

## **UNAIDS ADVISORY GROUP ON HIV AND SEX WORK**

**Teleconferences 11 July 2011**

**Notes for Record (combined)**

Co-Chairs: Jenny Butler (Senior Technical Advisor, UNFPA) (Calls 1&2) and Ruth Morgan Thomas (Global Coordinator, NSWP) (Calls 1&2).

### **Present:**

Antonio Gerbase (UNAIDS - WHO) Call 1  
Mandeep Dhaliwal (UNAIDS - UNDP) Call 2  
Chris Castle (UNAIDS - UNESCO) Call 1  
Iris Semini (UNAIDS – World Bank) Call 2  
Jenny Butler (UNAIDS - UNFPA) Call 1 & 2  
Joanne Csete (Independent – Columbia University) Call 1  
Marie Denou (NSWP - Africa) Call 1  
Nandinee Bandyopadhyay (Independent - PLRI) Call 2  
Riku Lehtovuori (UNAIDS - UNODC) Call 1  
Ruth Morgan Thomas (NSWP – Europe) Call 1 & 2  
Sarah Christoffersen (UNAIDS Secretariat) Call 1  
Selvi Abdullah (NSWP – Asia Pacific) Call 1  
Susan Timberlake (UNAIDS Secretariat) Call 1

### **Apologies:**

Anna Torriente (UNAIDS - ILO)  
Els Klinkert (UNAIDS Secretariat)  
Kieran Daly (Independent – ICASO)  
Macklean Kyomya (NSWP - Africa)  
Meena Seshu (Independent - SANGRAM)  
Naomi Akers (NSWP – North America)  
Elena Reynaga (connection difficulties)  
Andrew Hunter

### **Observers/Invited Experts:**

Andy Seale (Global Fund – permanent observer) Call 1

### **In attendance:**

Neil McCulloch (Advisory Group Secretariat)  
Andrea Shaw NSWP Administrator - notes  
Debora Kayembe Miti (Translator / Interpreter - French)  
Luján Patitucci (Translator / Interpreter – Spanish)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The co-chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Updates**

#### **UN High Level Meeting on AIDS 2011**

Achieving consensus for the final Declaration among Member States was a difficult process with most of the tension focused on TRIPS + flexibility and in the specific naming of men who have sex with men, sex workers and people who use drugs in the document. The Universal Access meetings held by UNAIDS in each region in the lead up to the High Level Meeting provided an opportunity for many of these issues to be discussed ahead of the meeting in New York at the UN General Assembly. Sex workers were well represented in each of these preliminary meetings.

Significantly men who have sex with men and sex workers have been specifically named in the final Declaration and an agreement was reached to break the cartel of pharmaceutical companies on the costs of anti-retroviral therapies. The document also has strong targets on reducing sexual transmission by 2014. However, there are a number of highly problematic paragraphs in the document including Paragraphs 2, 81 and 82. Paragraph 2, in particular, allows Member States to step away from commitments on the basis of national sovereignty, laws and customs. Transgender communities were omitted however. NSWP had 10 member organisations in attendance, including representatives from the Global South.

One transgender sex worker from Mexico did not get a visa to attend this meeting, showing that there are continuing problems of getting into the USA, even when part of a government delegation.

#### WHO Guidelines development

Systematic reviews have been completed. NSWP have appointed a consultant to carry out the Values & Preferences survey and systematic review. The first draft of a questionnaire has been produced. The final consensus meeting will be held in Mexico City on 17-21 October.

The survey will not cover implementation issues, which will come under consideration when the guidelines are written. It will cover three areas: empowerment, offering screening for STIs and offering preventative services where screening has not yet started. Promoting condom use will be dealt with under the consultation being done by NSWP.

The first draft of the report will be ready for the Advisory Group meeting in Paris at the beginning of September. It is hoped that the AG discussion will help to reach a consensus.

#### World Bank Global Analysis of HIV in Sex Workers

The Inception Report has been produced and will publish preliminary finding next week. There will be consultation with sex workers in Bangkok at the end of September.

Iris will be coming to the AG meeting in Paris and will give a full report there.

Members expressed the need to have a detailed conversation about the connection between the Inception Report and the Investment Framework, published in May in the Lancet. Specifically, would the World Bank analysis would have time look at the effect of the Investment Framework? It was confirmed that the team from John Hopkins have already received the data. See also 'Updates from AG members' below.

#### Global Commission on HIV and the Law

There have been 4 of the 7 regional dialogues in Asia Pacific, Caribbean, Latin America and Eastern Europe, with the 3 remaining planned in the Middle East & North Africa (Cairo) in July, Africa in August (Johannesburg) and finally High-Income Countries in September (California). The second meeting of the Commission's Technical Advisory Group will be in Geneva.

The Commission will formally invite the Advisory Group and NSWP to make submissions before the final meeting in December, although the call for specialist submissions is on the website now.

The papers being produced by the Commission are not being given a particular weight and not making recommendations.

The AG will set up a small sub-group to co-ordinate the official response to the Commission. This may involve simply submitting the Annexes to the Guidance Note, which would carry significant weight, with a covering letter. Names of the Commissioners should be available to the AG in order that we have advocates on the Commission.

**Postscript: the Global Commission on AIDS and the Law African Regional Dialogue was held in Pretoria, South Africa on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August. The presentations by the sex workers were most effective and garnered respect and applause from participants at the hearing.**

### **Current Advisory Group work – Annexes to the 2009 Guidance Note**

#### **Creating Enabling Legal and Policy Environments annexe**

This annexe has taken a longer period of time to develop, as it is arriving at particular policy directions that have not been negotiated before. The paper is currently with the UNAIDS Secretariat and UNFPA and will go out to members for final consideration and consultation as soon as possible.

There was some discussion that the aim of the paper should be to lay out various policy options in order that it can be agreed by everyone.

The Guidance Note, with the Annexes integral to it, will be re-launched in the next couple of months.

### **Updates from AG members**

Members of the group gave brief updates of significant developments from their region / organisations, including:

- The Global Fund has begun its 5 Year Strategic Development process. There are two focus areas of interest for sex workers: identifying human rights interventions in their projects; and evaluating MARPs impact - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity strategy. Good sex worker interventions have already been made (and taken on board) in relation to ensuring initiatives focus on what can be done in the immediate future and not just over the next 5 years.
- An 'Investment Framework' for effective HIV/AIDS interventions has been published in The Lancet in May (Schwartländer et al). This is potentially an influential document, in which funding for sex workers is flat-lined, while funding for MSM and IDU increases year on year. Ruth has already asked about the rationale for this prior to publication and during the Free Space Process, whilst agreeing with the principle to shift investment to key populations. It was clarified that concerns have been raised about this framework and further, that it has not gone through any approval process with the Joint Co-Sponsored Programme.

It was agreed that a sub group of the AG would draft a letter urgently to Bernhardt Schwartländer, then circulate it to the AG for comment.

- Global Fund Round 11 will be launched on 15 August and there is already information on the website. Roadshows have been organised and the submission deadline is 15 December. Members were encouraged to mobilise sex work projects through the tentacles of the AG. The Country Co-ordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) will put out a call for ideas, consolidate and provide assistance, so projects should be sure to have a link with CCMs and Ministries of Health. Andy will adapt a paper into a one-pager for the AG and circulate.
- Jenny and Ruth will be in Namibia and Lesotho on 24 July and will be visiting countries over the next few years looking at provision at municipal level.

- UNFPA and UNDP are arranging In-Reach training in Senegal. The In-Reach training last September in East and Southern Africa had been very successful.
- UNFPA has commissioned PLRI to produce a monthly newsletter for its country offices. This will be shared with the Advisory Group and can be circulated more widely.
- PEPFAR: the latest decision regarding the Anti-Prostitution Pledge by a federal appeals court applies only to US-based organisations. However if the government does not appeal the decision then it does open up the possibility of it applying to organisations in other countries also.

### **Planning for September 2011 Advisory Group meeting**

#### **Discussion on draft Agenda for thematic and key issues sessions**

The agenda will be circulated in the next few weeks, however, it has been suggested that the first day should be a thematic day, the theme being the 'Sex Work & The Law'.

The morning will look at the work carried out by PLRI on the legal environments in Malaysia, Fiji and Ethiopia. Additionally, the Commission will present the learning from the regional dialogues and an update from the second Commission meeting.

In the main Advisory Group meeting additional suggestions for the agenda included:

- Discussion and recommendations on UBRAF spending priorities and the 'Investment Framework'
- UNODC offered to do a presentation on the piloting of the monitoring and evaluation guidelines for drug users and recent fieldwork. The consultation draft of the MSM and sex workers monitoring and evaluation operational guidelines will be ready for circulation in the next few weeks.
- UNESCO will lead a discussion on the vulnerabilities of young people in sex work and the challenges of access to services
- Global Fund 5 year strategy, Round 11 & Human Rights study
- WHO guidelines development and NSWP Values and Preferences survey and systematic review
- World Bank Global analysis of HIV in Sex Workers

#### **Practical arrangements**

The confirmed dates for the next face-to-face Advisory Group meeting is 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September in Paris. The meeting will take place at UNESCO HQ. Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September will be a day for separate pre-meetings for both NSWP members and UN organisations.

The Hotel Citadines Tour Eiffel in Paris has been booked for NSWP and Independent members of the AG.

NSWP/Independent members who need a visa have already been sent an invitation letter to the meeting from both NSWP and UNFPA, hotel visa invitations and flight itinerary confirmations. UNFPA invitations will be sent to everyone. Other NSWP / Independents will receive flight itinerary confirmations in due course.

#### **Any Other Business**

There were no items of any other business.