



The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS

OPERATIONAL CHARTER

I. CONTEXT

In June 2016, during the High Level Meeting on Ending AIDS (HLM 2016), the United Nations Member States committed to implementing a bold agenda to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The resulting, progressive and actionable 2016 HLM Political Declaration includes a set of specific, time-bound targets and actions that must be achieved, through collective action by 2020 to Fast-Track ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are centrally positioned in the SDGs and the Political Declaration on ending AIDS, as well as the 2016 CSW Resolution 60/2 on Women, the Girl Child and HIV. The empowerment of women and girls, advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender equality are also central tenets of the UNAIDS Strategy 2016-2021 on the Fast-Track to end AIDS.

In addition to the strong political commitments towards women and girls, there are several global strategies and initiatives specifically focusing on adolescent girls and women such as the Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women, Children and Adolescent Health (2016-2030), The Global Fund Strategy (2017-2022), and initiatives like the DREAMS, All In, and the Born Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free Initiative.

To achieve the global targets defined in the UNAIDS Strategy and the HLM Political Declaration, The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA), as a joint civil society and UN forum, has a key role in strategically positioning gender equality and women's empowerment, in global, regional, and country-level decision-making fora.

II. ABOUT THE GCWA

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA) is a worldwide alliance bringing together civil society working on HIV, women, girls, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality, including networks of women living with HIV, women's rights organizations, AIDS service organizations, faith-based organizations, networks of women from key populations, care-giving networks, men and boy's organizations working explicitly for gender equality, the private sector, and the United Nations (UN) system, hosted by the UNAIDS secretariat. Established in 2004 the GCWA is a joint civil society-UN platform to mobilize leadership and harness political will to influence policies, laws, programmes, and funds, to promote actions that empower women and girls living with and affected by HIV, to prevent HIV transmission, and to live fulfilling and productive lives. Since its inception, the GCWA has contributed to the strategic positioning of women and girls as integral to the HIV response, ensuring its relevance to the dynamic nature of the HIV epidemic, emerging issues related to women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, and shifting aid architectures, to best meet the needs of women and girls.

The GCWA is a strategic space for advancing the rights of women, girls, gender equality and HIV. It is a unique forum for social mobilization; has an increasing and unified political voice and has generated current and relevant analysis and strategic information which have been instrumental in providing guidance for regional and country-level actions.

Building on the HLM commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, the GCWA will continue to build bridges across movements and sectors, and expanding the collaboration with and engagement of women living with HIV and women representing key and vulnerable populations, such as adolescent girls, sex workers, transgender women, women who use drugs.

III. VISION, GOAL AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Vision: The GCWA envisions a world where women and girls in all their diversities exercise their rights for healthy and fulfilling lives, and are leaders in HIV responses that are tailored to their needs and rights, free of stigma, discrimination and violence.

Goal: Foster the engagement of women and girls in all their diversities in global agendas to influence political, legal, economic and social decision-making processes around women, girls, gender equality and HIV, whilst promoting and upholding their rights.

The following results will contribute to the goal:

- Women and girls are mobilized and **empowered to access and contribute effectively** to political and policy setting dialogues and HIV, gender, and human Rights, including sexual and reproductive rights decision-making processes at national, regional and global levels;
- The women's movement supported for **increased accountability on the targets set in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and other global commitments**;
- **Capacities and synergies** of diverse members leveraged for strengthened negotiating positions, for ongoing and emerging issues;
- GCWA positioned as a key **go-to-resource for strategic information for cutting-edge advocacy** on issues affecting women and girls living with HIV, women's rights, women's health and HIV;

IV. WHAT WE DO TO ACHIEVE THE RESULTS

- Convene and mobilise diverse members and partners, around shared values, and develop common objectives and joint strategies;
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and a participatory process to set the global advocacy agenda on women, girls, gender equality and HIV;
- Facilitate participation of women and girls living with HIV, women from key populations, women's rights and AIDS advocates in decision-making and accountability processes;
- Create space for horizontal collaboration among members - North-South and South-South as well as inter-generational dialogue to advance health, rights and gender equality for all women and girls;
- Serve as a strategic resource providing information to support members' work in the HIV response to inform public and policy debate.

V. STRUCTURE

The GCWA is a membership based coalition open to all stakeholders from civil society including the academia, NGOs, private sector and networks, and the United Nations Agencies who share its principles and are committed to contribute to its work.

An **Advisory Group**, nominated by and selected from the GCWA membership in conjunction with the GCWA secretariat, will provide strategic guidance to the work of the GCWA, including the development and implementation of the work plan, which will also be informed by inputs from the UNAIDS Dialogue-Platform on the Rights of Women Living with HIV.

The GCWA secretariat, housed within the UNAIDS Secretariat, provides overall management, operational and administrative, support to the GCWA.

Detailed Terms of Reference for the GCWA Membership, Advisory Group and Secretariat can be found in Annex I

VI. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- Strategic direction, policies, work plans and the advocacy agenda for the GCWA will be developed with the support and guidance of the GCWA advisory group and in consultation with members, promoting shared responsibility and accountability;
- Annual work plans will define the actions of the GCWA and provide the basis for monitoring, mutual accountability and transparency;
- The annual narrative report will be shared with GCWA members;
- The projected budget and annual financial report will be shared with the advisory group
- Quarterly updates will be shared with all members and allies through the GCWA list-serve

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Annex (I)

Terms of reference GCWA Members, Advisory Group and secretariat

I. MEMBERS

Structure:

- The GCWA is a membership based coalition open to all networks of women living with HIV, women's rights organizations, AIDS service organizations, faith-based organizations, networks of women from key populations, networks of women parliamentarians and ministers, men and boy's organizations working explicitly for gender equality; the private sector, and the United Nations (UN) system, who share its **principles** and are committed to contribute to its work;
- All registered organizations will be listed as **GCWA Members** on the GCWA website and will be asked to share information on their work within the Coalition;
- All those who wish to become members of the GCWA can sign-up as members through the GCWA website and confirm commitment to the principles by completing the Statement of Endorsement;
- Organizations who do not wish to become formal members and interested individuals can register for the **GCWA Mailing List** to be kept abreast of the latest news and updates.

Role:

GCWA Members are expected - on the basis of voluntary contribution - to:

- Participate in shaping the strategic direction and advocacy messaging of the GCWA;
- Support the implementation of the GCWA work plan, as required;
- Share relevant technical and programmatic information and good practices to help build a collective evidence base for action;
- Support a specific agenda for action on priority themes and emerging issues;
- Provide technical expertise to the GCWA in shaping messaging and calls to action;
- Lend their organization's voice to GCWA advocacy campaigns;
- Work to develop a "community of good practice" on women, HIV and AIDS as a resource to country level women's organizations and HIV and AIDS service organizations;
- Participate in voluntary tasks as feasible on behalf of the GCWA;
- Serve as peer reviewers for GCWA issue briefs and reports;
- Nominate the GCWA Advisory Group members.

II. ADVISORY GROUP

Structure:

- The Advisory Group members, representing organizations, are nominated by GCWA members and selected in conjunction with the GCWA secretariat, according to a transparent process managed by the GCWA secretariat;
- The Advisory Group consists of 20 members drawn from the GCWA membership reflecting representation from organizations across the different regions;
- **The composition of the Advisory Group is as follows:**
 - 3 members from networks of women living with HIV;
 - 3 members from the women's and/or sexual and reproductive rights movement;
 - 2 members from young women's organizations under 30 years of age;
 - 1 member of a community-based organisation working for women and girls;
 - 1 member of a grassroots organization of women home-based caregivers
 - 3 members representing women from key populations (sex workers, women who inject drugs, transwomen);
 - 1 member representing a men and boy's organization working explicitly for gender equality;
 - 1 members from the private sector;
 - 1 member from the academia
 - 3 members from the United Nations in addition to UNAIDS Secretariat;
- The Advisory Group meets regularly on a schedule agreed by its members and the GCWA secretariat;

- Membership will rotate on a staggered basis every two years;
- The Chair and Co-Chair roles will always be filled by women.

Role:

Advisory Group Members are expected - on the basis of voluntary contribution - to:

- Commit to participate regularly in Advisory Group meetings and support the undertaking of GCWA activities, as per the minimum participation requirements;
- Provide high level policy support, strategic guidance and expertise to inform the work of the GCWA;
- Identify and analyze emerging issues which may not yet be on the policy agenda;
- Lend their organization's voice to GCWA advocacy campaigns;
- Support the membership in the development of a "community of good practice" on women, HIV and AIDS as a resource to country level women's organizations and AIDS service organizations;
- Take on specific voluntary tasks as feasible/appropriate based on organizational capacity on behalf of the GCWA to support their organization's contribution to advancing GCWA advocacy and collective action on women, HIV and AIDS;
- Support the development of GCWA annual plan and budget priorities on behalf of the members - in line with the strategic vision;
- Support the implementation of the collaborative GCWA work plan, as agreed;
- Support mobilization of the necessary resources;
- Share public information within their networks about and broaden participation in the GCWA.
- All advisory group members must be supported by their respective organization, as demonstrated by a letter of support.

Minimum participation requirements

Although membership of the Advisory Group is voluntary and not financially compensated, they are expected to actively participate. Minimum requirements are:

- response to at least 80% of requests for written feedback;
- attendance of at least 80% of all teleconferences;

Members of the Advisory Group who do not satisfy the above minimum participation criteria will be contacted along with their respective organization to resolve the barriers to participation, if possible (e.g., technical issues, communication challenges, lack of time, etc.). If the barrier is not resolved the GCWA secretariat will inform the Advisory Group members and take a collective decision on possible replacement. If the GCWA secretariat does not receive any input and/or response from the member, the member will be removed from the Advisory Group.

III. GCWA SECRETARIAT

Structure:

- The GCWA is housed at the UNAIDS Secretariat, which provides logistical support, administrative overhead and financial oversight to the Coalition;
- The GCWA secretariat receives its strategic direction from the GCWA Advisory Group, while final decisions are made by the secretariat;
- The UNAIDS Secretariat will appoint a manager to the GCWA secretariat.

Role:

- Supporting and participating in the development of the annual work plan and budget;
- Implementing the work plan as required, in collaboration with the GCWA Members and Advisory Group;
- Keeping abreast of emerging issues and ensuring these are built into the work-plan;

- Coordinating the advocacy of the GCWA;
- Managing communication between members, the Advisory Group, and any working groups;
- Maintaining the website and outreach to members;
- Facilitating fundraising for GCWA activities;
- Convening and organizing the meetings of the Advisory Group, ensuring the development and dissemination of the records of meetings;
- Preparing annual narrative and financial reports;
- Managing processes around the membership;
- Providing quarterly updates to members and allies through the GCWA list serve;
- Establishing and managing a transparent process for the nomination and selection processes for the Advisory Group.