



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

(f) Parliamentary meeting at the XX International AIDS Conference (Melbourne, 21 July 2014)

The XX International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) was held from 20 to 25 July 2014 in Melbourne, Australia. It brought together many of the major actors from various sectors, including parliamentarians, working to end AIDS. As in previous years, the IPU partnered with UNAIDS and UNDP to organize a Parliamentary Meeting on this occasion. The meeting provided an important space for parliamentarians attending the Conference to share knowledge and experience in working to end AIDS, and on key trends and challenges in the global effort to combat the epidemic.

The specific objectives of the Meeting were as follows:

- Identify evidence of legal obstacles to the AIDS response in order to inform policy and service development;
- Review progress made to improve domestic legal environments;
- Discuss minimizing obstacles to access to treatment and prevention; and
- Promote exchanges among parliamentarians on good parliamentary practice.

These issues were discussed with key figures from the global AIDS response, including the UNAIDS Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director and the UNDP Administrator. At the end of the Meeting, the participants adopted the following conclusions:

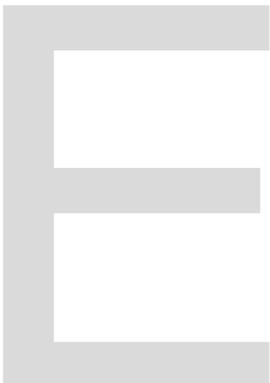
Appreciate the progress

We, parliamentarians, meeting at the Parliamentary Meeting at the XX International AIDS Conference note with appreciation the critical progress made in the HIV response, including:

- The number of people who are newly infected with HIV has declined by 38 percent since 2001.
- AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 35 percent since 2005.
- 87 percent of people living with HIV who know their status in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving antiretroviral therapy under WHO's 2010 treatment guidelines.
- 900,000 new HIV infections among children have been averted since 2009 thanks to expanded access to antiretroviral medicines for pregnant women living with HIV.
- From 2004 to 2012, tuberculosis-related deaths among people living with HIV declined by 36 percent worldwide.

But also acknowledge that many gaps and challenges remain to be addressed including:

- 15 countries account for nearly 75 percent of all people living with HIV in the world.
- Three of four children living with HIV are not accessing antiretroviral treatment.
- 15 percent of all women living with HIV are young women between 15 and 25 years old.



- HIV prevalence among female sex workers is 13.5 times greater than among all women aged 15-49 years old.
- There are 12.7 million people who use drugs, and 13 percent of them are living with HIV.
- There were 2.1 million people newly infected in 2013.
- 22 million people eligible for life-saving treatment under WHO's 2013 guidelines are not accessing it.
- Of the 35 million people living with HIV in the world, 19 million do not know their HIV-positive status.
- Stigma, discrimination and the absence of protective laws for people living with HIV and key populations continued to leave millions behind.

Vision

We fully support the vision of the end of AIDS by 2030. We therefore adhere to and express support to the target of 90-90-90: 90 percent of people with HIV are tested and know their status; 90 percent of people living with HIV have access to treatment; 90 percent of people living with HIV have a suppressed viral load.

Commit to supporting the realization of this vision through specific parliamentary actions, including:

- (1) Unlocking the political obstacles to effective HIV responses, including legal, social and economic conditions.
- (2) Implementing the IPU-UNAIDS collaboration on advancing Treatment 2015.
- (3) Supporting the dissemination and implementation of good parliamentary practice for addressing the legal barriers to the HIV responses based on the IPU-UNDP guide *Effective laws to end HIV and AIDS: Next steps for parliaments*.
- (4) Initiate dialogue and support best practice for addressing the barriers of intellectual property law and ensuring that all parliaments understand and can use to the full extend the flexibilities available to facilitate access to HIV-related treatment.
- (5) Supporting parliamentary dialogues on advancing enabling environment based on evidence on challenging issues affecting key populations.
- (6) Supporting parliamentary dialogue on universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and education.
- (7) Supporting funding for the HIV response particularly by ensuring increase domestic funding for AIDS.

The IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, New-born and Child Health will continue working closely with and engage its partners including UNAIDS, UNDP, WHO and the Global Fund to move these commitments forward.