



**2nd Young
Leaders
Summit**

aids2031[®]

FINAL REPORT

Oslo, Norway, 23-25 June 2009

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From left to right: Sydney Hushie, Himakshi Piplani, HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit, Todd Murray

1.0 Executive Summary

The 2009 aids2031 Young Leaders Summit brought together close to 50 leaders from over 25 countries in Oslo, Norway. From 23-25 June, young leaders dialogued with advisors to build connections and leverage support to address the complex challenges facing young people working on HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

The goals of the Summit were to:

- Unite young leaders from diverse backgrounds to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination today and build a better future for the AIDS response;
- To make policy and program recommendations for the aids2031 final report, *An Agenda for the Future*;
- To support the ongoing work of young people in the AIDS response through intergenerational mentorship and dialogue.

Participants made recommendations to strengthen initiatives led by young people that tackle HIV-related stigma and discrimination

and enable leadership by young people living with HIV and most affected by HIV. Recommendations include the development of better strategies to support meaningful participation of young people living with HIV in the AIDS response, and the scaled-up engagement of the media in tackling HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

Specific outcomes include:

- Creation of a Young Leaders Fund to resource youth-led organizations
- A 5% for the Future Campaign calling on HIV/AIDS funders to allocate 5% of funds to initiatives led by young people
- Establishment of a Mentorship Hub for young people
- Research on the meaningful involvement of young people living with HIV in policy and programs

For more information on outcomes and recommendations see section 5.0.

As a result of the inspired discussions held during the Summit, aids2031 will work to integrate the Summit recommendations into *An Agenda for the Future*, ensuring that aids2031's overall recommendations are in the best interests of young people around the world affected by HIV and AIDS.

2.0 Summit Background

The 2nd aids2031 Young Leaders Summit was held in Oslo, Norway from 23-25 June, 2009. The Summit united young leaders in the ongoing fight against HIV and AIDS-related

stigma and discrimination. Organisers recognised that success in the world's long-term response to AIDS depends on addressing the stigma and discrimination that make young people particularly vulnerable to HIV. This success also depends on supporting and preparing existing young leaders to lead the response.

A unique part of the meeting was that young leaders actively engaged on the last day of the Summit with global leaders, including policy-makers from international institutions, government, the media, and multiple funding bodies. During this intergenerational exchange, experienced leaders were called on to contribute to the young leaders' recommendations and anti-stigma and discrimination solutions during and beyond the Summit. The meeting also delivered recommendations for the aids2031 final report, *An Agenda for the Future*.

The meeting was organized by aids2031 in close collaboration with a youth-led planning committee, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador Norway's HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit. The planning committee for the 2nd Summit was chaired by Caitlin Chandler, aids2031 and consisted of Marte Wensaas, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign-Affairs; Ricardo Baruch, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS; Claudia Ahumada and Liping Mian, the World AIDS Campaign; Todd Murray, Hope's Voice International; and Sarah DesRosiers, UNAIDS. The committee worked in close collaboration with advisors at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign-Affairs, aids2031, and the Royal Palace Norway.

2009 Summit participants were selected after an open call for nominations, and had a range

of expertise including stigma and discrimination; human rights; HIV prevention, treatment, care and support; media; international development and the private sector. The participants list is included at the end of this report (Annex 1).

The 2nd Summit built on the inspiration and excitement from the 1st aids2031 Young Leaders Summit in March 2008 at Google headquarters in Mountain view, California, where 40 young leaders under 40 debated what should change in the current AIDS response. The 1st Summit identified key challenges for emerging leaders, such as lack of sustainable funding for youth-led organizations and the critical need for mentorship within the HIV field. To learn more about the 1st Young Leaders Summit download the report from the aids2031 website here: <http://www.aids2031.org/pdfs/aids2031youngleaders.pdf>¹

aids2031 Background

The year 2031 will mark 50 years since the first cases of HIV were discovered. In the early days of AIDS, experts reacted as if it was a short-term public health crisis, and to a great extent, that crisis mentality has continued to guide the pandemic response. We now know that AIDS is both a short-term crisis and an evolving, long-wave phenomenon that will be with us for many years.

¹ One of the major outcomes of the 2008 Summit was the establishment of Global Health Corps (<http://ghcorps.org/>), an initiative that matches public health and medical student college graduates in six focus countries for one-year fellowships at public health organizations.

aids2031 – a multi-disciplinary, global initiative – was founded to advocate for and inform a more effective, long-term strategy for the management of the pandemic. aids2031 has engaged nearly 500 leaders, activists and experts within and outside of the AIDS community through think tanks, public dialogues and young leaders events. For the last two years, aids2031’s nine working groups have been developing recommendations to inform aids2031’s forthcoming final report, *An Agenda for the Future*.

As a future-oriented project, aids2031 has a special focus on ensuring young people meaningfully participate and that youth AIDS issues are adequately addressed in the final report. aids2031 sees ongoing investment in sustainable youth leadership to be critical to changing the future of the pandemic and in the spirit of the aids2031 project.

3.0 Building Momentum Online

In preparation for the Young Leaders Summit, participants engaged in pre-meeting work to help shape the Summit agenda. Young leaders completed a survey designed to give meeting organizers a better sense of 1) participants’ current work on issues relating to stigma and discrimination and 2) opportunities for the Young Leaders Summit to support their work.

The survey helped to define what HIV-related stigma and discrimination meant to participants

Main problems relating to stigma and discrimination and young people for participants :

- *Lack of information and education*
- *Lack of youth friendly services*
- *Difficulty disclosing HIV status*
- *Myths and taboos about HIV*
- *Facing stigma in school and work*
- *Confidentiality in school and health settings*
- *No “right” approach to youth programming*
- *Rejection from family and community*

before arriving at the Summit. Survey participants defined HIV-related stigma as negative attitudes towards HIV, people living with and affected by HIV, and groups most-at-risk for HIV. Participants defined discrimination as **actions and inactions** that violate the rights of people living with and affected by HIV and groups most-at-risk for HIV.

The online survey also asked participants what kind of support their organisations needed to better address stigma and

discrimination in their communities. Survey answers included the following: financial support, non-financial resources, communication tools, capacity building and mentoring, evidence needed to inform responses and media specific trainings.

“The biggest challenge for young people living with HIV is the lack of a community for this group.”

-YLS participant

Through the online discussion groups, a number of cross-cutting issues were identified when discussing stigma, discrimination, and young people. This is just a sample:

- *“Stigma makes HIV not just a health issue but a society's reflection on itself, on how it treats those marginalized and less privileged. It moves very much from affecting an individual's health to family stability to community relations and values to the society at large”;*
- *“Because of fear of discrimination, people can sometimes hide their status from their partners and could engage in risky behaviours, which can spread the virus”;*
- *“While stigma is a general stereotype about HIV-positive people, discrimination is a real action based on this stereotype that does not allow HIV-positive people to have equal rights”;*
- *“Today's societal systems are very rigid and exclusive of diverse people, especially those perceived or being of unconventional identity, lifestyle, status, and background. In the cultures, societies, states and organizations where stigma is very strong and discriminatory attitudes and actions are very pervasive many young people's identities are invisible or judged.”*

Based on the survey results, the young leaders were divided into four online committees; Media and Communications, Building Sustainable Leadership, Policy and Advocacy and the aids2031 *An Agenda for the Future* Recommendations. For two months, young leaders held online discussions through Google Groups, working to identify the challenges they wanted to address at the Summit. For details on the different findings of each online discussion group, please see Annex 2.

4.0 Summit Review

“We are here to talk about the future – but more importantly, we are here to make the future,” said HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit in her opening remarks welcoming the young leaders to Oslo.

The Crown Princess's greeting exemplifies the tone and focus on this solution-oriented meeting.

The Summit was co-facilitated by an intergenerational team of leaders including Himakshi Piplani, Wake Up Pune!; Sydney Hushie, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS; Lateefah Simon, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights; and Paul Meyer, Voxiva.

For the majority of the first two days of the Summit, young leader participants broke into small groups to craft strategies and plans for 1) marshalling **funding and resources** for young leaders and youth-led initiatives; 2) generating **media** campaigns and using new media to spread anti-stigma messages; 3) influencing **policy** and leading through learning; and 4) creating **supportive virtual and actual spaces** for young people living with HIV and AIDS.

On the third day of the Summit, a diverse group of advisor participants joined the meeting and worked throughout the day with the young leaders to contribute input on the emerging recommendations and action plans. Advisor participants were also called upon to become partners on operationalizing some of the solutions post-Summit.

Participants' stories and strategies from their local communities on HIV-related stigma and discrimination and youth leadership were inspirational, instructive, and central to the entire three day meeting. Yohana Kaanda Malta Linhares, a 17-year-old peer-educator and advocate from Brazil, shared her personal story of being affected by HIV; her parents are living with HIV and she is HIV negative. Yohana spoke about the personal stigma she has faced at her high-school, where many students lack basic knowledge on HIV and how it transmitted, saying of the remarks peers made about HIV:

"Many people live inside these "boxes," and will not accept that they don't know what they are talking about, but this is something we can change - together we can break the boxes of stigmatizing attitudes and we can change the way people think."

Other young participants shared their personal stories of how stigma and discrimination limits the human rights of people living with HIV and their ability to realize dreams and ambitions, including accessing medical services, care and restrictions on travel and mobility.

Stephanie Raper, 17 of Australia, shared her powerful story of being born with HIV and the intense stigma and discrimination her family has faced since she disclosed her diagnosis to her Catholic high school. Stephanie spoke passionately about the sense of community she

has felt since being involved in the global response to HIV, and the powerful experiences of speaking at the International AIDS Conference and the 2008 United Nations General Assembly Special Session high-level meeting. During her presentation, she called for greater support for young people living with HIV to ensure sustainable leadership, stating *"It is important to think about what we do after conferences to support leadership and for us all to recognize what it takes out of a person when they share their story publicly."*

"HIV-related stigma and discrimination acts as a mirror being held up to society and shows us all the inequalities of those who we push to the periphery, but young people are now standing up and highlighting the core values of our society that we hold strong and moving forward into the future with compassion and respect for human rights, which is essential for changing discriminatory attitudes," said Himakshi Piplani, 21, a law student from India and meeting facilitator during the Summit press conference.

Dr. Sigrun Møgedal, the Norwegian HIV/AIDS Ambassador, spoke at the meeting and highlighted the unique perspectives of young people who *“Naturally link issues on health, development, poverty and human rights – which others have been struggling with for years.”* Møgedal cautioned that sometimes young people struggle to replicate what has been done before, instead of challenging existing ways of thinking. She called on the young participants at the Summit to use their unique perspectives to employ new ways of thinking about development, including creating new language to speak about social change.

Dr. Peter Piot, former Executive Director, UNAIDS and Director of the Institute for Global Health at Imperial College, shared the history and evolution of the aids2031 project with participants, including why a long-term approach is needed in the AIDS response. Young leaders also heard presentations on the research findings from several aids2031 Working Groups, and then dialogued with aids2031 Working Group members on gender norms, sustainable leadership and innovative use of technologies to engage young people.

Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS Executive Director, joined as an advisor on the Summit’s final day and spoke about the need to restore dignity and humanity to the HIV response. Sidibé told the Summit participants, *“You should refuse to be leaders of tomorrow, you are the leaders of today...and you are not here today because you are young, but because you are leaders.”*

“Young people are often not aware of having rights and discouraged to seek services, information and to speak out. I often face how youth is seen only as the target group, risk group or future generation, while there are youth ready to engage today in community organizing and mobilization.”

- Selbi Djumayeva, 23,
Turkmenistan.



Illustration: Siri Peterson

5.0 Final Outcomes

The following sections outline the solutions proposed by participants during the Summit. It highlights critical issues that require future investment in the form of dialogue, research and commitment from AIDS stakeholders.

Safe Spaces for Young People Living with HIV

Participants in this topic group debated ardently throughout the Summit how to better support the engaged leadership of young people living with HIV in the long-term AIDS response. They discussed the challenges that limit the long-term participation of young people living with HIV, including burnout and the over-engagement of those already involved. Lack of institutional support and funding for initiatives led by young people living with HIV were

discussed as long-term challenges that need a greater focus in the global HIV response.

Recommendations

1. Create better programs for addressing the isolation and trauma faced by young people living with HIV, including:

- Increase global networking among young positive-led organizations and initiatives;
- Develop standards of care for HIV-positive speakers, such as debriefing sessions for young leaders after speaking at meetings and conferences;
- Further develop and strengthen international interactive Information Technology platforms to connect young people living with HIV and young leaders prior to key events, so that a mechanism for ongoing support is in place.

2. Develop strategies for supporting new leadership among young positive people.

This could include young leaders living with HIV acting as advisors to AIDS program directors, helping to monitor and evaluate projects, and serving as integral staff members of organizations. These strategies should be developed and implemented by donors, UN agencies, civil society groups, and other partners in the AIDS response.

3. Create safe spaces for young people living with HIV within spiritual and academic institutions.

Map global religious partners working to decrease stigma and discrimination and address why young people living with HIV do not have safe

spaces in many spiritual institutions. Ask academic institutions to create or revisit their programs and services for young people living with HIV to ensure they meet the needs of students. Potential partners were identified as established youth networks, faith-based work at UNAIDS, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and Young Women’s Christian Association, Positive Muslims, and African Network of Religious Leaders Living with HIV.

Outcomes

Participants suggested that a first step to realizing the above recommendations is to **conduct research on the meaningful participation of young people living with HIV**. Participants proposed conducting operational research to help demonstrate the value of the meaningful participation of young people living with HIV in program and policy creation, including documenting best practices. This research could inform funding, programming and advocacy efforts. Creating factsheets with practical guidelines on what organizations need in place to develop these safe-spaces and the anticipated cost would be useful. The research process must be led by (and for) young people living with HIV. During the Summit, UNAIDS committed to support the facilitation and administration of the research. Additional partners should



On the 3rd day of the Summit, young leaders met with advisors to refine their solutions. From left to right: Tina Andriamahefa, Louise Binder, Erik Solheim, Anna Koshikova, Himakshi Piplani and Selbi Djumayeva.

include; the World AIDS Campaign, the Global Network of People Living with HIV, and the International Community of Women living with HIV.

Funding for Youth-led Initiatives

Targeted support for young people leading their own initiatives, including management training programs linked to funding to support skills building in grant writing, project management and monitoring and evaluation, will lead to higher rates of success among youth-led organizations. Summit participants agreed that the funding constraints faced by young leaders in the AIDS response are a major impediment to the success of youth-led initiatives. Greater investments are needed to support youth-led innovation and sustainable leadership in the future HIV response.

Recommendations

1. **Funders who support youth-led initiatives should allocate additional funding to include staff trainings, organizational capacity building, and other forms of support.**
2. **Develop a donor report card on youth.** The creation of a donor report card on youth-led initiatives, with a template for donors to report their efforts to support youth-led organizations working on HIV, could act as a mechanism to incite donor accountability to young people. Such a report card could highlight the percentage of funding given to youth-led organizations, as well as other ways donors support young people and young leadership.

Outcomes

Young Leaders Fund

The Young Leaders Fund is a collaborative, grant-making mechanism to support youth-led initiatives on HIV/AIDS. The Fund specifically seeks to support the core costs of initiatives, and also the leadership development needed to create sustainable initiatives. aids2031 is currently taking the lead in establishing a host organization for the Fund, and in fall 2009 will convene youth AIDS networks to set the fund's grant-making priorities and governance structure. For more information, see the Young Leaders Fund concept note in Annex 3.

5% for the Future Campaign

This campaign calls for 5% of donor HIV funds to be allocated to youth-led organizations. The campaign aims to help funders commit to an ongoing investment in young people to ensure relevant and innovative solutions now and strong leadership for the future. The call is directed to multi-lateral donors, bilateral donors, national governments and foundations.

Using Media & Technology to Challenge Stigma and Discrimination

The goal of the media and technology group was to discuss how social media and technology can be leveraged to broadcast anti-stigma and discrimination campaigns. Participants noted that many AIDS campaigns using new media and technology do not convey anti-stigma messages, and that the media is a stigmatizing force towards young people and young people living with HIV.

A recommendation for the near future was to capitalize on the upcoming FIFA World Cup South Africa 2010 as a key media opportunity to

“The 5% for the Future pledge will be an effective way to ensure that young peoples’ initiatives are fully funded and supported,” said Ricardo

Baruch, a young leader participant and member of the aids 2031 Steering Committee.

reach young people and address HIV-related stigma and discrimination. For example, although soccer players are often engaged in HIV prevention campaigns, there could be greater focus on engaging sports celebrities on specific stigma and discrimination issues relevant to young peoples’ lives. Potential campaigns could include a film short for broadcast and distribution through African television networks. Participants indicated interest in contributing to this campaign if its taken up by an organization.

Utilizing text messaging to reach young people was also discussed as an innovative strategy to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination. A campaigning idea was proposed called the “Text 4 Truth” campaign, which would use SMS messages to reduce stigma and discrimination through an interactive text message quiz. The quiz’s aim would be to debunk HIV/AIDS myths, and Ukraine was proposed as a potential pilot country.

Policy & Leadership

A sustainable and effective global response to HIV is rooted in human rights frameworks that cater to specific needs of different communities. Young leaders need access to information, networks, and skills-building to better influence policy development concerning stigma and discrimination. The need for strategies to support the establishment of anti-discrimination legislation and the need for greater access to services for criminalized communities – young injecting drug users, men who have sex with men, sex workers, and others – were also discussed.

Recommendations

1. **Document achievements** and collect evidence on the value of participation of young people in policy making through a published collection of “success stories.”
2. **Provide simple and youth-friendly tools on understanding stigma and discrimination, governmental processes and using human rights frameworks**, along with building leadership and advocacy skills through trainings, online courses and pre-conference workshops. Possible partners in this could be established youth-led organizations and the World AIDS Campaign.

Outcomes

Mentorship Hub

The goal of the Young Leaders Mentorship Hub is to create an exchange of ideas and knowledge between young leaders and more established leaders, including decision makers in media, policy, and funding. Such an exchange would allow young leaders to gain insight and skills

towards building sustainable initiatives, and allow decision makers to learn from the capacity and ideas of young people. It was also recommended during the policy breakout group that the Young Leaders Mentorship Hub work to strengthen young people’s involvement in policy making around stigma and discrimination.

At the 2nd Summit, participants outlined a clear way forward to begin the establishment of the Mentorship Hub and also garnered a commitment from UNAIDS to incubate the initiative.

Additional outcomes:

Vienna International AIDS Conference 2010

Youth Force planning

During the Summit, participants also met and began planning discussions for the Youth Force at the upcoming Vienna International AIDS Conference in 2010. During multiple Summit sessions, it was recommended that the content and outcomes of the Summit be integrated into the work of the Vienna Youth Force.

Hope’s Voice Summit Video

During the Summit, Hope’s Voice International filmed a short video in partnership with the Royal Palace and aids2031 on why young leadership is crucial in the AIDS response. “*We are honoured to provide a platform for young people to share their inspiring stories on leadership and addressing stigma and discrimination,*” said Todd Murray, the Executive Director of Hope’s Voice. The video is available to view here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Bpl7zHWd4s>.

6.0 Getting the Word Out

The Summit's outreach and media strategy was aimed at disseminating key messages of participants' and sparking dialogue globally. To that end, daily Twitter, Flickr and YouTube accounts were updated as the meeting progressed and participants developed new ideas and messages to share with their networks. aids2031 feature a blog on its website, and participants disseminated messages through Facebook, TakingITGlobal,

and a free SMS service at the Summit donated by Telenor Group, a Norwegian Telecommunications Company. There was also a press conference on the first day of the Summit, and the meeting generated wide coverage in Norway, including a television special on HIV-related stigma and discrimination. In addition, four well-known cartoonists from Norway joined the Summit on the last day to communicate participants' messages through cartoons. Their work can also be viewed on the Flickr Page.

YouTube channel about the Summit: www.youtube.com/aids2031. We suggest watching the following three videos:

1. Sydney Hushie on the overall Summit: <http://www.youtube.com/aids2031>
2. Stephanie Raper on young people living with HIV: <http://www.youtube.com/aids2031#play/user/A023054A00BE0C54>
3. Sigrun Mogedal & Ine Måreng on changing the AIDS response: <http://www.youtube.com/aids2031#play/user/3A9509CD4C85E995/1/2gIp8LAjbuc>

Some of the ways the Summit utilized social media to “get the word out”:

- YouTube channel with 49 videos, watched 1650 times
- Flickr account: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/aids2031youngleaderssummit/>
- Twitter account: <http://twitter.com/aids2031>
- Facebook group with 65 members: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=105733865408>
- Multiple blog posts from Summit participants:
 - <http://lwfyouth.org/2009/06/24/aids-2031-are-churches-ready-to-fight-stigma/>
 - <http://www.aids2031.org/youngleaderssummit>

Annex 1: 2009 Young Leader Summit Participants

Young leader participants

1. Omniya Achour, Morocco, Y-Peer
2. Tina Andriamahefa, Madagascar, International HIV/AIDS Alliance
3. Ricardo Baruch, Mexico, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA)& aids2031 *
4. Barbara Bush, US, Global Health Corps
5. Ishmeal Alfred Charles, Sierra Leone, Centre for Coordination of Youth Activities
6. James Chau, China, China Central Television, CCTV-9
7. Sara Choufi, Lebanon, Helem
8. Selbi Djumayeva, Turkmenistan, Labrys
9. Tim Hallet, UK, aids2031 Modelling Working Group
10. Daniel Hayward, New Zealand, Gay Straight Alliance
11. Sydney Hushie, Ghana, GYCA South Secretariat Director ^
12. Rebekka Højmark Jensen, Denmark, on behalf of Lutheran World Federation

13. Anna Koshikova, Ukraine, All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV
14. Ian Kirumba, Kenya, HIV-Free Generation
15. Yohana Kaanda Malta Linhares, Brazil, Peer-educator and advocate
16. Andres Lekanger, Norway, Skeivt Association
17. Mandisa Mbali, South Africa, aids2031 Hyperendemic Working Group
18. Bhatupe Mhango, Malawi, UN Plus, UNAIDS
19. Liping Mian, China, World AIDS Campaign Youth Focal Point *
20. Dudzai Dorren Mureyi, Zimbabwe, ImagineAfrika
21. Todd Murray, US, Hope's Voice International*
22. Ed Attapon Ngoskin, Thailand, International Treatment Preparedness Coalition
23. Himakshi Piplani, India, Wake Up Pune! HIV Awareness Campaign ^
24. Stephanie Raper, Australia, Young Positives
25. David Ryan, US, Global Health Corps
26. Loukman Tijdani, Benin, Réseau Béninois des Adolescents et Jeunes en Population et Développement
27. Emi Tsudaka, Japan, Japan Youth Ecology League

Advisor participants

28. Salim Amin, Kenya, Africa 24 Media
29. Derrick Ashong, Ghana, Take Back the Mic
30. Jennifer Corriero, Canada, TakingITGlobal Executive Director
31. Serge Dumont, France, UNAIDS Ambassador
32. Elena Franchuk, Ukraine, ANTIAIDS Foundation
33. Raoul Fransen, Netherlands, Founder of Young Positives

- 34. Jacob Gayle, US, Ford Foundation
- 35. HRH Crown Prince Haakon, Norway
- 36. Jon Lidén, Norway, Communications Head, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria
- 37. Ine Måreng, MFA, Norway
- 38. HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit, Norway
- 39. Paul Meyer, US, CEO Voxiva ^
- 40. Sigrun Møgedal, Norway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway
- 41. Francoise Ndayishimiye, Burundi, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria
- 42. Peter Piot, Belgium, aids2031/ Director of the Institute for Global Health at Imperial College
- 43. Khadija Rejto, Morocco, Solutions International Advisors
- 44. Michel Sidibe, Mali, UNAIDS Executive Director
- 45. Lateefah Simon, US, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights ^
- 46. Erik Solheim, Norway, Minister of Environment and International Development
- 47. Kate Taylor, Australia, Vice-President GlaxoSmithKline
- 48. Mr. Isaksen, Telenor, Norway

Meeting organizers/Additional participants

- 1. Caitlin Chandler, US, aids2031*
- 2. Sarah DesRosiers, Canada, UNAIDS*
- 3. Anne Hendrixson, US, aids2031 Assistant Director
- 4. Vibeke Hollekim, Norway, The Royal Palace
- 5. Heidi Larson, US, aids2031 Executive Director
- 6. Alex McClelland, Canada, Meeting reporter
- 7. Olga Rudneva, Executive director of ANTIAIDS Foundation
- 8. Marte Wensaas, Norway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway*

* On Young Leaders Summit Planning Committee

^ Also on Facilitation Team

Annex 2: Detailed overview of online discussion group content

Media and Communications Online Discussion

This group discussed the following :

- How can we use the media to work against the stigmatization of HIV+ sexuality?
- How can we use the media to work against the stigmatization HIV positive immigrants?
- How can we move the media away from "fear" HIV campaigns to ones that inform but don't increase stigma and discrimination (*like Does HIV Look Like Me campaign does*)?
- How can the media work to address S&D experienced by young people specifically -- like being barred from accessing confidential health services/HIV testing?

Possible solutions to the questions and challenges raised focused on how best to get media attention and accurate messages on HIV and AIDS including finding new strategies to “sell” HIV and AIDS to media outlets and challenge media fatigue; garnering more media coverage of young people and sexual health, young people living with HIV and HIV-related stigma; reducing stigmatizing and damaging media content on HIV and AIDS; and increasing the capacity of the media to respond with educated stories on HIV and AIDS.

Strategies and solutions proposed to address these issues included:

- **Develop media training toolkits** on HIV and AIDS and young people developed by young people living with HIV;
- **Work with young positive leaders** to speak out about stigma they have experienced;
- Work systematically with media organizations to **develop responsible programming and content on HIV**, including reality shows with people living with HIV.

Building Sustainable Leadership Online Discussion

This group discussed the following :

- How can we create incentives for young people to work on stigma and discrimination?
- How can we better support young people who are beginning to get engaged on HIV related issues (*ie peer to peer mentorship*)?
- How can we better support young people and young people who are living with HIV who feel excluded from existing networks/spaces?

This group discussed a number of key solutions and strategies to supporting the ongoing participation of young people:

- **Dedicated spaces for young people at conferences and meetings.** Conferences have been great opportunities to expand on leadership skills, specifically for young people living with HIV and young people from key populations.
- To create incentives for young people to work on stigma and discrimination, partners should **create ways to recognize young people for their work and achievements.** Some ideas are: awards, competition, and opportunities to attend international meetings.
- **A Young Leaders Fund** would greatly help young people access funding. This fund could be used for scholarships for both established and up and coming leaders, research and projects for HIV related causes such as education and awareness workshops.
- **The general youth activist movement can do better at showing how HIV is connected to other social issues** (i.e. intolerance, poverty, gender inequality). Our youth movements sometime feel too separated and do not gain from the size and strength of each other due to this isolation.
- Have **older advocates mentor young people** beginning to get involved in AIDS to ensure transfer of knowledge, and to help stop “burn out” for younger activists.

Policy and Advocacy Online Discussion

This group discussed the following :

- How can we better integrate stigma and discrimination efforts in human rights policy/advocacy?
- What can young people advocate for on the policy side to address stigma and discrimination?
- What are the ways the political advocacy of youth-led groups on AIDS issues could be strengthened?

The Policy and Advocacy group discussed how young people can be a force of change around HIV related stigma and discrimination. It was affirmed that young people can be agents of change by creating dialogues, challenging stereotypes and learning from their peers how HIV-related stigma and discrimination play out in real life – not just as a workshop headline at conferences.

Young people in the discussion group recognized that they are a part of the society that stigmatises and discriminates, so change must come from oneself first. Work must be done with peers to enable them to be the change they want to see in the future society. Working to eradicate stigma and discrimination in young people would one way to ensure future generations don’t inherit stigma and discrimination from us.

The following strategies were proposed for better integrating HIV related stigma and discrimination into human rights advocacy:

- Marginalized groups are often excluded from treatment programs because of the high level of stigma and discrimination in health centres and among health professionals. Stigma and discrimination prevents these groups from getting life saving treatment or getting tested. **The key message is that stigma and discrimination, along with TB and other infectious diseases, is a cause of death.** Therefore, if we are talking about integration of stigma and discrimination issues to human rights advocacy our main message here should be that stigma and discrimination is one of the key factors that prevent countries from having an effective response to HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- **Compiling an inventory of stigma and discrimination real life experiences.** Stigma and discrimination is mainly caused by myths, fear and misunderstanding around HIV.
- Anti-discrimination laws and policies need to be in place. UNAIDS, USAID, Global Fund, IMF and all other international bodies need to work with governments to ensure that these laws and policies are passed.
- **Use human rights education, diversity campaigns and legislation** to make society aware of the rights of HIV positive people and other invisible people and communities.

The following strategies were proposed regarding international human rights laws and integrating HIV-related stigma and discrimination into them:

- Partnership with human rights organisation on including stigma and discrimination issues within their human rights framework;
- Monitoring justice systems and human rights framework through watchdog systems;
- At the national and international level, but also at the grassroots level, documenting hate crimes and discrimination, and misconduct of police, state agencies, service providers, filing reports to the human rights bodies, preparing clear shadow reports.;
- Universal periodic reviews of laws done by technical partners (i.e. UN agencies) and shadow reporting.

The following strategies were proposed regarding strengthening youth-led political advocacy on HIV issues:

- **Creative advocacy campaigns** around human rights.
- Media could be the perfect strategic partner as it may be watchdog on policies. Building the capacity of community groups who don't have access to decision-making platforms (i.e. because of barriers of language and lack of tools).

Agenda for the Future Online Discussion

This group was proposed to review the recommendations of the nine aids2031 working groups on what should change today in the AIDS response to create a different future by 2031, 50 years of AIDS. The group had a number of challenges engaging in the online discussions including the timing of discussions,

as the aids 2031 report was not yet finalised, also there was a lack of response rates from the participants.

Annex 3: Young Leaders Fund

Young Leaders Fund

Young leaders are vital contributors to the AIDS response. Young leaders and youth-focused organizations provide necessary strategic insights, drive and vision to sustain and enrich the response, now and in the future. Resourcing these youth-led and focused initiatives is important to maintaining the momentum of the AIDS response.

Despite their centrality to the AIDS response, young leaders face challenges in resourcing their activities because **there is a gap in access to funding resources for youth organizations**. Unfortunately, initiatives and organizations inspired by young leaders and advocates are often driven by short-term, project specific funding opportunities, and too frequently fail due to lack of core support. In addition to the lack of available funds, young leaders often have limited contacts within the funding world, and many lack the institutional resources and capacity to fundraise in systematic and strategic ways. Participants at the 1st aids2031 Young Leaders Summit identified fundraising obstacles as the main barrier to building resilient and lasting youth-led and focused organizations.

Problem:

A funding gap for youth-led and focused leadership in the AIDS response

Solution:

The Young Leaders Fund

The Young Leaders Fund will address this gap in available funding. The fund will invest in young leaders and their efforts, through providing seed grants for small organizations of HIV-affected youth to support inventive approaches to community mobilization, support and advocacy. Technical assistance would be provided to support the groups as they carry out their projects and build their organizations. It is anticipated that this funding would serve to strengthen young initiatives, identify and build new leadership, and work to leverage additional support for these groups.

Funding would be provided through a peer-reviewed grants mechanism led by HIV-affected youth in their respective regions. Potential grantees would apply for funding through an application in the dominant languages of their regions.

The fund would be created and maintained through input from young leaders and advocates in collaboration with mentors with grant-making and AIDS response experience.