Stakeholder Forum
for a sustainable future

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

2008 High Level Meeting on AIDS:
An evaluation of civil society and private sector engagement

Commissioned by the UNAIDS Civil Society Partnerships Unit

Executive Summary

The following points provide a summary of the **key findings** from this evaluation. For a summary of **key recommendations** please turn to the final chapter (p.23-24).

- Civil society participation in the 2008 High Level Meeting (HLM) on AIDS was relatively strong and represented a significant range of stakeholders and regional representation. Particular progress was made in representation from sex workers and transgender communities; people living with HIV/AIDS; and representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean.

- The President of the General Assembly's Summary Report reflected some key messages advocated by civil society, particularly in reference to human rights, financing the response, travel restrictions and the identification of vulnerable and marginalised groups. There were also a number of key omissions such as any reference to laws criminalising HIV transmission, issues regarding data quality and completeness or to the inclusion of civil society in country-level reports.

- As the HLM civil society engagement strategy has evolved since 2006 so too have a number of challenges, particularly surrounding civil society attendance on national delegations and the verification of non-ECOSOC accredited organisations.   Furthermore, there are a number of recurring obstacles that impede effective participation on the part of civil society in AIDS reviews, which include a lack of understanding of UN processes, discrepancies in global access to the internet, limited access to translated materials (particularly Russian and Chinese) and a lack of national and regional capacity-building in the run-up to the review.

- The majority of civil society participants attended the 2008 HLM as an opportunity for 'networking and relationship building' rather than to impact the intergovernmental outcome.

- The Interactive Hearing with civil society did not provide an effective forum for interaction with governments and decision-makers due to the low participation on the part of Member States and the tendency for civil society representatives to sit in the seats of their government.

- The Civil Society Task Force (CSTF) represented a broad range of constituencies, regions and experiences and proved an effective mechanism for orchestrating civil society participation in the HLM. Most were very committed to their roles and as a group they performed their activities well. Due to the limited time allowed for the preparations, the capacity for CSTF members to reach out easily to their constituencies or regions was shown to be critical. The functioning of the CSTF was hindered by limited translation facilities, a lack of time between meetings and (initially) poor administrative support, delayed decisions on the part of the OPGA, and a lack of understanding of intergovernmental processes. The role of UNAIDS as a Co-Chair of the CSTF meetings provoked considerable divergence amongst the CSTF members.

- The UNAIDS Civil Society Partnerships Unit played an active role in supporting the CSTF, particularly in trouble-shooting emerging issues and sharing institutional knowledge of intergovernmental processes.

- The role and functioning of the Civil Society Support Mechanism (CSSM) varied considerably across the regions, and at large did not provide the level of anticipated support to civil society hoping to engage in the HLM. ICASO performed their role in leading the CSSM coalition efficiently, whilst by comparison the IWHC was far less visible or active as a coalition leader. The role, function and 'value-added' of the Civil Society Support Groups was not sufficiently clear.

- At large, civil society feedback noted there were few local, national or regional initiatives promoting cross-sectoral consultations before or after the HLM; and there were limited capacity-building initiatives to enhance CSO understanding of the intergovernmental process on the ground.

Contents

Acronyms

African Council of AIDS Service Organisations (AfriCASO)

AIDS Action Europe (AAE)

Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organisations (APCASO)

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

Civil Society Support Groups (CSSG)

Civil Society Support Mechanism (CSSM)

Civil Society Task Force (CSTF)

Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EEA)

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

High Level Meeting on AIDS (HLM)

International Council of AIDS Service Organisations (ICASO)

International Support Group (ISG)

International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)

Latin American and the Caribbean Council of AIDS Service Organisations (LACCASO)

Non-Governmental Liaison service (NGLS)

Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA)

People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV)

Terms of Reference (TOR)

World Health Organisation (WHO)

Introduction

On 10th – 11th June 2008, the High-level Meeting on AIDS (HLM) took place at the UN in New York. It reviewed progress made towards implementing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. The review came at the mid-point towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

According to the Non-Governmental Liaison service (NGLS), the meeting was attended by five Heads of State, two Heads of Government and one Deputy Prime Minister and over 80 ministers or senior officials. In total more than 1,700 individuals from civil society were accredited to attend and almost 700 organisations received special accreditation for the meeting. Many more civil society representatives attended the Meeting as members of national delegations.

The UNAIDS Partnership Unit commissioned this evaluation in order to document the engagement strategy and facilitation of civil society and private sector participation, and
- Assess the roles, strategies, relationships and functions of the Civil Society Task Force (CSTF), Civil Society Support Mechanism (CSSM), UNAIDS Civil Society Partnership Unit, and New York Office, Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA)
- Assess the overall process for levels of transparency, participation and effectiveness
- Assess and analyse the strengths, weaknesses, gaps and challenges of civil society and private sector participation in the HLM
- Suggest recommendations and lessons-learned for increasing engagement impact of civil society and private sector in future meetings.

This report is divided into seven chapters. Each chapter starts with a narrative description of events or activities, is followed by an analysis of the key challenges, strengths weaknesses and gaps, and concludes with a set of recommendations or key findings. Relevant quotations from interviews, correspondence and questionnaires have been cited to further illustrate particular issues.   In addition, a timeline and lists of all documents and organisations consulted as part of this evaluation have been included in the Annex pages at the end of the document.

Methodology

An informal advisory group was established for the evaluation which consisted of two representatives from the UNAIDS Civil Society Partnerships Unit; two

members of the Civil Society Task Force; one member of the Civil Society Support Mechanism and one civil society representative. The group provided input on the scope and objectives of the evaluation; provided feedback on the questionnaire; and acted as focal points for the research.

The evaluation consisted of four stages. The research began with a period of desk-based research in which documents were reviewed and analysed[1]. This was followed by a data collection period in which a questionnaire was designed to capture some of the key experiences of civil society participants and distributed via NGLS to all of the final civil society and private sector participants of the Meeting. It was further distributed by Stakeholder Forum to key networks and civil society organisations (CSOs). In addition, over 20 semi-structured interviews were conducted with CSTF members, other key civil society participants, UNAIDS staff, and the HLM Meeting Facilitators. In some cases, interviews were followed up with a second call to ensure that information was accurate. Finally, the feedback and data were analysed and compiled into a draft report which was circulated to the Advisory Group for comment and feedback.

There are three factors that may have limited the research findings:
1. A number of the respondents commented that too much time had elapsed since the HLM making it difficult for them to remember details clearly.
2. 42 complete questionnaire responses were received during the data collection phase, which provided enough data for basic analysis but was not wide-ranging enough for more advanced cross-cutting or quantitative analysis. Again, this could have been alleviated if the evaluation had been conducted immediately after the HLM.
3. The question of civil society participation in the national reporting initiative was beyond the remit of this evaluation and thus our analysis of the Civil Society Support Mechanism has been limited to their role in assisting CSOs prepare, input and participate in the HLM, rather than the challenges associated with civil society contributions to the national reporting process. As such, suggested CSSM activities included regional briefings, providing clear communications in multiple languages, briefing participants, and providing regional input to the HLM.

Despite these limitations, we hope this evaluation will prove useful in devising an engagement strategy for future AIDS reviews.

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[1] *Annex 3*

1. Civil Society Support Mechanism

Building on the experiences of previous AIDS reviews, UNAIDS identified the need for more advanced support for civil society engagement in the run-up to the 2008 HLM. The Civil Society Support Mechanism (CSSM) aimed to 'serve as a platform to improve communication among all stakeholders, and to directly provide support to civil society representatives and organizations to strengthen their involvement in the country and international 2008 AIDS review processes'[2]. More specifically, the CSSM aimed to support civil society's involvement in preparing national reports, generate networks of CSOs across regions and constituencies, and help prepare and support civil society's participation in the HLM[3].

On the 23rd July 2007 a call was issued by UNAIDS for proposals for the CSSM and the selection criteria specified that lead organisations would need to demonstrate the ability to network widely and involve a range of groups including organisations of people living with HIV, key populations (men who have sex with men, sex workers, drug users) and AIDS Service Organisations. The deadline for applications was the 3rd September 2007.

In December it was announced that the CSSM had been won by a coalition of organisations that was led by the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) and the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC) and made up of the African Council of AIDS Service Organizations (AfriCASO), AIDS Action Europe (AAE), the Asia-Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations (APCASO), and the Latin America and the Caribbean Council of AIDS Service Organizations (LACCASO). According to the CSSM Terms of Reference (TOR), the coalition was also supported by regional and international Civil Society Support Groups 'made up of diverse civil society organisations and representatives' whose role was 'to provide the leadership and direction for the support mechanism, functioning as consultation, coordination and advisory groups for the different levels of activities'.[4]

This evaluation found that, for the most part, the CSSM coalition activities concentrated on disseminating information related to the HLM to their regional constituencies. Coalition members emailed action alerts, forwarded relevant information notes and updated their

web-pages with recent news. Some progress was made in providing clearer communications in multiple languages. For example, AIDS Action Europe (AAE) distributed information in both English and Russian; LACASSO provided material in Spanish, Portuguese and English; ICASO translated their advocacy alerts into Russian, Chinese, Spanish, Thai and French and AfriCASO distributed documentation in French and English.

There were two major regional consultations prior to the HLM. AfriCASO coordinated a regional CSO preparation meeting on 27th – 29th May in Kenya, which was convened by the African Civil Society Coalition on HIV/AIDS with support from Action AID International and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA). The consultation sought to identify key issues on behalf of regional constituencies, consolidate and harmonise recommendations and identify representatives to carry those messages into the HLM. An African Civil Society Position Paper outlining key recommendations on behalf of the region was drafted. APCASO also coordinated an Asia Pacific Preparatory Forum in Bangkok held 3rd – 4th May which sought to identify regional messages in preparation for the HLM. Despite the fact that the CSSM budget allocated funds for consultations and reviews, which was also supplemented by ICASO, a key challenge reported by CSSM coalition members was that the allocated budget did not provide sufficient financial resources for regional consultations so funds had to be raised elsewhere or meetings had to be piggy-backed onto other events.

"We should have had a meeting after New York. As we were representing many communities and populations it is our responsibility to report back" (CSSM regional organisation)

Whilst the two regional consultations helped mobilise local constituencies, in both cases they were held only weeks before the HLM which allowed little time for strategic lobbying at the national or regional level on the outcome of the consultations. There were also a number of concerns expressed regarding the transparency and accountability of the regional consultations on the basis that key constituencies were not present.

In evaluating the role of the CSSM in supporting the engagement of civil society in the HLM, there are a number of points that should be highlighted. Firstly, the feedback reveals that ICASO provided effective leadership of the coalition. Civil society reported that their advocacy alerts and accessibility of their web-pages were particularly useful, and ICASO provided an effective focal point for enquiries, information and advocacy. By comparison, the IWHC was not a visible or active coalition leader of the CSSM and few civil society respondents for the evaluation were aware of their role in the preparations for the HLM. This resulted in an uneven spread of responsibilities and activities between the two lead coalition organisations.

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[2] http://www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2008/civil_society_support_mechanism_en.pdf

[3] As noted above, it was beyond the remit of this evaluation to conduct a thorough analysis of CSO experiences of the national reporting initiatives and as a result has restricted its analysis of the CSSM to its other activities in supporting CSO engagement in the run up to the 2008 HLM.

[4] http://www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2008/civil_society_support_mechanism_en.pdf

Secondly, the CSSM regional activities and roles were inconsistent. Whilst some coalition members were active in reaching out to local constituencies, identifying national and regional meetings to generate awareness of the HLM, and supporting local lobbying activities; the majority of the coalition members played a more passive role. Significantly, the role and function of the CSSM coalition members was poorly understood amongst wider civil society, and for the most part CSOs looked instead to local contacts for support.

In addition, there were insufficient lines of communication between the CSSM coalition organisations and other actors. For example, the majority of the CSTF members were unaware of the CSSM coalition member activities in their regions. In the Asia Pacific region the role of the CSSM and the CSTF overlapped, and the CSTF member became the main regional focal point for civil society more broadly rather than the CSSM coalition organisation. Equally, communication between UNAIDS national offices and the CSSM coalition organisations appears to have been very limited.

Thirdly, the role, function or even existence of the Civil Society Support Groups was unclear and appear to have offered little value-added, which can largely be explained by the voluntary nature of the role but might also be attributed to the lack of divisions of roles and responsibilities allocated from the outset.

Fourthly, whilst only a minor point, the similarity in the names of the various groups and actors caused huge confusion not only for civil society more generally but also for those directly involved in the process. For example, the overlap of terms for the Civil Society Support Mechanism, Civil Society Support Groups, the International Support Group and Civil Society Task Force appears to have only added to confusion regarding the different roles and functions of all of the actors.

Finally, despite the efforts to translate advocacy material and information notes in preparation for the HLM, feedback consistently noted the lack of translated materials in all UN languages, particularly Chinese and Russian.

This evaluation has found that there is a clear need for regional support in the preparation for an HLM, particularly in Latin America and South Asia where CSOs reported limited support on the national and regional level. When conducted effectively, regional support networks can prove a hugely useful source of information, mobilisation and expertise on the ground.

Drawing on experiences from other UN agencies and conventions, such as the Aarhus Convention or the Commission on Sustainable Development, regional CSO networks have come to play an integral component of the engagement practice. In such cases, the support ranges from providing a resident expert on national/shadow reporting processes, to affiliating CSOs for a given meeting, to helping verify grassroots organisations for accreditation, to initiating selection processes to enable regional CSOs to elect a representative who will go on to attend the high level meeting. To fulfil such activities, organisations must be well networked; must be active and visible to their regional constituencies; must have had experience of intergovernmental processes; must have worked with national and regional CSOs in a number of contexts; must have the capacity to allocate a member of staff as a focal point; and most importantly, they must have clear targets, activities, allocated funds and outputs pertaining to their role in the run-up to an inter-governmental meeting.

Finally, it is important to stress that national and regional consultations in the lead up to an intergovernmental meeting can provide a key space for civil society capacity-building, identifying relevant stakeholders to participate in the high level meeting itself, and - most importantly – identifying the key priorities on which to lobby national government well in advance of an intergovernmental meeting. However, national and regional consultations must uphold a number of criteria to ensure that they can generate meaningful input into the intergovernmental process. For example, consultations must seek to carry out a basic stakeholder mapping exercise to ensure all relevant constituencies and groups are represented; they should take place up to three months in advance of the intergovernmental meeting to ensure that the outcomes will impact national and regional lobbying strategies; they must generate outcome documents that identify clear priorities and aim to devise a strategy for then delivering those messages on a national, regional and international level. Furthermore, national and regional follow-up meetings, workshops and media outreach strategies should be scheduled after an intergovernmental meeting to ensure that non-participating stakeholders can take the recommendations and outcomes forward.

Recommendations

This evaluation has found that there is a need for regional support in the lead up to an AIDS review but recommends that for the CSSM to provide effective support a number of changes will need to be made:

- Establish much clearer targets, activities, allocated funds, time frames and outputs on the part of all the CSSM regional coalition members from the outset. Tools such as activity checklists, Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) and monthly 'report-back' phone calls should again be employed. Furthermore, selection criteria for each coalition organisation should be introduced to ensure that each organisation has the relevant experience and resources to fulfil their role. For example, organisations need to have demonstrated familiarity with intergovernmental processes; capacity to translate documents for wider distribution; capacity to provide expertise on the national reporting process; experience of working with national and regional CSOs in a number of contexts; and must be visible on the ground to their constituents.
- Allow more time for national and regional mobilisation in preparation for an AIDS review. Evidence suggests that national/regional civil society engagement, particularly when involving national and shadow reporting initiatives, needs to start at least a year before a proposed meeting. In the light that the next AIDS review will result in a political declaration, the need for time and strategic planning on a local, country and regional level will be even more pronounced. Efforts should also focus particularly in Latin America and South Asia where CSOs reported limited support.
- Revise the role and function of the Civil Society Support Groups.
- Scale-up the role of UNAIDS National Offices to ensure that they provide a visible focal point for local and national communities seeking to engage in an AIDS review. Activities might include capacity building workshops in preparation for national and shadow reporting; community-based consultations and multi-stakeholder dialogues; and local press briefings.
- More resources will need to be provided for national and regional consultations prior to the next AIDS review. Regional consultations should be held 3 months prior to the intergovernmental meeting in order to allow adequate time for national and regional lobbying on the back of the consultations. Furthermore, it is critical that all consultations produce clear outcome documents that can inform the local and regional lobbying strategies.
- Scale-up the distribution of translated documents relating to an AIDS review at the regional and national level, particularly in Chinese and Russian.

2. Selection of the CSTF

The Office of the President of General Assembly (OPGA) requested that UNAIDS convene a Civil Society Task Force to 'support effective and active participation of civil society organisations and the private sector' in the 2008 HLM. In response to criticisms that the selection of the 2006 CSTF had not been sufficiently transparent, the 2008 CSTF selection process was administered by civil society. With the support of the CSSM coalition members, ICASO initiated an 'International Support Group' which aimed to function as 'an advocacy, consultation, coordination and advisory group on ensuring meaningful involvement of civil society in the AIDS Review meeting'[5]. According to their Terms of Reference, the group was composed of a 'core sixteen civil society advocates representing different constituencies, issues and regions of the world'[6]. They were asked to participate on a voluntary basis. It was this International Support Group that decided on the selection criteria for the CSTF.

The criteria stipulated that the CSTF should include two representatives of networks of people living with HIV; three representatives from marginalised communities (drug users, sex workers, and men who have sex with men); a representative of the UNAIDS PCB NGO delegates; a representative from the Civil Society Support Mechanism; and one representative from each of the following; labour sector, private/business sector, women's organisation, youth organisation, and faith-based organisation.

The call for CSTF applications was distributed on 14th January via ICASO, IWHC and the CSSM through their regional networks. For the most part, 2-3 possible representatives were put forward by different constituencies and networks (e.g. GNP +, ITUC, IWHC, etc). ICASO served as the mailbox for the applications and received over 100 submissions[7]. ICASO, IWHC and the CSSM were then responsible for short-listing those applications and, together with UNAIDS, the final list was presented to OPGA. This selection process applied all CSTF members except for the private/business sector representative.

At the last minute the OPGA responded to the shortlist with the criticism that there was insufficient representation from Africa on the CSTF, which put the International Support Group (ISG) in difficult position because an extensive selection process had already been undertaken by the various constituency networks to identify representatives. UNAIDS stepped in to liaise

between OPGA and the ISG and the problem was resolved by the decision to select an African private/business sector representative, who had not yet been selected. However, the issue delayed the final confirmation of the CSTF, which in turn meant that two representatives were not able to attend the first CSTF meeting in New York due to visa requirements.

At large, this evaluation has found that the selection of the CSTF process was more transparent than in 2006 on the basis that clear criteria were established and disseminated, and the process benefited from having been administered by civil society. The strategy of reaching out to the key stakeholder groups for 2-3 nominations proved effective in generating a shortlist in a short period of time. This evaluation has found that the final CSTF was gender balanced and represented a wide range of constituencies, regions and experiences.

However, there are several points worth noting for future AIDS reviews. Firstly, the role and structure of the International Support Group within the CSSM was not sufficiently visible on the part of wider civil society, which prompted concern from CSOs that the process had not been sufficiently transparent or open, and was too closely affiliated to UNAIDS Geneva. Furthermore, several of the CSTF nominees were part of the International Support Group. Whilst this evaluation found that selection of the CSTF was more transparent than in 2006, additional effort will need to be made for future AIDS reviews to ensure the visibility of an International Support Group.

"the selection process for appointing Task Force members should be more participatory next time" (civil society)

"I commend the planners of the 2008 UN High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. However, for greater participation in future conference, it is important that all civil society (etc) organizations knowledgeable to the planners be contacted on the various opportunities available for participation on all levels" (civil society)

Secondly, many of the final CSTF members were already known to UNAIDS Geneva. This is not necessarily a problem in of itself, however, the feedback suggests that the perception of the CSTF as an independent and representative group of civil society is in danger of being undermined by a perceived affiliation with UNAIDS Geneva. Future selection processes will need to continue to reach out to new communities, sectors and regions as the AIDS/HIV epidemic evolves. This will require more than a month for applications for the CSTF, and the call for nominations should be flagged up with phone calls rather than merely being sent out as an email or via website updates.

[5] Terms of Reference, Civil Society Support Group, 2008 UNGASS AIDS Review (ICASO)
[6] *Ibid.*
[7] Phone interview with ICASO

"I'm not sure whether anyone represented migrants issues in the group (a neglected topic internationally)" (civil society)

Finally, as the role and function of a Civil Society Task Force has evolved since its original inception and will continue to do so in the future, it is important to re-stress the need for accountability and transparency on the part of the CSTF members to their wider constituencies and regions. It is critical that all of the final CSTF members are well networked into their relevant constituencies and regions in order that they can easily report back on their activities, flag-up emerging issues, and provide a visible focal point for AIDS review preparations. With this in mind, an additional selection criteria referring to a candidate's experience of representing, reporting back, communicating with their constituency should be considered for future AIDS reviews.

Recommendations

- Allow more time and resources for the selection and final confirmation of the CSTF. In particular, the call for CSTF applications should allow at least 6 weeks, and will need to be translated into all of the UN languages. The final Task Force members must be confirmed at least 4 weeks before the first meeting of the CSTF to allow time for visa applications and travel arrangements.
- Add a CSTF selection criterion to help ensure the applicant's accountability to their relevant constituency; such as 'proven experience of representing and communicating back to a constituency/network/region'.
- Increase the visibility of the role and function of the International Support Group as the group responsible for establishing the criteria for the CSTF. For example, the International Support Group could remain active over the next two years and become a more permanent advisory group with a rolling membership in order to gather momentum for the next AIDS review, in which case the International Support Group would need to have a stronger online presence. Consider re-naming such a group to avoid overlaps of terminology (e.g. 'Advisory Board').

3. Functioning of the CSTF

The CSTF met in person in New York four times between February and June[8]. At the first meeting a brief introduction on the process and a power-point presentation was given by a member of the 2006 HLM CSTF on the challenges and lessons learnt from the previous HLM. The first meeting focused on defining the Terms of Reference for the CSTF; the second and third was taken up with the selection of recommended civil society speakers; and the final meeting, immediately prior to the HLM, was preoccupied with final logistical arrangements for the HLM. The meetings were co-chaired by ICASO and UNAIDS. In between the meetings the group communicated via emails and conference calls.

The CSTF required a high-level of administrative and secretarial support (e.g. minute taking, drafting summaries, distributing documents etc.). Initially, the CSTF were supported by a representative from UNAIDS New York but this support had to later be supplemented by the help of two representatives, one from the UNAIDS Partnerships Unit and the other from ICASO. This solution provided a much more effective backup team for the two Co-Chairs and improved the capacity of the CSTF.

The CSTF introduced 'Meeting Summaries' which were drafted at the end of each meeting. Each summary detailed key activities and actions undertaken by the CSTF, and these were then distributed on CSTF list-serves and networks. This practice helped to improve the transparency and accountability of the CSTF activities.

There were a number of obstacles that impeded the functioning of the CSTF. Firstly, there was insufficient time between meetings to allow for appropriate levels of consultation with their constituencies and regions, particularly in Africa where internet access is limited. In addition, CSTF members were unprepared for the amount of work involved in fulfilling their responsibilities between the meetings. Furthermore, communicating as a group between meetings proved problematic despite best efforts to employ a range of methods (email, web-based tools, phone, hard-copies and in-person). The email/word processing system used by UNAIDS was incompatible with a number of systems, resulting in emails arriving late or not at all, inboxes being clogged with auto responses, or attachments that could not be downloaded. The HDN web-based tool also proved problematic because of the different operating systems used by CSTF members. Conference calls also

proved difficult because of differences in time-zones and poor phone connections.

"There were layers of conversation happening at the beginning that I couldn't orientate myself in even though I had done the background reading" (CSTF)

Secondly, a number of the CSTF found that initially their lack of knowledge of intergovernmental processes limited their ability to participate and meant that early meetings were dominated by experienced members of the group, particularly from North America. In addition, the language barrier proved problematic for some members of the group due to the number of technical terms associated with intergovernmental processes.

"For some of us, particularly at the beginning, it was more like following protocol rather than contributing to the discussion" (CSTF)

Thirdly, there was a lack of consensus regarding the role of UNAIDS as a Co-Chair of the CSTF. On the one hand it ensured formality in the running of CSTF meetings, it provided a useful channel of communication to the OPGA, and it provided an important source of institutional knowledge of the UN system. Furthermore, the majority of the CSTF acknowledged that UNAIDS had Co-Chaired the meetings effectively and sensitively. However, on the other hand, many felt that it was inappropriate to have UNAIDS Co-Chairing a team of civil society representatives. More specifically, some were concerned that information did not flow freely between enough between the OPGA and the CSTF.

"It was appropriate that UNAIDS Co-Chaired the Task Force. They were subjective and judicious in their chairing of the meetings" (CSTF)

"Having a UN agency in the room changes the dynamic of the conversation. UNAIDS were very influential at times, for example the final selection of a civil society speaker came down to their decision... or the Co-Chairs would announce a final decision on a given issue. Ultimately this was not an independent stakeholder process" (CSTF)

Despite these obstacles and weaknesses, feedback from the CSTF members revealed that they functioned well as a group. The combination of both veterans and newcomers to the CSTF meant that the discussions were wide ranging, informative and productive. Furthermore, the opportunity to work with such a different range of constituencies, be involved in meeting of this scale, and above all, learn about the workings of an inter-governmental process of this kind proved hugely valuable to many of the CSTF. All commented that they would take part in the process again and would be keen to work together as a team again in a similar context. Finally, the majority

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[8] See Timeline of the process in *Annex 2*

of the CSTF reported that they had been impressed with the level of support offered by the UNAIDS Civil Society Partnerships Unit and commended their commitment and professionalism in supporting CSTF operations.

'I was really impressed by the diversity and expertise in the CSTF... It was an impressive and diverse group of people who really understood the issues or regions that they were representing, and as a result the discussions were rich and informed' (CSTF)

'It was a huge eye opener for me; it opened my eyes to issues that I had never considered before such as issues around transgender, sex workers and drug users' (CSTF)

Recommendations

- Provide a full induction day on the first day of a CSTF meeting to allow newcomers to fully understand the process. It should include starter packs, process milestones and timeframes, and opportunities for CSTF members to interact and explain their relevant experiences and areas of expertise (UN processes are also now exploring using new-media to help explain processes, e.g. online I-Learn packages).
- Adopt Meeting Summaries as an example of good practice, which should be distributed to wider constituencies in all UN languages.
- Allocate experienced staff, preferably from both the UNAIDS Civil Society Partnerships Unit and a civil society representative, to attend all CSTF meetings and to support the role of the Co-Chairs as an example of good practice. Ensure in advance that there is access to printers, internet and faxes in order to prevent logistical complications and delays.
- Explore alternative communication methods for liaising between CSTF members between meetings (e.g. Sky-drives, online forums, wikis, google-docs, instant messaging, or a temporary web-space could be created for the CSTF with member-logins). UNAIDS national offices and UNDP local offices could also provide access to reliable phone and internet connections in order to ensure more effective participation of all CSTF in conference calls. More resources and support should be allocated for communication between meetings, for example, having the support of an IT technician able to troubleshoot occurring issues remotely.
- Provide additional resources for CSTF members representing non-English speaking regions for the translation of key documents and Meeting Summaries, particularly Chinese and Russian.
- Re-evaluate the role of UNAIDS in the CSTF ahead of the next AIDS review. For example, UNAIDS could attend all CSTF meetings but as an Advisor rather than as a Co-Chair. If this were the case, the CSTF should be Co-Chaired by two civil society representatives (from both the global North and South); and a CSTF representative would need to be the main focal point for all communications with the OPGA[9].

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[9] It is important to note that this evaluation was not able to generate confirmation from the OPGA that this would be acceptable for future AIDS reviews, but would recommend that such alternatives be explored.

4. CSTF Operations

The following section divides the activities of the CSTF into four key areas; speaker selection and preparation, topic selection, advocacy, outreach and media.

Speaker selection and preparation

One of the key activities of the CSTF was the selection of speakers for the HLM Interactive Hearing, plenary and the panels. The CSTF devised a selection criteria for which included some of the following attributes; 'strong and dynamic speaker', 'ability to speak credibly from a civil society perspective', 'related to networks or organisations working in the field of HIV and AIDS'. In addition, the civil society speaker at the opening plenary should include a person who was openly living with HIV and come from a country in the Global South.

The open call for nominations was released on 13th March and was distributed by ICASO, the CSSM and the CSTF. Applicants were asked to complete a word-document application detailing their experience and areas of expertise, and email the completed form to a temporary email address hosted by ICASO[10]. Only emailed applications were accepted and forms had to be filled out in English. The deadline for applications was 30th March. Over 250 applications were received which were then divided amongst the CSTF at their second meeting in March to be reviewed and short-listed[11]. This final list of speakers and back-up speakers was then forwarded to the OPGA for their approval.

"In terms of opportunities of formal participation -- the deadline was short; but [I] appreciated multi-language announcement" (civil society)

The CSTF received applications from a diverse range of communities; however there was general consensus that the selection process was cumbersome, stressful and time-intensive due to a combination of factors. Firstly, there was inadequate amount of time for applications (2 ½ weeks). Over 45% of questionnaire respondents stressed that they had not known about opportunities to speak in the meeting, and this was particularly pertinent for regions in Africa that have limited access to the internet. Second, the application form made it difficult to glean sufficient information about a speaker's background or experience as a public speaker so CSTF members confronted the dilemma of either selecting a representative who was known to one or more of the group, and thus a 'safe bet', or selecting a new voice on the strength of their application alone. Also, the issue of obtaining visas for the applicants had

to be taken into consideration, which further restricted the final choice. These constraints restricted the opportunities for new voices and ultimately undermined the transparency and accessibility of the application process.

"I would like to have been a speaker re: African American women 50+ but was not given directives on how the process went" (civil society)

"I found out about the process in a timely manner however I was not given instructions on how to be a speaker" (civil society)

Finally, and most importantly, the application process did not make sufficiently clear that final civil society speakers should not attend the HLM as part of their national delegation[12]. This led to a number of key issues later on in the process, such as speakers having to drop out at the last minute or civil society speakers sitting in their government's seat during the formal sessions.

In addition, the application form did not sufficiently outline the role and responsibilities of being a civil society speaker or of the exact role and responsibilities of being a back-up speaker. For example, applicants were not alerted to the fact that their presentation might be put up online as a live web-cast after the HLM, which generated a considerable amount of stress for one of the speakers after the meeting.

"I had the feeling that we were trying to push voices that we were confident about, that we had seen in the past, and were not keen to bring new voices. But to me, we need to hear from those who are contributing in the fight at the ground level" (CSTF)

To prepare the speakers for their participation in the HLM, each CSTF member was assigned a speaker and a back-up speaker, and together the groups drafted a set of key points. Whist these contact groups did prove useful to some of the speakers, a number of CSTF noted that there were significant challenges in communicating with speakers from different regions, on different time zones and in different languages. Other speakers reported that they had received little support or advice from their selected contact group.

On the day before the HLM, a preparation day was held to help the speakers finalise their messages, practice their presentations and ensure that their contributions were within the time-limit. A number of the speakers were unable to attend or arrived late because of visa-related delays. The speakers arrived in New York at various stages of preparation and with

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[10] UNAIDS proposed using an online application procedure that had been devised with NGLS, however the CSTF decided instead to use ICASO as the recipient for application forms.
[11] NGLS Roundup 134, July 2008
http://www.un-ngls.org/site/IMG/pdf/RU134.pdf NGLS Roundup

[12] This problem is addressed more fully under the below section 'National Delegation'.

varying expectations of the HLM. A number felt that the preparation was too regimented and some felt very restricted by UNAIDS, ICASO and the CSTF. For them the Interactive Hearing offered an important opportunity to champion their own voice rather than conform to a pre-determined message. However, the evaluation revealed that the vast majority who attended the speakers' preparation day (80%) found it a useful experience and would recommend that it be used as a valuable capacity building tool for future AIDS reviews.

"The interaction was cold, impersonal but informative about the system" (speaker on the preparation day)

"It would be very helpful for future participants to have an overview of the 'best speeches' because some of the speakers were extremely successful and some were not so good" (speaker)

"Many people were helping me to prepare for the conference, my speech was re-written several times before I finally arrived at a message I really wanted to deliver. I had several rehearsals with other participants" (speaker)

Despite the challenges and frustrations of the speaker selection process it is important to stress that 82.2% of the questionnaire respondents found that the civil society speakers in the Hearing, plenary and panels were confident, succinct and articulate. The presentations that were singled out in particular were those that dispensed with formal introductions and provided personal accounts and experiences of the issues. More significantly, 57.2% of the questionnaire respondents felt that the speakers addressed issues that were relevant to their experience or organisation, which in the context of a two-hour time frame represents a strong and positive statement.

Topic preparation

On the basis of their knowledge and experience, the selection of topics was largely decided amongst the CSTF members. After the topics and the speakers had been selected, and the relevant CSTF members had compiled a number of key points on each topic, ICASO then identified a number of expert organisations that specialised on the given issue. These organisations, together with the speaker contact groups (CSTF representative, the speaker and back-up speaker), drafted Background Theme Papers on key issues and constituencies, such as 'Children and HIV', 'Sexual Minorities and HIV' and 'Women, Girls and HIV'. These Background Theme Papers were finalised by an editor selected by ICASO to ensure that they were consistent in form and focus.

The evaluation feedback suggests that over 63% of respondents agreed that the topics had been well chosen. However, it was commented that not only had

there had been insufficient dialogue or consultation in identifying those topics but that the final themes were not sufficiently strategic.

"The overall messages presented to during the Civil Society Hearing ended up being a collection of vocal interest groups rather than the most strategic messages that needed to be heard by the UN and govt delegations. Some of the messages were good but overall I felt that our messages were not the most strategic" (civil society)

"Travel restrictions are not the main problem in HIV and AIDS field now. But it was chosen as one of the key messages. There were a lot of much more bigger and more important issues to highlight; e.g. discordant couples" etc (civil society)

With this in mind, the drafting of the civil society Background Theme Papers should be scaled up to provide a more prominent multi-stakeholder consultation process prior to future AIDS reviews. For example, in the case of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the drafting of 'Position Papers' on behalf of the different stakeholder groups involves a six month process and provides a critical component of the multi-stakeholder process and ensures much wider opportunities for input and participation in the lead-up to the meeting, which can then be honed into key strategic messages in the context of the interaction with governments during the meeting itself. Furthermore, the drafting of position papers up to six months in advance of the meeting helps to set the agenda and the media outreach messages in the lead-up to the meeting.

Advocacy

The CSTF lobbied the OPGA over a number of key issues pertinent to civil society participation in the meeting and met with the HLM Meeting Ambassadors. For example, the CSTF advocated for the Interactive Hearing to last three hours, rather than two, as had been the case in 2006 HLM. The CSTF also pushed for the meeting to be moved out of New York due to travel restrictions into the USA. A letter signed by 343 CSOs was sent to the UN missions and Heads of State in countries with restrictions on behalf of broader civil society. The CSTF were not successful in overturning either of these decisions despite a meeting with the Meeting Ambassadors, however, they were able to make progress regarding the final selection of civil society speakers in the Panel sessions for the HLM.

Outreach and media

A number of the CSTF devoted a lot of their time to outreaching to their constituencies, networks and regional populations to prepare them for the HLM. For the most part, they relied on list-serves that had already been established to distribute email alerts,

CSTF Meeting Summaries, information notes and relevant documents.

CSTF members representing the Caribbean and Africa stressed that their constituencies do not necessary have access to computers, so phone calls and meetings were the only mechanism for effectively engaging regional constituents, for which there is no budget. CSTF members reported that they were not supported by either the CSSM, Civil Society Support Groups or UNAIDS national offices to engage local communities.

"I had to rely on the internet because calls and meetings were not included in the budget, but internet coverage is not widespread so it made reaching out to my constituency very very difficult" (CSTF)

"My organization was preparing to the meeting for 2 years, so we felt prepared. However it was not so easy to get adequate information in time to participate and provide more inputs to the meeting" (civil society).

In addition to the work of the CSTF, three media focal points from IWHC, ICASO and Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EEA) were allocated to support civil society preparation and participation in the HLM.

During the preparation period for the HLM, the media focal points worked with the CSTF to identify key messages and drafted advocacy alerts, media packs and information for CSOs on how to participate. They also worked with the civil society speakers during the Speakers Preparation Day to finalise their presentations. A training session was also held for CSOs to tackle some of the key principles for working with the media.

During the HLM itself the media focal points provided the main contact for any press enquiries. They distributed media packs in the corridors that included biographies of key civil society representatives and all of the major networks and outlets (e.g. BBC, CNN, Sky) were contacted. Wherever possible, they coordinated interviews between CSOs and the press, including interviews with the BBC, Chinese Press Agency, the Inter Press Service and Agence France-Presse. The media focal points also worked with individual CSOs to contact media outlets, and as a result, published a letter in the International Herald Tribune.

A press conference was held on 11th June at which civil society representatives fielded questions and over fifteen journalists attended. Two major press releases were issued on 12th and 13th June. The first emphasised the need for a more connected approach to the AIDS response. The second summarised a number of the key civil society responses to the outcome of the HLM.

The press releases were quoted and distributed via the mediawires (African News, US Fed, State News). The coverage of the HLM was largely limited to the issue of

travel restrictions and a number of mentions of Dr Peter Piot's departure from UNAIDS[13]. There was some more substantial coverage (e.g. The Washington Post, The Times, The Independent) prompted by the World Health Organisation's (WHOs) report 'Towards universal access: Scaling up priority HIV/AIDS interventions in the health sector'.

The feedback noted that the media team worked very effectively together and achieved a lot with limited time and resources. The outreach initiatives extended far beyond that of the 2006 HLM. Feedback from CSOs noted that both the advocacy alerts and the Speaker Preparation Day were particularly useful.

A number of challenges and suggestions were identified for future AIDS reviews. Firstly, preparing outreach for the HLM is time and resource intensive. More than three weeks is required for the drafting, designing and printing of all the publications for the HLM. Secondly, generating any coverage of the content of an inter-governmental meeting, particularly one that will not result in a political declaration, is challenging and requires a sustained approach. All too often, media attention focuses on controversial stories or incidents rather than on the content of the discussions. Thus, greater efforts are needed to build relationships with journalists further in advance of an AIDS review and more emphasis should be placed on generating human interest stories as well as hard news headlines. Finally, in today's competitive news market it was noted that all outreach should take advantage of developments in new media and online activities in order to capture new audiences.

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[13] 'Lexisnexis' media search

Key Findings

- The selection of civil society speakers was more transparent than in 2006; however, the application procedure was time-intensive and cumbersome which to a large extent undermined the 'openness' of the call.
- Over 45% of questionnaire respondents stressed that they had not known about opportunities to speak in the meeting, and this was particularly pertinent for regions that have limited access to internet.
- Civil society participants reported that the speakers were well chosen and articulate and 57.2% of the questionnaire respondents felt that the speakers addressed issues that were relevant to their experience or organisation
- The speaker preparation 'contact groups' provided an effective capacity building initiative for speakers and should be used for future meetings.

Recommendations

- Remobilise members of the 2008 CSTF to lobby Member States and the OPGA up to a year in advance of the next AIDS review on issues that would be impacted within the language of a GA resolution.
- Conduct a needs-assessment in regions that have low access to internet and computers to ensure that more time, funds and resources can be allocated for relevant outreach and consultation before, during and after an AIDS review.
- 'Devolve' the initial outreach for speakers to regional focal points. CSSM regional organisations, or equivalent regional civil society network organisations, should initially be given the responsibility of out-reaching to their regional constituents, ensuring that all applicants have the necessary experience and capabilities, assisting stakeholders with completing the application forms, fielding all enquiries, and then forwarding a final short-list of recommended speakers on to the CSTF. At least six weeks must be allowed for those regional short-lists to be drawn up, which should then be forwarded on to the CSTF who can ensure an equal balance across the regions, constituencies and areas of expertise.
- Clarify the role and responsibilities of all back-up speakers during the sessions of the HLM.
- Alert potential speakers from the outset to the fact that, if selected, they cannot attend the HLM as part of their national delegation, and should not sit in their government seat during the meeting itself.
- Alert speakers from the outset to the fact that their presentations may be used as advocacy tools after an AIDS review as an online audio/visual pod-cast. Increasingly, civil society organisations are using web-casts and video recordings of powerful presentations to promote messages after an inter-governmental meeting on spaces such as Facebook, You-Tube, etc, and candidates must be aware that their contribution will be used in such a capacity.
- Draft Background Theme Papers up to six months prior to the AIDS review. The drafting can provide a multi-stakeholder consultation in itself, and further help to hone the key strategic messages to be taken into the high level meeting.
- Introduce more informal advocacy tactics such as dinners or briefings for UN Mission personnel in the run-up to an AIDS review.
- Initiate a media strategy at least six months prior to the next AIDS review. Generate network of focal points based all the key regions to help identify new voices, human interest stories, and unusual narratives in the run up to an AIDS review. Employ a photographer for the HLM to cover the event. Include photos of key civil society representatives in all of the press packs. Contact production companies and publishers in advance to use side-events to launch relevant documentaries, exhibits or publications. Explore new-media opportunities such as You-Tube youth reporting, blogging space for different stakeholder groups, audio pod-casting or visual trailers in the run up to the event.

5. Access to the HLM

The following two sections address the issues surrounding the accessibility of the HLM for civil society and the private sector, and the final section provides a brief break down of final civil society and private sector participation in terms of sector, gender and geography.

Accreditation

There were three channels by which civil society could attend the HLM. Firstly, organisations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) were able to register for the meeting as late as 5th June. Whilst this is a well-established channel for engaging in any UN process, and over 700 organisations pre-registered for the 2008 HLM, CSOs can be deterred by the fact that obtaining full ECOSOC accreditation can take up to two-years.

Secondly, CSOs were able to attend the HLM as part of their national delegations. This avenue is dealt with in more depth below, however, it is worth noting that this route posed challenges for UNAIDS and CSTF because, other than contacting each Permanent Mission in New York individually, there are few ways of communicating with or monitoring which CSOs will be attending the HLM as part of their national delegations.

The third route is 'special accreditation' for the HLM whereby CSOs were asked to complete an online application hosted by NGLS by the 22nd February. Those names were then verified by UNAIDS and finally forwarded to the OPGA for approval by the Member States. This route has the advantage of enabling organisations which do not have a consultative status with ECOSOC, and those not able to attend as part of their delegation, to participate in UN meetings.

The online procedure administered by NGLS worked efficiently. Having received the final applications, UNAIDS Geneva were confronted with the monumental task of verifying over 500 organisations before forwarding the final names onto the OPGA. For the most part, organisations could be verified by either UNAIDS, UNAIDS PCB, CSTF members, UNAIDS regional offices, or the CSSM coalition organisations. However, inevitably there were a number that had to be individually verified by UNAIDS staff, which proved problematic for a number of reasons. Due to national policies on HIV/AIDS, there are a number of CSO activists and PLHIVs who are reluctant to provide contact information as part of the verification process out of fear for their personal security. In addition, grassroots organisations do not necessarily have a web presence. Furthermore, a website alone cannot guarantee an organisation's existence or intentions. As a result the verification process was both time and resource intensive.

The issue of accreditation and verification presents a significant challenge for UNAIDS, particularly in view of the fact that the next AIDS review will result in a political declaration and will thus likely generate even more interest on the part of global civil society.

Drawing on the experiences of other UN agencies, programmes and funds, one suggestion is to further scale up the role of regional ECOSOC accredited organisations to affiliate regional and local CSOs themselves. For NGOs or activists keen to protect their identity, they can then attend the relevant meeting under the name of the regional organisation. This avenue would reduce the number of CSOs seeking 'special accreditation' in the run-up to a meeting and avoid the two-year procedure necessary for ECOSOC accreditation. Another solution that is currently being spearheaded by UNAIDS is to consolidate the contacts across the various bodies (e.g., UNAIDS national offices, PCB, etc.) to generate an ongoing verification process of CSOs.

National Delegation

UNAIDS and the CSTF encouraged civil society organisations to attend the HLM as part of their national delegations. The strategy has a number of obvious advantages; CSOs are provided with unprecedented access to decision-makers, funds covering travel and expenses enable CSOs to attend the meeting itself and lasting relationships can be forged with government representatives.

A number of countries reported strong civil society participation on their national delegations including Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Indonesia, Senegal, Gabon and Cameroon. The most positive and effective examples of CSO participation were ones that involved an ongoing process. In the case of the Norwegian delegation, CSOs attended two meetings before the HLM with their Ambassador in which they championed key issues for the agenda. During the HLM itself they attended morning and lunch-time briefing sessions with their government.

As a result of the contact with their government, Norwegian CSOs cited a number of impacts; they were able make checks on their government's claims in plenary sessions; they managed to raise the issue of TB in relation to HIV/AIDS on their government's agenda; they exposed the delegation to the procedures involved in visa-waivers when entering the US; and a follow-up meeting was organised after the HLM to discuss how to take the meeting outcomes forward on a national level. In addition, all acknowledged the importance of the experience in

enhancing trust and information sharing with their government.

"I needed a visa waiver to get into the States. The Norway delegation experienced that process, which takes time and is unpleasant and humiliating because you have to be subjected to a second enquiry and I had to wait for an hour and a half. It was important to expose the delegation to that" (Norwegian CSO)

"There are a few tricks of the trade that could be helpful for other organisations preparing to go to a meeting with their delegation, for example, always speak the same language of the governments in initial meetings, and meet other NGOs beforehand to plan your strategy, and make sure that you have some 'expert' NGOs as well as 'activist' NGOs " (Norwegian CSO)

However, such positive experiences were not found to be the norm. Even in countries with traditionally strong relationships between civil society and the government, CSOs identified a number of prominent challenges. Firstly, it was not made clear enough from the outset that civil society speakers should not attend the HLM as part of their national delegation. As a result some speakers had to withdraw at the last minute or risk damaging their relationship with their government by refusing their invitation. One Dutch CSO rejected her government's invitation to join the delegation on the basis that she was a speaker, to which the ministry took offence. She reported that her organisation has been unable to secure funding since the HLM.

"I was supposed to speak in one of the sessions, but when it became clear that I was a member of the national delegation I had to withdraw …I strongly disagree with that position, it is self-defeating for civil society: on the one hand we are lobbying for more CS reps to be included in national delegations, and on the other hand we are preventing them from speaking" (civil society speaker)

Secondly, on arriving at the HLM some delegations asked their civil society counterparts to stand in for the government in forums such as the Interactive Hearing, meaning that civil society speakers were 'poached' by their governments.

Finally, a number of CSOs stressed that due to national policies it would have been counter-productive, hypocritical and even dangerous to attend a meeting with their government. For example, CSOs in Nigeria stressed that it would be unsuitable to be part of a government delegation which not only criminalises

homosexuality but is currently reviewing the law to extend to activists campaigning for the rights of gays and lesbians.

These problems point to two obvious conclusions: It is critical that independent funding sources are maintained for CSOs to attend meetings; and it needs to be made much clearer from the outset to both Member States and CSOs that civil society speakers should not attend an HLM on a government ticket. The feedback also suggests that there is a wealth of CSO experience and knowledge that has yet to be tapped into which could help trouble-shoot similar challenges in the future.

This evaluation proposes that UNAIDS conducts research into the question of CSO attendance on national delegation in the context of AIDS reviews. As well as generating a set of case studies and good/poor practices spanning different political and regional contexts, the research should also gather practices from across other UN agencies, programmes and funds to generate a set of recommendations for attending an intergovernmental meeting as part of your national delegation.

Civil Society Attendance

In total, more than 1,700 individuals from civil society were accredited or pre-registered to attend the meeting. Of the 700 who received special accreditation, 461 attended. The vast majority of these were non-governmental organisations (341). Faith-based organisations and private sector organisations were both comparatively well represented (74 and 58 respectively); and 67 participants belonging to associations of people living with HIV attended the HLM. Only one labour representative was registered as having participated in the HLM. The final list of attendants was well balanced in terms of gender.

The feedback suggests that final participants were particularly pleased by greater visibility of the transgender and sex worker community and the greater representation from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Recommendations

- Scale up the role of ECOSOC accredited regional organisations to affiliate regional and local CSOs ahead of HLMs.
- Explore an ongoing and continuous verification process and utilise the experience of other UN agencies, programmes and funds confronting similar challenges (this is already being undertaken by the UNAIDS Partnerships Unit).
- Conduct a mapping exercise of CSO participation on national delegation in the context of AIDS reviews to establish a set of case studies and good practices for improving their lobbying strategies.
- Alert CSOs attending the HLM as part of their national delegation from the outset that they must not sit in the seat of the government
- Increase independent funding sources for CSOs unable to attend an HLM as part of their national delegation, particularly those countries with poor civil society participation in the meeting at large.
- Encourage all CSOs expected to attend an AIDS review as part of their national delegation to confirm their participation beforehand with their national UNAIDS offices.

6. HLM Programme

The HLM included a number of plenary sessions, five thematic panel sessions and a two-hour Civil Society Interactive Hearing. There were openings for a civil society speaker in both the opening and closing sessions and each of the five panel discussions. The response suggests that many were impressed with the civil society speaker's presentation in the opening session. However, most had expected there to be more opportunities for interaction and dialogue during the panel sessions.

The key space for formal participation on the part of civil society was the Interactive Hearing. The Interactive Hearing aimed to be 'an opportunity for an exchange of views between civil society (including the private sector) and Member States and observers on various issues, including those arising from the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/780) and with a particular focus on key priority issues for civil society in achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010'.

In spite of the positive feedback regarding the quality of civil society speakers and topics, the majority of questionnaire respondents disagreed with the statement that the Interactive Hearing was a good forum for interacting with governments (67.8%) on the basis that there was low participation from Members States and the level of interaction or dialogue was minimal. In part, poor government turnout can be attributed to the fact that this was a review session rather than a policy session. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that a press conference was scheduled at the same time as the Hearing, which the President of the General Assembly attended. Furthermore, the Hearing started twenty minutes late and was not extended to accommodate for the late start.

Finally, as has been noted, a number of CSOs attending the meeting as part of their national delegations took the place of their governments in the Interactive Hearing. Thus government voices were replaced by civil society voices, and in effect civil society spoke to itself.

"Most important Govs walked around but didn't participate meaningfully in dialogue. It looked like 'NGOs, speak between yourself" (civil society)

"I found it very disappointing. After all that work and time spent choosing speakers we ended up talking to ourselves" (CSTF)

"Civil society did a great job to prepare one more meeting for itself" (civil society)

"The minutes were given, the presentations were made and the work was over. There was no informal or formal space for the interaction" (civil society).

The lack of genuine dialogue with decision-makers prompted considerable frustration and disappointment amongst civil society participants of the HLM. If the format of an 'interactive' Hearing is to be repeated it is imperative that civil society representatives do not sit in government seats, and that the Hearing is given higher priority by Member States. Governments known to be actively involved in the issues can be approached in the run-up to a HLM in order to ensure high level participation. Furthermore, a number of UN agencies have initiated briefings for government officials prior to a civil society forum to prepare and engage decision-makers for the discussions.

On the basis that the HLM was primarily a review session rather than a policy-making meeting, this evaluation suggests that the Interactive Hearing forum requires reassessment. For example, the United Nations Environment Programme and the MDG Review use ministerial roundtable sessions in which Member States are divided into much smaller regional groups of no more than twenty each (and only two representatives from each government delegation are able to attend).

2-3 elected CSOs are asked to provide a ten-minute opening presentation and then contribute to the ministerial discussions on a similar basis as governments. The more informal and intimate setting has proven a good space for sharing good practices, problem solving and capacity building for governments and civil society alike and thus has proven a useful forum for a review of this kind.

Recommendations

- Approach governments known to be actively involved in relevant issues directly to ensure high level participation
- Introduce 'government briefings' to prepare and engage decision makers in the issues prior to the civil society forum during the HLM
- Alert CSOs attending the HLM as part of their national delegation that they must not sit in government seats from the outset
- Ensure that the format of the formal engagement space, such as a Hearing, reflects the wider strategic objectives of civil society's involvement. Additional formats such as small roundtables, formal dialogues and working groups can provide a more useful space for civil society to interact directly with decision-makers during an inter-governmental meeting.

7. Impact and Outcome

There are two ways of evaluating the impact of civil society input on the outcome of an inter-governmental meeting. The first is to analyse meeting outcome documents for evidence of the messages being advocated by civil society. A comparative analysis of Civil Society Input and the President of the General Assembly's Summary Report, commissioned by ICASO, provides a detailed breakdown of the extent to which civil society messages impacted the content of the HLM outcome document[14]. The second is to assess the perceived results and outcomes on behalf of the participants that extend beyond the limitations of an outcome document, including capacity building, fundraising and relationship-building. This chapter firstly provides a summary of the language and content of the outcome document. It then goes on to draw out the wider outcomes as perceived by civil society participants.

The analysis commissioned by ICASO stresses that 'for the most part the Summary Report, including the overview key findings and recommendations, reflects many of the messages, themes and – in some cases – specific language of civil society presentations and documentation'[15]. Of particular note, the Summary Report;

- Recommended that 'national responses should prioritise implementation, monitoring and enforcement of policies and programmes to protect and promote human rights';
- Specified that vulnerable groups 'migrants, youth, prisoners, indigenous peoples' and most at risk populations, 'sex workers, men who have sex with men, and injecting drug users' should be recognised by law and implemented in practice;
- Recommended 'Travel restrictions for people living with HIV should be lifted by countries that have such restrictions in place';
- Acknowledged the need for gender equality and women's empowerment by national responses and donors;
- Recommended that donor countries honour their commitments to devote 0.7% of GDP to ODA;
- Recommended that 'national responses should be inclusive and recognise the role that civil society, the private sector, faith-based groups, community groups and families and a broad array of sectors and stakeholders must play in developing, implementing and monitoring

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[14] See: 'Myths and Realities: A Comparative Review of Civil Society Input to UNGASS 2008 and the Summary Report from the President of the General Assembly'; Kort Consulting, commissioned by ICASO.
[15] Ibid.

efforts to respond effectively to the epidemic'.[16]

In spite of the messaging and lobbying on the part of the CSTF and the speakers, there were a number of omissions including the following:

- Very little information or detail on the potential to leverage the business sector and trade unions in the response to AIDS
- No reference to calls for comprehensive sexuality education for young people
- No reference to calls to abolish laws criminalizing HIV transmission and/or exposure
- No reference to concerns regarding data quality and completeness, or the inclusion of civil society data in country-level reports, all of which were raised as serious concerns by civil society as a central component of the accountability theme
- No critique of government impediments to meaningful involvement of civil society, particularly for most at risk populations, by reinforcing existing structural barriers to participation'[17]

In addition to the content of the Summary Report CSOs reported a number of positive outcomes as a direct result of their participation in the HLM which ranged from securing funding, to initiating regional networks, to raising issues on their national agenda. For example, a CSO from Zambia noted that they had secured funding for local orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs); whilst another from Nigeria reported that they have managed to raise the issue of stigmatisation and discrimination via a regional meeting after the HLM to publicise the outcomes of the review; and another CSO reported that the issue of PLHIV travel restrictions generated significant attention in the US media. Such examples confirm that AIDS reviews are used for a range of purposes and functions by CSOs.

"Thematic side events [would improve the level of interaction with decision makers]. For instance, to discuss sex workers' related issue, we (sex worker networks) could invite Cambodian Gov to caucus instead make manifestation near Cambodian Embassy in New York. People who use drugs could invite Thai Gov etc" (civil society).

"Increasing the opportunity to meet the government [would improve the level of interaction with decision makers]" (civil society.

Most significantly, this evaluation found that civil society attended the HLM with the prime strategic intent of 'networking and relationship building' rather than impacting the final outcome. For many, the opportunity to come face-to-face with other CSOs, governments and stakeholders engaged in the issues was far more important than impacting final outcome. To some extent, this result might be explained by the fact that the 2008 HLM was a review rather than a policy session. However, given the time, resources, and funds required to convene

and attend an inter-governmental meeting of this scale it is important that CSOs take full advantage of the meeting to pursue clear strategic objectives that will result in progressive international policy outcomes.

The second and related point to emphasise is that CSOs felt significantly hindered by their lack of understanding of intergovernmental processes. When asked what advice they would pass on to other CSOs for future AIDS reviews the majority of respondents noted the importance of preparation, establishing coalitions and networks and arriving with a clear strategy, which again points to the limited preparation for the HLM on the part of broader civil society. Future engagement strategies should prioritise regional and national capacity building workshops and seminars to help CSOs lobby their governments before, during and after an AIDS review.

"Strategize in advance, work together as a coalition, prepare a press statement or some other action to draw attention to your concerns, and bring plenty of drinking water" (civil society)

"Start preparing yourself months in advance with background reading of previous meetings and find a mentor who's been before to explain the process and opportunities" (civil society)

"Know their country representatives and engage them in a collaborative discussion" (civil society)

"We need to strengthen regional meetings and specifically organize regional side events and make country representatives prepare presentations and during interactions each country can engage their delegates in a discussion" (civil society)

Finally, an often neglected aspect of any civil society engagement practice is the follow-up activities and initiatives after an intergovernmental meeting. The feedback reveals that activities after the HLM were largely limited to emailing the Summary Report on to relevant networks. Two CSOs convened workshops and seminar meetings to share the HLM outcomes, another CSO initiated a follow-up meeting with their national HIV/AIDS council, and one other conducted press interviews with local journalists.

The failure to institute a follow-up process after an intergovernmental meeting can undermine much of the positive work undertaken in preparation for the meeting. It is critical that CSOs and UNAIDS national offices are encouraged to follow-up the outcome of an AIDS review via workshops, seminars, conference calls and advocacy alerts. Such follow-up activities should aim to communicate the key outcomes and lessons learned from the meeting to non-participating stakeholders, and devise a local or national strategy to implement the recommendations or outcome.

"I think this type of questionnaire should be sent, results should be summarised and ways of using it should be clarified asap after HLM. Summary could be useful for us in Mexico, in

[16] Ibid.
[17] Ibid.

GFATM Board/PCB UNAIDS inter-Delegations consultations in Amsterdam, on 23rd PCB UNAIDS Meeting" (civil society)

"I would participate more actively not only in the session by itself, but also in the preparation process, giving ideas to Task force and helping to implement them" (civil society)

Key Findings

- The PGA Summary Report reflected some of the key messages and themes championed by civil society in their presentations and documents.
- The key strategic objective of participating CSOs was 'networking and building relationships' not 'influencing the intergovernmental outcome'.
- CSO participants recorded a number of other positive outcomes from the AIDS review ranging from acquiring funding, to initiating networks and information sharing.
- When CSOs were asked how they would improve the quality of civil society engagement at an intergovernmental meeting, most noted that they would like to see more informal opportunities to network and build relationships during the HLM; more opportunities for regional input and ensure that they prepare for the AIDS review well in advance.
- There have been very limited follow-up activities on the part of civil society in the aftermath of the HLM.

Recommendations

- Increase the number of informal spaces in which governments and civil society can interact during AIDS reviews (e.g., side-events, briefings, UN Mission events, break-out sessions, exhibitions, networking events, show-cases, media interviews etc.).
- Initiate regional CSO capacity building workshops and seminars in advance of an AIDS review that focus on understanding and lobbying at inter-governmental events. There are many small practical measures that can help improve lobbying effectiveness (e.g. cross-sectoral coalitions, delegate photos, the use of 'floor managers', engaging the media, etc.)[18]
- Encourage post-meeting de-briefs, media outreach and follow-up consultations at the national and regional level. This will be particularly important for the next AIDS review which will result in a political declaration.

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[18] For more information see *How to Lobby at Intergovernmental Meetings*, edited by Felix Dodds and Michael Strauss; Earthscan (2004)

Conclusions and recommendations

The civil society engagement strategy has evolved and developed considerably since the 2001 and 2006 AIDS reviews. Civil society now administers a number of significant aspects of the process including the selection of the CSTF, the civil society speakers and the topics and key messages. Furthermore, the HIV/AIDS civil society community are becoming more active and visible at AIDS reviews, and they are inputting high quality presentations and advocacy material. The 2008 HLM outcome document and the wider feedback reveal that civil society did impact the decision-making process in a number of significant areas, which provides a positive statement on the work carried out by all whom were involved.

However, a note of caution should be added. Firstly, it is important to stress that as a 'review' year, the content and the outcome of the 2008 HLM were far less contentious than that of a policy meeting. For the next AIDS review, it is critical that efforts are scaled up and that preparations begin further in advance, particularly on the national and regional levels. Indeed, as evidence has suggested in other contexts across the UN[19], the most important strategic point for non-state actors to leverage change is during the agenda-setting phase, whereby CSOs have the opportunity to impact their government's national agendas and priorities during a high level meeting.   In most cases, positions have already been cemented and agendas have been set by the time Member States arrive at an intergovernmental meeting. In such a context, CSO efforts must start much earlier and UNAIDS national offices should scale up their support for national and regional engagement up to a year in advance of an AIDS review.

Secondly, there are a number of emerging and re-occurring weaknesses which must not become ingrained in future engagement processes. These include the lack of support and guidance for CSOs on a national level; the tendency for CSOs to sit in their government's seat during the HLM; an over-reliance on internet outreach; the lack of multi-sectoral consultation at the national and regional level before, during and after the HLM; and the lack of follow-up activities after the HLM.

Finally, a clear finding to have come out of the evaluation is that civil society participants use the HLM as an opportunity for capacity building and networking, rather than an opportunity to impact the inter-governmental outcome. A large section of the respondents also indicated that they felt hindered by their lack of understanding of intergovernmental processes. The finding suggests that there are still significant weaknesses on the local, national and regional level in helping CSOs understand, strategise, prepare and follow-up from an intergovernmental policy meeting.

The efforts for the AIDS review in 2011 will need to be stepped up and started further in advance in order to achieve progressive policy-making. The following provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations:

- **The CSTF proved to be an effective mechanism for engaging global civil society and should be used for future AIDS reviews.** The CSTF needs to be supported by a high-level of administrative and secretarial support from the outset; Meeting Summaries and action alerts should be distributed in all UN languages at the end of each CSTF meeting; additional funds and resources should be explored for translating action alerts, information notes and other material produced by the CSTF; online forums should be utilised to ease the communications between the group between meetings; an induction day should be held before the opening of the first CSTF meeting.

- **The selection of CSTF should again be administered by civil society for future AIDS reviews.** The process should allow 6 weeks for applications, and national and regional outreach; the International Support Group must be more visible and might need to become a more permanent body over next two years to help prepare for the next AIDS review. In order to ensure greater accountability, it is also important that CSTF members demonstrate past experience in having represented and reported back to a relevant constituency or region.

- **Outreach and communication strategies must not rely exclusively on the internet and emails.** Whilst the internet reaches 23.5% of the world's population that figure does not represent discrepancies in regional coverage, for example Africa (5.6%) and Asia (17.5%). This evaluation recommend a simple needs-

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assessment be carried out in regions that have low access to internet to ensure more time, funds and resources can be allocated for relevant outreach and consultation before and after an AIDS review.
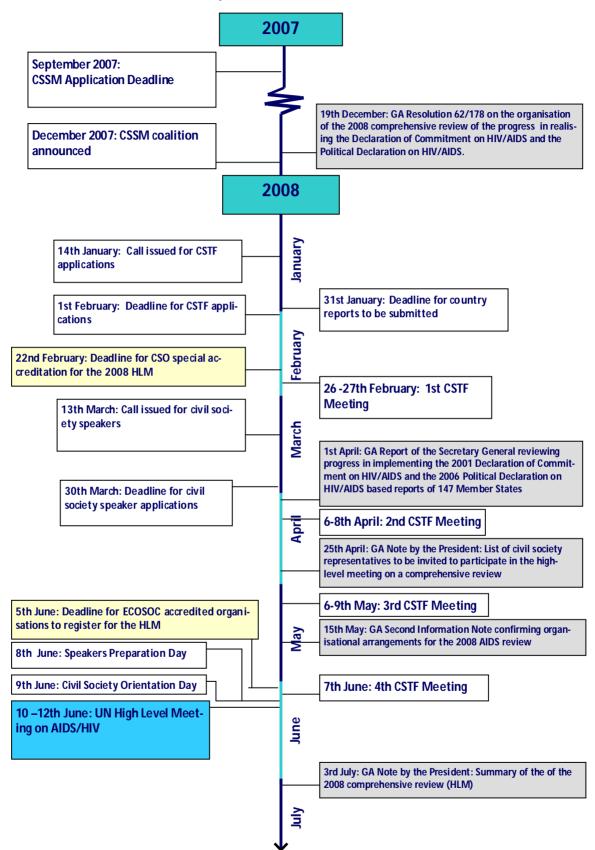
- **Members of the 2008 CSTF should be remobilised a year in advance of the next AIDS review to lobby the OPGA on expected re-emerging issues that would be impacted by the language of a GA resolution.** Under-represented constituencies such as labour groups; and representatives from Africa and Eastern Europe, should also be targeted earlier on in the process to ensure meaningful participation on the part of all relevant constituencies and regions.

- **Scale up the role of UNAIDS national offices to provide support for local and regional civil society activities in the preparation for future AIDS reviews up to a year in advance of the intergovernmental meeting.** In particular, there is a significant lack of cross-sectoral preparation and consultation at the local, national and indeed regional level, which may contribute to the tendency for CSOs to use the HLM as a networking and capacity-building space rather than an opportunity to affect international policy outcomes. More resources will need to be allocated for preparatory consultations and capacity building on the local, national and regional level.

- **National and regional CSO preparations will also need to be mobilised up to a year in advance of the next AIDS review in order to impact national agendas.** Resources should be allocated for regional capacity-building workshops and seminars to prepare CSOs before, during, and after future AIDS reviews. There are many small practical measures that can help improve their lobbying effectiveness during the AIDS review itself (e.g. delegate photos, the use of 'floor managers', tips for working with the media, etc.)[20] Mentor schemes using HLM veterans experience should also be explored as a tool for preparing CSOs.

- **For the CSSM to provide an effective support system on the regional level, much clearer targets, activities and functions of all of the coalition members need to be established from the outset.** Clear lines of communication should be established between the CSSM and UNAIDS regional and national offices. The function and role of the Civil Society Support Groups provided little obvious value-added and requires reassessment.

- **Scale up the role of ECOSOC accredited regional organisations to affiliate and verify regional and local CSOs in advance of an AIDS review.** In which case, CSOs need not complete the two-year ECOSOC accreditation procedure.

- **Conduct a mapping exercise of CSO participation on national delegations in the context of AIDS reviews to establish a set of case studies, lessons learned and good practices in a range of contexts**. The findings and recommendations should be distributed widely across relevant civil society networks to improve the quality of CSO attendance via national delegations.

- **Explore other formats for civil society interaction with Member States during an AIDS review in order to ensure that the forum reflects the wider strategic objectives of CSO participation.** A number of different formats have been used in different UN forums that have proved useful, for example, smaller thematic and regional roundtables or multi-stakeholder dialogues.

- **A post-meeting evaluation of CSO and private sector participation should be undertaken no more than six weeks after the end of an AIDS review.** To enhance accountability throughout the process all actors involved in the HLM engagement strategy should be made aware in advance that the evaluation will take place. More time should be allowed for questionnaire response and translation. Interviews with government representatives would also enhance understanding of civil society participation.

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[20] For more information see 'How to Lobby at Intergovernmental Meetings', edited by Felix Dodds and Michael Strauss; Earthscan (2004)

Annex 1

The following representatives made up the final 2008 Civil Society Task Force:

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

Annex 2

Time line of events and deadlines in the lead up to the UN HLM on AIDS 2008

2007

September 2007:
CSSM Application Deadline

December 2007: CSSM coalition announced

19th December: GA Resolution 62/178 on the organisation of the 2008 comprehensive review of the progress in realising the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

2008

January

14th January: Call issued for CSTF applications

1st February: Deadline for CSTF applications

31st January: Deadline for country reports to be submitted

February

22nd February: Deadline for CSO special accreditation for the 2008 HLM

26 -27th February: 1st CSTF Meeting

13th March: Call issued for civil society speakers

March

1st April: GA Report of the Secretary General reviewing progress in implementing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS based reports of 147 Member States

30th March: Deadline for civil society speaker applications

April

6-8th April: 2nd CSTF Meeting

25th April: GA Note by the President: List of civil society representatives to be invited to participate in the high-level meeting on a comprehensive review

5th June: Deadline for ECOSOC accredited organisations to register for the HLM

6-9th May: 3rd CSTF Meeting

May

15th May: GA Second Information Note confirming organisational arrangements for the 2008 AIDS review

8th June: Speakers Preparation Day

9th June: Civil Society Orientation Day

7th June: 4th CSTF Meeting

10 –12th June: UN High Level Meeting on AIDS/HIV

June

3rd July: GA Note by the President: Summary of the of the 2008 comprehensive review (HLM)

July

Annex 3

The following documents were used in our research:

GA Documents
- Resolution on the 'Organization of the 2008 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS' http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/474/45/PDF/N0747445.pdf?OpenElement
- Second Information Note on the Organizational arrangements for the 2008 AIDS Review http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/letters/letterBackground150508.pdf
- Report of the UN Secretary-General – 'Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: midway to the Millennium Development Goals' http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/20080429_sg_progress_report_en.pdf
- List of civil society representatives to be invited to participate in the HLM http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/316/64/PDF/N0831664.pdf?OpenElement
- Summary of the 2008 high-level meeting on the comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS http://data.unaids.org/pub/BaseDocument/2008/20080703_pgasummary_a62895_en.pdf

Information Notes/Communications
- HLM Programme Summary http://www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2008/programme.pdf
- HLM Panels and Civil Society Interactive Hearing description http://www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2008/background_papers.pdf
- Civil Society Interactive Hearing Concept Paper 'Action for Universal Access 2010: Myths and Realitieshttp://www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2008/myths_realitiescivilsocietyhearing_concept_paper.pdf
- 'Request for proposal: to serve as a Communication and Consultation Facility to support the participation of the NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board
- 'Proposal for 2008 AIDS Review Civil Society Support Mechanism' by a coalition of organizations (AFRICASO, AAE, APCASO, LACCASO, ICASO, IWHC)
- Civil Society Support Mechanism Terms of Reference (TOR) http://www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2008/civil_society_support_mechanism_en.pdf
- Civil Society Participation Information Note http://www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2008/cs_logistics_note.pdf
- CSTF: 1st Meeting Summary Notes http://www.icaso.org/publications/task_force_Feb_mtg_report.pdf
- CSTF: 2nd Meeting Summary Notes http://www.icaso.org/publications/task_force_Apr_mtg_summary_report.pdf
- CSTF: 3rd Meeting Summary Notes http://www.icaso.org/resources/HLM_CSTF_ReportBack%20_May6_9final.pdf
- CSTF: 'Call for Speakers' http://www.icaso.org/cstf.html
  NGLS Round-Up (May 2008) http://www.un-ngls.org/site/IMG/pdf/RU132.pdf

Advocacy/Communication Alerts
- High Level Meeting on AIDS: How to Get Involved http://www.icaso.org/publications/aa_jan08_1.pdf
- Background Theme Papers http://www.icaso.org/HLM.html
- Civil Society Declaration on the UN High Level Meeting on AIDS http://www.icaso.org/resources/CS_UNGASS_declaration-1.pdf

Press Releases
- 9 June 2008, UNAIDS - Press Release 'Progress in AIDS response but still a long way from meeting global targets' http://data.unaids.org/pub/PressRelease/2008/20080609_hlm_pr_en.pdf
- 13 June 2008 , UNAIDS - HLM Closing press release ' Global AIDS epidemic far from over' http://data.unaids.org/pub/PressRelease/2008/080613_hlm_close_en.pdf

Transcripts of speeches and presentations

- Transcripts of civil society presentations during the HLM
  http://www.icaso.org/publications/CS_HearingSpeeches.pdf
- 10 June 2008, Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General – Opening Remarks at the HLM
  http://www.un.org/webcast/aidsmeeting2008/statements/highlevelaids2008_SG_en.pdf
- 12 June 2008, Srgjan Kerim, UN GA President – HLM Closing Statement
  http://data.unaids.org/pub/PressStatement/2008/20080612_pga_concludin_remarks_en.pdf
- 10 June 2008, Peter Piot, UNAIDS Executive Director, Statement at the UNGASS HLM
  http://data.unaids.org/pub/SpeechEXD/2008/20080610_sp_hlm_piot_en.pdf

Background Documents
- 27 June 2001, UNGASS on HIV/AIDS – Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS
  http://data.unaids.org/publications/irc-pub03/aidsdeclaration_en.pdf
- 2 June 2006, UN GA - Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS
  http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2006/20060615_HLM_PoliticalDeclaration_ARES60262_en.pdf

Annex 4

The following provides a list of all of the organisations who contributed to the research and questionnaire feedback:

- African Council of AIDS Service Organisations
- AID for AIDS International
- AIDS Action Europe
- AIDS Community Research Initiative of America
- AIDS2031
- AIDS-Free World
- Anglican Communion
- Aproase. A.C
- Asian Harm Reduction Network
- Becton Dickinson
- Bolivian Network of PLHA REDBOL
- Canadian AIDS Society
- Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition
- Church Development Service (EED)
- Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance
- ELWA Hospital
- Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)
- Forum Nacional da Juventude e População
- Foundation of Positive Women of the World
- Geodora Samaritans Inc
- GESTOS
- Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS
- Global Network of People Living with HIV
- Helseutvalget
- Independent Churches of Zambia (ICOZ) / ZINCO
- International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS
- International Council of AIDS service Organisations
- International Network of People Who Use Drugs
- International Transport Worker's Federation
- International Treatment Preparedness Coalition
- International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)
- Inter-Religious Council of Uganda
- Network of African People Living with HIV/AIDS
- Nigeria Labour Congress
- Norwegian Heart and Lung Patient Organization
- Positive Youth Outreach
- Real World Real People NGO
- SCARJOV - Associacao de Reintegracao dos Jovens/Criancas na Vida Social
- Seven Sisters Coalition
- Shalom 2 You. Inc.
- St Paul's Trust
- Tais Plus / AntiAIDS Association
- The River Fund
- UNAIDS, New York
- UNAIDS Geneva, Civil Society Partnership Unit
- United Belize Advocacy Movement
- Women Care Foundation
- World AIDS Campaign
- World Vision International
- World YWCA
- Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Right