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Pre-Vienna Civil Society Preparatory Meeting on Responses to HIV/AIDS in Africa

Willow Park Conference Centre & Resort
Johannesburg, South Africa
March 27–28, 2010

In an effort to cultivate co-funding opportunities with like-minded foundations and donors working on HIV/AIDS in Africa, TrustAfrica and the World AIDS Campaign (WAC) jointly hosted a convening in Johannesburg, South Africa, from March 27–28, 2010. The event was attended by numerous actors who share an interest in consolidating African experiences and perspectives for global decision-making in the HIV/AIDS field. The convening helped lay the groundwork for series of official preparatory meetings planned in advance of the 18th International AIDS Conference, to be held in Vienna, Austria, on July 18–23, 2010.

TrustAfrica sponsored the event through its HIV/AIDS initiative, which provides convening and mobility support to strengthen African engagement with the global HIV/AIDS establishment. The two-day gathering provided a valuable opportunity for African leaders from different levels of society to prepare for the Vienna Conference, develop mechanisms to ensure that their perspectives are heard, and craft mechanisms to bring needed policy changes at the domestic level.

The Objectives of the Preparatory Meeting Were to:

- Bring together activists from the African continent prior to attending the Vienna conference;
- Build and share knowledge about the pandemic, its trends, and the most current responses;
- Strengthen advocacy capacity for addressing HIV and AIDS in the respective countries;
- Work toward developing a continental pressure group as a political response to HIV/AIDS;
- Facilitate networking among delegates with a view to strengthening local, national, and regional strategies; and
- Build the leadership capacity of all participating individuals and their organizations.

The Goals of the Preparatory Meeting Were to:

- Provide an update on global and regional trends on HIV and AIDS;
- Identify challenges and gaps in responses to HIV and AIDS in Africa;

- Develop new demands in the context of the Maputo Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals, and other development challenges;
- Use country responses to address gaps and challenges;
- Develop a civil society position paper for the Vienna Conference as well as a pre-Vienna action plan;
- Plan for the subsequent preparatory meetings prior to the Vienna Conference; and
- Identify potential participants from Africa for the Vienna Conference.

Profile of Participants

The 40 delegates who attended the Johannesburg meeting included policymakers, activists and practitioners—including young persons, people living with HIV and AIDS, people living with disabilities, and LGBTIs. They came from various African countries, representing governments as well as NGOs.

By participating in this session, the delegates gained exposure to debates, philosophies and theories related to HIV and AIDS in Africa, its demands and challenges. Individuals were able to develop multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary interactions and networks that will strengthen their role at the Vienna conference. Furthermore, the delegates made a positive contribution to the development of a Pre-Vienna action plan.

Outcomes of the Preparatory Meeting

- Background on the joint concept, delivered by TrustAfrica and WAC
- Provided an update on global and regional trends on HIV and AIDS
- Identified challenges in response to HIV and AIDS in Africa
- Drafted key messages for Vienna, including messages for CSO position paper based on four thematic areas
- Agreed on pre-Vienna action plan
- Reviewed lessons from 4th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights (Addis Ababa) and previous AIDS conferences since 1996 in Vancouver
- Analyzed the 18th International Conference on AIDS, Vienna, with an eye to emerging issues, challenges, and opportunities for Africa
- Financing with a focus on the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Leadership & accountability
- Linking universal access to Millennium Development Goals
- Adopted the draft CSO messages for position paper
- Selected drafting committee to polish position paper
- Agreed on key international events and responsibilities for popularizing position paper

Conclusion

African delegates need to identify the specific focus of their intended interventions at the Vienna conference, including the strategies required on the continent to address the growing pandemic.

Strong leadership is a pre-requisite for effectively addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic. TrustAfrica's HIV/AIDS initiative, and particularly its mobility support facility, provides the opportunity for leadership development of people from across the continent working on HIV and AIDS. Within

Africa, HIV/AIDS requires a multi-sectoral response, and Africa will never have enough people working against the harmful effects of HIV and AIDS.

A cohesive voice is needed to bring together African delegates to ensure that the concerns of activists on the continent are adequately expressed and that they are able to make the necessary inputs that will benefit those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS on the continent. Africa needs to provide up-to-date, concise, precise, accurate information by country, on the state of affairs in their respective countries and decide, among other things, where help is most needed, what has worked, and the way forward.

Above all, Africans need to agree—because when African delegates go to Vienna they will be designated African representatives who can boldly outline Africa’s positions and therefore push for an African agenda. These positions need to be agreed on beforehand, despite the fact that African delegates will present individual papers as experts in various fields. Therefore, before going to Vienna, TrustAfrica and WAC have decided to convene meetings where African men and women can come together to discuss and strategically plan the way forward for Africa at the Vienna conference.

Participants

Name	Affiliation
Olayide Akanni	Executive Director, Journalists Against AIDS
Valentine Doula-Mouteng	Pan-African Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS
Emmanuel Etim	NEPAD International Youth Panel
Sasha Gear	Centre for the Study of Violence & Reconciliation (CSVSR)
Nombasa Gxuluwe	Eastern Cape Coordinator, World AIDS Campaign
Sydney Hushie	Global Youth AIDS Alliance
Vusumzi Kalala	Eastern Cape Department of Health
Chabu Kangale	INERELA+
Mmapaseka Letsike	Coalition of South African Lesbians
Bianca Marks	Global Programme Officer, World AIDS Campaign
Linda Mafu	World AIDS Campaign
Kavinya Makau	Urgent Action Fund–Africa
Tsisti Mariwo	Regional Coordinator, Public Service Africa
Sandrine Mataffeu	Cameroon In-Country Coordinator, World AIDS Campaign
Soraya Matthews	World AIDS Campaign
Rosemary Mburu	Programme Officer, Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO)
Prisca Mogapi	Transgender activist
Daniel Molokele	Global Programme Officer, World AIDS Campaign
Bhekinkosi Moyo	Program Director, TrustAfrica
Dominica Mudota	Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SafAIDS)
Florence Nightingale Mukasa	Uganda National Association of the Deaf
Patience Mungwari	HIV/AIDS researcher
Dudzai Mureyi	Female activist advocating vulnerability of young women
Lucia Mvula	International AIDS Alliance
Olivia Nakigozi (Interpreter)	Uganda National Association of the Deaf
Tatenda Ngwaru	Gender DynamiX
Martha N. Njama	Promotion of Traditional Medicine (Prometra)
Patience Onziema	Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG)
Arlynn Revell	Rapporteur, TrustAfrica

Rayhana Rassool
Yahaya Sekagya
Kenly Sikwese
Miriam Soumare
Semu Teffera

James Twesige

Delene Van Dyk
Beatrice Were
Joniah William

Soul City
Prometra Uganda
People Living with HIV Stigma Index
Association for Women at Risk from AIDS (AWA)
National Coordinator, HIV/AIDS & Health Forum of NGOs–Ethiopia
Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA)
Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organizations
(EANNASO)
OUT
Oxfam
Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organizations
(EANNASO)