



## **International Development Law Organization, UNAIDS and UNDP**

International Expert Meeting on Strengthened and  
Expanded Legal Services for People Living with HIV and Vulnerable Groups

Rome, 3-6 May 2009

### **MEETING OUTLINE**

#### **Background**

Too often people living with HIV and experiencing related legal problems do not know where to get informed, affordable, non-judgmental information, advice and representation. People in communities most vulnerable to HIV often also have legal problems and need quality services. However, lawyers are often ignorant of HIV basics, judgmental about sexual or drug-taking behavior, or unaware of important developments (laws and policies, judicial decisions, public policy arguments) which could assist their clients.

Given the diversity of the HIV epidemic in different countries and regions, a diverse range of legal services has evolved for people infected and affected by HIV, and people most vulnerable to HIV infection. We now have over twenty years' experience in providing HIV-related legal services, including through specialized HIV legal clinics, government and community legal aid offices, and private legal practitioners.

We now need to scale up access to quality legal assistance by engaging and training existing legal services, paralegal community services, and legal services for women, drug users, men who have sex with men, and other vulnerable communities. We also need to strengthen the links between HIV legal services, strategic litigation and advocacy, and eventual law and policy reform.

#### **Meeting Objectives**

1. To identify different models for the provision of legal services<sup>1</sup> and ways to monitor and evaluate their outcomes and impact, including on broader advocacy and law reform agendas.
2. To review the experience in training and supporting lawyers to provide legal services, and make recommendations regarding institutional capacity building, model training curricula, networking and other support.
3. To review present and future opportunities to strengthen and expand legal services, including opportunities for resource mobilization from the Global Fund and other donors, and in-kind and pro bono support from the practicing profession.
4. To make recommendations for IDLO and other institutional stakeholders (national and international) for other action to strengthen and expand legal services

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<sup>1</sup> The various models of legal services described in the Report will include not only legal advice, but also strategic litigation, dispute resolution services, and programs operating within traditional legal structures. They will include models of programs that focus on protecting women's rights in the context of HIV, such as those implemented by the ICRW, as well as legal services for drug users and other vulnerable populations. See ([http://www.icrw.org/html/projects/projects\\_hiv aids.htm#PropertyRights](http://www.icrw.org/html/projects/projects_hiv aids.htm#PropertyRights)).

## **Meeting outputs**

1. Substantive tools to strengthen and expand HIV legal services:
  - a. different models for the provision of legal services and ways to monitor and evaluate their impact, including their impact on broader advocacy and law reform agendas.
  - b. A model training curriculum or curricula (adaptable to different epidemic contexts) and recommendations for networking and other support.
  - c. Elements of a funding proposal for strengthened and expanded legal services at country level

Note: These tools will be circulated in English to key individuals and organizations for comment. The tools will also be circulated in English at the one day seminar on 'Strengthened and Expanded HIV Legal Services' on Saturday, 8 August, in Bali, Indonesia, just prior to the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific. After the seminar the tools will be finalized and translated and disseminated in UN languages and other languages (subject to funding).

2. A core group of legal and other professionals from different regions who can provide technical assistance and advice at national and regional levels on strengthened and expanded legal services.
3. Recommendations for IDLO and other institutional stakeholders for other action to strengthen and expand legal services, including at regional and national levels.

## **Meeting participants**

Participants will be identified on the basis of their expertise in the substantive areas to be addressed at the meeting. Up to 30 persons from developing countries and countries in transition who are involved in the training for and provision of legal services (e.g. lawyers, legal service project managers, and representatives of PLHIV and vulnerable groups). Resource people will be drawn from key institutions with recognized expertise. The working language of the meeting is English.

## **Meeting agenda**

This will be a working meeting with a minimum of formal presentations. Working group materials will be distributed in advance of the meeting and individual participants tasked with leading and reporting on working group sessions. All participants will have the opportunity to contribute to draft materials in the plenary sessions, whichever working group they chose.

An informal working group will be convened during the meeting to propose recommendations for next steps for the meeting cosponsors and other institutional stakeholders.

## **Meeting co-sponsors**

UNAIDS  
UNDP