



Steering Committee

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Mr. Michel Sidibé
Executive Director
UNAIDS
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

3 November 2009

Dear Mr. Michel Sidibé:

On behalf of the steering committee of the International AIDS Women's Caucus (IAWC), we write to thank you for the thoughtful process thus far on the Operational Plan for the *UNAIDS Action Framework: Addressing Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV*.

The IAWC, which has the participation of over 500 CSOs and NGOs worldwide, is committed to promoting the Human Rights of women affected and infected by HIV/AIDS since 1992, by working to ensure that they are widely represented at both the regional and international levels. We are encouraged by the important and swift actions you have taken toward the creation of the operational plan and its implementation.

The convening of the three Working Groups on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV --including the Global Task Force on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV-- has created an important opportunity to unite a wide range of partners and stakeholders, making this a representative and participatory process. We especially value the efforts to include a diversity of women's organizations and civil society. The way UNAIDS has reached out and involved women in this very inclusive process, under your leadership, is a testament to your commitment to the health and rights of women and girls and needs to be commended.

We would like to affirm your leadership and support for women, girls and gender equality, which are essential in strengthening the AIDS response worldwide. Given the findings of the Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS, and the recommendation for UNAIDS to "focus UNAIDS support for countries on translating frameworks and guidance into practical HIV and gender and HIV and human rights programming", we are encouraged by the strong actions outlined in this Operational Plan that will move UNAIDS in the right direction.

Finally, we hope this will lead to UNAIDS becoming more accountable to benefitting women and girls in the AIDS response and are sure that the rapid implementation of the Operational Plan can help achieve this.



We look forward to continuing to support this essential and urgent work to improve the lives of women and girls around the world.

Sincerely,

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