

UPDATE - 2006 HIV/AIDS UNGASS REVIEW No. 1

In this e-Bulletin:

- 2006 Comprehensive Review and High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS
- XVI International AIDS Conference
- Scaling Up Towards Universal Access
- Calendar of Events
- Useful Websites

2006 marks the five-year anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (DoC), which set time-bound goals and targets aimed at stopping and reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS. With many governments falling short on achieving targets set for 2003 and 2005, this anniversary will be an important occasion to review and recommit to implementation of the DoC, evaluate challenges and obstacles, and reassess what needs to be done in order to effectively combat the pandemic. For SRHR and women's rights NGOs, this year offers an opportunity to draw the attention of governments to the growing impact of HIV and AIDS on women and young people, as well as the linkages between SRH and HIV/AIDS information and services. Because these issues are often marginalized in the global discourse on HIV and AIDS, it is important that we engage in this process at the national, regional and international levels.

This e-Bulletin, produced by Family Care International (FCI) and the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC), will share information about important events and initiatives related to HIV and AIDS in 2006 and identify key opportunities for advocacy. If you have information to share or additional questions about the process, please contact Shannon Kowalski (FCI) at skowalski@fcimail.org or Zonny Woods (IWHC) at zonnyw@yahoo.co.uk.

2006 Comprehensive Review and High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS New York, 31 May – 2 June 2006

On December 23, 2005, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on modalities for a comprehensive review of implementation of the DoC and high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS (UN Symbol A/RES/60/224). The review meeting will take place at United Nations headquarters in New York from **May 31 to June 2**.

The first two days of the meeting will be technical in nature, and will include an interactive hearing with civil society, roundtables, panel discussions and plenary sessions. The high-level meeting will take place on June 2, where a short political declaration reaffirming commitment to the DoC will be adopted. The President of the General Assembly, with input from UNAIDS and in consultation with member states, will be responsible for finalizing the agenda, setting the themes for the roundtables and panel discussions, and overseeing the negotiations for the political declaration.

The resolution also makes specific provisions for civil society participation in the meeting, inviting NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as establishing a process for the accreditation of representatives of other NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector. In addition, member states are encouraged to include civil society representatives in their national delegations.

The Review and High-Level Meeting at a glance:

- The UN Secretary General will submit a **report** six weeks before the review **on progress achieved and challenges remaining in realizing the commitments in the Declaration of Commitment**;
- A **short political declaration** will be adopted at the end of the meeting reaffirming and recommitting to the full implementation of the Declaration of Commitment;
- A person living with HIV/AIDS will be invited to speak at the **opening plenary session**;
- Civil society representatives will have the opportunity to dialogue with governments during an **informal, interactive hearing**;
- **Five to ten civil society representatives** will be invited to participate with governments in each of the **concurrent roundtable sessions**. Each roundtable will have a total of 40 to 45 participants;
- Civil society representatives will be invited to speak on **concurrent panel sessions**; and
- **Summaries from the roundtables, panels and the civil society hearings** will be presented to a plenary meeting scheduled for June 1, 2006.

The complete resolution can be found in all six official UN languages by searching for symbol A/RES/60/224 on the UN Documents Website: <http://documents.un.org>.

NGOs that do not have consultative status with ECOSOC must submit a completed application, attached, to UNAIDS by **3 February 2006**. The application form is also available on the UNAIDS website at <http://www.unaids.org/en/Goals/UNGASS/default.asp>. NGOs that apply to participate in the meeting through this process are not guaranteed to receive an invitation. UNAIDS, with a panel of civil society representatives, will review the applications and prepare a list of recommendations for the President of the General Assembly (PGA). The PGA will then review and make modifications to the list to ensure, for example, that there is geographic balance and that the NGOs are working to implement the Declaration of commitment, among other criteria. The list will then be presented to the General Assembly for its approval on a non-objection basis by February 15, 2006. This means that if any government objects to the participation of a particular NGO on the list, the NGO will automatically be dropped from the list and will not receive an invitation to participate in the review meeting.

NGOs that have consultative status with ECOSOC, must confirm their interest in participating in the review meeting by **30 March 2006**, by sending an email or fax listing their representatives to the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (email: desangosection@un.org, fax: +1 (212) 963-9248).

XVI International AIDS Conference Toronto, 13-18 August 2006

The International AIDS Conference will be held from 13-18 August in Toronto this year, with the theme "Time to Deliver." This conference, held every two years, showcases the latest research and program approaches on HIV and AIDS and is an opportunity to share information and network with people from around the world.

Deadlines are approaching rapidly for this major conference. We hope your organization will consider submitting an abstract or skills-building workshop to ensure that the conference recognizes that realistic and life-saving prevention must include woman- and girl-centered strategies and better linkages between SRH and HIV/AIDS services and information.

For more information about the conference and information on submitting abstracts and applying for scholarships, visit: <http://www.aids2006.org/>.

AIDS Conference Important Dates:

22 February 2006

- Standard fee ends (late surcharge begins 23 February 2006)
- Abstract submission closes
- International and Canadian scholarship applications close
- Skills building workshop proposals close

15 March 2006

- Global Village Applications close

15 May 2006

- Standard fee plus late surcharge end (last minute surcharge begins 16 May 2006)
- Media scholarship applications close

29 May 2006

Late breaker abstract submission opens

12 June 2006

Late breaker abstract submission closes

Scaling Up Towards Universal Access

At the 2005 World Summit, World Leaders agreed to develop and implement "a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it, including through increased resources...." Based on this commitment, a global initiative on 'Scaling Up Towards Universal Access' has been established by UNAIDS in collaboration with the UK Department for International Development (DfID).

In January, UNAIDS and DfID convened a Global Steering Committee to identify strategies and priorities for scaling up towards universal access. The 45-member Global Steering Committee is

comprised of representatives from governments, civil society, academics, the private sector, including pharmaceuticals, multilateral funding agencies and UN agencies. However, at this point there are no representatives of women's, youth, or sexual and reproductive health and rights organizations on the Global Steering Committee.

The Global Steering Committee's first meeting was held in Washington on January 9-10, 2006. There they identified five principal areas for interventions to ensure universal access: sustainable financing; human resource capacity and health and social services system constraints; development and distribution of affordable commodities and low-cost technologies; human rights, stigma, discrimination and gender equity; and targets and milestones.

Over the next two months, a series of national- and regional-level consultations are being held to identify obstacles to and strategies for scaling up in local and regional contexts. The outcomes of these consultations will be compiled by the Global Steering Committee into a framework that will aim to provide global-level solutions to common obstacles. The overall aim of this initiative is to develop action plans and clear commitments to address obstacles to universal access at the country, regional and global levels.

To get involved, contact your national AIDS body to find out whether a consultation is being held in your country or region and how your organization can provide input.

For more information about the Global Steering Committee, including detailed e-bulletins about their work, visit <http://www.unaids.org/en/in+focus/topic+areas/universal+access.asp>.

Calendar of Events

27 February – 10 March

Commission on the Status of Women
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/50sess.htm>

22-27 May

World Health Assembly
<http://www.who.int/>

31 May – 2 June

Comprehensive Review and High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS
<http://www.unaids.org/en/Goals/UNGASS/default.asp>

13-18 August

XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto
<http://www.AIDS2006.org>

Useful Websites

UNAIDS
<http://www.unaids.org>

World AIDS Campaign
<http://www.worldaidscampaign.org>

ICASO
<http://www.icaso.org>

UNGASSHIV.org
<http://www.ungasshiv.org>



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588 Broadway, Suite 503
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International Women's Health Coalition
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