

05/06/11 - UNAIDS PCB NGO Delegation Update: April 2011



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Civil Society Action: Attend the Next UNAIDS Board Meeting!

Register to be a civil society observer at the 28th UNAIDS PCB Board Meeting taking place in Geneva from 21-23 June 2011. Please [read our post](#) for further information on the [agenda](#) and how you can participate. You can apply now via [the online form](#) on UNAIDS' website; the deadline is 31 May 2011.

Report Back from the Civil Society Hearing

If you were unable to attend or watch online the Civil Society Hearing in New York City on 8 April, you can still [view the full webcast](#) on our blog. NGO Delegate Ebony Johnson (North America), the Delegation's Civil Society Task Force member, spoke at a press conference ahead of the full day of panels and highlighted the issues of discrimination, inequality and access to treatment. You can watch the press conference and read the press release [here](#).

UN High Level Meeting Updates: Civil Society Advocacy and Schedule

With the completion of the Civil Society Hearing, advocacy work is now focusing on the upcoming UN General Assembly Comprehensive AIDS Review from 8-10 June 2011 in New York. On 31 March, the Secretary General released a report entitled ["Uniting for universal access: towards zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths"](#). The report is based on data submitted by 182 countries and provides five key recommendations and six global targets that will be reviewed by global leaders at the High Level Meeting.

Civil society has responded and taken initiative by crafting its own recommendations and targets. Out of numerous [civil society asks and reports from regional universal access consultations](#) a ['zero draft' civil society declaration](#) has been developed by national, regional, global and constituency-based organizations to assist in coordinated civil society advocacy with UN member states. **Take Action:** organizations are encouraged to use the declaration in their negotiations and to sign on.

The President of the General Assembly has published an [Information Note](#) on panels and the schedule. Attendees have now been approved for the upcoming meeting. You can view the full lists of attending [ECOSOC and approved civil society organizations](#) on our blog.

Sex Workers Fight Back: Sex Work, HIV & the Fight for Representation and Human Rights

NGO Delegate Rathi Ramanathan (Asia & the Pacific) offers a comprehensive and

provoking article on the challenges facing current sex worker advocacy and rights. Ramanathan explains how laws and the anti-trafficking movement are negatively affecting sex workers' rights and access to HIV services. In the end, she offers some positive changes that can be made and the work that is being done to achieve them. For further information, you can read the "Report and recommendations from the first Asia and the Pacific Regional Consultation on HIV and Sex Work", a joint effort by UN agencies and regional civil society organizations.

Saudi Initiative to Combat AIDS in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries

NGO Delegate Nadia Rafif (Africa) and Communications Facility Programme Manager Sara Simon recently attended a ground breaking conference in Saudi Arabia hosted by its Ministry of Health to talk about the situation of HIV in the Gulf countries. As panelists, Rafif focused on media in the field of HIV and Simon spoke to the role of civil society at a global level. Key discussions points and a link to the presentations can be found on our website.