



VIETNAM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



INTER - PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Regional Seminar for the IPU Asia-Pacific Group
“TAKING EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY ACTION AGAINST HIV AND AIDS”
(Hanoi, 10 - 12 December 2009)

DRAFT PROGRAM

Wednesday, 9 December

18:30 – 20:00 Arrival of delegates at the airport
Transfer to Hilton Hanoi Opera Hotel
Dinner hosted by **Mr. Ngo Quang Xuan**, Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Vietnam; Member of the IPU Executive Committee

Thursday, 10 December

8:00 - 9:00 Registration of participants

9:00 - 9:30 **Inaugural session**

Opening speech by **H.E. Madam Tong Thi Phong**, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Vietnam

Address by **Mrs. Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu**, Deputy Minister of Public Works, Republic of South Africa; Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS

Group photo session

9:30 - 10:30 **HIV and AIDS in the Asia-Pacific region: Trends and future projections**

Address by **Ms. Geeta Sethi**, Asia Pacific Leadership Forum Manager, UNAIDS

Debate

10:30 - 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 - 12:30

Groups most vulnerable to HIV and appropriate legislative responses

The majority of HIV infections in the Asia-Pacific region are occurring through the use of contaminated injecting equipment, unprotected paid sex and, to a lesser extent, unprotected sex between men. Marginalization and discrimination of the groups that are the main drivers of the HIV epidemic impede their access to HIV-related services. The session will discuss ways in which national and regional responses to HIV and AIDS address the underlying social and structural issues that increase vulnerability, and how lawmakers can help in scaling up HIV-related programs and services for most affected groups.

Chair: **Mr. Mohsen El-Hazmi**, Member of the Ash Shura Council, Saudi Arabia; Member of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS

Presentation by **Ms. Sapana Pradhan Malla**, Member of Parliament, Nepal

Presentation by **Ms. Kirenjit Kaur**, Women of APN+ (WAPN+) Coordinator, Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+)

Presentation by **Mrs. Trinh Le Tram**, Director of the Legal Advisory Center on Health and HIV/AIDS

Debate

12:30 - 14:30

Lunch break

14:30 - 17:30

Challenges facing the legislator

The session will look at areas such as anti-discrimination protection, basic rights, HIV transmission, and criminal law. The session will aim to identify political actions that may be efficient in reversing a regional HIV epidemic.

Chair: Member of Parliament from the Asia-Pacific Region

Presentation by **Mr. Nguyen Van Tien**, Vice – Chair of the Social Affairs Committee, National Assembly of Vietnam

Presentation by **Mr. Elioda Tumwesigye**, Member of Parliament Uganda, Member of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS

Presentation by **Mr. Tim Barnett**, former Member of Parliament, New Zealand; Global Program Manager, World AIDS Campaign

Debate

19:00 – 20.30

Dinner hosted by **H.E. Madam Tong Thi Phong**, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Vietnam

Friday, 11 December

9:00 - 10:30

Legal issues relating to harm reduction

Chair: **Mrs. Lediana Mafuru Mng'ong'o**, Member of Parliament Tanzania; Member of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS

Presentation by **Mr. Eamonn Murphy**, Country Director, UNAIDS Vietnam

Presentation by **Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu**, President of the Association on HIV/AIDS Prevention of Ho Chi Minh City

Debate

10:30 - 10:45

Coffee break

10:45 - 12:30

Towards universal access to HIV treatment

Ensuring that medicines are affordable is critical to achieving universal access to treatment. The meeting will discuss opportunities for making HIV medicines accessible to all. The focus will be on WTO TRIPS flexibilities and other mechanisms, and recent developments in the international intellectual property framework.

Chair: Member of Parliament, Vietnam

Presentation by **Mr. Paul Cawthorne**, Regional Officer for Asia, MSF Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines

Presentation by **Mr. Svend Robinson**, Consultant on Parliamentary Relations, The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Debate

12:30 - 14:30

Lunch break

14:30 – 15:30

General debate on seminar recommendations

15:30 – 15:45

Coffee break

15:45 – 16:30

Closing session

Speech by **H.E. Madam Tong Thi Phong**, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Vietnam

Address by **Mrs. Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu**, Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS, Deputy Minister of Public Works South Africa

16:45 – 17:15 Courtesy call on **H.E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong**, President of the National Assembly of Vietnam

18:30 – 21:00 Dinner/Embassy night

Saturday, 12 December

Departure of delegates
Optional Visit to Quang Ninh Province

Delegates who wish to take part in the visit should register with the Organizing Committee

08:00 - 16:00 Departure from hotel for Quang Ninh province
On the way, visit to the Methadone Substitution Treatment Center in Hai Phong
Visit Ha Long Bay (UNESCO world heritage site)