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**XVII International AIDS Conference  
AIDS Ambassadors  
August 7, 2008**

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**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** -this session, the session you have read about in the program, and that is why you have come, I believe. It is the session of the AIDS Ambassadors. And you will see a number of AIDS Ambassadors here at the table. My name is Lennarth Hjelmaker. I am the Swedish AIDS Ambassador, I am not going to say much more about that, because the session is about what an AIDS Ambassador is, so I will at the beginning only introduce my colleagues here at the table. And then we have asked a couple of friends to provide their views briefly about what they expect about an AIDS Ambassador.

And the first one of the those friends, Asia Russell [misspelled?] from the Health Care Global Access Project will have to leave because she is sharing another session within a few minutes, so we will be very quick in the beginning here. But I would like to introduce first Sigrun Mogedal from Norway, my Norwegian colleague. And then we have from France, Louis-Charles Viossat. And then we have from Australia, Murray Proctor. And we have from the Netherlands, Paul Bekkers. I do not know if we have our Spanish colleague in the room. If are in the room I would like you to come also up here to the table. We will come back later on that.

So, you really take advantage of Asia, I will give you the floor right now. We did this to be a little bit more lively discussion. What do you expect? We want you also to

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very much engage in this debate, but Asia will start to say what she expects from an AIDS Ambassador. Please.

**ASIA RUSSELL:** Thank you very much, Lennarth. And thanks everyone for joining this important session today. I want to apologize in advance that I will have to leave literally in just three minutes. My name is Asia Russell. I work with an AIDS organization called Health Gap. I am also the developed country board member representing the developed country NGOs to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which as you might know, has three board delegation seats assigned to civil society. One from developed country NGOs, one from developing country NGOs, and a third from communities living with and/or affected by HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria.

So, I was asked by Lennarth to give a few opening comments very briefly on what from civil society one impression is about the role of an AIDS Ambassador, and the value that an AIDS Ambassador can bring to the fight against HIV. So, first I think it is important to mention that the existence of these kinds of public leadership roles in the middle of a political context where several donor countries are signaling that they are decreasing their commitment to disease specific investments, or potentially stepping back or stepping away from those investments, I think that is one reason why it is quite important that we collaborate and align with entities like AIDS

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Ambassadors. It is a way in which politically donor governments can interact with civil society and at the same time, it is a way that politically, internally, the commitment and the prioritization of any particular donor government can include and maintain a commitment to priority diseases, in particular, HIV.

So, there is an advocacy role that is not just external, that we would like to see from AIDS Ambassadors, but also one that is inward looking and that ensures that HIV remains high on the agenda of key donors.

I think second it is important that we would like to see from civil society some level of coherence because of course HIV is not just a disease that relates to the health sector, but something that spills over into trade, into other aspects of development, into human rights. So, perhaps there is a way in which, and maybe there is a case study or two that the AIDS Ambassadors can provide where they were able to play a role in flagging how a country's policy around HIV was somehow out of step with its policies around trade and access to medicines for example, or human rights. And it would be very interesting to hear more about what the challenges were in trying to bring some policy coherence across multiple sectors while still maintaining a diplomatic role and position. I think it is also important and obvious to mention that we rely as civil society on AIDS Ambassadors as somehow openings to

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other political figures and other decision makers and brokers of power. They are people we see and relate to in various environments, and we need to maintain and strengthen our own collaboration and engagement with all of them.

One danger that I think it is important to relate that we have experienced in the US for example, is how assigning an AIDS Ambassador can somehow be a proxy for commitment or at the same time an AIDS Ambassador might experience some marginalization in his or her own government. So, I think it would be interesting to hear frank comments about that.

Many years ago, some people in the audience might remember this; the US first developed something called an AIDS czar, that is what we informally called it. It was a domestic kind of point person on the HIV, and while symbolically it appeared to be quite a great sort of label, when you got right down to it, that was a person who did not have the resources, the political support in order to actually get critical things done. So, I think it would be important to hear how do you avoid that? How you avoid some of the possibilities of marginalization, even while these tremendous sort of titles like AIDS Ambassador get assigned to very competent individuals. We want to ensure that AIDS Ambassadors do not end up being somehow symbols of commitment and accountability rather than the actual work that we almost do together.

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Looking forward finally, and again I apologize, I really do have to leave, but looking forward to the future, I think a challenge to put on the table is how in the shifting terrain of aid financing that little by little seems to exclude disease specific investments we work together to ensure that HIV and the exceptional response that it requires stays firmly on the agenda. I think second, it is important looking to the future to hear from AIDS Ambassadors. One challenge we are facing in civil society is how to support the mobilization of independent, vibrant, developing country led voices that can stimulate increased and high quality expressions of demand to global health initiatives, like the Global Fund, like PEPFAR, like GAVI [misspelled?]. Right now we have a lot of resources, not as much as we need, but a lot more than we had, but the demand from countries is often still very timid, and I think that civil society is a bit of a missing link. These are the voices that can insist on ambition, and bold requests for funding from country governments. So, in what way are AIDS Ambassadors in your country work relating to this need? And relating to the fact that that capacity is not fully realized, not invested in enough, and not fully supported? Thank you so much for your attention.

[Applause]

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you, Asia, and I am really sorry you have to leave, because I am sure otherwise you would

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have followed up on several of your remarks. But this was very helpful for our debate, and thank you also for adding on in your own presentation there, and you are playing a very important role in many forums, including the Global Fund Board.

I do not know if Sodiet Aral [misspelled?] from India has arrived yet into the room? If that is not the case, I will give the floor to Sodiet Aral when she arrives. And instead very soon give the floor to the first one of my colleagues. In many of these sessions you hear from the chair, how the chair is presenting the others at the panel, and reading from long descriptions. I am not going to do that today. But I instead want my colleague briefly in the opening of their remarks to say a few words about their background and where they are placed in the system so to say, and how they became AIDS Ambassadors. I believe it is better to have that from them directly.

And now when Asia has spoken and she had to rush away as you could see, I will only take two minutes to introduce myself again, Lennarth Hjelmaker from Sweden, and I have been an AIDS Ambassador since 2003, for five years. And when I was appointed, that was because the Swedish government at that time decided to do much more on AIDS in our development work, in our international work. And we decided to do that through our existing channels, to do that through multilateral work, to do that through multilateral work, and to do that in cooperation

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with civil society. Faith based organizations, civil society organizations, business, and many others. And then also the government felt that since we did not establish a new structure for doing this AIDS work, they still wanted somebody to take an extra look at the work, and that is the reason why the government established a post as an AIDS Ambassador and I was appointed this Ambassador. So, that is for five years. Many times when I describe myself I am doing that as an activist, lobbyist, but also a coordinator. So, I try to play different roles in the Swedish system, but you will hear more from colleagues about how they view their roles in the system.

To work with different people, and I am going to say this at the very beginning, and I will stop after that, but not to forget it, this morning I went to the global village to meet a group of young people, to meet youth, and I believe we all agree on the importance of young people in the fight. And when we were sitting there discussing with the young people, I committed to work for and you can see that, I have that here on my jacket, I commit to youth. I commit the work for that includes young people, even more in the Swedish policy on HIV and AIDS in our international work, but also to work for that young people will be even better represented at the next AIDS conference. So, the organizers of the conference will hear from me as opposed to from any others on that, but to be really part of the planning, implementation, and follow up. And I

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believe that is one role we can play as AIDS Ambassadors, to commit to work for things like that. So, I have committed to the young people, and I believe you will hear about more commitments.

If there is still no Sodiet Aral in the room, I would like to give the floor to the first colleague, and that would be Paul Bekkers from Holland, from the Netherlands. And Paul, to present your view on the title today.

**PAUL BEKKERS:** Thank you very much, Lennarth. So, you want me to introduce myself also and then give comments? Good. Well, my name is Paul Bekkers. I am the AIDS Ambassador to the Netherlands since three years. And a question of Lennarth, how are you positioned in the structure of your government? I am not a full time AIDS Ambassador. I am also a Director for the department that deals amongst others with health. This involvement being that you cannot spend all the time that you wish to spend on specifically HIV and AIDS. The added value though is that you are well integrated into the ministry of foreign affairs and development corporation, which is one in our system. Another big added value is that I can rely on the enormous capacity of the enormous good stuff that we have in the Ministry, some of them are present here. And they are automatically not only supporting the Director, but automatically supporting the AIDS Ambassador. And that is why I can do the work that I am doing.

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Good. By my views on the AIDS Ambassador, what is an AIDS Ambassador? What should he or she do? Talking about she, one of the things that we might want to change in the future is looking at more of a gender balance. You see here five people, five AIDS Ambassadors; one of them is a woman. I must say that one woman does have the analytical capacity that is pretty much the equivalent of the sum of the rest of us. No offense, gentlemen. But I think in general we should also look more, if we start having more AIDS Ambassadors, which I think the world should do, we should also be aware of the gender balance. But having an AIDS Ambassador, if a government decides to have an AIDS Ambassador, the government makes a statement that it thinks it is a priority. It is more of a priority than other issues. In the Netherlands we have two issues. We have two specific issues we have an Ambassador for, human rights and HIV/AIDS, and what the government is saying is that it believes they are fundamental issues. HIV/AIDS is fundamental to our development processes, and that is why it nominates an AIDS Ambassador. But it is also an acknowledgement of the nature, the complex nature of HIV/AIDS.

That is the new AIDS Ambassador of Spain. Started 10 days ago. But it is also an acknowledgement of the complex nature of HIV/AIDS, the fact that it affects many other areas, development corporation, that is working on the G6 has a direct affect on the other NDGs. And that is also the challenge for

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us AIDS Ambassadors, that we are positioned to build a bridge between these two areas. It was also mentioned by Asia, HIV/AIDS is not limited to health. It deals with, she was mentioning, trade issues, access to medicine, I would add security aspects of societies, economic aspects, et cetera, et cetera. And I think we are well positioned to also stress the exceptionality of the AIDS response on one hand, but at the same time try to create effective linkages to that broader development agenda.

And a third aspect that I would like to mention here is that having an AIDS Ambassador, you want us to reach out to others, to build bridges, with civil society, faith based organizations, corporate life, create partnerships, be instrumental in that, unify them in that important struggle to fight HIV/AIDS.

Now coming back to what Asia said, I think AIDS Ambassadors have that unique position of combining activism and political leadership. We can combine that wonderful world of AIDS activism that we also see here in this conference with the political level. Let me elaborate a little bit on both issues, activism and political leadership. Activism should make a difference between the domestic and the international responsibility. I think domestically we have to make sure that AIDS does not slip off the agenda, the political agenda in our own countries. And we have to sensitize others on the broad

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implication of HIV/AIDS. That is part of our responsibility at home. And internationally, we have to make sure that countries stick to their commitments. For instance, on universal access. We have to tell the G8 to walk the talk. To stick to their commitments. But we also have to be willing to talk to the Vatican. We have to be vocal on issues. Show courage. Discuss sensitive issues. Talk about drug use, homophobia, moral issues, gender violence. Asia was mentioning the word advocate. I think we should be advocates. We should be advocates for the [inaudible] principle. And to promote youth participation. Put issues on the agenda, that is our role as activists, domestically and internationally.

And then the political leadership, also two layers. Yes, we represent political leadership. We represent the ministers, our government. Also domestically and internationally within the UN, the EU, bilaterally, and sometimes I want to comment to what Asia was saying as a risk of being a proxy I think it is there. I do not think we can be marginalized too much, but yes there is a possibility, a risk that government thinks ah, we have an AIDS Ambassador. He or she deals with that. No concern. I do not have to deal with it as a Minister. That risk is there. But if you are a politician, if you are smart, you may also use this AIDS Ambassador to convey messages that you think are too difficult to convey yourself. They are too sensitive for you as a

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politician to say, but you have your AIDS Ambassador that you can make that say. That is not a proxy. I think that is making good use of your Ambassador.

But aside from representing political leadership, also I think you implement it. We are part of it. We are the embodiment of the political leadership. How? By having the expertise, by having the overview of the broader issues, also the development issues, by being politically savvy, be aware of the risks, and I think it is important to stress by using the right of initiative. Because that is what we as AIDS Ambassadors have. We can explore new avenues. We can go beyond the traditional path. Dare to address other leaderships on sensitive issues. Dare to pressure. Dare to pressure for involvement of civil society. Youth participation.

But also challenge old habits and convictions of the AIDS community. Let me mention two. When the Vatican is condemned because of its condom policy, the AIDS community should not at the same time ignore the tremendous worth, value of Catholic organizations on the ground. And we have to stress this, we have to convey that to the AIDS community. When we are talking about PEPFAR, the US is condemned for, I am talking PEPFAR 1, for the fact that the abstinence only policy. I think it is our duty to also show that 93 percent of the money is not going towards abstinence only, and stress the tremendous contribution of the US, and it is still the biggest

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contribution, distributor of condoms. So, also I think that is a responsibility of the AIDS Ambassador.

So, to kind of summarize, I think the unique role we have, responsibilities combining the HIV/AIDS with the broader development issues, and the activism and political leadership. Let me just give one example. Universal access. That is what we all have to talk about. That is what we are committed to. Now what should we do as AIDS Ambassadors? First of all, domestically, make sure our government remains committed, our government remains committed to universal access. Internationally, hold other governments accountable. Let them stick to their commitments. Tell the international agencies, be it WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, to stick to the recommendations from the global task team. Do what they are supposed to do. Not more, but do that well. And we have to make sure that is happening. Make sure that universal access does not get diffused and buried on the other issues such as the discussion on national [inaudible] plan and the international health partnership. Make sure civil society and key populations are sufficiently represented and involved in the process of universal access. And last but not least, be a guardian of a [inaudible] principle. That is as far as universal access is concerned, I think the responsibility of all of us. Let me end here then, Lennarth. Thank you.

[Applause]

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**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you, Paul. Thank you very much. And I am sure we will come back to many of the questions you addressed, both the content of what we are trying to do, the complexity about the pandemic, the need to address all the complex matters, but also the different way we can do that. I would also like to welcome our new Spanish colleague that arrived and is sitting next to Paul up there. Fidel Lopez Alvarez [misspelled?], and you are most welcome to us.

It is very difficult to see, so if Sodiet Aral has arrived in the room I hope she will come up here. If not, we will continue with our list of speakers up here. And what we will do now is we will listen to one more of the AIDS Ambassadors, and then we will open up for questions from you, from the floor, before we continue. We will not wait with the questions till the end. We want them to feed into the discussion here. But the second colleague is from France, Louis-Charles Viossat. And I am glad to give you the floor.

**LOUIS-CHARLES VIOSSAT:** Thank you. Good morning. So, I am Louis-Charles Viossat, the French HIV/AIDS and communicable disease Ambassador. I am the third HIV/AIDS and communicable disease Ambassador for France since 2003. And I have been appointed around 18 months ago. I belong to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, but I have a mission letter from the Minister and Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance which gives me a clear but often

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challenging role of supervision and coordination of the different administrations in charge of HIV/AIDS and communicable disease international policy.

Well, as Paul spoke very well and as I share a lot of his comments, all of his comments actually. I will be much shorter, but just let me make some comments.

I think we have a challenging and fascinating mission that is not well known actually beyond the arena of global health. And I thank the IAS conference and Lennarth actually to have organized such a session. When I explain to friends and family members and others that I am an ambassador, they ask me at once, but where, where are you based, and when I respond nowhere or everywhere in the world, I am based in Paris, and I am in charge of the fight against the pandemics, I see in the eyes of my friends or colleagues either surprise, or amazement, and sometimes and certainly often profound interrogation and sometimes pity. And then comes the moment when I must respond to the question, but what is your mission then if you are an ambassador based in Paris? And so I try to explain that I have let us say three key aspects of my job, first to represent my country everywhere in international conferences such as here or in the 190-something member states, and also in international organization and convey its political message, and also to negotiate on its behalf as needed. Second aspect of my mission is to as my colleagues here, being a board member of key

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international organizations such as the Global Fund, and France is the first donor country in Europe of the Global Fund. Unit Aid [misspelled?], Rollback Malaria, UNAIDS. And third, act as a gateway and a support for French foundations, public players such as Este [misspelled?] or [inaudible], and NGOs also, and private sector for their international activities.

So, this is as you see, a very original and as Paul said, a unique position. Indeed within the diplomatic world because I am not normal, let us say, and mainstream diplomats. I speak for myself. But we are also, I am, I hope, a real diplomat, and a member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and using the diplomatic tools and means.

We are also at the crossroads of many worlds with very different cultures. Scientific and medical world and experts, the philanthropic arena, which is rapidly growing, NGOs, the bilateral diplomacy but also the multiterritorial diplomacy which is quite different. And so we are at the crossroads of different environments also, and as Paul said, the human rights, global health, so that is very fascinating actually, but also a challenging mission.

So, I will try to touch up on some items mentioned by Asia. I will try not to repeat what Paul said. Yes, our duty is to interact with civil society and I think that we, among diplomats we are one of the most interactive diplomats within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At least I speak for my

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country. But it is true that we must increase the interaction with civil society, which is always an asset even though it is sometimes challenging. Asia mentioned as a potential danger of proxy for disengagement as far as I remember, the appointment of AIDS Ambassador. And I do not think so.

On the contrary, as Lennarth said, France created, and other countries quite often created our position at the same moment as they invested much more in global health and HIV/AIDS. So, I think mainly the position of HIV/AIDS Ambassador is an asset and is a way of mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and communicable disease commitment of our country, my country, that is true, domestically as Paul said. We have a role, yes, of activism within the administration and also mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS and global health policy. And we are also I think a good, we have a key role for keeping the commitment of political leaders towards HIV/AIDS and communicable disease policy. And externally yes, we have an important role of advocacy which should be developed, and I think that working as a network, that is what we do. But that is certainly what we need to do more, even more. Acting as a network, expressing also ourselves as a network is needed. And we have yes, a very important role for international advocacy.

Well, I think I will stop here and open the floor.

[Applause]

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**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** At this stage, and we really want this to be an interactive session, we will open up for questions from the floor. There are a number of microphones in the room. You will see them, so if you please, walk up to a microphone, identify yourself, and ask your question. And following a number of questions, I will let the next two Ambassadors start to comment, so this will also feed into the continued presentations here from the podium. But the first question, I see at three, there. Yeah?

**TOM CUNNIN:** I am Tom Cunnin [misspelled?]. I am Director of the Dutch AIDS Fund, and I think in the Netherlands we are blessed with a very good AIDS Ambassador, and we have actually experienced the great advantage of having the Dutch AIDS Ambassador really promote the AIDS issue within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to have a very good international role and the relationship with civil society has been strengthened enormously.

Nevertheless, I would like to raise an issue on we are talking about the role of the AIDS Ambassador in the international scene. When I look at the Dutch situation, we see that the HIV situation within the country is actually worsening. And I see that there is hardly a role for the AIDS Ambassador there. And it might actually come to a situation where for example, if the Netherlands is a big advocate for attention for key populations; for example, if we take the sex

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worker issue, internationally we have quite a liberal policy on that, but on the other hand we see what is going on at the moment in the Netherlands on the national level regarding sex work, it is actually a very negative kind of policy, a very conservative policy, and there seems to be a disconnect there. And I think the question would be, should the AIDS Ambassadors also play a major role within their national policies?

[Applause]

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you for the question. I believe all of us would like to address that one, but it will be two of us later on. But we will take five questions first. Yes?

**JAVIER RODIGI:** My name is Javier Rodigi [misspelled?]. I am with Active Paris, and I sit on the board of Unit Aid alongside the French AIDS Ambassador, Louis-Charles Viossat. First thing I would like to provide my support to the previous statement that one of the things that we expect, one of the challenges probably of the AIDS Ambassador positions is to also reconcile the nice positions that it is easy for a European government to take about how developing countries should deal with their minorities and how they should reduce the discrimination and oppressive policies, and reconcile that with the fact that in Europe, in Sweden for example, there is a policy on managing the risk of transmission of people with HIV which is one of the hardest in the world. In France there has

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been regression also on for example, drug use or sex workers in the past few years.

And we also feel that it is one of the challenges of your job, of managing to get heard about the need to reconcile those statements with the way we do things in our countries. I would like to say also that we felt we were rather dubious about in Active Paris about the value of the AIDS Ambassador position to begin with. We were feeling it was mostly a public relations position. Somebody whose job is to go to those conferences and say that for instance, we are doing everything right. But we have come to appreciate the value of this position because it does create both relationships and paths of communication that would not exist otherwise and that did not exist before. And also it does increase the level of consistency of the public response.

So, that is our experience of this position's existence. And my question to you is one of the key problems that we have in values of the countries, not to point at seven countries, but the other countries, one of the problems that AIDS activists have is that the commitments that have been made by leaders in terms of funding the global AIDS fight are not kept, and there is a hiatus. And what does that say about the level of decision making and reporting at which the AIDS Ambassador position ought to be set? Should the AIDS Ambassador, like I think is almost the case in the US, should

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they be set at the level of the leader? Should he be reporting directly to the leader, as opposed to having maybe one or two rounds between you and the leader? Thank you.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. And I see too, here, but I also later down there at Microphone Number 1, so we shift to Number 1, please.

**SONYA REEDSMITH:** Thank you very much. My name is Sonya Reedsmitth [misspelled?] from Third World Network in Malaysia. I was encouraged to hear from you that AIDS Ambassadors are appointed because your governments believe in the importance of it. You want to make it a priority, give political leadership, and ensure universal access. So, my first question is to Norway. As part of the European Free Trade Association, what are you doing to stop the European Free Trade Association from requiring data exclusivity which is a monopoly of five years, even when there is no patent on the medicine, and patent term extensions, which means the patent goes for longer than 20 years before you can get the generic medicine when the EFTA is negotiating free trade agreements with developing countries?

Similarly, to the four EU AIDS Ambassadors, what are you all doing to ensure that the European Commission no longer demands that developing countries sign treaties and do regional patents that will mean that more antiretrovirals are patented, requiring them to do patent term extensions beyond the 20 years

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of monopoly, requiring them to give monopolies even for 10 years, even when there is no patent by data exclusivity, requiring them to do linkage which stops compulsory licensing, trying to undermine parallel importation, and going for stronger enforcement measures which will make it harder for organizations like [inaudible] to ensure that generics can get to least developed countries because they cannot transship them anymore through transport hubs? And even for least developed countries, you are requiring the same provisions with just a bit of a longer time to implement them.

As you know, there have been expressions of concern about these trips plus provisions from the UN Special Repertoire on the right to health, various UN committees on the rights of the child, and economic, social, and cultural rights, the World Health Assembly, even the European Union Parliament has told the European Commission not to negotiate these provisions, and yet the European Commission is still demanding this from about 120 developing countries in free trade agreement negotiations currently going on. And even if there is no intellectual property chapter, a study that the European Union Commission themselves found that even a goods and services free trade agreement would harm health and poverty because of the lower tariff revenue for governments to spend on health, and because the lower tariffs would increase unemployment so people have less to spend on health care.

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So, could you please tell us what you are doing to ensure that these provisions will no longer be in free trade agreements with developing countries? Thank you.

[Applause]

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. And we will take two more questions and then we will continue from the podium. Microphone Number 3.

**NIARA ZAI:** Thank you. My name is Niara Zai [misspelled?]. I am Zimbabwean, and the General Secretary of the World YWCA based in Geneva. First to thank you for being available to meet with us during the conference. We had an opportunity to meet with the Ambassador of Norway and Australia and we hope it is a method which you continue to be privately available to as many groups as possible so that there is quality time of exchanging of views and getting advice and information.

Secondly, to also thank you for the emphasis that you are placing on issues of women and young people. We therefore welcome you as a network to work closely with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS as a substantive partner to follow through on some of the issues that have come out in this discussion, especially on gender based violence and how prevention of violence against women is prevention of HIV and AIDS. And also to support the efforts of the Women Won't Wait campaign which is a global civil society effort by and

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forecasting on issues of women's human rights, violence against women, and HIV and AIDS is also a movement which can enhance your messages, but also bring the collective energy of your political position and the grassroots voice recommendations with regards to the substantive issues. We really are looking forward to your collective voice to talk about the issues of HIV and AIDS and vulnerability especially of women and girls in situations of crisis and conflict.

Currently, we do not have a comprehensive model of what is an approach which can work in crisis countries, and especially in conflict countries where even access for basic services for food might be difficult and how therefore, can we make accessible ARVs, information, and we know that women and girls are vulnerable to sexual violence including from peacekeepers, so the whole issue of vulnerability in crisis and conflict situations, we are looking forward to your collective voice to say no to violence and no to wars, and no to impunity, as part of a global voice to saying yes to prevention, and yes to a life with dignity, and yes to possibility for many other people.

My second recommendation is on financing. We have heard severally a discussion around financing and we know that your voice would be a strategic voice in Doha when the world needs to look at financing development. Could you bring a conversation around financing HIV and AIDS in the context of

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development financing and how financing HIV and AIDS is to be accessible, flexible, and with impact to communities, and in a way that strengthens national and community based organizations, which are the instance of sustainability within their own nations, of course in global partnership, and in solidarity with the international networks. We would really recommend a strong message at the Doha meeting. And again, when you meet in Akra [misspelled?] on looking at the whole Paris principles on coordination and harmonization, efficiency and reducing of transaction costs should not be at the expense of suffocating local initiatives, because there is a very clear energy of suffocation of local initiatives in the name of harmonization, efficiency, and reduction of financial transaction cost. Thank you very much.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you very much. [Applause] And thank you for bring up very important questions. And you can see we all take a lot of notes up here. Still if you can be a little bit shorter and then come to the questions quicker, but very important issues being brought up. The last question before we come back here.

**ADO POLOPUS:** I will be very short. I am Ado Polopus [misspelled?] from the Netherlands, work for Stop AIDS Now. And I am personally living with HIV. I would like to thank the contribution from the mike from Number 1 which makes my question much easier. And I see above your heads Universal

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Action Now. From the perspective of a person living with HIV, the movement of people living with HIV fighting for access for treatment, would it be possible to address the issue of the property rights, the trips issue? What could you individually and collectively you Ambassadors from committed governments, to change this current situation? Thank you.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you, for a very straightforward question. [Applause] Before giving the floor, because I will ask my Australian colleague to start and talk about his role, but also to try to pick up on questions that have been raised now. And then I will ask Sigrun Mogedal from Norway to continue, and we did not have time to talk first, Fidel, you just took office. But if you are prepared also after that to say a few words, you are most welcome.

One of the issues that was raised about women and violence, we all know about that. How women and young girls are being affected. And if I shall take advantage of sitting here as the chair, I could welcome you all to this very room at 6:30 tonight and you will see a movie, a film called Women at the Frontline, I believe, produced by a Swedish filmmaker. And that is very much about how women are affected by AIDS. So, if you come back at 6:30, we will see that. But now, Murray, I will give the floor to you.

**MURRAY PROCTOR:** Thank you. I will try very hard not to state anything that others have said, because it is striking

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how similar our roles actually are. I have to confess to being the person who ruined the gender balance. My old friend Andrea Keith [misspelled?] was the first Aussie Ambassador who left to work overseas last year, and so I have been in that position since December. I am very grateful to Spain. I am not the newest AIDS Ambassador. Those things said, like others I also manage a significant part of Australia's aid program including education and health sector policies and advising, but things also such as climate change.

In that regard, I think there is an intrinsic challenge to being an AIDS Ambassador, because there is a huge number of meetings and you need to balance your time between AIDS and all the other corporate requests. There are certainly days I wish I was European, especially on the 24<sup>th</sup> hour of the flight to Geneva from Sydney. But on the other hand, Australia, as the only AIDS Ambassador from that region, thank you, and the one with the worst voice, is living in a region of mainly developing countries.

So, we have a rather different role because the advocacy is very much close to home. Just to pick up any differences from what the others have said, maybe others do as well, but I in the end am the one who sets Australia's policy on international AIDS activities. Of course, with Ministerial agreement. And that is quite a useful position to have. It also in terms of the questions on our role with domestic

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policy, it does give us I think a degree of freedom to intervene in terms of discussions and advocate to our domestic departments, such as health and trade and foreign affairs, but I would not want to over claim a power in that regard. In many ways, so the Health Department of Australia sits and manages AIDS activities and policies. They would not want me to suggest I had that role equally. I think it is useful to be very clear with the overseas aid program has the primary role through the AIDS Ambassador activities overseas.

Couple of final things. I think the Ambassador position does give a clear access point for civil society in Australia, and is certainly of sort to have a very active role in consultation. In fact, I need the ideas of MSM groups, sex workers' ideas, people living with AIDS. And seeking to build up broader connections with others, such as faith based organizations. And in our case, we certainly use all of those groups and pay them to build capacity of civil society overseas, and it is half an hour to late to catch Asia on that one, but the answer is yes. I think also we need to go out and seek new voices, as others have much more eloquently said. It does also allow you a little leeway, I think to approach the [inaudible] political system. I can seek to meet with members of the opposition in what can sometimes be an adversarial political climate and not in a way that an average public servant could just seek to do. So, I think that is a very

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handy leeway. You have to be careful. I had to stop myself lecturing a Senate committee recently on circumcision in its finer details. We do have a very specific role and it is important I think to lecture Parliament, but you have to realize that you have only certain leeway in doing so. And probably you keep it for the more active and challenging policy positions.

Finally, I think just to listen to others, a number of us have a problem that we do have to within our own aid systems, balance the investments in AIDS with a lot of other things. International health partnerships is coming up, other EMDG diseases, funding for these things, policy positions, I think challenge a lot of us because whilst we are advocates on AIDS, I think we also have to manage the broader say, health thrust of our countries' aid activities.

Three questions I will finish with that trouble me. I am finding, we are always I think wondering how we have a greater impact in our roles and that is important to hear your voices today on that. It is hard from this position to engage civil society in developing countries, except on very intermittent visits. It would be good to find better ways. And thirdly, I am realizing having handed the gender issues to another vision head recently, just how much of the AIDS issues and the future of solving the issue is in fact gender based via the roles of males with violence against women, et cetera. And

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as I have been now seven months on the job, I thought I would share that as one of the learnings I have seen in my time.

Thank you.

[Applause]

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you so much. And just to inform you, I have also asked Sigrun Mogedal at the end of this session to summarize a little bit about your feelings and our feelings about the role, but since there were questions put directly to Norway, also for that reason, I give the floor to Sigrun Mogedal.

**SIGRUN MOGEDAL:** And also because I have to make up this gender balance, right? So, I should speak at least twice. Hi, this is a great session in the sense that it is more important for us to have this broad contact with the group. I have worked for two government as an AIDS Ambassador since 2005. I think that the roles and the ambiguity in the role, and the challenges of the potential as my colleagues have explained are very clear. I think there is more good, more potential than the risks about it, but I think both are important.

Also, it is important that you know that we are part of an intergovernmental system. A lot of the things we talk about here are also part of the governmental negotiations where the skills of diplomacy, where our partners in the Ministry have their own special competence and skills, so one of the

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questions that was raised about coherence, of course when we are part of that diplomacy network we have the scope of AIDS that almost gets into all parts of foreign policy or diplomacy. We can engage, but we do have the competence in all those fields. And also that means some of those intergovernmental negotiations are terribly difficult for [inaudible], because it has to do with negotiating competing interests. And none of us are able to turn our back and see there is no competing interests, even here we see there are some competing interests, even between different groups, between different concerns. So, let us be real about the situation where we live in the world with competing interests.

Let me also then note a little bit on leadership because it strikes me that we somehow get a too prominent role as leaders from a few OECD countries that have happened to see AIDS as a place where they also would want to engage with more than money. Where they want to engage, and I think that is actually the case. Engaging with more than money, but also with the skills to build alliances, negotiate, engage broader, and so on. But where are the countries which are sort of in the G77 group? Or the middle income groups? AIDS is global. And it becomes very strange if we sort of create a leadership just around what Asia called donors, because in the sense in AIDS, we are all partners. We all have the problem. We all have to get up with our resources and our partnerships, so it

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is a bit, and the other leadership that we might blur is that we hear at this conference maybe stronger than ever before the need for positive leadership, the need for youth leadership, the need for civil society leadership, the way we have heard. Up to now it has been governmental leadership, politicians up and rise, UN and so on, science. We should not blur that leadership. We should somehow play our part, but not take it. So, that is important for me to say.

So, what do we do to reconcile policies, national and international? That is one of the big challenges for Norway because we are somehow told I think even in the press in Norway it says we are better internationally than we are nationally, and we heard that here, too. We have created a National AIDS Council that tried to bring those two pieces together. And we intend to strengthen that conversation, but I think the way you have pointed it out is extremely important since most of us sit in foreign ministries. We are not somehow directly engaged on the national scene, and let us stop thinking that AIDS is something that we can deal with far away, because it has to do with even our civil society networks are both local and global. So, we need that link.

We need to be accountable to that, too, and that is why those of you that are here that are curious about our role, keep on watching it, keep on correcting it, keep on engaging with it. Also through the colleagues you have in our national

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networks, because in a way we are too much power and influence, and if that is not just stewardship over money that you can control, you need to help us to be accountable and not to blur where the leadership needs to come from.

I have to get into the patent thing and trade, which is an excellent example of both competing priorities and where there are ongoing negotiations. Those of you that are specialists know about the IGWG process that was associated with WHO that still goes on. You know about Doha and the additional conditionalities that was referred to as trips plus. I do not know how many of you know all the details of that, but the one that asked the question knew a lot about it. Also she knew a lot about the difference between EFTA and EU. Norway is not a member of EU. In a way we have a bit more freedom, but we are also part of EFTA. Just to give you that illustration of how tricky this is. Norway has fish. We are quite interested in fish. We work together with Switzerland that has drugs.

Now, when we go to a country to negotiate, because Doha Agreement, we all accept and then it is the question of these bilateral or trilateral agreements. Now when you sit in those negotiations, both the country you are negotiating with like the third party country, be it Thailand, or India, or another country, has some interests. Now, we also have some interests. Now what are the rules of the game? Should you say you can

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never put on sort of additional agreements that allow your fish or your drugs or that third party like Thailand or India might have another thing? And then you make a deal around that. Should that be forbidden? Or should it be on the table and then what are the rules that guide that decision? Now Norway has a policy on that. Norway says that we should never impose on that country that we negotiate with additional conditionalities to the Doha Agreement. But we also want to allow that country informed by their interests to put that as part of the cards on the table in trade negotiations.

Now, we know that some would want to say that should never happen. We respect the countries that we negotiate with to be able to say we do not want to. But then they also need the information and then they also need to be not unduly pressured. And that is that part of the game. I am sorry it took that long to explain exactly that, but I think it is important for you also to understand the dynamics of foreign policy on that. I leave the other things to come back to. I think extremely important points that we heard, women and how we bring AIDS for instance into the other meetings. Thank you.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you, Sigrun. And—  
[Applause] And as you could hear, Sigrun Mogedal can cover a broad range of matters, not only AIDS. But I believe also that is what you can expect from a former state secretary for development. That is part of your life. Spain? Fidel?

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**FIDEL LOPEZ ALVAREZ:** Thank you, Lennarth. Good morning. My name is Fidel Lopez Alvarez and I am just recently been appointed as AIDS Ambassador. I am the second in Spain, which is fact is kind of parallel to the increasing role of Spain internationally in the fight against AIDS. We have been internally, Spain, very successful in fighting against AIDs, providing not only the universal and free access to all but also in the policy of prevention, in the reduction of damages, and obviously in promoting and respecting the human rights of those affected by VHH [misspelled?].

As far as the role of AIDS Ambassador, I share in fact much of not all of what has been said here previously by my colleagues. But I wanted to emphasize that this is the only group that I know that the governments have nominated AIDS Ambassadors for a specific group internationally. This is a tradition that every foreign ministry could have some ambassador at large for specific issues, but not internationally. This is the first group I know.

So, that in fact reflects the importance that our governments are giving to the fight against AIDS. And I just want to also make some reference to some of the questions, although they were mostly directed to the Netherland colleague, but on the role of an AIDS Ambassador internally, you could take into account that we work also not only directly with our leaders, but because we report to them. In fact, in my case, I

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report to the Vice Minister for Development Corporation. But in our case, we work in coordination with the Minister of Health, also with some governments in our regions. So, we cannot really make a role in convincing our leaders in focusing the priorities on the fight against AIDS. And we also have said the Australian colleague, the role also of informing and reporting to our Parliament means also that we really do our internal role. Obviously there are possibilities to make better, but we will try to do that, obviously. Thank you.

[Applause]

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you, and we are so happy that you could come. When we met as a group in New York in June, during the hunger session, it was your predecessor, so now we welcome you here.

We will take a second round here, because there were more questions addressed for the European Union countries than other questions. But, and we have 25 minutes left of the session, and we will have a summary by Sigrun Mogedal at the end. But I will still give the opportunity for two or three questions, very straightforward, quick questions. That is, no more people stand up now. That is enough.

But you must be very brief, Number 4.

**JULIA ELAMO:** Me first?

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Yes.

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**JULIA ELAMO:** Thank you very much. And thank you everybody for your presentations. My name is Julia Elamo [misspelled?], and I work in Madrid in Spain. I work in epidemiology of HIV in migrant populations. I am listening to you all. I can see the role of AIDS Ambassadors to help these populations who are often deprived of all rights, and migrants living with HIV, and I talk of Europe because it is the area that I know more. There are many migrants all over the world living with HIV, fearing for their lives, and also with the danger of deportation. So, my question to is what is the role of AIDS Ambassadors as ambassadors of the large amount of migrants with HIV living all over the world? Thank you.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. Number 3, and then we go to 1. But one from 3 here.

**FADENON STRADHAHEN:** Yes, hello. My name is Fadenon Stradhahen [misspelled?]. I am working for [inaudible] Foundation, which is the Dutch National Institute for Health for LGBT, and I am speaking also on behalf of 17 partners in the global South, which we work with. Of course I am very interested on the LGBT issue, and just to give you the opportunity to make a brief reply on my question, the question is the following: What is your personal achievement on which you very proud on the LGBT issue in the last years, and if you have not been in office for so long, maybe you can explain what

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is your deepest wish on the LGBT issue on the topic of HIV and AIDS. Thank you.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. Number 1, down there.

**ROGER CASSIDY:** My name is Roger Cassidy. I am Executive Director of ACCEPT in Oslo, Norway, and sit on the National HIV/AIDS Council together with Sigrun. I am going to follow up the first question and make it a little bit more European specific. If I am not mistaken, everyone on the panel except the Australian colleague is a member of the Dublin Convention. And we experience with one third of the people living in Norway with HIV have a migration background, that often our people are returned to other European countries, and then repatriated to their original homelands. Norway has a policy that says that people should not returned, HIV positive migrants should not be returned to places where they cannot get adequate help. We experience this is not the case.

So, my question is two fold. Is it possible to coordinate better the information about where HIV treatment is accessible before people are returned? And is it possible to coordinate on the European basis that people not return from Norway to a country where it might be much easier to send them out of Europe. Thank you.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. And now we will go to Microphone Number 3, and please do not stand up, more people,

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because we have four questions up here, and I will allow the four of you, but then we have to continue. Number 3 here.

**TOM SWISS:** Thank you, Lennarth. First of all, I want to express my appreciation for allowing this interaction, giving time to us, so thank you for that. Tom Swiss [misspelled?], Asian Harm Reduction Network based in Cheng Mai [misspelled?] in Thailand. My question actually is, if possible, to all of you, and that is what are the two or three action points you will take with you actually from this particular conference? Thank you.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. Next. Yeah, continue with 3 here.

**TEHAS VITU:** Tehas Vitu [misspelled?]. I am from the GBC, Global Business Coalition, Europe. Thank you for participating in this panel. I have two quick questions. France has an EU presidency, but it seems that there are no health issues on the top priority, on the top agenda. So, my question is how you as AIDS Ambassador could collaborate in order that health would be one of the priorities of the European presidency, I mean in the future. My second question is how I am representing here the private sector, and especially in Europe. It is a network of 80 companies. I would like to know how we can collaborate together in order that the UN president's institution be more involved in public [inaudible] ownership? Thank you.

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**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. Next question.

**SAM:** Hi, I am Sam from Australia. I represent a group of women living with HIV in Victoria. My question to you is regarding immigration, because we so often face a lot of our members saying that they have been denied entry or they wanted to, for instance this conference, a lot of our members could not get immediate visa access to the United States. I guess my question is what role do you play as AIDS Ambassadors in such policies, and do you think they are effective policies in reducing the spread of HIV? I mean denying entrance to countries of people living with HIV?

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you.

**MARK BEBBINGTON:** Good afternoon. My name is Mark Bebbington [misspelled?] from Australia. First of all I just want to say thank you to you all for committing your time and your influence to HIV. I know for example that Murray has a very busy and broad portfolio, so we appreciate his commitment to HIV. My question is relating to the role of the Ambassadors in terms of advocacy. And during this conference there has been quite a bit of discussion about the need to create enabling legal environments to support HIV programs. And specifically the need to remove laws which criminalize homosexuality. So, I would like to ask each of you what commitments you will make here and now towards achieving this goal. So, thank you.

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**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. Then we come back to the panel here, and Paul, you were waving first, before.

**PAUL BEKKERS:** Sure.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** And then, Louis-Charles. And then I want to address as many as possible of the questions that have come up since you spoke last time. Please.

**PAUL BEKKERS:** Okay, thanks. It is a whole range of questions, but I will try to see how many I will address and my colleagues. Let me, the question was raised about the almost disconnect that exists, and he was referring to the Netherlands, asking about the mandate of the AIDs Ambassador. Indeed there is a growing conservatism in the Netherlands, and it is possibility of this disconnect getting larger and larger, what you were asking as an AIDS Ambassador, how far can you get involved with your own national policies.

Well, I think we all have a rather large mandate. I think we use that. But the mandate is, I consider my role as working for the whole government, not only for the Ministry of Development Corporation, Foreign Affairs, but the whole of government. However, it is limited to pretty much our border. So, my responsibility is limited to working abroad, and I think that works for all of us. But maybe there is also a solution. I can actually discuss issues in other countries.

So, what we should do is position the Netherlands, while I keep my mouth shut, I will invite all my colleagues

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here to get involved and solve the issue in the Netherlands. But it is a problem. It is. The European Commission was mentioned a couple of times. Trips was already answered by Sigrun. I think all of us, at least those who are members of the European Union do have responsibility with the Commission. I personally think that the Commission should do much more on health, and specifically also on HIV/AIDS, on the whole broad range. And we are vocal on that. We should become perhaps more vocal on that, because we are members of it. We only represent however, four countries in the European Commission, but we are also generating ideas of all of us working together to be more influential towards the Commission.

Then I come to another point, a lady was talking about a collective voice of the AIDs Ambassadors. We all firmly believe that by working together we can be much more powerful. It is one plus one is three. All of us can be much stronger. There is also a little bit of a concern, and Sigrun was relating to that, we are pretty much all representatives of Western governments. If this group of AIDS Ambassadors wants to maintain its credibility and to become even more powerful, we hope we are going to be joined by AIDS Ambassadors from other countries, especially from the South. There is now an AIDS Ambassador in El Salvador, but hopefully there will be one from India, from Brazil, we can be I think as a collective body, be much stronger. The question about migrants, migrants

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in our policy considered as a vulnerable group. As key population. When we talked about those groups of people that are most vulnerable to HIV infection, we include migrants.

So, our policy includes them with all other key populations. However, I think, and it is also a little bit in this conference, migrants should be much higher on the agenda. The risks for the group itself and for them as a group transmitting HIV to the larger population and populations of other countries should be addressed a bit more. And we also have to accept and take responsibility in that also. That did not answer your question. Where are very proud of. That is very difficult to say. I would say from my point of view, you know our policy is so much based on key population, on LGBT, everywhere we are we are very vocal on the position of LGBT, also in a statement in a high level meeting in New York. I also want to add to that, as a Dutchman I am proud of the system that we have, that we are very much always together with civil society, with yourselves, with [inaudible], with all the other groups, we are a group that together are very strong for those who need our help and LGBT is definitely one of them.

So, I think if you way what we proud of, I mean we should be all proud of the achievements we have made although it should even increase. Tom's question about two to three action points, that is an interesting one. I would like to have a little bit more time to consider that. But one is of

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course, you work in harm reduction in AIDS, yeah? Well one of the conclusions we have taken, the Minister said it earlier, that we are going to have a summit, a donor conference, on harm reduction in the Netherlands, and we hope to have as many as possible involved. Two minutes? No, I will stop. Another thing that came out of this conference, that is what I take home, the concern and I think my colleagues share that on how to make sure that HIV/AIDS is part of that broader development agenda. We are heading towards the NDG summit in September in New York. We have to make sure, and we had a discussion on that yesterday, that HIV gets its rightful place on the philosophical, on the conviction that HIV/AIDS has such a strong impact on all the other NDGs. But that is our concern and our challenge, to make sure that it is going to happen. Okay, thank you, Lennarth. I will leave it at that.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. Sorry, Paul. There are so many relevant questions that have come up. But we will allow time for Sigrun to give us a summary at the end. I would like to plead to my colleagues to stick within two minutes in their comments. There is one question that came up very directly, and maybe you could come back to that, or maybe not, and that is where we are placed in the system. If we are placed high enough, or not high enough. And the comparison was made to the US model. Louis-Charles?

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**LOUIS-CHARLES VIOSSAT:** Yes. Thank you. Yes, I would like to respond to [inaudible] first. [Inaudible] has made or kept so far even though there are clear challenges for the future, but that is clear to me. As far as the level of HIV/AIDS Ambassadors, and the appropriate level under the, within the governmental framework, I would make several comments. The first one is that there is no other example of Ambassadors under the President of the Republic in France, and we are not a presidential regime such as the US, but we have another constitutional arrangement. Ambassadors are under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and all ambassadors are under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Well, another comment is that this question has not been so far, so it can be raised, but it has not been raised so far, and thank you for raising it actually. And third, my view is that it would not change things in practice. Because we have as HIV/AIDS Ambassadors, my predecessors, Michelle, and others, and myself, are in direct contact with different levels of the leadership in our country. Meaning Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's office, and President of the Republic's office.

Very briefly, as a father, the LGBT issues are concerning. I am happy that the French message to the [inaudible] last June included sexual minority issues as well as the message from the President to the conference. I think

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that is an important aspect. On France and health, on the EU agenda, health is clearly on the EU agenda for this semester.

And there are two priorities in the development policy segment. One is on the centralized corporation and another one is on health and it is health risk coverage. Health insurance. And it is directly relating to HIV/AIDS because it is how to establish systems within countries which have lost sustainable financing. We have the solidarity levee on airline tickets, innovative financing, but we also deeply need domestic sustainable financing, and we think that health insurance, all forms of health insurance are key, and that is why it was put by Donna Kushner [misspelled?] on the agenda of the EU. Just my last comment on freedom of circulation, France has been an advocate of freedom of circulation, and at UNAIDS with the establishment of this task force and group, and also at the G8 level, where our President was the first to put this topic on the table during the last G8 interpanel. Sorry for being too long.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. Murray? Do you want to add something at this stage?

**MURRAY PROCTOR:** I will try to be quick in rapid order. The question of deepest wishes, I have two bites. To be frank my deepest wish is that many of the neighboring countries we partner with would actually admit that they have MSM people in their population. I think in terms of outcome, to be able to

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better deal with these burgeoning widespread heterosexual epidemics that certainly look to be coming in Papua New Guinea and possibly in Nepal. Action points from the conference. Personally, some of the issues are migrants. I feel I need to take back and we need to move more into our policy settings. And I think some of the broader human rights issues as well.

Can I just address the private sector question, not about Europe obviously? But we have had some success with business in an Asia Pacific business coalition which is now apart from being based in Sydney, set up coalitions in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Fiji, and certainly [inaudible] is a major deliverer of assistance. The CEO of that group, the business coalition, is now in dialogue with Vietnam, India, and China on similar approaches. And these are just a totally different way of getting at prevention and mobilizing expert capacity to deal with population groups on that issue.

Second last, Sam from Australia on immigration. Personally I do see it as a role to advocate on that and just to remind you, in Australia, people can walk across at low tide from PNG to Australia, and they do carry unfortunately very high TB rates and an increasing prevalence of AIDS, so this is in Australia, an awful thing, but also a sharp reminder to the Australian public of the relevance of these issues, and why you have to assist countries.

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And very finally, in terms of appointment, ambassadors in the Australian system are appointed by the Head of State in consultation with the Cabinet of the Government. So, in a national sense it is a quite powerful level of appointment. As people have picked up though, we are bureaucrats in a system. If I was to have a Mark Dybel [misspelled?] type of appointment that would be nice. I would much rather have the \$58 billion though. Thank you very much.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you. Well, you saw me moving up to our Spanish colleague, and asked if he wanted to come in again, but he said he was prepared to listen to you, Sigrun, for the summary, so we have about five minutes left, and I believe that Sigrun will give us a very good summary of this. Just to say from the Swedish side that of course it is about coherence, about national, international policy, it is so important. We work under different mandates. My mandate is the international work, but since what I heard here today and I also heard in other sessions, reference being made to Sweden, of course there are a number of issues that I will bring back to Sweden also from this session, and the need to work on this coherence matter. So, having said that, Sigrun, the floor is yours.

**SIGRUN MOGEDAL:** Thank you, Lennarth. And of course, it is impossible to make a good summary of the wide themes that we have, but just to put our discussion in some perspective, I

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think first of all we need to agree that everything we talked about is for a purpose. And that purpose is universal access. So, whatever we talk about in terms of specifics, however board, needs to be geared to and accountable to that purpose, and I think we all agree on that. It is important to maintain because there are voices out there that think maybe we are too focused on AIDS and not on all of the other goals. This conference and this conversation I think keeps on holding on to a total commitment to move on the universal access and that is the purpose. We have also heard that in a sense we are at the crossroads now as my French colleague said, multiple stakeholders. The world is not built around governments only anymore. As it was when we created the UN, as it is within the international scene of negotiations and relations. It is as if there is a new foreign policy. We have said AIDS has created a new public health.

In a way, in this environment of multiple partners, recognition of the voice of many players, I think in many fields but definitely in AIDS, is an example of how governments need to team up with others both in policy making and in accountability and for that it is necessary with the right mechanisms and possibilities to be in conversation. And a good example that we have not exactly mentioned but indirectly is that it is hard for NGOs to get into the UN when UN talks about AIDS. Now it is not so obvious that governments are here at

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the IAS conference to be in dialogue, so if we should take seriously sort of the new environment, which I think we will see more and more indefinitely around private sector that we heard, if you see where the energy is now in the AIDS response, it is not with governments. Let us face it. The energy is what we found here with youth, with communities, with groups like MSM. I am a bit very glad the energy is not as strong with the IDU constituency that apart from that, with women and private sector. And I think what we also have not heard that much is how private sector industry in some countries where they have relocated actually now are in the forefront of looking at what they can do, not just for charity, but because they need to do that for productivity, for their bottom line, for being a good actor in their social environment.

So, let us look for that leadership and build it into this new environment with multiple stakeholders. Then we talked about the need for visibility. That not for visibility of AIDS Ambassadors, but using those roles to make visible issues that are easily covered over. Make stronger voices that are easily not heard. We could talk about many of those issues, but we have heard a willingness to give that visibility. Ask the right questions, keep on consistently exploring and giving because so often some of these issues are just put under the table rather than on top.

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Then we talked about coherence, consistency, and that is where we also talked about a watch function for all of us, but particularly for you. You are justified in keeping on asking about coherence. We need to do that, but we need, what the governments do, what do politicians do, in these cases? They respond when they see that there is a demand for that response.

So, within this world of competing priorities, that demand, that watch, that consistent information about what is happening is something that we need to work together on. We have talked about legal issues and the need for engagement when it comes to barriers to access. And part of what was said, some of the most invisible tends to be migrants, particularly those that are not legally there. And what we heard about the need for information, access to treatment, travel restriction, a major breakthrough. We know that in terms of immigrant labor, labor market, what is going to happen around migrants, there will also be a conference in the Philippines soon.

So, taking the messages from here and also there bringing the consistence, criminalization we have hardly touched, but we know it is one of those issues where based on the fact that there are barriers to access that need to be addressed. So, the final word is the word conversation. I think this conversation has been terrific. A lot better than I had hoped. And thank you for that conversation. And let me on

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behalf of those of us that are here, say we are ready to continue that conversation, and I know that our colleague from the US who would have liked to be here also is interested in that conversation. We are not always aligned. We use our network together also to impact some of those issues where our governments have different positions, but that conversation is about the most healthy we can do. So, thank you.

**LENNARTH HJELMAKER:** Thank you, Sigrun. [Applause] And since Sigrun has thanked all of you, let me also thank all of you here, because it is great. This job to be an AIDS Ambassador, in many ways I believe that is the most interesting job I have had, but also in many ways the most challenging job. And because this touches upon so many things in the world and in society. And you have reminded us today even more about the complexity. So, then it is so great to be a part of a group like this and to have a dialogue in this group, so thank you dear colleagues for coming here, thank you all of you for coming here, and let us continue to work together in the fight. And for those of you who are free tonight at 6:30, come back to this room for a good movie. Thank you.

[Applause]

[END RECORDING]

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