

**Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
AIDS Law Project, South Africa
International Council of AIDS Service Organizations**

***'HIV treatments, microbicides and vaccines:
developing an agenda for action'***

An international expert consultation

**Co-hosted and co-sponsored by
Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
WHO-UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Initiative
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)**

**Montreal, Canada
17-19 November, 2003**

Meeting Report

28 January 2004

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Short Description

This consultation was part of a larger project to create or strengthen partnerships between HIV treatment, vaccine and microbicide advocates and communities. Prior to the consultation participants were provided with a background paper that identified common policy issues and possible obstacles to greater collaboration, and proposed ways to advance joint agendas. Participants were also provided with a draft plan of action, which identified objectives, strategies and targets for advocacy in 2004-2006.

The agenda for the consultation is attached at Annex 1. At the consultation, participants discussed the background paper and draft Action Plan and made recommendations for next steps, including the drafting of a 'Statement of Commitment' to be endorsed by organizations from the three constituencies. After the consultation a more accessible, shorter version of the background paper, the Statement of Commitment and the Action Plan will be disseminated widely in English, French and Spanish. A revised version of the background paper itself will be available on the website of the Legal Network.

Project Objectives

1. To create or strengthen partnerships between key actors in the areas of access to HIV treatments, microbicides and vaccines;
2. To identify a common agenda on how to move forward, and on priorities, and opportunities for collaboration.

3. To make information about crucial issues and ways to move forward widely available, and to foster discussion of common legal, ethical and human rights challenges.

Consultation Objectives

1. To review the draft background paper and make recommendations, including for its dissemination in final form.
2. To review the advantages and disadvantages/barriers of HIV treatment, microbicide and vaccine advocates working more closely together.
3. To review the recommendations for advancing joint agendas, including priorities for joint work and possible processes for undertaking that work.
4. Where disadvantages/potential barriers to working more closely are identified, review recommendations for ways to overcome and address those disadvantages.

Participant Profile

The consultation brought together some forty advocates from HIV treatment, microbicide and vaccine constituencies as well as government and international development agencies. Participants included fifteen women, nine persons from developing countries, and well as several persons living with HIV/AIDS.

The list of participants and contact details is attached at Annex 2.

Project Background

In the first two decades of the HIV/AIDS epidemic there was a constant tension between resources allocated for prevention and those allocated for care and treatment. Although programming is designed to support the 'prevention-care continuum,' in practice a scarcity of resources has led to conflicting messages regarding resource priorities.

It is increasingly recognized that efforts to limit the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS will be most easily advanced if community advocates work together to advance common agendas, based on a human rights framework. Areas of common interest include:

- increasing political will to address the epidemic;
- assuring increased overall funding;
- resolving intellectual property issues that may impede private sector investment in treatments and prevention technologies and that may impede access to technologies developed, particularly in developing countries;
- improved regulatory and approval mechanisms for new treatments and prevention technologies;
- improving the distribution of and access to medications and existing vaccines;
- improved community understanding of HIV/AIDS treatments and prevention technologies;
- treatments for persons infected in the course of clinical trials; and,

- human rights arguments for assuring developing world access to effective HIV treatments, vaccines and microbicides as they are developed.

In July 2000 the Legal Network and the AIDS Law Project, South Africa, organized a satellite meeting at the 13th International AIDS Conference, Durban. The meeting was co-hosted by UNAIDS. Two of the four themes for discussion at this meeting were 'access to treatment' and 'resolving legal, ethical and human rights challenges in HIV vaccine research.' After the meeting it was noted that this was the first time a community meeting on HIV vaccines in developing countries had focused on 'upstream' issues of investment in research rather than ethical questions arising in clinical research.

In April 2002 the Legal Network hosted an international expert meeting in Montreal to examine the vaccine questions in greater depth, and to review a draft advocacy tool for use by communities to advance understanding of the legal and human rights arguments for action on HIV vaccine research and access in developing countries. Funding for the meeting was provided by UNAIDS, WHO-UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Initiative (HVI), Health Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). One outcome of that meeting was the recommendation that the draft advocacy tool be developed into a community action kit. The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), UNAIDS and HVI have expressed interest in supporting the development, piloting and distribution of the kit in 2004.

In July 2002 the Legal Network, the AIDS Law Project (South Africa) and the Lawyers Collective HIV/AIDS Unit (India) organized a one-day satellite meeting just prior to the 14th International AIDS Conference, Barcelona. The meeting was co-hosted by UNAIDS. It was attended by over 130 community advocates, researchers, representatives of government and UN agencies, and others. The two themes addressed at the meeting were access to treatments for HIV/AIDS in developing countries, and promoting the development of and eventual access to an HIV vaccine suitable for developing countries.

One of the strong messages to emerge from the meeting was the agreement that vaccine advocates, treatment advocates, and microbicide advocates should work together to advance a common agenda, and that their respective efforts would be strengthened by such collaboration. Vaccine, treatment, and microbicide advocates:

- can share information;
 - can develop joint media and education campaigns to support prevention, treatment and research;
 - can strategize together on ways to improve the health care and research infrastructure; on issues concerning the ethical review of research; on how to use human rights norms and laws to advance the agenda; and on how to expand available HIV/AIDS funding ; and
 - can work together to ensure that vaccines, treatments, and microbicides are not seen to be competing with each other.
- In October 2002 the Legal Network commenced a two-year collaboration with IAVI to advance research and advocacy on the legal, ethical and human rights challenges of development of and access to an HIV vaccine suitable for developing countries. As part of this agreement, the

Legal Network produced the background paper that formed the basis for discussion at the November 2003 expert consultation.

Acknowledgments

Consultation co-organizers, co-hosts and funders

The international expert consultation was organized by the Legal Network. The AIDS Law Project, South Africa, and the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations were meeting co-organizers. UNAIDS, WHO-UNAIDS HVI, and IAVI co-hosted and co-sponsored the meeting. The Canadian International Development Agency supported the participation of persons from developing countries. Additional funding was provided by the International Partnership for Microbicides and Health Canada.

Background paper reference group

The following people provided valuable advice on early drafts of the background paper, and selection of consultation participants:

Chris Collins, AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
José Esparza, WHO-UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Initiative
Ezio Santos Filho, Grupo Pela Vidda, Brazil
Polly Harrison, Alliance for Microbicide Development
Lori Heise, Global Campaign for Microbicides
Mark Heywood, AIDS Law Project and Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa
Miriam Maluwa, UNAIDS
Shaun Mellors, International Council of AIDS Service Organizations
Saul Walker, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

Legal Network secretariat and support services

The background paper was written by John Godwin. The meeting was facilitated by Ross Hammond. Sam Avrett provided technical advice on the project development and execution. Administrative support was provided by Jennifer Nicholls and Natalie Morin. The project was managed by David Patterson.

Legal Network Follow Up

The Legal Network is undertaking the following activities after the consultation:

1. Write to WHO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Paul Hunt, to inform them of the outcomes of the expert consultation and of next steps.
2. Circulate a brief note on the project, the consultation and follow up to persons attending the consultation and other groups for wide distribution.

3. Revise the background paper taking into account the comments of the consultation participants, and post it on the Legal Network's web site.
4. Publish a summary of the background paper and the outcomes of the consultation in issue 9(1) of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Policy and Law Review. (The Review is published in English and French and is available on the Legal Network's web site.)
5. Publish and disseminate a 15 page shorter, more accessible version of the background paper in English, French and Spanish.
6. in consultation with meeting participants and other key stakeholders,
 - a. Revise and publish the Action Plan in English, French and Spanish;
 - b. Draft and circulate for endorsement a 'Statement of Commitment', which sets out a commitment to advocate for a comprehensive HIV response; principles to guide joint advocacy (such as a human rights approach and the prevention-care-treatment continuum); and top line priorities for joint action. The Statement of Commitment will be published in English, French and Spanish and launched at the 15th International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, July 2004.

(The background paper summary, Action Plan and Statement of Commitment will be published together in English, French and Spanish.)

7. Disseminate the background paper summary, Action Plan and Statement of Commitment to 500 organizations and individuals working in the area of HIV/AIDS, law, ethics and human rights, mostly from developing countries.
8. In partnership with ICASO, host a satellite meeting during the 15th International AIDS Conference, Bangkok at which participants from treatment, microbicide and vaccine constituencies will increase their understanding of the advocacy successes and challenges facing the three constituencies, and opportunities for joint collaboration. A kit containing the summary of the background paper, the Action Plan and the Statement of Commitment will be distributed at the meeting.
9. Use existing and planned events and communications opportunities in 2004-2006 to disseminate and publicize the Statement of Commitment and supporting documentation. (Such events include annual conferences on HIV microbicides and vaccines, treatment access meetings, and related events.)
10. In addition and in collaboration with its partners and other stakeholders, the Legal Network will identify further ways to advance the project objectives and seek funding to support these activities over the period 2004-2006.

Consultation Evaluation

At the end of the consultation, participants were invited to complete a meeting evaluation form. The compilation of the responses is attached at Annex 3.

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Annex 1: Agenda

Monday, November 17

- 3:30 p.m. Registration
- 4:00 p.m. Opening Session
- 4:45 p.m. Presentation of Background Paper
 - John Godwin
- 5:45 p.m. End of Day Review
- 6:00 p.m. Reception

Tuesday, November 18

- 9:00 a.m. Day Two Check-in
- 9:15 a.m. Review of Background Paper
 - Plenary Discussion
- 10:00 a.m. Presentation of Draft Plan for Action
 - John Godwin
 - Set-up for Small Group Work
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m. Small Group Work, Part 1
 - Focus on Objectives 1, 2&3, 4&5, 6-8
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 2:00 p.m. Small Group Report-back and Plenary Discussion, Part 1
- 3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Small Group Report-back and Plenary Discussion, Part 1 – cont'd
- 4:30 p.m. End of Day Review
- Evening Consultation Dinner

Wednesday, November 19

- 9:00 a.m. Day Three Check-in
- 9:15 a.m. Review of Draft Plan for Action
- 9:30 a.m. Small Group Work, Part 2
 - Focus on Objectives 9, 10, 11-12, 13, 14
- 11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:30 a.m. Small Group Report-back and Plenary Discussion, Part 2
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 2:00 p.m. General Conclusions and Recommendations
 - Plenary Discussion
 - Next Steps
- 3:30 p.m. Closing Session
- 4:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

Annex 2: Participants and contact details

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Annex 3: Compilation of responses to exit evaluation

(24 Respondents)

DEMOGRAPHICS

1. Which of the following describe you: (check any that apply)

- ☐ community worker      
- ☐ health professional    
- ☐ person living with HIV/AIDS   
- ☐ social worker
- ☐ lawyer         
- ☐ government representative
- ☐ researcher    
- ☐ other     
- International NGO Policy Work
- community organizer
- Activist
- Advocate/Community Educator
- CPWG Member


2. Country of origin

- India  
- United Kingdom  
- Namibia 
- Australia 
- USA     
- Kenya 
- Canada  
- Venezuela  
- South Africa  
- Philippines 
- Tunisia 
- Brazil 











WORKSHOP

How would you rate the following?

3. The overall quality of the meeting?

- ☐ excellent         
- ☐ very good         
- ☐ satisfactory  
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

4. The overall quality of the presentation?

- ☐ excellent     
- ☐ very good             
- ☐ satisfactory  
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

5. How well did the meeting achieve its objectives?

- ☐ excellent 
- ☐ very good 
- ☐ satisfactory 
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

6. The materials provided before or during the meeting?




- ☐ excellent 
- ☐ very good 
- ☐ satisfactory 
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

7. The design of the consultation?

- ☐ excellent 
- ☐ very good 
- ☐ satisfactory 
- ☐ unsatisfactory 
- ☐ poor

-too short

8. The facilitation of the meeting?

- ☐ excellent 
- ☐ very good 
- ☐ satisfactory 
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

9. The overall use of time?

- ☐ excellent 
- ☐ very good 
- ☐ satisfactory 
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

10. What is the one thing you would like to see changed about the meeting?

- The agenda required 3 days. Issues were much too complex to get a handle on in the time given.
- Some opportunity to do some 101 information sharing would have been good.
- As my ratings suggest, I don't think you could have done a significantly better job.
- Getting more senior vaccine people and more treatments people.
- More front-end clarity on the pre-meeting process & ultimate use of products.
- Get actionable items, get a sense for who's doing what, and encourage smaller group discussions to especially encourage people non-English mother tongue to speak up!
- Perhaps lead teams from MTV should have had briefs before the consultation meeting.
- Last plenary session on "way forward/next steps" might have been better if done on a morning after 2 days of discussion because the energy level after lunch in the last few hours before people leave for airport etc is always lower.

- Room too cold.
- Better balance between the delegates, but I realize that it was also very hard to achieve even the balance we had.
- Better and more global representative participation.
- Longer time for workshop and concrete exercises to develop action plans.
- The leveling and mutual educators between M/T/V could have been upfront, but I was satisfied that organizers were flexible to set aside time the agenda on day 2.
- Sitting arrangement did not facilitate easy dialogue.
- More time dedicated to general conclusions/recommendations, probably an additional 30-45 minutes.
- Another day for "in-service training" on science and politics of each technology/group as basis for subsequent discussions and mutual learning.
- Do some of the self educating first- perhaps re-think the process for development of an advocacy plane-meet first, then plan rather than the other way around.
- We needed to hear a bit more from 3 streams Status of work/challenges as intro but this was addressed day 2 quite satisfactorily.
- 2 days are not enough to discuss all the issues. Spending so much money on ticket plane should at least be followed by a three full days meeting.
- More involvement from communities from the south.
- Only to have spent day 1 doing some learning from the three fields.
- Less agendas.

11. What was the best thing about the meeting?

- A good eye-opener in sectors that I wasn't familiar with. The background paper, considering the range of complexity covered was excellent.
- Spirit of open dialogue.
- Sharing in the expertise of this talented and dynamic group of activists. It's been an incredible education.
- Small group work sessions.
- Interaction among participants.
- The intention to bring the agenda together.
- In depth discussion of issues. Good time management and organized.
- Quality of background materials, and quality of thinking, expertise in the room.
- The calibre of the participants that you were able to engage.
- The paper. Perfect time keeping. Great selection of participants and facilitator.
- The people invited-excellent collection.
- Chance to reflect on own work and learn about work in other HIV/AIDS related areas.
- Meeting different stakeholders and partners.
- Brought together 3 major movements and finding shared platforms.
- Diversity of the participants, uniqueness of the gathering and experts, and defined way forward.
- That the focus was maintained.
- The "vibe" of collaboration, learning working together created by participants, facilitators, network...etc.
- Bringing us together to work together.
- Learning opportunities and sharing opportunity-unique, progressive conference with excellent people.
- Bringing together people from different groups was an excellent opportunity to share what is being done in each field.
- The linkage between the 3 issues.
- Planning.
- The quality of the debate.
- Bringing three different but very important MTV/together and developing advocacy tools.

How would you rate the following?

12. Pre-Meeting organization?

- ☐ excellent 
- ☐ very good 
- ☐ satisfactory 
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

13. Pre-meeting communications?

- ☐ excellent 
- ☐ very good 
- ☐ satisfactory 
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

14. Travel arrangements?

- ☐ excellent 
- ☐ very good 
- ☐ satisfactory 
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

15. Hotel rooms?

- ☐ excellent 
- ☐ very good 
- ☐ satisfactory 
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

16. Meeting venue

- ☐ excellent 
- ☐ very good 
- ☐ satisfactory 
- ☐ unsatisfactory
- ☐ poor

-meeting room with natural light was great.

-great food, extremely well organized and facilitated.

Additional comments and suggestions:

-Well organized meeting. Good meeting dynamics.

-Good communication and way found clear. The collaboration will accelerate the country response to respond to HIV/AIDS.

- An excellent, stimulating and informative meeting.

- Lovely, interesting approach to running the meeting, Ralf, David, Ross, Jennifer. Very well planned and also responsive to suggested changes to the meeting schedule. Wow, this was truly an outstanding meeting. Congrats and thank you very much for your huge efforts in making it so successful.

- Thank you.

- Next meeting to be held in the global south. More focus on local/regional advocacy and link and its link to international activism and advocacy.
- Next steps, time frames et could have been more smart.
- Really great facilitation.
- Need new players/participants, need more developing country representation.
- Thank you for having me. Ambitious, but reasonable and useful objectives. Wonderful group of experts. Design and openness to feedback was excellent of report/planning.
- Please continue with the initiative.
- This was a superb meeting and believe me, I've been to many with equally lofty aspiration. It was a very good size, the combination of expertise was very good, the facilitation was superb, and the idea of commissioning and producing a quality discussion paper prior to the meeting was an excellent idea. Many thanks to the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network for being such clever and friendly hosts. I am taking a lot of plans and ideas back to (my organization).
- There is a tremendous need of follow-up of this meeting-Keep the sustainability of working think tanks-so that the stream can remain flowing for the activists.

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