



Plenary Speaker Bios

Alex COUTINHO, MD, MSc, MPH (Uganda)

Alex Coutinho is currently the Executive Director of the Infectious Diseases Institute in Kampala, Uganda, the Vice Chair of the Board of the International Partnership for Microbicides, a member of the SIDA Africa Regional Advisory Group, and a member of the Global HIV Prevention Working Group. He received his medical degree from Makerere Medical School in 1983, and worked with the first cases of AIDS in Nsambya Hospital in 1983-85. From 1986-89 Dr. Coutinho lectured at Makerere Medical School. He then worked in Swaziland, where he started one of the country's first care programmes for people living with HIV (PLHIV). He also established the first occupational health programmes for PLHIV in the private sector in Swaziland. Dr. Coutinho completed an MPH from the University of Witwatersrand in 2001 and returned to Uganda that same year. From 2001-07, he served as the Executive Director of The AIDS Support Organization (TASO) in Uganda, where he was responsible for the scale up of services for 100,000 clients, 20,000 of whom were on antiretroviral therapy. During his tenure, TASO grew to become a truly national, nongovernmental organization, serving 17 direct service centres and 35 hospital units. In 2001 Dr. Coutinho served on the Global Fund's Interim Board. He also served as Vice Chair of the Global Fund's Technical Review Panel from 2002 to 2004.