Dear Signatories of the International Health Partnership,

On behalf of UK, European and international civil society – many of whom are either active in the IHP focus countries or partner with local civil society organisations – Action for Global Health[[1]](#footnote-1) and the under-signed organisations would like to express our concerns regarding the involvement of civil society in the roll-out of the International Health Partnership.

The Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness commits donor and recipient governments to ensuring broad participation of a range of national and local actors in setting development priorities. The original concept note for the IHP and subsequent meetings with the UK’s Department for International Development and the ‘Health 8’ agencies highlighted the importance of involving civil society in the roll out of the IHP. UK, European and international civil society however, is very disappointed that five months after the launch of the IHP a transparent and robust framework for civil society engagement in the roll out of the IHP at national, regional and international level is not yet in place.

We are aware that from 28th February – 1st March 2008, there will be a meeting of the country partners and international stakeholders of the IHP in Lusaka. As a first clear step to uphold the commitment to civil society participation in the IHP we expect clear representation at this meeting. While a little late in the day, we do welcome recent efforts to open up this meeting to a select number of civil society members. We also request however, that the role of civil society in the IHP be incorporated as an official agenda item for the meeting, including the presentation and discussion of models of best practice. We, as civil society members, can collectively agree on an appropriate and experienced presenter for this session.

# Looking forward we urge all IHP stakeholders to urgently develop a clear framework for civil society engagement and representation at national, regional and international level.

At national level, civil society must be brought to the table within each IHP partner country as soon as possible to enable their full participation in both the stocktaking exercise and the development of the country compact. Such participation must involve direct and regular interaction between civil society representatives, donor groups and government.

At the international level we encourage the formalisation and facilitation of regular consultation meetings between civil society representatives and the IHP partners. In addition we advocate for direct representation of civil society in the ‘Scaling up Reference Group’. We welcome the recently circulated draft concept note on civil society engagement at global level and will provide our feedback by 1 April 2008.

In order to ensure that civil society can play a fully active and meaningful role in the IHP at national, regional and international levels, the IHP will need to allocate specific financial and technical resources to support this.

We hope that the points made above will be taken into consideration for the Lusaka meeting and the ongoing developments of the IHP and look forward to continuing dialogue with you on this issue.

**Signed by:**

**ActionAid International**

**Action for Global Health**

**ACT-UP Paris**

**ACTWID KONGADZEM NGO, Cameroon**

**African Children and Family Support (ACAFS), Uganda**

**African Council for Sustainable Health Development (ACOSHED)**

**AIDS Law Project, South Africa**

**AIDS Legal Network, South Africa**

**Alliance Madagascar**

**AMREF (African Medical Research Foundation)**

**APCOM (Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health)**

**ARASA (AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa)**

**Argentinean Network of Women Living with HIV/AIDS**

**Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations**

**BOCS Foundation, Hungary**

**CAFOD**

**Cara International Consulting Ltd.**

**Caribbean HIV Alliance**

**Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition**

**Central America Women's Network (CAWN)**

**Colectivo Sol, Mexico**

**Commonwealth Medical Trust**

**CORPORACIÓN KIMIRINA, ECUADOR**

**Deutsche Welthungerhilfe**

**DHRUVH SOCIAL AWARENESS FORUM, India**

**EMPOWER India**

**Ethiopian Muslims Relief & Development Association**

**Fundacion Ciudadana para las Americas**

**German Foundation for World Population (DSW), Kenya**

**Global AIDS Alliance**

**Global Campaign for Microbicides**

**Global Health Advocates**

**Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), The Netherlands**

**Health GAP (Global Access Project)**

**Health Triangle Trust, Zambia**

**Health Unlimited**

**Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative**

Help the Hospices

**HLSP**

**Immpact International**

**India HIV/AIDS Alliance**

**Interact Worldwide**

**International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (ICW)**

**International Confederation of Midwives, Netherlands**

**International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)**

**International Council of Nurses**

**International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)**

**International HIV/AIDS Alliance**

**International HIV/AIDS Alliance, China**

**International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Mozambique**

**International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine**

International HIV/AIDS Alliance Uganda

**International Medical Corps**

**International Planned Parenthood Federation**

**International Women's Health Coalition**

**Jamaica AIDS Support for Life**

**Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO)**

**KUYAKANA (Network of Women Living With HIV/AIDS), Mozambique**

**Malaria Consortium**

**MATRAM – Mozambique AIDS Treatment Access Movement**

**Medicos del Mundo, Spain**

**Merlin**

**MONASO (Network of Organizations working on HIV/AIDS), Mozambique**

**MULEIDE (Women, Law and Development Association), Mozambique**

**National AIDS Trust, UK**

**National Labour Academy-Nepal**

**Network on Ethics, Law, HIV/AIDS-Prevention, Support and Care (NELA)**

Open Society Institute

**Oxfam International**

**Pacific Institute for Women’s Health**

**Pan African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM)**

Philippine NGO Support Program, Inc. – Asia Pacific Convergence for Reproductive Health Management

**Physicians for Human Rights**

**Programmaverantwoordelijke Internationaal Sensoa**

**Protection Enfants Sida, DR Congo**

**Public Personalities Against AIDS Trust (PPAAT), Zimbabwe**

**Public Services International Positive for Women in Venezuela Rainbo: Health & Rights for African Women**

**RENSIDA (Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS), Mozambique**

Reproductive Health Matters

**Resource Centre for Primary Health Care – Nepal**

**Results, UK**

**RFSU (Swedish Association for Sexuality Education)**

**Save the Children, UK**

**SCARJOV-Associacao de Reintegracao dos Jovens/Criancas na Vida Social Luanda, Angola**

**SCOT-PEP (Scottish Prostitutes Education Project)**

**SOCIETY FOR AIDS IN AFRICA**

Stepping Stones

**Stop AIDS Alliance, Brussels**

**Stop AIDS Campaign**

**Stop AIDS Liberia**

**TB-Alert**

**Tearfund**

**terre des homes, Germany**

**Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa**

**Treatment Action Group, USA**

**Treatment Advocacy & Literacy campaign (TALC), Zambia**

Uganda AIDS Action Fund – UAAF (UK)

**Via Libre, Mexico**

**World AIDS Campaign**

**World Vision**

**Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR), Canada**

**Zambia HIV/AIDS Back on Course Advocacy Team (ZABCAT)**

1. Action for Global Health ([www.actionforglobalhealth.eu](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu)) is a network of 15 NGOs based in the UK, Brussels, France, Germany, Spain and Italy conducting advocacy work to support the achievement of the health MDGs. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)