunities for civil society involvement in UNGASS reporting	UNAIDS	September	Letter shared with UNAIDS and civil society colleagues to be used as an advocacy tool
Ongoing publicity for UNGASSHIV website and BTS eForum	WAC/HDN	September onwards	WAC with partners
Agree process to shape October Resolution	UNAIDS NYO, PCB NGOs and civil society	September	UNAIDS NY Office, UNAIDS Civil Society Unit, Participants of the Recife Meeting
Input into country reports	UNAIDS country staff, national civil society, four international civil society organizations	31 Dec	Guidelines on country reporting
Civil society workshops to input to country reports	UNAIDS to identify country leads	September - December	Grant to UCCs (and focal points?) to hold workshops
Organize information sharing session on UNGASS at ICASA	UNAIDS and civil society	7 Dec	

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
Organize information sharing session at LAC Regional AIDS Conference	UNAIDS to get space for UNGASS	7 Nov	
Flag treatment opportunities of UNGASS in final report of "3 by 5"	WHO	January	
Reaction and response to national reports	Steering Committee	January	
Opportunity to input to global report	UNAIDS/ Civil Society Steering Committee	January- March 2006	UNAIDS report schedule
Forming national delegations	UNAIDS to circulate invite Steering Committee	November	
Agree non-negotiable elements of Outcomes Document and strategise	Steering Committee PCB NGOs	December	
Strategy for inputs to Outcomes Document	Steering Committee PCB NGOs	January	
Use of Lima & Marrakech conferences for coordinating PLHIV pressure/advocacy	GNP+, ICW and PLHIV ITPC Organizations REDLA	January March	Websites and meeting support materials
World Health Assembly	WHO CS Steering Committee	May	Report papers, media and communications around Assembly
Secretary General's Report	UNAIDS Steering Committee PCB NGOs	Input by end Feb	
UNAIDS Global Report	UNAIDS	March	Country reports and civil society reports UNAIDS M&E report coordinator

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
UNGASS—media strategies to be developed and shared	All	April	
Ensure that any focus on Universal Access does not become an excuse for governments to ignore detail and specifics of Declaration of Commitment	All		
How to engage in country processes—model for involvement from Global Fund to be distributed to participants	Global Fund	September	
List of country contact people to support civil society engagement—person and organization—UNGASSHIV OSI/to provide contacts lists as annex to report	OSI	September	
Primer on engaging in National Reports for civil society and UN country staff which suggests criteria for engagement	UNAIDS	September	
Primer on shadow reports and all monitoring organizations to share tools	(OSI/PANOS/WAC /ICASO)	As soon as possible	
'UNGASS Steering Committee' to review its membership and form working groups (see page 40)	Steering Committee	September	Five Working Groups: Political Advocacy; CSO Participation in Country-level processes; CSO Participation in Global Reporting Processes; CSO Participation to/in UNGASS +5 meeting; Communications and Information Sharing.
Strategy to ensure UNGASS themes carried into the Toronto International AIDS Conference	All	January	
Features on civil society engagement in National Reporting—UNAIDS and www.ungasshiv.org websites	WAC UNAIDS	From October	
Strategize around influencing chairs of UNGASS roundtables to be more receptive of civil society	Steering Committee	From October	

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
Country-level hosts a forum between civil society and national delegation prior to departure	All		
Possible parallel civil society event in New York			
Follow-up after the event—how UN at country level will make commitments possible	All		
Maximise the presence of PCB NGOs in the UNGASS review—UNAIDS and PCB NGOs to develop UNGASS strategy/capacity that increases representation and reporting	UNAIDS PCB NGOs		
UNGASS process action alerts to go out to constituencies	All	September	Recife Meeting Report and annexes
Questions and Answers on Civil Society and UNGASS	UNAIDS	October	Meeting notes Mari Ortega's presentation
Pressure on visa and entry issues to human rights groups to facilitate involvement	Steering Committee Civil Society	Ongoing	UNAIDS/IOM policy UN staff draft advocacy strategy

Annexure

STEERING COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

Promoting civil society participation in UNGASS 2006

If you would like to find out more or to get involved, please contact the Steering Committee or the chair of the relevant working group. See the contact details for Recife meeting participants on page 50.

Objectives and Terms of Reference

Steering Committee and task groups

to Promote Civil Society Participation in UNGASS

Steering Committee

Objectives

The eight-member Steering Committee was elected from among the civil society signatories and supporters of a joint proposal to UNAIDS in January, 2005 to follow up on implementation of that proposal. More specifically, the Steering Committee's primary responsibilities are:

- to encourage and support enhanced civil society participation in the research, drafting and vetting of national progress reports on implementation of the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment;
- to facilitate enhanced civil society participation in the research, drafting and vetting of the global progress report on DoC implementation; and
- to encourage and facilitate civil society participation in the UNGASS process, and specifically the organization of the UNGASS Review Meeting currently scheduled for June 2006.

Terms of Reference

Steering Committee members should be available for regular Steering Committee teleconference meetings and occasional in-person meetings to coordinate activities in service of the above objectives and to guide the work of the working groups (see below).

Steering Committee members should participate in at least one of the below task groups and report back regularly to the Steering Committee on their work.

The Steering Committee will liaise regularly with UNAIDS to keep the Civil Society Partnerships Unit (CSP, Andy Seale) and the New York Office (NYO, Mari Ortega) informed of its work and of the work of its working groups in following up on agreements reached during the Recife meeting.

In cooperation with all working groups, the Steering Committee will report regularly on its work to the entire group (civil society organizations plus UNAIDS).

Current Members:

K.K. Abraham, Susan Chong, Tim France, Rachel Guglielmo, Alessandra Nilo, Allan Ragi, Mary Ann Torres, Marcel van Soest

Working Groups

Objectives

At the meeting in Recife, it was decided that it would be beneficial to establish working groups for the purpose of:

- rational division of work necessary to prepare for UNGASS+5 review process and meeting;
- expanding opportunities for civil society organizations to get involved in the UNGASS reporting process and in preparations for the 2006 UNGASS review meeting to organizations and individuals beyond the Steering Committee

Terms of Reference

Working Groups will include at least one representative of the Steering Committee as chair; one representative of the PCB nongovernmental organizations; and additional members nominated from among the Working Group/Recife Group as well as from other civil society organizations. Steering Committee members will take responsibility for communicating the group's work and any issues that might arise to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will act as a focal point for communication of working group activities to UNAIDS.

WORKING GROUP #1

Political Advocacy: International Resolutions/Committees/Processes

Objectives:

- to advocate with key policymakers and institutions for enhanced opportunities for substantive civil society participation in: the UNGASS reporting and review process (including through the development of the framing General Assembly resolutions); WHO/WHA agendas and meetings; the Commission on the Status of Women; the Human Rights committee; the International AIDS Conference; and other relevant international and regional gatherings, etc;
- to facilitate and keep the group informed of opportunities to give input/participate directly into these international processes, including through Working Group #5;
- to develop relationships with UN missions, the Secretary General's office, the General Assembly President's office, etc. to communicate the work of other task forces and win support for civil society organization participation in UNGASS +5 reporting and review processes;
- to communicate the content of international resolutions, commission/committee meetings relevant to HIV/AIDS and the UNGASS process to as wide a constituency of civil society organizations as possible (including through Working Group#5); and
- to liaise with relevant regional institutions to ensure civil society participation and awareness in processes related to UNGASS review and its outcomes (e.g. Asia/African development banks, ASEAN, African Union etc).

Members

Steering Committe: Marcel van Soest (Steering Committee Chair), Alessandra Nilo

PCB: Kim Nichols; Rachel Ong

Other Working Group members: Nina Schwalbe, Rodrigo Garay, Zonny Woods, Mike Perry, Shannon Kowalski

WORKING GROUP #2

Civil Society Participation in Country-level UNGASS reporting processes

Objectives:

- to provide technical support to civil society groups seeking to give input to governmental national progress reports;
- to provide technical support to civil society groups/networks in compiling national shadow reports on UNGASS;
- to ensure the timely flow of information about on-going civil society UNGASS monitoring and evaluation projects (including to the Communications and Information-sharing Working Group);
- to encourage country-level civil society organizations to press to be included in national delegations to UNGASS;
- to assist civil society groups in commenting on official government reports as soon as they become available in January 2006;
- to develop and implement a plan to disseminate and publicize civil society monitoring reports (in collaboration with the Communications and Information-sharing Working Group); and
- to plan and provide technical support for country-level media outreach regarding the UNGASS review process.

Members:

Steering Committee: Allan Ragi, Mary Ann Torres (Steering Committee Co-Chairs), Tim France, Susan Chong, Rachel Guglielmo

PCB: Omolulu Falobi (PCB member through end of December)

Other WG members/CSOs: Sisonke Msimang, Ronald Kayanja, Abigail Erikson, Claudio Galvez-Kovacics, Joya Banerjee, Rodrigo Pascal, Thomas Scalway, Johanna Hanefeld, Rainer Seybold, Rick Bauer, Cynthia Eyakuze

WORKING GROUP #3

Global Report Drafting/Reporting

Objectives:

- to prepare an overview report synthesizing principal findings and recommendations of civil society-led UNGASS monitoring projects as input for global reports;
- to prepare and coordinate special submission of Steering Committee/civil society input from UNGASS monitoring projects into the Secretary General's Report;
 - prepare a letter to the SG asking for opportunity to present input into his report;
- to prepare and coordinate special submission of Steering Committee/civil society input from UNGASS monitoring projects into the UNAIDS Global Progress Report;
- to prepare and coordinate special submission of Steering Committee input into the UNGASS outcomes document; and
- to provide information and technical support to civil society groups seeking to give input to UNAIDS global progress report.

Members:

Steering Committee: Rachel Guglielmo (Steering Committee Chair)

PCB member: Luis Leva (through 12/31/05)

Other WG members/CSOs: Claudio Galvez-Kovacics; Sisonke Msimang, Rodrigo Pascal, Katja Roll, Cynthia Eyakuze

WORKING GROUP #4

UNGASS Review Meeting/Side Events

Objectives:

- to provide information and support to civil society groups seeking to participate in the UNGASS Review Meeting;
- to prepare an “insider” agenda to help organize and prepare nongovernmental organizations and activists participating in the formal Review Meeting;
- to prepare an agenda of side events to allow for participation by nongovernmental organizations and activists who are not participating in the formal Review Meeting;
- to identify venues, develop separate agenda/presentation content/list of speakers, and recruit financial and logistical support from foundations, missions to the UN, friendly governments, etc. for each side event; and
- to prepare for and attend any UNGASS prepcomm or civil society or pre-meetings that might be organized.

Communications sub-group—in collaboration with Communication and Information-sharing working group objectives:

- to develop a communications strategy for the UNGASS Review meeting;
- to solicit and help develop materials (bulletins, articles, press releases, backgrounders, OpEds and editorials, etc.) from civil society groups participating in UNGASS monitoring/activism for publication and dissemination at the time of the UNGASS meeting;
- to organize radio and TV interviews for civil society groups/activists attending the UNGASS meeting;
- to organize art, photo and multimedia exhibitions featuring civil society-led activities on HIV/AIDS; and
- to promote substantive media coverage of the UNGASS meeting and participation by civil society groups in the meeting.

Members:

Steering Committee: Mary Ann Torres (Chair), Rachel Guglielmo, Marcel van Soest

PCB:

Other WG members/CSOs: Nina Schwalbe, Oswaldo Rada, Rodrigo Garay

WORKING GROUP #5

Communication and Information-sharing

The work of this Working Group underpins that of each of the other groups. Essential close relationships have been highlighted.

Objectives:

- in collaboration with the Steering Committee, promote transparency and accountability of the Steering Committee itself through timely and open distribution of information to all Working Group members;
- alert key civil society stakeholders about national UNGASS reporting process and key dates/milestones, and the importance of civil society involvement/parallel reporting processes (in close collaboration with Working Group#2);
- collect and distribute (including to the media) national case studies/examples highlighting civil society involvement in government processes;
- collect and distribute national case studies/examples highlighting options for independent civil society action (including descriptions of key international monitoring projects);
- publicise and ensure access to **ALL** new/relevant information resources as they become available (e.g., UNAIDS' Guidelines on Core Indicators", covering letters etc);
- in collaboration with Working Group#2, distribute reports for input/feedback in a timely way, including: a) draft national UNGASS reports (government); b) draft national shadow reports; c) draft global report (UNAIDS); and d) draft UNGASS 2006 outcomes document etc;
- establish and maintain user-friendly UNGASS-related information/experience/knowledge exchange platform(s) i.e., ungassshiv.org web site *and* Break-the-Silence eForum;
- distribute information about UNGASS review meeting and related preparatory and side events to be held between March and June 2006, in particular preparation/participation opportunities (from 1 February 2006 in particular, and in close collaboration with the UNGASS Review Meeting/Side Events Working Group); and
- coordinate synthesis of emerging issues, strategic opportunities and relevant meetings and conferences into background papers/primers for open distribution.

Members:

Steering Committee: Tim France (Chair), Marcel van Soest

PCB: Alena Peryshkina, Luis Leva (through 12/31/05)

Other WG members/CSOs: Ronald Kayanja, Oswaldo Rada, Thomas Scalway, Sara Speicher, Johanna Hanefeld

Appendix A

Signatories to the Joint NGO Proposal to UNAIDS¹

Dennis Altman, Professor, LaTrobe University-Australia
Joya Banerjee, Programme Coordinator, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS
Michael Borowitz, Director, Public Health Programs-Open Society Institute
Edgar Carrasco, Director, LACCASO
Arachu Castro, Director, Institute for Health and Social Justice, Partners in Health
Dawn Cavanagh, Gender AIDS Forum
Susan Chong, APCASO, Malaysian AIDS Council
Toen Coenen, Member of Steering Board, AAE - AIDS Action Europe
Kieran Daly, Policy Advisor, International HIV/AIDS Alliance
Vitaly Djuma, Chair, Russian Harm Reduction Network
Abigail Erikson, Global Campaign Coordinator, AIDS Care Watch/HDN
Claudio Gálvez-Kóvácic, Senior Campaign Coordinator, World AIDS Campaign
Rodrigo Garay, Executive Director, AIDS Accountability International
Hortense Gbaguidi-Niamke, HIV/AIDS Program Officer, Open Society Institute-
West Africa
Case Gordon, TBTv
Mila Gorokhovich, Project Officer, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS
Mark Harrington, Executive Director, Treatment Action Group
Kirsten Jensen, Senior Political Advisor, AIDS-Fondet
Bobby John, Massive Effort Campaign – India
Jackson John, Executive Director, National Network of Children Youth and Women
infected/affected by AIDS
Ronald Kayanja, Global AIDS Director, Panos Southern Africa
Renate Koch, Executive Director, LACCASO and ACCSI
Karen Leiter, Senior Research Associate, Physicians for Human Rights
Njogu Morgan, Coordinator, The Pan African Treatment Access Movement
(PATAM)
Sisonke Msimang, HIV/AIDS Program Officer, Open Society Institute-South Africa
Farai Mugweni, Coordinator, SANASO Secretariat:
Jeannie Mulenga, TBTv
Shyamala Natraj, Programme Director, South India AIDS Action Programme
Hazel Fonseca Navarro, Executive Director, Fundacion Xochiquetzal
Tim France, Director, Health Development Networks
Rene Loewenson, Southern African Network on Equity in Health (Equinet)
Vanessa López, Director, GlobalSIDA - acción contra el SIDA
Shaun Mellors, Independent consultant, South Africa
Dawie Nel, Director, OUT – Pretoria

¹ This list includes civil society organizations which contacted the Steering Committee to express support for the proposal *after* it had been sent to UNAIDS and which therefore do not appear on the original list of signatories

Alessandra Nilo, Director President, Gestos-Sorospositivity, Communication and Gender Issue Coordination; One World One Fight
Dasha Ocheret, Coordinator, New Drug Policy Alliance-Russia
Ana Oliveira, Executive Director, Gay Men's Health Crisis
Rachel Ploem, AIDS Coordinator, Share-Net, Netherlands Network on Sexual and Reproductive Health and AIDS
Oswaldo Rada, Regional Secretary REDLA+
Allan Ragi, Executive Director, Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO)
Leonard Rubenstein, Executive Director, Physicians for Human Rights
Anna Leah Sarabia, Executive Director, Women's Media Circle Foundation
Anya Sarang, Coordinator, Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network
Nina Schwalbe, Director of Policy, Global Alliance for TB Drug Development
Richard Stern, Director, Agua Buena Human Rights Association
Marija Subataite, AIDS Action Europe/ Eastern European Partnership Office
Tsitsi Singizi, Communications Officer, Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS)
Cheick Tidiane Tall, Executive Director, AfriCASO
Mary Ann Torres, Senior Programme Officer, ICASO
Edgar Valdez, Director, Programa para el Desarrollo Humano
Rian van de Braak, Executive Director, AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)
Mabel van Oranje, Director of EU Policy, Open Society Institute
Sonia Borja Velazco, Executive Director, Movimiento Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Mujeres Positivas+
José Carlos Veloso, President, GAPA Brazilian Network, One World, One Fight
Volnov Veniamin, Chairman of the Board, Siberian Initiative
Paul Zeitz, President and Executive Director, Global AIDS Alliance
Winstone Zulu, TBTv

Annexure

CONTACT AND RESOURCE INFORMATION: Recife meeting participants

This is a contact list of participants, who attended the Recife meeting. Civil Society Steering Committee (SC) members are marked with an asterisk for easy reference. To facilitate contact with the SC, we include SC members invited to Recife, but unable to attend due to other commitments.*

<p>KK Abraham*</p> <p>(and representing AIDS Care Watch Campaign)</p>	<p>Indian Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS INP+ Flat N° 6 Kash Towers 93 South West Boag Road 600017 T.Nagar Chennai India +91 44 4329 580 /81 +91 44 4329 582 inpplus@vsnl.com support@inpplus.org</p>
<p>Susan Chong*</p>	<p>APCASO 12, Jalan 13/48A Boulevard Shop Office off Jalan Sentul 51000 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia + 60 12 315 7580 +60 3 40451033 +60 3 40439178 apcaso@pd.jaring.my</p>
<p>Jose Carlos Veloso Da Silva</p>	<p>Rua Pedro Américo, 32 - 13 ° São Paulo - SP 01045-010 Brasil Fax: 55 11 3333 2528 jcveloso@terra.com.br</p>
<p>Tim France*</p> <p>(did not attend Recife meeting)</p>	<p>Health and Development Networks (HDNET) Director PO Box 173 Chiang Mai University Post Office Huay Kaew Roa Chiang Mai 50200 Thailand Tel: +66 53 418438 Fax: +66 53 418439 Mobile: +66 9 855 4621 tfran@hdnet.org</p>

Claudio Gálvez-Kóvácic	Senior Campaign Coordinator World AIDS Campaign Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 21 1012 RC Amsterdam The Netherlands Tel: +31 20 612 33 63 Fax: +31 20 521 00 39 galvez-kovacicc@worldaidscampaign.org
Ian Grubb	WHO 20 Avenue Appia CH-1211 Geneva 27 grubbi@who.int
Rachel Guglielmo* (and representing AIDS Care Watch Campaign)	Public Health Watch Open Society Institute 400 W. 59th St New York 10019 United States of America Mobile: +1 917 640 63 94 rguglielmo@sorosny.org
Rico Gustav	Community Advocacy Team UNAIDS Indonesia Secretariat Menara Thamrin, 10th Floor Jl. M.H. Thamrin Kav.3 Jakarta 10250 Indonesia Tel: +62 21 3141308 Fax: +62 21 3907569 rgustav.unaids@un.or.id
Johanna Hanefeld	Panos Global AIDS Programme Panos Southern Africa PO Box 39163 Plot 32A Leopards Hill Road Lusaka Zambia Tel: +260 1 263258 Fax: +260 1 261039 info@panos.org.uk Johanna.hanefeld@panos.org.uk web: www.panos.org.uk
Linda Hartke	Coordinator, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance 150 route de Ferney P.O. Box 2100 CH-1211 Geneva 2 Switzerland Tel: + 41 22 791 6141 Fax: + 41 22 710 2387 lhartke@e-alliance.ch

Beri Hull (and representing ITPC)	Global Advocacy Officer: Access to Care, Treatment and Support The International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (ICW) 1345 Emerald Street, NE Washington, DC 20002 USA Phone/Fax: +1 202 397 8488 beri@icw.org
International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC)	Represented by Beri Hull Rodrigo Pascal
Dr Charles Katende	Senior Technical Specialist for Monitoring and Evaluation The Synergy Project 1101 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 900 Washington, DC 20005, USA Tel: +1 202 842 2939 ext.139 Fax: +1 202 842 7646 ckatende@s-3.com
Ronald Kayanja	Panos Global AIDS Programme Panos Southern Africa PO Box 39163 Plot 32A Leopards Hill Road Lusaka Zambia Tel: +260 1 263258 Fax: +260 1 261039 info@panos.org.uk
Ondina Leal	Ford Foundation Praia do Flamengo, 154-8 Andar 22210-030 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Tel: +55 81 3235 2100 o.leal@fordfound.org
Luis Leiva Friedman (representing GNP+ and PCB NGO)	Hatillo 4, Acera 4, Casa 114 43 1300 Hatukki Costa Rica lleiva@ellagar.com
Mick Matthews	Civil Society Liaison Officer Global Fund (GFATM) Geneva Secretariat 53, Avenue Louis-Casaï 1216 Geneva-Cointrin, Switzerland Tel: +41 22 791 17 00 Fax: +41 22 791 17 Mick.Matthews@TheGlobalFund.org

Robin Montgomery*	Russia AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW) Chayanova St. 15/5 125047 Moscow Russian Federation Tel: +7 095 2506377 Fax: +7 095 2506387 Mobile: +7 89 169 124 190 info@afew.org
Kim Nichols	African Service Committee 429 West 127th St New York NY 10027 USA Tel: +1 212 222 3882 Fax: +1 212 222 7067 africanserve@att.net
Alessandra Nilo*	GESTOS-HIV Positive Communication and Gender Issues President Rua dos Medices, 68-Boa Vista 50070-290 Recife/PE Brazil Phone 1: +55 81 34217670 Phone 2: +55 81 34217727 Fax: +55 81 32313880 alessandra.nilo@gestospe.org.br
Rachel Ong	Asia Pacific Network of People living with HIV/AIDS (APN+) Youanmenwai, No. 2 Dongbinhe Road Golden Century Apartments Block 8, Room 2712 Fengtai District Beijing 100054, China rachel.ong.pcb@gmail.com
Rodrigo Pascal (representing REDLA+ and ITPC)	Vivo Positivo San Isidro 367 Santiago Chile Tel: +56 2 635 50 74 Fax: +56 2 635 39 51 rpascal@vivopositivo.org

Alena Peryshkina	AIDS Infoshare 1 st Dorozhniy Proezd 9/10, Office 350 P.O. box 15 117 545 Moscow Russian Federation Tel: +70 95 381 2839 Fax: +70 95 381 2839 alena@infoshare.ru
Allan Ragi*	Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium Avenue du Cercle Nairobi Kenya +254 2 715008 +254 2717664 kenaid@iconnect.co.ke
Jacqueline Rocha Côrtes	Advisor for International Cooperation Ministry of Health Brazil Secretariat for Health Surveillance National STD/AIDS Program External Cooperation Unit – COOPEX Av.W 3 Norte SEPN 511 – Bloco C Asa Norte CEP 70750-543 Brazil Tel: +55 61 3448 8111 Fax: +55 61 3448 8458 Jacqueline.cortes@aims.gov.br
Mary Ann Torres* (did not attend Recife meeting)	Senior Programme Officer International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) Central Secretariat 65 Wellesley Street E, Suite 403 Toronto Ontario Canada M4Y 1G7 Tel: +1 416 921 0018 Ext16 Fax: +1 416 921 9979 maryannt@icaso.org
Marcel van Soest* (and representing AIDS Care Watch Campaign)	World AIDS Campaign Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 21 1012 RC Amsterdam The Netherlands Tel: +31 20 612 33 63 fax: +31 20 521 00 39 vansoestm@worldaidscampaign.org

Asunta Wagura	Executive Director Kenya Network of women with AIDS (KENWA) City gate House, 2nd Floor Muranga Road P.O. box 10001 00100 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254 2 6766 677 Fax: +254 20 6760 970 Cell: +254 722677122 kenwa@wananchi.com
Zonny Woods	International Women's Health Coalition 333 Seventh Avenue, 6 th floor New York, NY 10001, USA Tel: +1 212 801 1298 Cell: +1 917 498 4732 zonnyw@yahoo.co.uk
Derrick Fine (report writer for UNAIDS)	Plain Language and HIV/AIDS Consultant PO Box 48263 Kommetjie 7976 Cape Town South Africa Tel/Fax: +27 21 783 1699 Cell: +27 72 156 4667 derrickf@iafrica.com
Paul de Lay	UNAIDS Secretariat (Monitoring and Evaluation) Geneva delayp@unaids.org
Hilary Hughes	UNAIDS, RST Caribbean hughesh@unaids.org
Rosemeire Munhoz	UNAIDS, RST Latin America munhozr@unaids.org
Victor Mari Ortega	UNAIDS NY Office ortegav@unaids.org
Marcelle Rin	UNAIDS Secretariat (CS Partnerships) Geneva rilm@unaids.org
Andy Seale	UNAIDS Secretariat (CS Partnerships) Geneva sealea@unaids.org
Kate Thomson	UNAIDS Secretariat (CS Partnerships) Geneva thomsonk@unaids.org

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CONTACT AND RESOURCE INFORMATION: Useful websites

www.e-alliance.ch

www.gestospe.org.br

www.hdnet.org

www.healthdev.org/eforums/break-the-silence

www.icaso.org

www.icw.org

www.inpplus.net

www.iwhc.org

www.kanco.org

www.panosaid.org

www.SynergyAIDS.com

www.theglobalfund.org

www.un.org

www.unaids.org

www.ungasshiv.org

www.worldaidscampaign.org

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UNGASS 2006—QUICK PARTICIPATION GUIDES

Civil society and country level reporting

This is a summary of the guide drafted by the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO).

What country level reporting are you getting involved in?

In June 2006, governments of the world will meet to discuss progress on the implementation of the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment (DoC). Governments are expected to prepare a report that will inform the Global Report that UNAIDS will prepare in early 2006.

For 2006, countries will be reporting on the achievements of these 2005 targets.

- *Prevention*: paragraph 47 of the DoC (prevalence among youth); paragraph 49 (programmes in the world of work); paragraph 50 (programmes for migrants and mobile workers); paragraph 52 (prevention programmes); paragraph 53 (access to education and information); and paragraph 54 (proportion of infants with HIV).
- *Care, support and treatment*: paragraph 56 (implementation of comprehensive care strategies).
- *HIV/AIDS and human rights*: paragraph 59 (implementation of national strategies promoting empowerment of women); paragraph 60 (measures to increase capacities of women and girls to protect themselves); paragraph 61 (implementation of strategies for women's empowerment and the promotion of human rights).
- *Children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS*: paragraph 65 (implement national policies and strategies for a supportive environment for orphans and children living with and affected by HIV).
- *Resources*: paragraph 80 (annual expenditure on the epidemic of US\$ 7-10 billion).

Paragraph 94 of the DoC calls for civil society involvement in the national periodic reviews of progress achieved in realizing these commitments, and in identifying problems and obstacles to achieving progress.

UNAIDS has referred to the need for civil society involvement in its letter to governments, so you are in a good position to be involved. Refer to the UNAIDS letter in any communication with the UNAIDS office and your government.

How can you get involved?

As civil society organizations, you should try to approach government authorities early in the process to discuss the best way to be involved.

As you are working at local level with people most affected by HIV and AIDS, you are in a good position to balance the data the government is providing, just by sharing in a systematic way what you see everyday in your work. The evidence you present can be in the form of stories from your colleagues, clients, users and stakeholders to illustrate your point, e.g. somebody that was tested without consent in the workplace.

Here are some ideas on opportunities and strategies that you can use.

GUIDELINE 1: Key dates

- First week in August 2005: UNAIDS sends a letter and indicator guidelines to the permanent missions in NY highlighting that the UNGASS DoC calls for involvement of civil society in the reporting process.
- In October 2005: UNAIDS will send a letter and indicator guidelines to UNGASS Country Coordinators (UCCs).
- By 31 December 2005: governments must submit their country report to UNAIDS Geneva.

GUIDELINE 2: National processes

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs will receive the official communication from the UN Mission in New York and will forward this to the most appropriate government minister.
- The UNAIDS Country Coordinator will also receive these documents.
- In some countries, UN Theme Groups have started to meet and design a strategy to get a multisectoral approach to the report.
- A government official may contact the UNAIDS Country Coordinator to respond to the questionnaire and help create the report. In most cases where there are UNAIDS M&E officers, they will play an important role.

Ideas for action:

- Contact your UN country office for updated information about the process and how best to get involved. Remember: UNAIDS Country Coordinators have been encouraged to facilitate the involvement of civil society in the process and to support this in any way possible.
- Propose to your UNAIDS Country Coordinator the possibility of holding a meeting with all stakeholders (including the government) early in the process to discuss a process that is inclusive and participatory.
- Read the indicator guidelines carefully and review the DoC—try to highlight the targets that most interest you because of the work you do or the information you can easily find.

GUIDELINE 3: Strategies to ensure civil society is involved

- Disseminate the DoC widely to organizations and people working on HIV/AIDS and other development issues.
- Identify the national priorities of your country and decide which targets you want to concentrate on.
- Identify opportunities to discuss these issues with other organizations, e.g. a national HIV/AIDS conference.
- Contact the UNAIDS Country Coordinator in your country and suggest that UNAIDS should organize a meeting of civil society organizations and government authorities to discuss the process. Add a copy of the letter sent by UNAIDS with your request. For a list of country coordinators, please write to ungass@icaso.org.
- Contact the head of the National HIV/AIDS programme or equivalent structure. Present them the letter and indicator guidelines sent by UNAIDS. If they have not received them, suggest they approach the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health or any other minister this communication may have been sent to.

A final thought

The UNAIDS Secretariat has agreed to create a process to accept civil society 'shadow reports' directly in Geneva. This is another opportunity that civil society groups have to present their independent version of the progress made in the implementation of the DoC.

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UNGASS 2006—QUICK PARTICIPATION GUIDE Getting involved in country delegations

This is a summary of the guide drafted by the Global Fund

What delegation and process are you getting involved in?

At the 2006 UNGASS Review Meeting, countries will again be represented by a team of delegates. These are usually drawn from the Embassies and Missions in New York, and may include members of appropriate government departments from each country.

Example from UNGASS 2001

The UK delegation was made up of the UK Mission in New York, the Department for International Development (DfID) and three nongovernmental organization delegates.

Each delegation has a duty to promote and defend its country's interests within the context of the subject being discussed. A 'country's interests' can, for example, include treaties and economic agreements between governments, and the impact of the country's own cultural, legal and religious system.

For UNGASS 2001, a first draft Declaration of Commitment (DoC) was prepared. The draft DoC was then put through a process of consultation at the General Assembly and was broadened to include nongovernmental organizations and other civil society actors before a second draft was written.

There was then a long, serious process of negotiating agreement on the text of the DoC, including a lot of 'trade-offs' and compromises. Each country tried to promote its own ideas, solutions, ideology or moral framework within the context of the overall aim of committing to a united response to HIV and AIDS.

How can you become an effective member of your Country Delegation?

Here are some ideas, based on the experience of the UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development.

Before you start, be clear about what you want to achieve by your participation. What are your objectives?

Examples of the UK Consortium's objectives for UNGASS 2001

1. To attend the special session and preparatory meetings as members of the UK Delegation and to present the Consortium position in all relevant meetings.
2. To strengthen the relationship with DfID at organizational and individual levels.
3. To support, wherever possible, the UK Delegation in ensuring the strongest possible Declaration, given the limitations of the process.
4. To provide a link between the General Assembly process and the parallel nongovernmental organization meeting, providing regular updates.
5. To arrange a briefing meeting with the Secretary of State (Clare Short), for the benefit of Consortium Members attending UNGASS.
6. To network extensively with a broad range of organizations and specifically to open a contact with Lieve Fransen of the European Community.
7. To enhance the reputation of the Consortium.
8. To gain a better understanding of the process of the European Union and the UN so that this experience can be used to improve the quality of service the Secretariat provides for the Consortium membership.

Your objectives give you the basis from which you can build your case to justify the inclusion of civil society representatives.

Ideas to guide your actions

- Contact your appropriate Ministry as soon as possible and suggest that you begin talks around UNGASS and your organization's participation. Make them aware that you are already engaged in the process and linked with international nongovernmental organization processes that could benefit the delegation.
- Push the idea that nongovernmental organization participation will help develop a mutually beneficial partnership. Remember that the UNGASS process needs a strategic and measured approach to enable you to operate within your government delegation.
- Try to take a 'long-term' view and move away from the traditional roles of government and civil society in opposition to each other.
- See the value of attending UNGASS as part of a country delegation as a great opportunity for influence, contribution, dialogue, high-level networking, building relationships with government, and promoting the knowledge and expertise of nongovernmental organizations in HIV/AIDS and international development work.
- Suggest that there is a series of pre-meetings so that the differences between civil society and government positions can be identified and reconciled. This can help the Government and nongovernmental organizations to attend UNGASS as a 'team' and will probably make your contributions more effective.
- Be prepared to be a nongovernmental organization representative who is willing and able to work hard and to see the whole process through to the end.

- As a member of a government delegation, you need to understand and accept that there will be times when the discussions you have within the delegation cannot be shared more broadly, e.g. with other nongovernmental organization colleagues. You may well be bound by confidentiality rules.

Example of the Chatham House Rule in the UK:

“When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed; nor may it be mentioned that the information was received at a meeting of the Institute.”

Annexure



Executive Director

Reference: EVA/NM/PDL/M&E

The Focal Points, Permanent Missions
to the United Nations in Geneva
The Focal Points, Permanent Missions
to the United Nations in New York
(c/o UNAIDS/New York Office)
The Member, UNAIDS Programme
Coordinating Board

11 August 2005

I am pleased to share with you the recently published: “*UNAIDS Monitoring the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS Guidelines on Construction of Core Indicators.*” This improved guide includes the indicators that were used in the 2003 reporting, a list of core indicators for different types of epidemics and additional guidance to improve the quality of data collection. It takes into account lessons learned from the 2003 reporting and input received from a variety of stakeholders, including National AIDS Committees or their equivalents, civil-society organizations and people living with HIV. The document also contains a pamphlet that summarizes the list of core indicators for quick reference.

The main purpose of the document is to provide National AIDS Committees or their equivalent with technical guidelines on how to measure the core indicators on HIV/AIDS. The guidelines aim to maximize the validity, internal consistency and comparability across countries and over time of the indicator results.

The guidelines also emphasize steps to ensure a participatory and transparent approach throughout the report preparation process – from the planning phase to the submission of the final report to UNAIDS. As required by the *Declaration of Commitment*, civil society groups, including people living with HIV, should be integral participants in all consultations around the preparation of the national progress report. UNAIDS encourages governments to integrate input from a range of civil society organizations into the national report. UNAIDS also strongly recommends that national governments organize a workshop/forum to present and discuss the draft national progress report before submission; where appropriate, the final report should reflect the discussion at this event. The UN Theme Groups, through the UNAIDS Country Coordinators (UCCs), should assist in facilitating this process.

Cc: Chair, Theme Group
UN Resident Coordinators
UNGASS Reporting Civil Society Steering Committee
UNAIDS Country Coordinators
UNAIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Officers
UNAIDS Focal Points
Members, UNAIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group

..2/

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS • 20, avenue Appia • CH-1211 Geneva 27 • Switzerland
Tel. (+41)22 791 4510 • Fax (+41)22 791 4179 • e-mail <unaids@unaids.org> • <http://www.unaids.org>

I would be grateful if you would share the attached document with relevant persons in government in order to assure full use of the guidelines. Additional copies in French, Spanish and Russian will be sent to relevant countries in September 2005. Additional information on the UNGASS reporting is available through the e-mail address: ungassindicators@unaids.org. I also wish to inform you that, for the 60th Session of the General Assembly, all countries are expected to report on each of the national indicators that are applicable to their response by **31 December 2005**. **Responses should be directed to Dr Peter Piot, Executive Director, Attention: Dr Paul De Lay, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNAIDS, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneve 27, Switzerland.**

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Dr Peter Piot



Executive Director

Reference: EVA/PDL/M&E

The Focal Points, Permanent Missions
to the United Nations in Geneva
The Focal Points, Permanent Missions
to the United Nations in New York
(c/o UNAIDS/New York Office)
The Members, UNAIDS Programme
Coordinating Board

8 November 2005

This is a follow-up to the letter from 11 August which provided copies of the recently published: *"UNAIDS Monitoring the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS Guidelines on Construction of Core Indicators"* and serves to remind all 189 countries that endorsed the UNGASS "Declaration of Commitment" in 2001 that reports on national progress are due 31 December 2005. This includes High Income, Middle Income, and Low Income countries. The reports should focus on available data for the domestic HIV/AIDS program. If you are a donor country it is not necessary to provide information on your international assistance for AIDS that is given to other recipient countries.

An analysis and synthesis of these national reports will be produced for the Secretary General to present at the next UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS, scheduled for 31 May to 2 June 2006. Reporting on progress towards the goals and objectives of the "Declaration of Commitment" should foster a better understanding of the areas where significant improvement is being made and assist in the identification of those areas where a more concerted and strategic effort may be needed.

As required by the *Declaration of Commitment*, civil society groups, including people living with HIV, should be integral participants in all consultations around the preparation of the national progress report. UNAIDS encourages governments to integrate input from a range of civil society organizations into the national report. UNAIDS also strongly recommends that national governments organize a workshop/forum to present and discuss the draft national progress report before submission; where appropriate, the final report should reflect the discussion at this event. The UN Theme Groups, through the UNAIDS Country Coordinators (UCCs), should assist in facilitating this process.

cc: Chair, Theme Group
UN Resident Coordinators
UNGASS Reporting Civil Society Steering Committee
UNAIDS Country Coordinators
UNAIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Officers
UNAIDS Focal Points
Members, UNAIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group
Director, UNAIDS Office New York
Director, Regional Support Teams
Director, Country and Regional Support Department
Director, Advocacy, Communication and Leadership
Associate Director, Governance and UN Relations

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS • 20, avenue Appia • CH-1211 Geneva 27 • Switzerland
Tel. (+41)22 791 4510 • Fax (+41)22 791 4179 • e-mail <unaids@unaids.org> • <http://www.unaids.org>

The "*UNAIDS Monitoring the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS Guidelines on Construction of Core Indicators*" in both printed and electronic copies and additional information on UNGASS reporting is available through the e-mail address: ungassindicators@unaids.org.

The UNAIDS-developed Country Response Information System (CRIS) is an efficient way to manage and report on indicators if no Monitoring and Evaluation system currently exists. When other systems do exist, the UNAIDS-sponsored standard format for indicator data provides a means to exchange indicator data between these systems and report to UNAIDS. More information on CRIS and the data exchange is available through the e-mail address: cris@unaids.org.

Again, all countries are expected to transmit their report by **31 December 2005**. **Responses should be directed to Dr Peter Piot, Executive Director, Attention: Dr Paul De Lay, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNAIDS, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.**

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

World leaders gathered in June 2001 for the United Nations Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) where they agreed to a series of targets and promises to tackle HIV and AIDS. Their promises were captured in a Declaration of Commitment that has since served as a tool to measure progress at global and national levels. In June 2006, governments will get together to review progress towards the first comprehensive set of targets outlined in the Declaration of Commitment for the end of 2005.

This report aims to capture the discussions, spirit and vision of the joint civil society and UNAIDS UNGASS planning meeting held in Recife, Brazil from 15 to 17 September 2005. This report is a practical tool to strengthen our efforts as civil society, governments and UNAIDS in responding to HIV and AIDS challenges at local, country and global level. In the short-term, the report aims to focus and guide our collective efforts in the lead-up to the UNGASS Review Meeting in mid-2006.

www.ungasshiv.org for further information