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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

United Nations Development Programme

Civil Society Consultation on the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on
HIV and AIDS

30 April – 1 May 2014
Bangkok, Thailand

**REPORT OF THE
CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION ON THE
ASIA-PACIFIC INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON HIV AND AIDS**

CONTENTS

I.	BACKGROUND	1
II.	OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION.....	1
III.	OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION	1
IV.	OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION	3
V.	POSITIONING THE HIV AND AIDS RESPONSE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC BEYOND 2015.....	3
VI.	LESSONS LEARNED FROM PREVIOUS INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS	4
VII.	POTENTIAL AREAS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION	5
VIII.	CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON HIV AND AIDS.....	6
IX.	ROADMAP FOR CSO ENGAGEMENT AT THE ASIA-PACIFIC INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON HIV AND AIDS.....	7
X.	CLOSING OF THE MEETING.....	10
	ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	12

I. BACKGROUND

1. Recognizing the vital role that civil society plays in advancing the HIV and AIDS agenda in the region, ESCAP, in cooperation with UNAIDS and UNDP, organized the Civil Society Consultation to prepare for the forthcoming Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS on 30 April and 1 May 2014 in Bangkok.
2. The Consultation was attended by representatives of 13 civil society organizations operating at the regional or subregional level, with an established record of working in the area of legal and policy barriers to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. The full list of participants is included as Annex I.
3. The Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS will be convened by ESCAP from 28 to 30 January 2015 in Bangkok, in cooperation with UNAIDS, UNDP and other relevant United Nations entities, on the critical issue of addressing legal and policy barriers to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. The Intergovernmental Meeting will review the progress made in implementing the commitments made by member States in ESCAP resolutions 66/10 and 67/9 and the 2011 General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, as well as the regional framework for action on HIV and AIDS, or “ESCAP Roadmap to 2015”.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

4. The objectives of the Consultation were:
 - a) to provide representatives of civil society with an overview of ESCAP intergovernmental processes and the current status of preparations for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS;
 - b) to identify the priority issues from the standpoint of civil society that should be discussed during the Intergovernmental Meeting;
 - c) to discuss potential elements of a regional framework for action that could be endorsed by the Intergovernmental Meeting; and
 - d) to begin to define civil society contributions to, and participation in, the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS and its preparatory process.

III. OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION

5. Welcome remarks were delivered by Ms. Nanda Krairiksh, Director, Social Development Division (SDD), ESCAP and Mr. Tony Lisle, Regional Programme Adviser, UNAIDS Regional Support Team Asia and the Pacific. Opening addresses were made by Mr. J.V.R. Prasada Rao, United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy for AIDS in Asia and the Pacific and Ms. Nukshinaro Ao, Women Coordinator, Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV / AIDS (APN+) on behalf of civil society.

6. Ms. Krairiksh began her intervention by highlighting ESCAP's focus on supporting ESCAP member States in creating enabling legal and policy environments for effective HIV responses, beginning notably with the adoption of ESCAP resolution 66/10. Ms. Krairiksh emphasized the importance of ESCAP's collaboration with civil society organisations (CSOs) in light of their knowledge and on-the-ground experiences. She noted the central role played by them in shaping the outcomes of the 2012 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, and the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC) in 2013. Ms. Krairiksh stated that she looked forward to engaging with CSOs in the preparatory process, as well as in identifying the key issues regarding the HIV response that should be addressed in the development agenda beyond 2015. She ended by expressing her gratitude to the United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy for AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, UNAIDS and UNDP for the close partnership and cooperation in addressing legal and policy barriers to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

7. In his remarks on behalf of UNAIDS, Mr. Tony Lisle emphasized that the 2011 Political Declaration reflected the success of ESCAP resolutions 66/10 and 67/9. Both resolutions highlighted the centrality of communities and key populations and clearly delineated methods of implementation to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Mr. Lisle pointed out that, while much had been achieved in the HIV response, challenges remained in the region, including ensuring sustainable investments to sustain and scale up the HIV response, especially in lower-income countries; building community capacity to effectively provide HIV responses, particularly community-based prevention, testing, treatment and care; adjusting programming across countries so that key populations are effectively engaged in the HIV response; and addressing structural, social and legal barriers.

8. Mr. J.V.R. Prasada Rao, United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy for AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, thanked ESCAP for its energy and commitment in bringing out resolution 66/10 at a critical time, noting that ESCAP has been the only Commission to adopt a strong resolution that explicitly refers to specific key populations. He described the Asia-Pacific region's successes in responding to HIV as mixed – while some countries have witnessed progress in reducing or stabilizing the epidemic, the number of new infections in other countries was on the rise. Mr. Rao referred to recommendations of the Global Commission on HIV and Law, and noted a number of countries in the region still had travel restrictions in place, and that, there had been little progress in addressing the needs of some key populations, such as injecting drug users, transgendered persons and men who have sex with men. He further noted further challenges in the region, including the fact that only about eight per cent of funding for HIV and AIDS is used for prevention among key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure. Mr. Rao noted the need for a focus on effectiveness and efficiency of spending, and a need to provide technical support and advocacy in ensuring renewed efforts to halt and reverse the epidemic.

9. In her remarks, Ms. Nukshinara Ao, Women Coordinator, Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+), indicated the need to scale up community capacity to provide care and support for people living with or affected by HIV, and to ensure future access to medicines. She also highlighted the

importance of ensuring the visibility of communities' agendas at high-level meetings convened by the United Nations, and a strong outcome of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS to be held in January 2015.

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION

10. This session was facilitated by Mr. Tony E. Lisle, Regional Programme Adviser, UNAIDS Regional Support Team Asia and the Pacific, who began by leading a round of introductions of the participants. Ms. Maren Jimenez, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP, provided an overview of the status of the preparations for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS, and an introduction to the programme of the Consultation. An overview was also provided on the focus and the expected outcomes of the discussions under each agenda session.

11. In the discussions that followed, the secretariat elaborated on the ways in which the views of CSOs had been incorporated into the preparatory process so far, and how this would be ensured in the future in the lead up to the Intergovernmental Meeting.

V. POSITIONING THE HIV AND AIDS RESPONSE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC BEYOND 2015

12. This session was facilitated by Mr. J.V.R. Prasada Rao, United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy for AIDS in Asia and the Pacific. In his introduction, Mr. Rao identified the following key features that he felt would define the HIV responses in the development agenda beyond 2015: (i) a number of countries in the region were committing increased amounts of domestic resources for HIV, but the trend needed to be maintained and accelerated; (ii) more funds had to be directed to prevention, in particular among key populations; and (iii) more attention had to be accorded to ensuring effective and efficient use of funds allocated for the HIV response. Mr. Rao also briefed the meeting on the ongoing discussions in the open working group on the SDGs (OWG) with regard to the discussions on health and HIV issues.

13. During the discussions that followed, civil society representatives highlighted several issues that should be taken into consideration while framing an effective response to HIV in the post-2015 period. These included funding for intervention targeting key populations, communities and human rights; an increase in domestic financing; and continued international funding for the HIV response. Participants noted that while good progress had been made towards achieving some of the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), much remained to be done.

14. Regarding the SDGs, the consultation noted the proposal by the OWG to have a single overarching health goal ("A healthy life for all at all ages"), to be underpinned by sub-goals covering specific health issues. However, there was a need to ensure that HIV and AIDS received due attention in the formulation of the sub-goals. It was important that the sub-goal on HIV be framed to clearly address issues such as violence, stigma and discrimination. As the SDGs would be formulated

through a negotiated process among governments, it was noted that civil society and the United Nations system should support governments to ensure that HIV was given due importance.

15. Based on the experience of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (2013), the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (2014) and other international processes, participants discussed the current conservative political climate, and highlighted the need to be strategic in terms of the desired outcomes of the Intergovernmental Meeting. Participants agreed on the need to use and build on existing commitments in order to safeguard advances made in recent years. Understanding the current positions of governments as well as of CSOs on key issues during the Intergovernmental Meeting was also highlighted as an important step in the preparatory process.

16. Participants indicated discussions among the Eleventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), concluded that civil society would like to see in terms of funding for HIV: funding for key populations, communities and human rights; an increase in domestic financing; and a call to the international community to continue financing the HIV response in Asia and the Pacific.

17. As a result of the discussions, participants suggested that the following actions be undertaken by the Secretariat during the preparatory process leading up to the IGM:

- a) Conduct a political mapping of government positions on HIV-related topics;
- b) Highlight best practices from the region in the background documentation for the Meeting to further inspire countries that have taken steps to implement commitments, and serve as encouragement for those countries that are behind in the process;
- c) Provide a hyperlink on the internet to guide CSOs to the findings and recommendations of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law from the ESCAP Social Development Division website; and
- d) Explore possibilities to provide financial support for civil society representation in national delegations.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM PREVIOUS INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

18. The session was facilitated by Ms. Nanda Krairiksh, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP, who shared experiences in civil society engagement in previous intergovernmental processes led by ESCAP. Based on those experiences, Ms. Krairiksh indicated some potential entry points for civil society engagement in the Intergovernmental Meeting and its preparatory process as a basis for the ensuing discussion.

19. Ms. Krairiksh explained that the background documentation for the Intergovernmental Meeting, which would be based on the results of a survey distributed to ESCAP member States, would serve as a basis for deliberations by

Government delegations. She cited the example of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003–2012, where a survey was distributed both to governments in the region as well as to civil society; the latter in order to garner perspectives of civil society on the implementation of region-specific and international commitments on disability.

20. For the 2015 Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS, the secretariat would follow the procedure established by the 2012 Intergovernmental Meeting in that invitations would be extended to civil society organizations operating at the regional and subregional levels, and would not be limited to only those with ECOSOC accreditation. Ms. Krairiksh highlighted that the chairs of previous intergovernmental meetings had called on civil society representatives to deliver one consolidated CSO statement. The consolidated statement conveyed a unified strong voice on behalf of civil society.

21. Governments would also be encouraged to include civil society representatives as members of their official delegations. Ms. Krairiksh noted that the composition of national delegations had a significant bearing on the success of an intergovernmental meeting.

22. The Consultation discussed the current conservative political climate in relation to issues surrounding sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, and recalled recent experiences during negotiations of the outcome document of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference and the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

23. Participants highlighted the importance of civil society presence during the Intergovernmental Meeting, the role of the chair in ensuring the successes of the Intergovernmental Meeting, and the need to identify potential champions among the delegates nominated to attend the Intergovernmental Meeting.

VII. POTENTIAL AREAS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

24. Mr. Srinivas Tata, Chief, Social Policy and Population Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP, facilitated this session. Mr. Tata provided an update on the status of the ESCAP roadmap to 2015, indicating that 18 countries had completed or were in the process of conducting national reviews and multisectoral consultations on legal and policy barriers to universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

25. Ms. Emilie Pradichit, Human Rights and Advocacy Officer, UNDP APRC, shared her experience as a staff member of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law Secretariat, indicating that national consultations provided examples of how multisectoral dialogues could aid in creating more enabling legal and policy environments. Ms. Pradichit also emphasized the key role of CSOs working together to change social environments and behavioural practices. She noted that many good examples of CSOs working with law enforcement officers existed. For instance, CSOs were sensitizing and training law enforcement officials on critical HIV-related legal

and human rights issues to create safe spaces and enabling environments for key populations.

26. Participants discussed the need to engage and make use of existing subregional platforms, such as ASEAN and SAARC, in the preparatory process for the Intergovernmental Meeting.

27. Participants highlighted the need to involve youth in the Intergovernmental Meeting and its preparatory process, and to explicitly include the needs and roles of young key affected populations in the outcome document of the Intergovernmental Meeting.

28. The Consultation discussed the upcoming report of the High Level Advisory Panel on the AIDS Funding Landscape in Asia Pacific to be launched at the 2014 International AIDS Conference. Initial findings from the Panel indicated that treatment programmes were adequately funded, but funding for prevention and enabling environments was inadequate and decreasing.

29. As a result of the discussion during the session, civil society representatives provided the following suggestions for elements of a regional framework on HIV and AIDS to be considered by Governments at the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS:

- a) Build upon existing commitments and the successes of the ESCAP roadmap endorsed by ESCAP member States in 2012;
- b) Continue focusing on creating enabling legal and policy environments;
- c) Emphasize the need for continued multi-sectoral cooperation;
- d) Ensure value-addition through focusing on the following:
 - community engagement in programme delivery, funding and addressing structural, cultural and social barriers;
 - strengthened domestic financing of HIV responses through innovative financing strategies, including private-public partnerships, etc.;
 - the needs and roles of young key populations;
 - regional accountability mechanisms, such as high level meetings and surveys, to sustain momentum in reporting on progress made in the commitments to HIV and AIDS.
- e) Consider including a call requesting a General Assembly High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS in 2016.

VIII. CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON HIV AND AIDS

30. Ms. Malu Marin facilitated the discussion among the participants representing civil society organizations on the roadmap for civil society engagement in the Intergovernmental Meeting and its preparatory process.

31. Discussion questions for consideration during the session included the following:

- a) Should a separate survey for civil society organizations be developed and disseminated?
- b) Should there be a CSO steering committee established?
- c) Would civil society preparatory meeting(s) be needed?
- d) What criteria should be established for nominating CSOs to participate in the Intergovernmental Meeting as observers?
- e) How will consolidated CSO statements be developed?
- f) Is a separate space needed for community networking during the Intergovernmental Meeting?
- g) How to engage national CSOs for more effective participation in the Intergovernmental Meeting and implementation of the outcomes of the Meeting?
- h) Who would serve as the CSO focal point for communication with the Secretariat?

IX. ROADMAP FOR CSO ENGAGEMENT AT THE ASIA-PACIFIC INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON HIV AND AIDS

32. The session was facilitated by Ms. Nanda Krairiksh, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP. She indicated that the objective of this session was to agree upon a roadmap for CSO engagement at the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS and its preparatory process.

33. On behalf of the civil society representatives, Ms. Malu Marin presented the results of the discussions in the preceding agenda item in the form of a draft roadmap for CSO engagement, which would be divided into three phases: i) establishing the steering committee and identifying the focal point; ii) before the Intergovernmental Meeting; and iii) during the Intergovernmental Meeting.

Phase I: Establishing the steering committee and focal point

34. The CSO Steering Committee would be made up of representatives from the following 16 organizations: Asia Interfaith Network on AIDS (AINA), Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ANPUD), Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA), Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM), Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations (APCASO), Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+), Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW), Asia-Pacific Transgender Organization (APTAN), Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (7 Sisters), Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM Asia), International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), International HIV/AIDS Alliance, International Planned Parenthood Federation South Asia Office (IPPF SAR), Women of Asia Pacific Plus (WAP+), Youth LEAD, Youth Voices Count (YVC).

35. The Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (7 Sisters) would serve as the CSO focal point for communication with the secretariat.
36. A detailed Terms of Reference would be developed for the Steering Committee and the Focal Point to define their roles and responsibilities.
37. A number of working groups would be determined to work on specific tasks.
38. A plan for coordination amongst the different stakeholders would be developed.

Phase II: Before the Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM)

39. A separate survey for civil society organizations would be developed and disseminated.
40. Two face-to-face preparatory meetings of the Steering Committee would be held before the Intergovernmental Meeting, the second of which would be to finalize the consolidated CSO statements to be delivered during the Intergovernmental Meeting. Regular meetings by teleconference or electronically would be held to coordinate the work of the Steering Committee and keep all members updated on developments.
41. A civil society forum would be held back-to-back with the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS, preferably in the United Nations Conference Centre.
42. In order to identify civil society representatives that could participate in the Intergovernmental Meeting, the Steering Committee would review the list of CSO participants from the February 2012 Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS. The tentative criteria for the selection of invitees would include the following: priority for representatives of key affected populations; evidence of significant engagement in the national HIV response; and strong capacity to effectively engage in the intergovernmental process.
43. The consolidated CSO statements to be delivered during the Intergovernmental Meeting would focus on the key priorities of civil society including the following: addressing legal barriers; sustainable and more effective financing of the HIV response; access to treatment; putting communities at the centre of the response; and linkages to the post-2015 development agenda. Moreover, there would be explicit references to overarching issues such as human rights, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE), young people, key affected populations as well as social and cultural barriers.
44. The “Three Zeroes” Community Statement, delivered at the 11th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), as well as evidence-based cases, would be utilized in the formulation of the statements.
45. Advocacy efforts around the consolidated CSO statements would be conducted through the following means: prior email distribution to Intergovernmental Meeting participants, use of social media, working with the

Secretariat to ensure integration of key issues in the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Meeting and working with national delegations to incorporate key issues in country statements.

46. It was suggested that a civil society side-event, as well as a performance for the opening of the Intergovernmental Meeting should be considered, depending on available funding.

47. It was recommended that (i) an analysis be conducted on the positions of country delegations; (ii) champions from Governments in the region who could speak to specific issues of concern be identified; and (iii) the key findings of the national legal reviews and reports on multisectoral consultations on legal and policy barriers to universal access be analyzed.

48. Engagement would be sought with national civil society organizations through the following means: i) developing a guidance document on how national civil society could mobilize support for the Intergovernmental Meeting; ii) gathering national CSO contacts through Steering Committee Members, which would serve as a base for dissemination of information, gathering relevant information and conducting advocacy and mobilization, iii) where possible and subject to availability of resources, ensuring that preparatory processes also take place at the national level.

Phase III: During the Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM)

49. Civil society caucuses and debriefing sessions would be held on a daily basis to keep all stakeholders informed of developments.

50. It was requested that a space reserved for civil society networking be provided during the Intergovernmental Meeting.

51. A social media committee would be established to lead the communication of updates and key messages to the wider civil society.

52. Language on key issues would be proposed for the consideration of national delegates.

53. Advocacy on key issues would be conducted with national delegations, based on analysis conducted prior to the Intergovernmental Meeting.

54. Civil society would prepare for various scenarios to take into account the different possible outcomes of the Intergovernmental Meeting.

55. In the plenary discussion that followed, Ms. Krairiksh proposed that the civil society roadmap for engagement in the Intergovernmental Meeting and its preparatory process be presented at the next meeting of the Ad-Hoc United Nations Regional Interagency Team on AIDS (UN RITA) on Enabling Legal Environments in order to mobilise resources and support from the United Nations system.

56. With regard to the CSO survey, it was recommended that there be alignment with the survey distributed to ESCAP member States in order to ensure comparability. It was also emphasized that the survey should be sent to civil society

organizations at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. Translating the CSO survey into other languages, as appropriate, was considered critical in order to ensure effective community engagement. The ESCAP secretariat indicated that every effort would be made to translate the CSO survey into all the ESCAP working languages (English, Chinese, Russian and French). Participants agreed to provide ESCAP with a list of civil society organizations to receive the CSO survey on HIV and AIDS as soon as possible.

57. It was proposed that the civil society forum be held immediately before the Intergovernmental Meeting on 26 to 27 January 2015. The secretariat offered its support in providing a meeting space at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC).

58. Participants emphasized that efforts must be made to communicate the key messages contained in the consolidated CSO statements in an innovative way so as to ensure continued interest in the HIV and AIDS agenda. In addition, it was noted that further thought had to be given to developing a plan to follow-up on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Meeting with regard for positioning the HIV and AIDS response in Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015.

59. Mr. Steven Kraus, Director, UNAIDS Regional Support Team Asia and the Pacific, commented that the Asia-Pacific region had been hailed as a source of positive change, particularly as member States were becoming more equipped to promote issues, such as sexual rights and enabling legal environments. He stated that the postponement of the Intergovernmental Meeting would allow for more time to not only develop a strong common civil society position rooted in evidence and best practices from across the region, but also to be informed by the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda at the General Assembly. Additionally, Mr. Kraus emphasised the need to go beyond universal health coverage in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals and warned of the dangers of marginalising HIV as a health issue, thereby ignoring critical aspects related to human rights, sexuality, inclusiveness, accountability for resources and participation of the voiceless.

60. Mr. Kraus emphasized that partnerships could be a great asset through building upon the unity of purpose. In that regard, he articulated that the United Nations country offices must work closely with national civil society organizations. Moreover, he reaffirmed that careful preparation needed to be done beforehand in order to ensure sustained and effective engagement of CSOs in the Intergovernmental Meeting and its preparatory process.

61. The session ended with the adoption of the roadmap for CSO engagement.

X. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

62. Closing remarks were delivered by representatives of ESCAP, UNAIDS, UNDP and civil society organisations.

63. Ms. Emilie Pradichit, Human Rights and Advocacy Officer, UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, remarked upon the cohesiveness and strong commitment shown by civil society organizations in the HIV and AIDS response in the Asia-

Pacific region. She articulated her hope that the CSO roadmap would be implemented effectively and could, thus, be used as a best practice to inspire other regions.

64. Ms. Malu Marin, Regional Coordinator, Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/ AIDS (7 Sisters) stated that it was critical to ensure representation of all voices in the community – especially young people, who would be relied upon to carry the process forward for future generations. She expressed her deep appreciation to ESCAP and the United Nations system for the opportunity and space provided to civil society to be engaged in this process.

65. Mr. Steven Kraus, Director, UNAIDS Regional Support Team Asia and the Pacific, highlighted the need to remain united in order to ensure the success of the Intergovernmental Meeting and to continue to promote the region as an example of positive change to enhance the effectiveness of HIV and AIDS responses. He drew attention to the need to identify innovative financing sources, including the consideration of new development partners from within the region. Mr. Kraus also noted that it was important not to overlook issues of social exclusion as well as institutional barriers in ensuring effective civil society engagement in the HIV and AIDS response.

66. Ms. Nanda Krairiksh, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP recalled the many past experiences whereby civil society had provided strong leadership, strategic thinking and clear direction in ensuring excellent intergovernmental outcomes. Ms. Krairiksh observed that the success of a meeting could be measured by assessing whether the outcomes had been useful to CSOs as the representatives of the affected communities. Therefore, she hoped that the precedent set by ESCAP for meaningful engagement with civil society would continue. Ms. Krairiksh stated that, through the joint efforts of the United Nations system, civil society and other partners, she was confident that the forthcoming Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS would be a success. She concluded by thanking all the participants for their active engagement in the Consultation, and expressed her appreciation to UNAIDS and UNDP as well as the ESCAP team for the effective cooperation and support extended to ensure the successful conclusion of the Consultation.

ANNEX I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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