



Establishment: July 26th, 1994 (Launched in January, 1996)

Executive Director: Michel Sidibé (1 January 2009 – open ended)

Areas of Work: Lead, strengthen and support an expanded response from the United Nations and its Member States to HIV and AIDS.

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BACKGROUND

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, or UNAIDS was established in 1994 by a resolution of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and launched in January 1996, as a response to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, transforming an Inter-Agency Working Group composed of six United Nations Agencies¹ into a co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, on the basis of co-ownership, collaborative planning and execution, and an equitable sharing of responsibility.

UNAIDS was created as the main advocate for accelerated, comprehensive and coordinated global action on the epidemic, as it affects every country of the world and has a greater magnitude and impact in developing countries. UNAIDS also serves as an intermediary between the mandates of the UN decision organs and the governments of the Member States, in accordance with its specialization criteria and the specific clauses of the Declarations that establish it as the executive organ of the policies on the issue.

In the year 2000, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1308 to limit the potentially damaging impact of HIV on the health of uniformed services personnel and renewed its commitment to address the impact of AIDS on peace and security in June 2011 by unanimously adopting resolution 1983 that calls for increased efforts by UN Member States to address HIV in peacekeeping missions, as well as the alignment of HIV prevention efforts among uniformed services with efforts to end sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings.

¹ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA); the World Health Organization (WHO); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the World Bank.

In 2000, world leaders at the United Nations Headquarters in New York adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), endorsed by 189 countries, which include halting and reversing the spreading of HIV and providing universal access to treatment by 2015 (MDG number 6).

In June 2001, Heads of State and representatives of Governments met at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session dedicated to HIV/AIDS, issuing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS which sets out a series of national targets and global actions to reverse the epidemic and calls for partnerships among various stakeholders and complementation of government efforts with the full and active participation of civil society, the business community and the private sector.

In 2006 UN Member States met to review progress achieved in realizing the targets set out in the 2001 Declaration. A Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS was adopted unanimously by Member States on June 2 at the close of the United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS reaffirming the previous declaration and recognizing the urgent need attain universal access to comprehensive prevention programs, treatment, care and support by 2010.

Leaders came together once again at the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS in New York where progress was reviewed and a new Political Declaration was adopted establishing UNAIDS' strategic goals to be achieved by 2015.

OBJECTIVES

The mission of UNAIDS is to lead, strengthen and support an expanded response to HIV and AIDS that includes preventing transmission of HIV, providing care and support to those already living with the virus, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV and alleviating the impact of the epidemic as well as preventing it from becoming a pandemic.

UNAIDS has five main goals:

- Leadership and advocacy for effective action on the epidemic;
- Strategic information and technical support to guide efforts against AIDS worldwide;
- Tracking, monitoring and evaluation of the epidemic and of responses to it;
- Civil society engagement and the development of strategic partnerships;
- Mobilization of resources to support an effective response.

2011 Political Declaration: Targets and elimination commitments UNAIDS strategy goals by 2015:

1. Sexual transmission of HIV reduced by half, including among young people, men who have sex with men and transmission in the context of sex work
2. Vertical transmission of HIV eliminated, and AIDS-related maternal mortality reduced by half
3. All new HIV infections prevented among people who use drugs
4. Universal access to antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV who are eligible for treatment
5. TB deaths among people living with HIV reduced by half
6. People living with HIV and households affected by HIV are addressed in all national social protection strategies and have access to essential care and support

7. Countries with punitive laws and practices around HIV transmission, sex work, drug use or homosexuality that block effective responses reduced by half
8. HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence eliminated in half of the countries that have such restrictions
9. HIV-specific needs of women and girls are addressed in at least half of all national HIV responses
10. Zero tolerance for gender-based violence

GOVERNING BODIES

Programme Coordinating Board (PCB): UNAIDS is guided by the PCB which serves as its governing body. The PCB has representatives of 22 governments from all regions of the world, the ten UNAIDS Co-sponsors, and five nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), including associations of people living with HIV.

Executive Director: Appointed by the UN Secretary General, the Executive Director is in charge of implementing the guidelines given by the PCB and reporting on the work of the program.

Executive Cabinet: A forum for high-level decision-making on strategic issues facing the organization. The Executive Cabinet is composed of the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Directors of the Program branch (Paul de Lay, 2012) and the Management and Governance branch (Jan Beagle), and the Director of the Executive Office (Luiz Loures).

COOPERATION WITH OAS

In January 2012, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) created a specialized technical unit to strengthen its capacity to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex (LGBTI) people in the Americas. The specialized unit is part of IACHR's comprehensive approach to promoting the interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights. It takes into account the specific needs of individuals and groups which have been historically the focus of discrimination. UNAIDS and the Inter-American Commission established a strategic alliance, based on a set of actions aimed at achieving zero discrimination and violence, with a human rights approach. Under this alliance, meetings of experts (with an important civil society component) are held in order to prepare a Hemispheric Report on the Status of Human Rights of the LGBTTI population in the Americas.

On November 28, 2012, the OAS hosted the XLII OAS Policy Roundtable "Challenges in the Protection of Human Rights of Women Living with HIV and AIDS". The panel of experts included Ms. Pauline Muchina, Senior Partnerships Advisor for UNAIDS in Washington, DC

Within the framework of the World Conference on AIDS, held on July 22-27 in Washington DC, the OAS hosted an exhibit of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the Art Museum of the Americas (AMA). This event, held on July 23, was a joint effort of UNAIDS, the OAS, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM).

On April 17, 2013 the Secretary General of the OAS and the Executive Director UNAIDS, Michel Sidibé met at OAS headquarters to discuss a possible plan of action and explore opportunities for joint work to give HIV/AIDS a social dimension and promote the rights of HIV positive persons in the region.

Over the years, UNAIDS has manifested the convenience of the adoption of 5 resolutions by the OAS General Assembly on the topic of “Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity”.

During the 43 Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly held in Antigua, Guatemala on June 2013, the Member States adopted resolution AG/RES. 2802 on the promotion and protection of human rights of people vulnerable to, living with, or affected by HIV/AIDS in the Americas. This resolution urges the General Secretariat to strengthen its cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), in the framework of the “Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS” (A/RES/65/277, 2011) by means of a cooperation agreement, and to develop an objective-based plan of action.

On June 11, 2013, officials from the OAS General Secretariat, the Inter-American Commission of Women and IACHR met with UNAIDS officials to discuss the next steps for cooperation under the resolution AG/RES. 2802.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Michel Sidibé has been the Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations since 1 January 2009. His passion for advancing global health began in his native Mali, where he took up the cause of the nomadic Tuareg people. His efforts to improve their health and welfare evolved into a role as a country director for the international development federation *Terre des Hommes*. He has spent more than 25 years in public service.

In 1987, Mr. Sidibé, a citizen of Mali, joined UNICEF in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo). In his 14 years at UNICEF he oversaw programs across 10 francophone countries in Africa, also serving as country representative in several countries in the continent.

Mr. Sidibé became the Director of the Country and Regional Support Department of UNAIDS in 2001. In 2007, he was appointed as UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director of Programs and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. With this new mandate, he led UNAIDS' contributions to regional and country responses as well as its efforts in global policies, evidence, and monitoring and evaluation.

In 2011 Mr. Sidibé was appointed to the Global Board of Directors of Grassroot Soccer, a non-profit organization committed to preventing new HIV infections in Africa. He earned two Post-Master's Diplomas in Social Planning and Demography as well as in Development and Political Economy from the University of Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand. He holds a Master's degree in economics.

LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL SUPPORT TEAM DIRECTOR



Dr. César Antonio Nuñez joined UNAIDS in January 2007 as Regional Director of UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Latin America. He brings over twenty years of experience in managing HIV and international public health programs, with extensive knowledge of regional epidemiological trends and HIV response in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dr. Nuñez provides leadership, coordination and support to an expanded response from the UN system in relation to HIV at regional and country level in Latin America. This includes issues regarding access to prevention, treatment, care and support related to HIV, the objectives of UNAIDS strategy for 2011-2015 and the Political Declaration adopted in 2011 by UN Member States in the General Assembly.

Previously, Dr. Nuñez worked as Director of the National AIDS Programme of the Ministry of Health in Honduras and Deputy Director of USAID Regional Program to Strengthen the American Response to HIV (PASCA). His contributions were instrumental in strengthening the response to HIV when antiretroviral therapy was not available in the region. Dr. Nuñez also contributed to unify efforts under a multi sectorial response to HIV with the inclusion of strategic partners.

Dr. Nuñez, a national of Honduras, is a physician and surgeon with a specialization in International Public Health (MPH) from the University of Washington in Seattle.

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SUPPORT TEAM DIRECTOR



Ernest Massiah is the Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for the Caribbean since March 2010.

Massiah started his career at the CARICOM Secretariat working on regional health policy. He was involved in the first Global Programme on AIDS (GPA) in the Caribbean in the late 1980s. He worked for five years as a health specialist at the World Bank on the design and supervision of HIV and population projects in West Africa where he was involved in the development of some of the Bank's first regional AIDS strategies.

Mr. Massiah worked over ten years with the Inter-American Development Bank as the lead advisor on HIV and Disability and worked extensively in Latin America and the Caribbean on lending operations, policy dialogues in addition to directing a wide research portfolio. In 2006, he served as Special Advisor to PANCAP to help coordinate its regional AIDS programs.

Prior to joining UNAIDS, Mr. Massiah was the Head of the health section at the Commonwealth Secretariat leading a program that covered 53 countries in 4 sub regions.

Mr. Massiah studied at the Johns Hopkins University, the London School of Economics, and the University of Waterloo in Canada and holds a doctorate in public health.

SOURCES

www.unaids.org

www.oas.org

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