



**Civil Society's
Response to HIV/AIDS in Russia:**
Success | Problems | Prospects

RESOLUTION

FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE CONFERENCE

Moscow, January 24, 2008

Participants in the 1st All-Russian Conference “Civil Society's Response to HIV/AIDS in Russia: Success, Problems, Prospects”, who gathered in Moscow on January 22–24, 2008, represent civil society as a community of people living with HIV and over 200 non-government organizations and steering groups from more than 65 cities of the Russian Federation, and government, international, non-government and non-profit organizations, research, medical and human rights institutions,

- *referring to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS of 2001, the principle of increasing the involvement of people living with HIV in work against the epidemic as voiced by the Declaration of the 1994 Paris Summit on AIDS, the purposes of Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for People Living with HIV,*
- *emphasizing the need for intersectoral interaction and stronger cooperation between the government and the public sector towards higher effectiveness of joint efforts in response to the epidemic,*
- *emphasizing that health care, as a key area where conditions for the quality of life and human well-being develop, is a priority sphere for the realization of people's social rights and for the improvement of government policy,*
- *recognizing that health, as a key factor of human potential, increasing the standard of living, and strengthening the country's competitiveness and national security depends on the progress of both science and technology and corresponding political measures and decisions and institutional conditions,*
- *have taken the decisions and recommendations below towards Universal Access:*

Universal Access

1. Since the effectiveness of the response to the challenges of the epidemic consists of reducing the number of new HIV infections and the AIDS death rate, and improving the quality of life for people living with HIV, it is essential to ensure universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for HIV-infected people.
2. Based on the available experience gained by non-profit organizations and the available potential for improving effectiveness of efforts against the HIV epidemic, it is necessary to ensure the comprehensive involvement of civil society, including organizations of people living with HIV, at

all stages of the anti-epidemic process, including the design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes of prevention, treatment, care and support for the HIV-infected, at the federal and regional level.

3. It is vital to develop a uniform national strategy for providing Universal Access which incorporates the most important trends and specifics of epidemic development, the needs of the most vulnerable groups, and problem resolution methods which have proved effective.

Interaction

4. The success and effectiveness of the national strategy for providing Universal Access is directly dependent on the level and quality of interaction both within civil society and with other sectors, the government and the private sector. Hence it is important to develop various forms and mechanisms of cooperation while paying special attention to the involvement of people living with HIV in the decision-making process.
5. Special attention should be given to mechanisms of non-profit organization funding, improvement in the legislative regulation of the interaction mechanisms among non-profit organizations, the government and the private sector, including issues pertaining to non-profit organization funding.

Sustainability and development

6. An adequate response to the HIV epidemic's challenges would be possible if government entities at all levels officially recognized the importance of the efforts made by the civil sector and the programmes implemented by non-profit organizations which have proved to be effective, and their sustainable development and funding from various sources, including the federal, regional and local budgets.
7. For more effective involvement of the public sector in responding to the epidemic, it is important to raise the professional skills of non-profit NGOs and steering groups of people living with HIV in the field of social services, organizational development, and intersectoral partnership.
8. It is necessary to support and develop network NGOs and associations, expert and working groups for special issues like prevention, treatment, care and support in the case of HIV infection. The key populations at the highest risk of infection from the epidemic must be given special attention.
9. Recognize the considerable progress in ensuring universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for HIV-infected people over the recent period of time, and note the leading role of the Ministry of Health Care and Social Development, the Federal Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being Protection Supervision Service, the Federal Research and Guidance Centre for AIDS Prevention and Treatment.
10. While developing the results achieved, it is essential to intensify the efforts aimed at HIV prevention among the key populations at higher risk like children, young people, women, drug abusers, prisoners, men having sex with men, and commercial sex workers.
11. The Conference is worried about the negative effects of destructive and scientifically unproven statements, which are contrary to the government's and scientific community's view, about the allegedly harmful advanced approaches to HIV prevention and treatment used in Russia and internationally.
12. The Conference sees such forums as important and believes it necessary to hold the next civil society conference in two years.
13. The Conference has developed proposals towards universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support of the HIV-infected. It thinks it is important to bring the conference participants' recommendations and suggestions to the attention of decision makers and other stake holders.

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