

June 14, 2013

*To the members of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*

Excellency,

As a coalition of organisations delivering programmes and advocacy on health priorities including HIV, tuberculosis, malaria as well as sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, we look forward to the upcoming health discussions at the fourth Session of the General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development in New York. We have been actively engaged in the various consultation processes informing the High Level Panel (HLP) Report on the post-2015 development agenda, and believe that this report should provide a strong and coherent basis for the ongoing work of the Open Working Group.

We welcome first and foremost the emphasis the High Level Panel has placed on completing the unfinished business of the MDGs. For MDGs 4 and 5, this requires prioritizing newborn mortality, which accounts for more than 40% of under-five mortality and which is strongly linked to the health of women during pregnancy and childbirth, and achieving universal access to reproductive health and rights. For MDG6, despite progress made, we still face significant challenges in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, especially for key affected populations including women and girls, men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and people who use drugs. Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV and its major co-infections, including tuberculosis and viral hepatitis, will continue to require significant investment well into the next decade.

We are pleased to see a strong and much needed focus throughout the report on the need to reach the most marginalized and excluded people across low and middle income countries as well as on young people. We also strongly support the inclusion of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. The provision of and access to services which include family planning and counselling, comprehensive maternal health care, prevention and treatment of sexually transmissible infections, including HIV, youth-friendly services, and the promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive rights,

is key to improving health outcomes, eradicating poverty and saving lives. The same is true for NCDs and the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), which were excluded from the current MDGs but which should be part of any future development framework given the huge burden of ill-health accounted for by these diseases.

The key overarching principles for development outlined in the HLP report should be supported by the Open Working Group. These include the need to address the structural barriers that lie at the root of inequality, specifically by ensuring access to the laws and institutions that protect human rights, particularly of the most marginalized. Ensuring that the rights of all people, irrespective of their wealth, age, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnic origin are promoted and protected is fundamental to sustainable development.

We urge the Open Working Group to work towards the formulation of a strong, outcome-focused health goal in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Framework with concrete and measurable targets and indicators that reflect the goals in the HLP report and which address key health interventions, the social determinants of health, and universal health coverage as a key instrument to achieve improved health outcomes for all. Equity and human rights promotion should be considered by the Open Working Group as both cross-cutting principles and goals in their own right, to drive the much needed political commitment to equality and inclusive country ownership.

We hope you will take these issues into consideration during the Open Working Group health session next week. We look forward to a continuous dialogue with you as we accelerate our efforts to achieve the current MDGs and develop a strong and ambitious post 2015 Sustainable Development Framework, which reflects the centrality of health to the success of the entire agenda.

Yours sincerely,

1. Acción Ciudadana Contra el SIDA - ACCSI
2. Acción Solidaria on HIV/AIDS
3. ACTION
4. Advocates for Youth
5. African Services Committee
6. Aid for AIDS
7. AIDES
8. AIDOS - Italian Association for Women in Development

9. Aids Fonds
10. Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations (APCASO).
11. Asociacion Civil VIH/DAS
12. ATHENA
13. Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
14. Blue Ventures Conservation
15. Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC)
16. Catholics for Choice
17. Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
18. Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI)
19. Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS
20. DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung)
21. Endgame
22. EngenderHealth
23. Espolea
24. Family Care International
25. Family Health and Communication
26. Friends of UNFPA
27. Fundacion Amigos de la vida
28. Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)
29. Fundacion Vida Integral (FUVIN)
30. Gestos- HIV, Communication and Gender
31. Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA)
32. Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF)
33. Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+)
34. Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSPW)
35. Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS
36. Gram Bharati Samiti
37. Gynuity Health Projects
38. HIV Young Leaders Fund
39. Ibis Reproductive Health
40. ICASO
41. ICW Global
42. ImpActAIDS
43. Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD)
44. Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG)
45. International AIDS Society
46. International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
47. International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
48. International Civil Society Support
49. International HIV/AIDS Alliance
50. International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD)
51. International Partnership for Microbicides
52. International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
53. International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC)
54. International Women's Health Coalition
55. IntraHealth International

56. John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
57. LACCASO
58. Management Sciences for Health
59. National Network of Women Living with HIV of the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA )
60. Norwegian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
61. PATH
62. Pathfinder International
63. PHE Ethiopia Consortium
64. Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA)
65. Population Action International
66. Population and Sustainability Network
67. Population Services International (PSI)
68. Population Services International in Romania
69. Positive Women Inc. New Zealand
70. Positive Women Victoria
71. Purple Sky Network
72. Raks Thai Foundation
73. Red Venezolana de Gente Positiva (RVG+)
74. Redtrans Nicaragua
75. RedTrasex
76. Salamander Trust
77. SERES - Portugal
78. Sex og Politikk - the Norwegian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
79. Social Support Foundation - Ghana
80. stop aids in Liberia (SAIL)
81. STOP AIDS NOW!
82. Straight Arrows Inc. Australia
83. The Population Council
84. UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development
85. WAP+ ( Women of Asia Pacific Plus)
86. Women Deliver
87. WOMEN FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS (WWHR) - NEW WAYS
88. Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
89. Youth Coalition for Sexual Reproductive Rights
90. Youth Empowerment Against HIV/AIDS (YEAH)
91. Yugoslav Youth Association Against AIDS