

Expert Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Outcome of 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

11 December 2013
Bangkok

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region adopted a regional framework for action on HIV and AIDS¹ at the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals, held from 6 to 8 February 2012 in Bangkok. The regional framework for action, or “ESCAP roadmap to 2015”, was designed to support the Asia-Pacific region in the implementation of international and regional commitments on HIV and AIDS, namely the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and ESCAP resolutions 66/10 and 67/9.

The ESCAP roadmap includes the conduct of national reviews and multi-stakeholder consultations on legal and policy barriers to catalyze progress towards the elimination of HIV-related stigma, discrimination and violence, in particular with regard to key populations at higher risk of HIV infection, by 2015, as contained in the Declaration and commitments made under ESCAP resolutions 66/10 and 67/9.

As the Declaration mandates the regional commissions to conduct periodic inclusive reviews of national efforts and progress to combat HIV, the ESCAP roadmap also includes an inclusive regional intergovernmental review meeting on national efforts and progress to address the HIV epidemic to be convened by ESCAP from 22 to 24 September 2014 in cooperation with UNAIDS and other relevant United Nations entities. The intergovernmental review meeting would provide ESCAP members

¹ Available from: <http://www.unescap.org/sdd/publications/hivreport/mtgreport.pdf>.

and associate members, inter alia, with the opportunity to assess the outcomes of the national review of policy and legal barriers to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

Objectives

The objectives of the Expert Group Meeting are to take stock of the current status of the implementation of the ESCAP Roadmap to 2015, and to discuss status of other relevant region-specific and international processes affecting the delivery on HIV-related commitments, including the Eleventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific and the discussions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Experts and stakeholders will discuss the proposed focus areas of the inclusive regional intergovernmental meeting on national efforts and progress to address the HIV epidemic, the expected outcomes of the Meeting and consider entry points for civil society participation in the Meeting and its preparatory process.

Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of the meeting include the following:

- An increased awareness among stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region of the implementation of the Outcome of 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, including the key legal and policy barriers to universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support;
- A draft strategy for the organization of the 2014 inclusive regional intergovernmental meeting on national efforts and progress to address the HIV epidemic and its preparatory process.

Organization and participation

The meeting is being organized by ESCAP in cooperation with UNAIDS and UNDP, on 11 December 2013 from 9:30 to 16:30 in the Beta Room at the Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel.

Additional information regarding the Meeting can be accessed from <http://www.unescapsdd.org/events/egm-escap-roadmap> as it becomes available.