

Governance and civil society involvement in the UN General Assembly

Programme Coordinating Board NGOs

UNAIDS is the first United Nations programme to have civil society formally represented on its governing body, the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB).

The UNAIDS PCB NGO delegation has been instrumental in incorporating the perspectives of civil society, including people living with HIV, within UNAIDS policies and programming.

The PCB NGO delegates actively seek inputs from their respective communities and regions and advocate with Member States and UNAIDS Cosponsoring organizations for meaningful involvement of civil society in the implementation and evaluation of AIDS policies and programmes.

In 2008 UNAIDS PCB established an independent support mechanism - the PCB NGO Communication and Consultation Facility (CF) - to provide the PCB NGO Delegation with a base for independent support. The CF, which is entirely managed by the delegation, has greatly enhanced its efficiency and has also increased the scale and depth of consultation with a broad range of civil society constituencies.

Learn more about the current NGO participation in the PCB

<http://www.unaids.org/en/aboutunaids/unaidsprogrammeordinatingboard/ngo/civilsocietytyparticipationpcb/>

Society Involvement in the UN General Assembly

The UNGASS Declaration of Commitment (DoC) on HIV/AIDS and the 2008 High Level review

In June 2001, Heads of State and Representatives of Governments created a major milestone in the AIDS response by adopting The UNGASS Declaration of Commitment (DoC) on HIV/AIDS, which provided a comprehensive framework to halt and reverse the AIDS epidemic by 2010. Representatives from organizations and networks of people living with HIV and civil society were actively involved in advocating for governments to take a strong leadership role in the response to HIV. Civil society partners were part of this meeting as observers. Some of them were also members of national delegations, and participated in the negotiations around drafting of the declaration.

Each year since 2001 there has been a review of progress towards the commitments made in the declaration. The Secretary General prepares a report on progress which he delivers to the General Assembly of Member States. Member States collect national data for their reports to monitor progress on the DoC. Every two years countries submit these national reports to UNAIDS.



In June 2006 and 2008, **High Level Review Meetings**, to review progress on the DoC were held in the UN General Assembly in New York. In these meetings Member States renewed their commitment to the DoC. Member States at the 87th plenary meeting on June 2006 of the UN General Assembly adopted a **Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS**. Countries committed to set ambitious targets in an inclusive and transparent process, and in close consultation with national stakeholders including civil society and key affected populations. UNAIDS, together with the NGO community, has supported national civil society organizations to participate fully in national target setting processes, as well as to ensure the targets reflect the epidemic and that the needs of the most vulnerable and are achieved by 2010. As a consequence, there has been a significant increase in civil society engagement at a national level in the monitoring and evaluation of the response and in the preparation of national reports.

Civil society partners played prominent roles in the 2006 and 2008 High Level Meetings as observers, speakers and members of national delegations. For both events, a **Civil Society Task Force** was convened to support the President of the General Assembly and advise on civil society engagement in these global review processes. These task forces, were convened and supported by the UNAIDS Secretariat.

What's next?

Member states convened again in September 2010 to review progress on all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A participant from civil society working on AIDS was a member of the task force, in this instance to help strengthen and promote discussion of issues relating to the HIV response in the Summit and related side events. An important element of the AIDS response in 2010 is to take AIDS out of isolation and articulate the linkages between MDG 6—to have halted and begun the reverse of the HIV epidemic by 2015—and the other MDGs.

In June 2011 the United Nations General Assembly will review the commitments made in the Declaration of Commitment (2001) and the Political Declaration (2006). As in the previous two High Level Meetings, UNAIDS will work alongside civil society to ensure a broad and diverse spectrum of civil society voices and perspectives are adequately reflected in the discussions and able to influence the final outcomes.

Publications- Governance:

Terms of Reference of the UNAIDS PCB NGO Delegation

http://data.unaids.org/pub/ExternalDocument/2008/20080528_unaids_pcb_ngo_delegation_tor_en.pdf

Results of the Review of NGO/Civil Society participation in the Programme Coordinating Board

http://data.unaids.org/pub/InformationNote/2007/review_of_ngo_participation_item_3.2_en.pdf

Universal Access Targets and Civil Society Organizations - a briefing for civil society organizations

http://www.unaids.org/unaid_resources/images/Partnerships/061126_CSTargetsetting_en.pdf

Setting National Targets for Moving Towards Universal Access

http://data.unaids.org/pub/Guidelines/2006/20061006_report_Universal_access_targets_guidelines_en.pdf

Scaling up towards Universal Access: Considerations for countries to set their own national targets for HIV prevention, treatment and care

http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2006/Considerations_for_target_setting_April2006.pdf