

Concept Note

Reimagining HIV Prevention leadership in a moment of crisis: Country-driven priorities for a coherent and effective global response

Hosted by the HIV Leadership Forum and the Global HIV Prevention Coalition at ICASA 2025

Date: 4th December 2025

Time: 4.30pm – 7.30 pm

Background

The HIV prevention landscape has changed: biomedical advances expanded prevention choices while countries assumed greater stewardship. The sudden withdrawal of U.S. government HIV funding in January 2025 exposed the acute vulnerability of prevention programs across sub-Saharan Africa. While governments and public health facilities rapidly absorbed antiretroviral therapy (ART) services into outpatient departments, prevention efforts, delivered mainly by NGOs were severely impacted. Prevention-specific commodities were the least protected, and data systems fractured. Community health worker attrition impacted HIV testing, condom programmes, demand creation for PrEP, defaulter-tracing and adherence support.

Countries now face various imperatives to safeguard HIV prevention programmes:

- to determine national HIV prevention priorities and establish clear approaches for prioritization of interventions
- to reconfigure prevention systems for effective delivery under constrained resources
- to secure resources for prevention commodities and interventions
- to steward and coordinate efforts—both within countries and across borders—for an effective re-imagined HIV prevention response.

The HIV Leadership Forum, a community of practice of Director Generals of Africa, Asia and Latin America, and anchored under the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, proposes to convene a meeting on the sidelines of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), in Accra Ghana on 4th December 2025 to deliberate HIV prevention systems that can support country-led responses and deliver greater value in the current and future prevention landscape.

How this Session Builds on Country Experience

This meeting will build on prior knowledge and experience from country lessons on HIV prevention and sustainability as articulated through various activities of the HIV Leadership Forum, a community of practice of Director Generals of AIDS Commissions of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

- **October 2024:** HIV Leadership Forum position paper on sustainability of the HIV response [Leveraging Country Leadership to Advance Resilience for a Sustainable HIV Response Pre and Post 2030 | GPC](#).
- **January 2025:** Rapid transition readiness survey assessing service continuity and system resilience after major funding withdrawal, that countries utilized to craft their early emergency responses [presentation-slides_128.pptx](#)
- **July 2025:** Forum session at IAS Kigali identifying emerging programming and financing challenges.

It will draw on these learnings and country experiences to inform countries' on-going design and implementation of their HIV response, a re-imagined HIV prevention response. In recognition of country inter-connectedness with global processes, countries will hear from, and provide input into on-going global processes, in particular:

- The HIV Prevention Access Framework being developed by the HIV Global HIV Prevention Coalition
- The Global Fund Grant Cycle 8 (GC8) grant reorganization
- The on-going donor HIV prevention review to make recommendations for future investments

Purpose of the Convening

1. Stimulate country deliberations for a re-imagined HIV prevention response that better support country-led responses and deliver greater value in the current and future HIV prevention landscape
2. Inform Global Fund GC8 prevention priorities and modalities with country-driven recommendations.
3. Provide feedback to the Global HIV Prevention Access Framework to ensure it responds to country realities and protects community systems

The expected outcome: Surface country insights and recommendations for a re-imagined HIV response at country and global level and translate country priorities into concrete recommendations and operational options that funders and regional bodies can adopt quickly.

Participants (approx. 30)

- Director Generals of National AIDS Commissions
- Ministries of Health
- Global and country HIV stakeholders
- Communities

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SESSION MODERATOR - DR. PROSPER AKANBONG

<p>4.30-4.45 PM (15 MIN)</p>	<p>Welcome, Opening & Framing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kebby Musokotwane, DG, National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, Zambia and Vice Chair, HIV Leadership Forum • Dr. Angeli Achrekar/Dr. Fode’ Simaga, UNAIDS • Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, Minister for Health, Ghana
<p>4.45-5.15 PM (30 MINUTES)</p>	<p>Global HIV prevention Access Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Fode’ Simaga, GPC/UNAIDS <p>Feedback from a strategic review of HIV Prevention coordination and implications for countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Wanjiru Mukoma, Yemaya Health Advisory
<p>5.15-7.10PM</p>	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Nduku Kilonzo, Yemaya Health Advisory</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Izukanji Sikazwe, Head, HIV, Global Fund • Ms. Florence Anam, Co-Director, GNP+ • Esenam Amuzu, Ghana, • Dr. Gallican Rwibasira, Rwanda • Dr. Temitope Ilori, Director General, National AIDS Coordinating Authority, (Nigeria) <p>TABLE BUZZ GROUPS</p> <p>PLENARY DISCUSSIONS</p>
<p>7.10-7.20 PM</p>	<p>Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary Kindyomunda, UNFPA • Dr. Allesandro De la Torres, DG, MOH Mexico • Dr. Yogan Pillay, Director, HIV and TB Delivery, Gates Foundation • Vote of Thanks: Dr. Thembisile Xulu, CEO, SANAC and Chair, the HIV Leadership Forum
<p>7.30 PM</p>	<p>Networking Dinner</p>