

Engagement, Evidence and Impact: 25 Years of the NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS PCB



**Delegation
TO THE UNAIDS PCB**

**A Report by the NGO Representative
47th UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board Meeting**

Dedication

To everyone those still with us and those who have passed away - who has served on or supported the NGO Delegation, from the first meeting of the UNAIDS PCB to the present day.

You are remembered and your contribution is acknowledged and deeply appreciated.

Introduction

Six key contributions:

1. Bringing the **face of HIV** to the PCB and persistently advocating for the priority issues of communities and civil society
2. Bringing evidence, profile and passion to **neglected and contentious issues** for the PCB
3. Bringing a **regional perspective** to the PCB - highlighting communities and civil society issues from diverse contexts
4. Supporting the PCB to evolve the **response to HIV** and to connect it to wider issues and processes
5. Contributing to the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of **UNAIDS governance**
6. Influencing the governance of and partnerships with **other global health institutions**

1: Bringing the face of HIV to the PCB and persistently advocating for the priority issues of communities and civil society

“The NGO Delegation influences the whole dynamic of the PCB. When you’re sitting opposite people who are bearing witness to the challenges of their communities, you cannot ignore them. They bring to the table issues that, otherwise, wouldn’t be there. They remind us of the reality.”

Andy Seale, World Health Organization



2: Bringing evidence, profile and passion to neglected and contentious issues for the PCB



“Collaborating with the NGO Delegation and using the PCB as a global policy-making platform enabled us to lay the foundations and set the tone for a vibrant, respectful and rights-based UN approach to sex work in the context of HIV.”

Ruth Morgan-Thomas,
the Global Network of
Sex Work Projects,

PCB NGO Observer

3: Bringing a regional perspective to the PCB - highlighting communities and civil society issues from diverse contexts



“The NGO Delegation brings together members from the global South and North, as well as from diverse communities and perspectives. The discussions within the Delegation can be very hard -in terms of finding a balance between regions and priorities. However, the result is an informed, shared view, which is one of the Delegation’s major strengths.”

Mabel Bianco, NGO Delegate
for Latin America and the
Caribbean (1997 and 2011-
2013)



4: Supporting the PCB to evolve the response to HIV and to connect it to wider issues and processes

“The Delegation’s role is to protect the relevance of HIV - by keeping its strong position within the changing world, whether of the SDGs or COVID. The work is about keeping communities, HIV and UNAIDS relevant.”

Sasha Volgina,
NGO Delegate for
Europe 2015-16



5: Contributing to the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of **UNAIDS** governance



“As Member States and as a governance body, we want to do the right thing. The NGO Delegation is key in providing us with a sense of urgency and reminding us of the human side of the epidemic. They serve as a reality check – in terms of the consequences of the Board’s decisions for the lives of real people.”

Anne Hassberger,
Switzerland Permanent
Mission to the United
Nations in Geneva

6: Influencing the governance of and partnerships with other global health institutions

“The NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS PCB has paved the way for community engagement in other types of global health bodies. It pioneered a good practice that has now become more expected and widespread. It has shown how such meaningful engagement is very possible and how it brings solid benefits to the quality and results of a Board’s work.”

Laurel Sprague, UNAIDS
Secretariat



Conclusions



“It is imperative for the NGO Delegation to stay true to their mission and core business ... that is representing the interests, needs and demands of the communities they are representing on the PCB. The actions taken might vary with the actual goals, but maintaining our unique voice must stay in focus.”

Ferenc Bagyinszky, NGO
Delegate for Europe
(2016-2018)

Conclusions

“As other global health institutions play a greater role in the HIV and related global pandemic/epidemic responses, and civic space shrinks globally, the PCB NGO Delegation may wish to use the next phase of its work to lead a movement for similar community representation in the governance structure of global health institutions. The next phase of global health response will require stronger and more 'institutionalized' community voice and representation.”

Anonymous, respondent to NGO Report 2020 survey from North America



Conclusions



“The NGO Delegation exists as an important part of the ecosystem of UNAIDS. Akin to climate change, the global political climate that poses a threat towards the existence of and the space of the NGO Delegation as part of the PCB will only result towards the failure of UNAIDS itself. Thus, 25 years later, and now more than ever, the NGO Delegation space needs to be preserved and protected.”

Jeffry Acaba, NGO Delegate
from Asia and the Pacific
(2015-2017)

Thank you for listening!

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