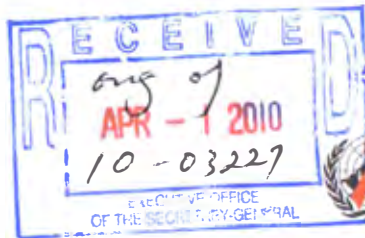


Central



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNHCR
UNICEF
WFP
UNDP
UNFPA
UNODC
ILO
UNESCO
WHO
WORLD BANK

Executive Director

Reference: EXO/2010/090

His Excellency
Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

UNAIDS

1 April 2010

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

I am pleased to share with you the "Statement on HIV-related Restrictions on Entry, Stay and Residence" adopted on 26 March 2010 by the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at the 122nd IPU Assembly held in Bangkok this week. In the Statement, the Governing Council expresses its concern that 52 countries, territories and areas still have restrictions on entry, stay and residence based on HIV positive status and calls for them to eliminate these restrictions and ensure that people living with HIV are no longer excluded, detained or deported on the basis of their HIV status.

As you know, the IPU Assembly brings together over 1,000 parliamentarians from all parts of the world. Its mandate focuses on the promotion of democracy, peacekeeping, international security, human rights and sustainable development. The Statement by the Governing Council comes as an additional support to your own personal call in July 2008 for the elimination of HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence.

In my address at the opening of the IPU Assembly, I cited the critical governance responsibility of parliamentarians in responding to major global challenges and urged them to do their part to advance social justice and human rights. I also called on them to eliminate punitive laws, policies, practices, stigma and discrimination, which act as obstacles to the HIV response, including HIV-related travel restrictions.

Your Special Envoy for HIV and AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Dr Nafis Sadik joined the UNAIDS delegation at the Assembly. Her strategic engagement with Speakers of Parliament from countries with such restrictions will certainly contribute greatly to lifting the bans in those countries.

UNAIDS will continue to work closely with Parliaments and with the IPU Secretariat to fulfil the promise of the Millennium Declaration for a better world.

Let me reiterate my sincere appreciation for your strong support to our work on AIDS.

Yours sincerely,

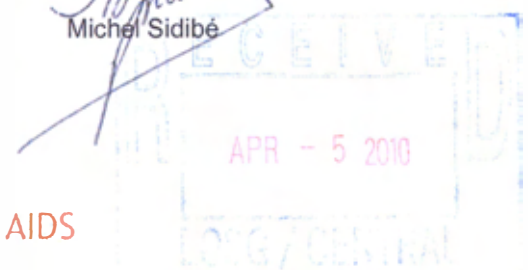
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ENCL: (1)

Uniting the world against AIDS



UNAIDS

Central

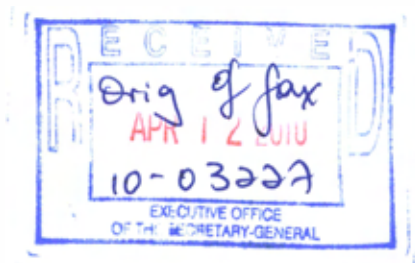


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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
122nd Assembly and related meetings
Bangkok (Thailand), 27th March - 1st April 2010



Governing Council
Item 5

CL/186/5(b)-P.1
26 March 2010

REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS PLENARY BODIES AND SPECIAL
COMMITTEES

(g) ADVISORY GROUP ON HIV/AIDS

Proposal of the Executive Committee

1. Through its Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS, the IPU maintains a strong working relationship with UNAIDS. Within the context of that work, the 122nd IPU Assembly will be receiving the Executive Director of UNAIDS, Mr. Michel Sidibé, who will be delivering a statement before the Assembly on Sunday 28 March.
2. One of the numerous areas on which the joint work has focussed is the question of travel restrictions related to HIV, and the role that can be played by legislators in attempting to lift such restrictions. On 24 March, the IPU Secretariat received a document containing a draft statement on the subject from UNAIDS which the latter has proposed for adoption by the Governing Council.
3. The Executive Committee recommends that the Governing Council adopt the attached draft statement.

STATEMENT ON HIV-RELATED RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY, STAY AND RESIDENCE

The Governing Council recalling,

- the final conclusions of the First Global Parliamentary Meeting on HIV/AIDS (November 2007) in which parliamentarians pledged to work to eliminate travel restrictions for people living with HIV/AIDS and oppose mandatory HIV testing of immigrants and refugees,
- the five general Recommendations of the International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions, endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 184th session (Addis Ababa, April 2009),
- the *Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS* (2001) and the *Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS* (2006), in which Governments committed to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for people living with HIV and vulnerable groups, and to overcoming HIV-related stigma and discrimination,

Expresses its concern that as of March 2010, it appears that 52 countries, territories and areas still have some form of restriction on entry, stay and residence based on positive HIV status only. The Council emphasises that such restrictions, rather than protecting public health, are discriminatory and that the best way to protect public health is to ensure that all mobile people – citizens and non-citizens – have access to HIV information and services.

The Council renews its call on all countries that still have HIV-specific restrictions on entry, stay and residence to eliminate them, and ensure that people living with HIV are no longer excluded, detained or deported on the basis of their HIV status.

The Council encourages parliamentarians in countries with restrictions to play a leading role in their elimination, by reforming laws and by monitoring the regulations, policies and practices of relevant authorities in their countries. It urges parliamentarians to advocate for the right of their citizens living with HIV to have equal freedom of movement and to press senior officials in their governments to take up the issue with countries that have such restrictions. It calls for renewed

P.1

ANNEX

parliamentary commitment to Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including expanded HIV programming for mobile populations – both nationals and non-nationals.