



# Strategies from the South: Building Synergies Across Movements

**Satellite Session: “Deal Makers and Breakers:  
Learning from HIV/AIDS Networking and  
Partnership Building Initiatives”**

9th International Conference on AIDS  
in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP9)  
9-13 August 2009 – Bali, Indonesia



# GOAL

To foster cross-issue collaborative action between major activist network from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean seeking more effective international advocacy on issues of HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and human rights.

# FRAME

A shift in the current HIV/AIDS discourse is necessary to put power and sexuality issues back on the table, within a broader framework of respect for human rights, including sexual rights.

# WHAT NETWORKS?

We bring together diverse networks:

- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Human and Women's Rights
- Youth
- HIV/AIDS
- PLWHA
- LGBTTT
- Sex workers
- People who use drugs

# HOW WE EVOLVE

- In **2006**, we started with **eighteen** international and regional networks.
- As of **2009**, we have **thirty-six** international and regional networks.
- We continue growing...

# WHY DO PARTNERSHIPS?

- Sexual and reproductive rights are an essential part of the HIV/AIDS response.
- To build alliances for:
  - Sharing problems and solutions
  - Identifying our commonalities
  - Strengthening international/regional joint advocacy
  - Improving the impact/results of international/regional advocacy
  - Avoiding competition for and improving access to funding

# BUILDING CONSENSUSES

- Everyone agreed on them without abandoning the specific objectives of each network;
- Everyone recognized the need for joint activities based on commonalities as a strategic approach to more effective advocacy;
- Differences were interpreted as weaknesses for addressing our common “opponents”.

# RESULTS OF THIS APPROACH

- Networks recognized the need to develop and strengthen south-south cooperation because they face similar problems and constraints.
- There are more consensuses than differences and joint advocacy is possible.
- Sustainable capacity building is possible and does not require exceptional resources.

# Why is this meaningful to Policy Makers?

- Because they now find a front of networks in opposition
- The unification of discourse and opposition obligates decision makers to reconsider their positions/policies
- The capacity to immediately disseminate the information about policies adopted in one country or region to others. The counter-response is becoming globalized.
- Our messages have many ways of arriving to formal and informal media and have also generated reactions in opposition.



# **Examples of Successful Partnerships for Joint Advocacy**

August 2009, Bali

# UNGASS on HIV/AIDS

## June 2008

- Networks developed a joint advocacy paper as a result of virtual discussions: **“From Words to Action”**.
- It was used at national and international levels to lobby governments, UN agencies, donors and media.
- Many proposals were incorporated into presentations, discussions and documents produced/presented at UNGASS.

# 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) March 2009

- Networks developed the joint advocacy paper after a discussion process: **“ICPD Contributions to Universal Access for Women and Girls”**.
- Representatives of HIV/AIDS and SRHR network from the three regions participated and lobbied civil society and governments.
- HIV/AIDS issues were incorporated into the resolution and were promoted and defended by other civil society groups.

# Who is involved:

*ActionAid International / AfriCASO / AMANITARE / APCASO / APN+ / APNSW / ARASA / ARROW / AWHRC / CAFRA / CARAM Asia / Caribbean Harm Reduction Coalition (CHRC) / CIAT / CLADEM / Coalition of African Lesbians (CAL) / CRN+ / GNP+ / FEMNET / IAWC / ICW Africa / ICW Asia Pacific / ILGA / IPPF WHR / LACCASO / LACHWN/RSMLAC / Lentswe la Rona / MLCM+ / NAP+ / NAPY / Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) / RedLA+ / RedLAC / RedTraSex / Seven Sisters / SWAA / Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR)*

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**MANY THANKS!**

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