



PAN CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP



AGAINST HIV & AIDS

**RELAUNCHING THE PANCAP  
CHAMPION FOR CHANGE  
INITIATIVE:  
Contributing to the end of AIDS**

**12 – 13 September 2017  
Caribbean Community Secretariat  
Georgetown, Guyana**

**CONCEPT NOTE**



## CONCEPT NOTE

### **CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE: ENDING AIDS BY 2030**

#### **I. Context**

The Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) proposes to relaunch its Champions for Change Initiative inaugurated in 2004 but which has been in abeyance since 2008. This event will take the form of a Forum comprising of a cross section of partners around the theme **Champions for change: ending AIDS by 2030**. The Forum will be held at the Caribbean Community Secretariat Guyana on **13 and 14 July 2017**

The objectives of the Forum are to:

- Establish the criteria for designating Champions for Change, their mandates and catalytic roles for fast tracking the end of AIDS;
- Align the expected contributions of the Champions for Change with international and regional commitments. These include the UN High Level Meeting Political Declaration (June 2016); the Caribbean Cooperation in Health IV (2016) and the PANCAP Justice for All roadmap (2015/2016) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;
- Assess the impact of new programme directions for overcoming barriers to ending ends identified by major international and collaborating agencies, especially PEPFAR, GFATM and The United Nations Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS).

- Take into consideration the recommendations from the recent PANCAP consultations of **Faith Leaders** (February 2017), **National AIDS Programme Managers and Key Partners** (March 2017), **Youth** (April 2017), **Parliamentarians** (May 2017), and other related Fora such as the **Caribbean First Ladies/Spouses** (February 2017) championing the Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child Commitment.

## II. Background

Caribbean Countries are among the 193 Nations that committed to achieving the most ambitious UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 3, *Ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages* and Goal 16: *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*.

There have been significant global gains in response to AIDS since the original Champions for Change initiative in 2004. These have been achieved by the activism of people living with and affected by HIV, rapid and sustained scale up of HIV treatment, reducing deaths by 45%, reversing declines in life expectancy and prospects of eliminating mother to child transmission of HIV. According to a recent Report of the Global Review Panel on the Future of the UNAIDS Joint Programme Model (May 2017), “these gains have been propelled by the coalition of civil society, governments, researchers, scientists, the private sector and development partners which have demonstrated the importance of multi-stakeholder and multi sectoral approaches to deliver health services and bring about greater social justice”. These multi-sectoral/ multi- stakeholder approaches provide useful models for the revamping the Champions for Change Initiative, fully recognizing that AIDS is not over.

## **The situation in the Caribbean**

In the Caribbean there were 285,900 people living with HIV in 2015, a **decline** from 333,400 in 2010 and 450,000 in 2005. However, 87% of PLHIV live in just **4 countries** in the Caribbean: Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Cuba. There is also a variation in coverage with Cuba having the highest at 69% and the Jamaica, the lowest at 32%. Most countries have committed to 'test and treat' using the new WHO guidelines and the UNAIDS 90-90-90 Targets. While the Caribbean is on track to be the first region in the world to eliminate MTCT- Cuba, being the first country in the world to do so—there has been an increase in new HIV infections in Caribbean by 9% 2010-2015 (UNAIDS GAP Report July 2016) with the main drivers being Cuba and Jamaica.

Many Caribbean countries still criminalise same sex relations and in those countries key populations such as men who have sex with men, sex workers and transgender persons are subjected to pervasive stigma, discrimination and violence.

The Champion for Change Initiative (2004) convened in St. Kitts and Nevis brought together multi-stakeholders including parliamentarians, faith leaders, youth, private sector representatives, international partners and PLHIV. It focused mainly on eliminating stigma and discrimination. Follow up stakeholder engagements among FBOs (2005), and Media workers (2006) promised accelerated change. However a Stigma and Discrimination Unit recommended in the Declaration of the Champions for Change consultation 2004 and located in an NGO failed to deliver the information and analysis on which to build an advocacy platform for the Champions. The Forum is expected to examine the reasons for the hiatus and discuss the justification for relaunching the Champions for Change Initiative.

### **III. Feasibility for Relaunching the Champion for Change Model**

Several reasons may be advanced for a revival the Champions for Change Initiative and its feasibility revolving around several considerations.

First, the Forum will need to examine the main outcomes and challenges of the 2004 initiative and attempts to establish policies and programmes designed to eliminate stigma and discrimination. These include:

- **Champions for Change Process: Tackling Stigma and Discrimination in the Caribbean Region PANCAP May 2005: reducing Stigma and Discrimination**, edited by Volderine Hackett, CARICOM/PANCAP and DFID 2005
- Report: Champions for Change II. Faith Based Organisations, PANCAP Coordinating Unit, 2005.
- Report: Champions for Change III. Plan of Action, Role of media, PANCAP Coordinating Unit, 2005.
- **The Declaration of Commitment to reduce against people living with HIV and AIDS on the occasion of the CARICOM/UK Conference Reduce Stigma and Discrimination Against People Living with HIV and AIDS**, 22-24 November 2004 22-24 November 2004, St Kitts and Nevis.
- Dr George Alleyne and Prof. Rose Marie Belle Antoine ed. **Legal and Policy Perspectives on HIV and Human Rights in the Caribbean**, UNAIDS, 2013
- The Justice for All Roadmap modified on the recommendations of the Council for Human and Social Development (September 2014).

Second, review the decisions from regional consultations and policies to establish their relevance to facilitating Champions for Change. Among them are:

- PANCAP (2011): Model Stigma and Discrimination Policy and Anti-Discrimination Legislation designed to reduce and eliminate AIDS related stigma and discrimination approved by the CARICOM Legal Affairs Committee comprising Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General.
- PANCAP (2017): Major priorities for action resulting from PANCAP (2017) Stakeholders' consultations-- Faith Leaders, Youth, National AIDS Managers, and Parliamentarians.

- Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC) 2014-2016: Baseline studies on HIV responses to Key populations: (a) gay men, transgender persons MSM and persons who use drugs in Haiti, Guyana and Suriname and (b) Socially excluded youth in Trinidad, Jamaica and Dominican Republic.

Third, it is necessary to examine possibilities for institutional strengthening and partnerships to facilitate the sustainability of a revamped Champion for Change Initiative. These are highlighted in:

- PANCAP's Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS 2014-2018 (CRSF) with priorities for prevention, treatment and sustainable financing.
- The delivery of the relevant elements of the CRSF in collaboration between/among PANCAP and major implementation and partners, in particular, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) on the science of health, HIV and development; The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on children's health and rights; The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on sexual and reproductive health and rights especially of women, girls and adolescents, the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition on the human rights of key populations and UNDP in collaboration with the Faculty of Law The University of the West Indies Rights Advocacy Project (U-RAP), among the major reference points on intersection of governance and human rights
- The financial and technical resources required, reducing the dependency on external sources through shared responsibility

#### **IV. Expected Results for establishing and sustaining Champions for Change system**

The **Forum** will pay special attention to the following expected outcomes:

- Develop general characteristics and attributes for champions and recommend the period of service.
- Identify the major areas, programmes and related goals to be championed.
- Establish targets and timelines for achieving set goals.
- Agree on mechanisms for supporting Champions to deliver on targets, timelines and goals.

