



AIDS 2006

Time to Deliver • Passons aux actes

FACT SHEET: Conference Organizers

The XVI International AIDS Conference is convened by the International AIDS Society, and is hosted locally by the Toronto Local Host. The five co-organizers for AIDS 2006 are:

- Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+)
- International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW)
- International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)

Conference Organizer: International AIDS Society (IAS)

Based in Geneva, IAS is the world's leading independent association of HIV/AIDS professionals, with 10,000 members in 153 different countries. *IAS connects:* by convening the world's largest meetings on HIV/AIDS (the International AIDS Conference, and the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention), IAS provides critical platforms for presenting new research, sharing best practice and advancing the fight against AIDS. *IAS promotes:* by promoting dialogue, education and networking, IAS helps close gaps in knowledge and expertise at every level of the response. *IAS mobilizes:* by providing support to our members we help them advance the state of the response and expand access to HIV prevention, treatment and impact mitigation. Additional IAS programmes include the Industry Liaison Forum (ILF) and the electronic Journal of the International AIDS Society, both of which are committed to furthering HIV research in resource-limited settings.

AIDS 2006 Toronto Local Host

The Toronto Local Host is a not-for-profit organization created specifically to host the conference. The Board of Directors is composed of leaders engaged in the Canadian response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic who have volunteered their time to ensure the success of AIDS 2006. The Local Host has been responsible for preparing Toronto and Canada as host city and country of AIDS 2006, as well as a number of programme activities including the Outreach, Youth and Cultural Activities Programmes, the Global Village and PLWHA lounge. The Advisory Committee represents a wide range of individuals, organizations, government representatives, artists, community groups and others from across Canada who are working on HIV-related research, education, advocacy, policy and treatment.

Co-organizer: The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+)

GNP+ is the Global Network of People living with HIV representing the diverse voices of people living with HIV around the world. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV and AIDS. As a global network for and by people living with HIV (PLHIV), GNP+ focuses on: increasing sustainable access to care, treatment and prevention; ending stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV; and increasing the involvement of PLHIV in the decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their communities. GNP+ works to develop evidence-based programming to support in-country responses to the HIV epidemic, which is being led by people living with HIV. GNP+ works closely with six affiliated regional PLHIV networks.

Co-organizer: The International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW)

ICW is an international network run for and by HIV-positive women that promotes and advocates for changes that improve the lives of women infected with HIV. It was founded in Amsterdam in 1992 to respond to the desperate lack of support and information for HIV-positive women worldwide. With nearly 4,000 members in over 90 countries, ICW is uniquely positioned to represent the views of a large, active and growing network of HIV-positive women and girls with a rich and diverse range of experiences. ICW's vision is a world where all HIV-positive women will:

- Have respected and meaningful involvement at all political levels – local, national, regional and international – where decisions that affect their lives are being made;
- Have full access to care and treatment; and

- Enjoy full rights, particularly sexual, reproductive, legal, financial and general health rights, irrespective of culture, age, religion, sexuality, social or economic status and race.

Co-organizer: The International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)

ICASO works to support and strengthen the community-based sector to mobilize and advocate for its needs and concerns in responding to HIV and AIDS. This is achieved by convening, connecting, consulting, and communicating with non-governmental and community-based organizations and networks throughout the world. ICASO promotes the greater involvement of people living with, and affected by HIV/AIDS, and promotes human rights in the development and implementation of HIV/AIDS policies and programmes. Founded in 1991, ICASO operates from its International Secretariat in Toronto, Canada, and through Regional Secretariats based in five continents: AfriCASO (Africa); APCASO (Asia-Pacific); AAE (Europe); LACCASO (Latin America and the Caribbean); NACASO (North America).

Co-organizer: The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) brings together the efforts and resources of ten UN agencies to the global AIDS response. Cosponsors include the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank.

From joint programmes on AIDS to increasingly joint UN teams on AIDS in countries—UNAIDS brings together one UN strategy and helps coordinate the implementation and division of labour between agencies. UNAIDS has five focus areas: leadership and advocacy, strategic information and technical support, tracking, monitoring and evaluation, civil society engagement and mobilization of financial, human and institutional resources.

Co-organizer: Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)

The Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) is a national coalition of over 125 community-based AIDS organizations across Canada dedicated to strengthening the response to HIV/AIDS across all sectors of society, and to enriching the lives of people and communities living with HIV/AIDS.

CAS advocates on behalf of people and communities affected by HIV/AIDS, facilitates the development of programs, services and resources for its member groups, and provides a national framework for community-based participation in Canada's response to AIDS. CAS seeks to accomplish its mission by promoting education and awareness, mobilizing communities, advocating at the federal policy level, and providing information and resources.

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