

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS

Bangkok, 28-30 January 2015

GUIDELINES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY OBSERVERS

The rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) allow for civil society representatives to attend intergovernmental meetings in observer status. The purpose of this document is to assist civil society observers to prepare for their attendance at the “Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS”.

The plenary sessions of the Meeting will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in Chinese, French and Russian, which are the working languages of the Commission. All official documentation for the Meeting will be available in English, Chinese, French and Russian.

All Meeting documents can be accessed from the following website:
<http://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-intergovernmental-meeting-hiv-and-aids>.

Background information on ESCAP

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional arm of the United Nations, playing a unique role as the only intergovernmental forum for all countries and territories of the Asian and Pacific region. Established in 1947, ESCAP today has 53 members and nine associate members covering over 60 per cent of the world’s population, or 4.1 billion people.

ESCAP’s mission is to serve as the regional hub promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. ESCAP provides the strategic regional link between global, subregional and country-level direction, commitments and programmes. All governments of the Asia Pacific region meet annually at the ministerial level to review and discuss economic and social issues and to set the regional development agenda.

ESCAP is headquartered in Bangkok and has four subregional offices, namely in the Pacific (Suva); East and North-East Asia (Incheon, Republic of Korea); North and Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan); and South and South-West Asia (Delhi, India). ESCAP also has four regional institutions in Beijing, China; Bogor, Indonesia; Incheon, Republic of Korea; New Delhi, India; and Chiba, Japan. The organization reports to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). (For more information, please visit the ESCAP website at <http://www.unescap.org>)

Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS

The Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS will be held from 28 to 30 January 2015 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. The Meeting will be convened pursuant to the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, in which the regional commissions are mandated to conduct periodic, inclusive reviews of national efforts and progress to combat HIV. The Meeting will be held as a follow-up to the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals, held in Bangkok in February 2012, which endorsed the convening of an inclusive regional intergovernmental meeting to review national efforts and progress in addressing the HIV epidemic.

The objectives of the Meeting are:

- (a) To assess national progress and to exchange multisectoral experiences in meeting the commitments contained in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, and in ESCAP resolutions 66/10 and 67/9;
- (b) To review measures to enhance the financial sustainability and effectiveness of responses to HIV and AIDS;
- (c) To evaluate the outcomes of national reviews of policy and legal barriers to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in pursuance of ESCAP resolution 67/9, and consider enhancing regional cooperation.

The Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS is being organized by ESCAP in cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Meeting is expected to be attended by senior government officials directly involved in the formulation and implementation of HIV-related legislation and policies as well as representatives of regional organizations, civil society, UN system entities and other relevant stakeholders.

Notes for observers concerning making interventions under specific substantive agenda items

Agenda item 4. Review of national progress in meeting the commitments contained in General Assembly resolution 65/277 on the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, and ESCAP resolutions 66/10 and 67/9

Under this agenda item, the Meeting will review the progress made in the Asia-Pacific region on the implementation of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS and ESCAP resolutions 66/10 and 67/9, and related efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Delegations are expected to review national experiences and lessons learned, including good practices in the above-mentioned areas. The outcome of deliberations under this agenda item is expected to lead to the identification of priorities to enhance national and regional actions to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in the Asia-Pacific region. **Civil society will be provided a slot to deliver a consolidated statement of maximum four minutes under this agenda item.**

Agenda item 5. Assessment of the outcomes of the national reviews and multisectoral consultations on policy and legal barriers to universal access to HIV services

Under this agenda item, the Meeting will review national approaches and good practices in addressing policy and legal barriers that impede effective HIV responses, including measures to address stigma and discrimination. The agenda item will be introduced through a panel discussion. **The floor will thereafter be opened be open for interventions from the floor, including representatives of civil society, after the panelists have made their interventions. Delegates requesting for the floor will be expected to raise their name boards for the moderator/chair to identify them.**

Agenda item 6. Review of the financing of national HIV and AIDS responses

Under this agenda item, delegations are expected to share information on their efforts to ensure adequate and sustainable financing for HIV and AIDS responses in their country. The outcome of deliberations under this agenda item is expected to lead to the identification of measures to be taken to ensure that a viable financing strategy exists for ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly for key populations at higher risk of exposure to HIV. The agenda item will be introduced through a panel discussion. **The floor will thereafter be opened be open for interventions from the floor, including representatives of civil society, after the panelists have made their interventions. Delegates requesting for the floor will be expected to raise their name boards for the moderator/chair to identify them.**

Agenda item 7. Enhancing regional cooperation to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015

Under this agenda item, the regional and international commitments made to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support will be reviewed with a view to reaching a consensus on a set of actions to be taken by Governments in order to intensify their national efforts and to support periodic, inclusive reviews of national efforts and progress made in the region to combat HIV, as called for in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS. The outcome of deliberations under this agenda item is expected to take the form of the endorsement of an agreed framework of actions to be taken at the national and regional levels beyond 2015. **Civil society will be provided a slot to deliver a consolidated statement of maximum four minutes under this agenda item.**

Agenda item 9. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

As the report of the Meeting is an account of the proceedings of an intergovernmental process, interventions during the adoption of the report are made by Government delegates. Should there be a need to revise any section of the report pertaining to a statement delivered by civil society, the matter should be brought to the attention of the secretariat, preferably before the start of the consideration of the agenda item.

Annex: ESCAP Membership

EAST AND NORTH-EAST ASIA

China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Hong Kong, China*
Japan
Macao, China*
Mongolia
Republic of Korea

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
Indonesia
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Viet Nam

SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka
Turkey

NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Georgia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Russian Federation
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan

PACIFIC

American Samoa*
Australia
Cook Islands*
Fiji
French Polynesia*
Guam*
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Nauru
New Caledonia*
New Zealand
Niue*
Northern Mariana Islands*
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

* Associate members