



FROM WORDS TO ACTION

As representatives of 34 regional and international networks from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, working together as **“Strategies from the South: Building Synergies in HIV/AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights”**, we urge governments and donors to strengthen their commitments, moving from words to real action.

We urge governments attending the High Level Meeting on AIDS to adopt the following actions:

- ◇ Reaffirm the need to urgently implement a response to HIV transmission for LGTTTB, sex workers, women (including serodiscordant women and elderly women), girls, young people, injecting and non-injecting drug users, migrant workers and rural populations, recognizing that effective HIV prevention is undermined by actions that stigmatize or marginalize these groups.
- ◇ Develop sustained HIV prevention programs that address the root causes of vulnerability, including poverty, discrimination based on sexual orientation, sociocultural factors and gender inequalities, putting a special accent on the increased vulnerability of women and girls due to gender based violence.
- ◇ Impulse the active participation of community groups, particularly those from groups with increased vulnerability, in the design, implementation and evaluation of governmental prevention programs, and make data from government programs accessible to community organizations.
- ◇ In recognizing vulnerable groups, move away from the concept of 'drivers' of the epidemic and concentrate on the diverse needs of the vulnerable and marginalized populations themselves.
- ◇ Reaffirm their commitment to expand access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment, harm-reduction efforts related to drug use, expanded access to voluntary and confidential counseling and testing and early and effective treatment of sexually transmittable infections.
- ◇ Comply with the necessary actions to reach the 2010 goal of 95% of youth having access to information, education and services to reduce their vulnerability to HIV, by ensuring: comprehensive sexuality education within a gender-sensitive and human rights framework and guaranteeing that adolescents and youth have access to Sexual and Reproductive Health services without any restrictions or discrimination.
- ◇ Reaffirm their commitments to women's and girls' rights, including access to sexual and reproductive health care and all contraception methods, including the female condom, recognizing that this is a rights issue and not just a health issue, due to the obstacles women face in negotiating safe sex in relationships.
- ◇ Protect the rights of all PLWHA as individuals as it is claimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, guaranteeing their access to basic services, such as decent work, health care and social services, which directly impact the recognition of their dignity as well as the possibility of maintaining adherence to treatment and general wellbeing.
- ◇ Ensure the effective allocation of funds in order to reach the HIV/AIDS Commitments by 2010, and create a mechanism to channel funds to community sector groups working with populations with increased vulnerability, ensuring a greater distribution of resources to grassroots organizations who are working in communities on prevention, education, care and treatment.



- ◇ Increase the resources allocated to prevention, care and support amongst LGTTTB, sex workers, women (including serodiscordant women and elderly women), girls, young people, injecting and non-injecting drug users, migrant workers and rural populations, and the implementation of proven effective responses only.
- ◇ Ensure universal access to ARV drugs, and other co-infection treatment, changing WTO rules to guarantee affordable prices and quality drugs.
- ◇ Enact participatory national policies for women and youth living with HIV/AIDS.
- ◇ Recognize the human rights violations implicit in anti-trafficking laws that make all prostitution illegal, eliminate "Raid, Rescue and Restore" missions with sex workers and their compulsory detention and rehabilitation and address the structural issues behind sex work, such as gender, class and race.
- ◇ State that effective HIV prevention amongst injecting drug users should be based on comprehensive public health strategies that include widespread access to substitution treatment and needle exchange (as has already been stated in the UNAIDS Prevention Strategy published in 2005).
- ◇ Call for the prevention of HIV to be given higher prominence within the UN drug control system through the 10-year review currently being conducted under the auspices of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).
- ◇ Honor and work toward the 15% pledge made by African Union member states in the "Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases", in order for African countries to reach the target of allocating at least 15% of their national annual budget to health.

"Strategies from the South"

We come from a wide diversity of areas, working in the fields of HIV/AIDS, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Human Rights and especially Women's Rights, PLWHA, LGTTTB, youth, Sex Workers, Drug Users, and migrant and rural populations. We are dedicated to improving the HIV/AIDS response by putting power, gender and sexuality issues back on the table within the broader framework of human rights. Six main issues intersect our platform: 1) Sexualities and vulnerabilities: risk groups; 2) Sexual education for adolescents; 3) Limitations of current approaches to prevention and treatment; 4) Abortion and Sexual and Reproductive Rights; 5) Gender based violence; and 6) Financing: vertical versus integrated programs.

ActionAid International – AfriCASO – AMANITARE – APCASO – APN+ – APNSW – Asia Pacific Rainbow – ARROW – AWHRC – Coalition of African Lesbians (CAL) – CARAM Asia – Caribbean Harm Reduction Coalition (CHRC) – CLADEM – Colectiva Mujer y Salud and CAFRA – CRN+ – FEIM – FEMNET – HIV/AIDS Technical Support Facility AP/IPPF ESEAOR – ICW Africa – ICW Asia Pacific – IPPF – LACCASO – LACHWN – Lentswe la Rona – MLCM+ – NAP+ – NAPY – Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) – RedLA+ – RedLAC – RedTraSex – Seven Sisters – SWAA – Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR)

