

TAC INTERNAL DELIBERATIONS

The TAC members met on September 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. At the end of the day, they presented preliminary recommendations (see Annex 3) and promised to send to PAHO the final TAC recommendations 2007 within two weeks.

The TAC members, after deliberation, opted finally to respond partially to some of the strategic questions prepared by the PAHO secretariat. The answers provided by the TAC are presented in the table below.

| PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED AND STRATEGIC QUESTIONS | ANSWERS PROVIDED BY TAC MEMBERS |
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| <p><u>Strategic question 1:</u> What specific actions could carry out PAHO (at regional, sub-regional and at country level) in order to facilitate more dialogue of civil society with the Health Sector, primarily with the Ministries of Health in 2008-2009?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ At present the degree of interaction and inclusion of relevant civil society groups is variable across the countries in our region. ■ PAHO should facilitate and promote greater inclusion of relevant civil society groups in UNAIDS Thematic Groups and in national AIDS programs/commissions (<u>not just with Ministries of Health</u>) in all countries. |
| <p><u>Strategic question 2:</u> What specific actions are suggested in the next biennium in order to promote a Human Rights approach?</p> | <p>PAHO is urged to promote the human rights approach in response to the HIV/AIDS/STI epidemic, with regard to autonomy, social justice, intimacy, the right to information and care...</p> <p>The human rights approach must be the framework for specific actions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HIV testing, communication of diagnoses and epidemiological surveillance. ■ Dignified and respectful care to everyone, including traditionally stigmatized and excluded populations, avoiding penalization of groups or activities, e.g. criminalization of non-exploitative sexual work. Promotion of respectful treatment, free of stigma and discrimination in health, education, work and access to social support programs on the grounds of HIV or the assumption of having this condition and other social factors such as poverty. |
| <p><u>Strategic question 3:</u> The evaluation of the health systems response to HIV could have an added value as area of comparative advantage for the work of the PAHO Secretariat. Should PAHO promote this type of evaluation in the countries? Would it be strategic to consider the participation of TAC members in this type of evaluation?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We recognize the importance of the recent evaluation in the Dominican Republic. ■ PAHO should strengthen its skills in monitoring and evaluation and can support monitoring and evaluation done by other agencies or by civil society. ■ Monitoring and evaluation of programs are not the function of TAC. |
| <p><u>Strategic question 4:</u> Which would be the three critical points to be considered by the Secretariat during the next biennium in order to expand the services of prevention of HIV sexual transmission <u>in the context of Sexual and Reproductive Health</u>?</p> | <p>- TAC fully endorses actions aimed at better articulation between HIV/AIDS services and sexual & reproductive services but emphasizes the need to go beyond the “titanic” approach (women and children first)</p> <p>- PAHO should now promote better articulation at country level between HIV/STI programs and sexual and reproductive health programs</p> <p>Priority points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guarantee access to sexual health services, including prevention of STIs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ for adolescents and youth ○ to populations that are traditionally neglected or excluded, including sex workers, MSM and drug users ■ Promote HIV testing to young women, all pregnant women and the partners of these persons |

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| <p><u>Strategic question 5:</u> What could be done differently to strengthen the integration of the Prevention of the Transmission Mother to Child of HIV (PMTCT) and the Prevention of Congenital Syphilis in the services dedicated to maternal and child care?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasize early diagnosis of HIV in children born to HIV+ pregnant women using appropriate technology ▪ Offer appropriate counseling and testing for HIV and syphilis to all pregnant women. |
| <p><u>Strategic question 6:</u> What specific actions can carry out the PAHO Secretariat during the next biennium in order to advance the decentralization and integration of HIV health care in the context of Primary Health Care (PHC)?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disseminate best practices in HIV care at primary level in the region. ▪ Reinforce care of STI and detection of HIV at primary level by ensuring that adequate resources are available and that training of relevant workers continues to take place. ▪ Administrators must be persuaded that the integrated approach at primary care level is advantageous. |
| <p><u>Strategic question 7:</u> What additional actions could carry out the PAHO Secretariat in order to support the advocacy processes in the countries for cost containment and for avoiding interruption of supply of antiretroviral drugs?</p> | <p>Reinforce and accelerate the use of the PAHO revolving fund.</p> |
| <p><u>Strategic question 8:</u> In accordance with the needs for operations research in the Region, which would be the 3 priority areas to which the Secretariat could target its efforts during 2008-2009?</p> | <p>Not addressed</p> |
| <p><u>Strategic question 9:</u> Which Communities of Practice should be prioritized by the Secretariat in the next biennium in order to facilitate greater participation of experts of the Region, including members of the TAC, in high-level technical discussions?</p> | <p>Not addressed</p> |
| <p><u>Strategic question 10:</u> What actions needs to carry out the PAHO Secretariat in order to facilitate the consolidation of the TAC and respond more effectively to the needs and demands of this advisory group?</p> | <p>AGENDAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should be prepared jointly in advance by the HIV Unit and TAC. ▪ The focus of each meeting and its objectives should be agreed upon to allow for preparation. ▪ Sufficient time should be allotted for internal discussions of TAC. <p>MEETINGS</p> <p>Different types of TAC meetings could be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ small TAC meetings such as the current one ▪ expanded meetings, which might include HQ units, PAHO country representatives, Heads of National AIDS Programs, etc. <p>FOCAL POINTS</p> <p>Consider the designation of 2 permanent TAC focal points within the HIV</p> |

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| | <p>unit, 1 for technical matters and 1 for administrative and logistics issues</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF THE TAC</p> <p>INFORMATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TAC members should receive periodical updates from the HIV Unit via E-mail, Sharepoint, etc. ▪ This information should include information on regional program implementation and progress in implementing TAC recommendations, relevant events within PAHO, technical and policy documents. <p>INTERSESSIONAL PERIODS</p> <p>Sharing of information alluded to previously will keep TAC alive and active during intersessional times. TAC members are open for suggestions from the HIV Unit to keep TAC members in constant interaction with PAHO (e.g. Elluminate).</p> <p>FEEDBACK</p> <p>TAC members need to receive clearer feedback on how its recommendations are being used</p> <p>NEW MEMBERS</p> <p>As a courtesy to current members of TAC, information on new members should be provided ahead of time</p> |
| <p><u>Strategic question 11:</u> Which would be the activities to consider in the next biennium in order to increase the participation of the TAC in the technical and strategic debates of the PAHO Secretariat?</p> | <p>Participation of TAC in technical and strategic debates of the Secretariat might occur either via the group or by individuals, based on their special expertise – either at the request of the Secretariat or at the initiative of members of TAC if adequately briefed.</p> |
| <p><u>Strategic question 12:</u> The situation related to Resource Mobilization (RM) to cover the costs related to HIV is very different from a country to the other but the majority of them do not have all the necessary resources for reaching the coverage of services required to fight effectively the HIV epidemic. What specific activities could carry out the PAHO Secretariat in order to support the Governments in the design of a RM national plan, in close coordination with UNAIDS and other partners?</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Not addressed</p> |