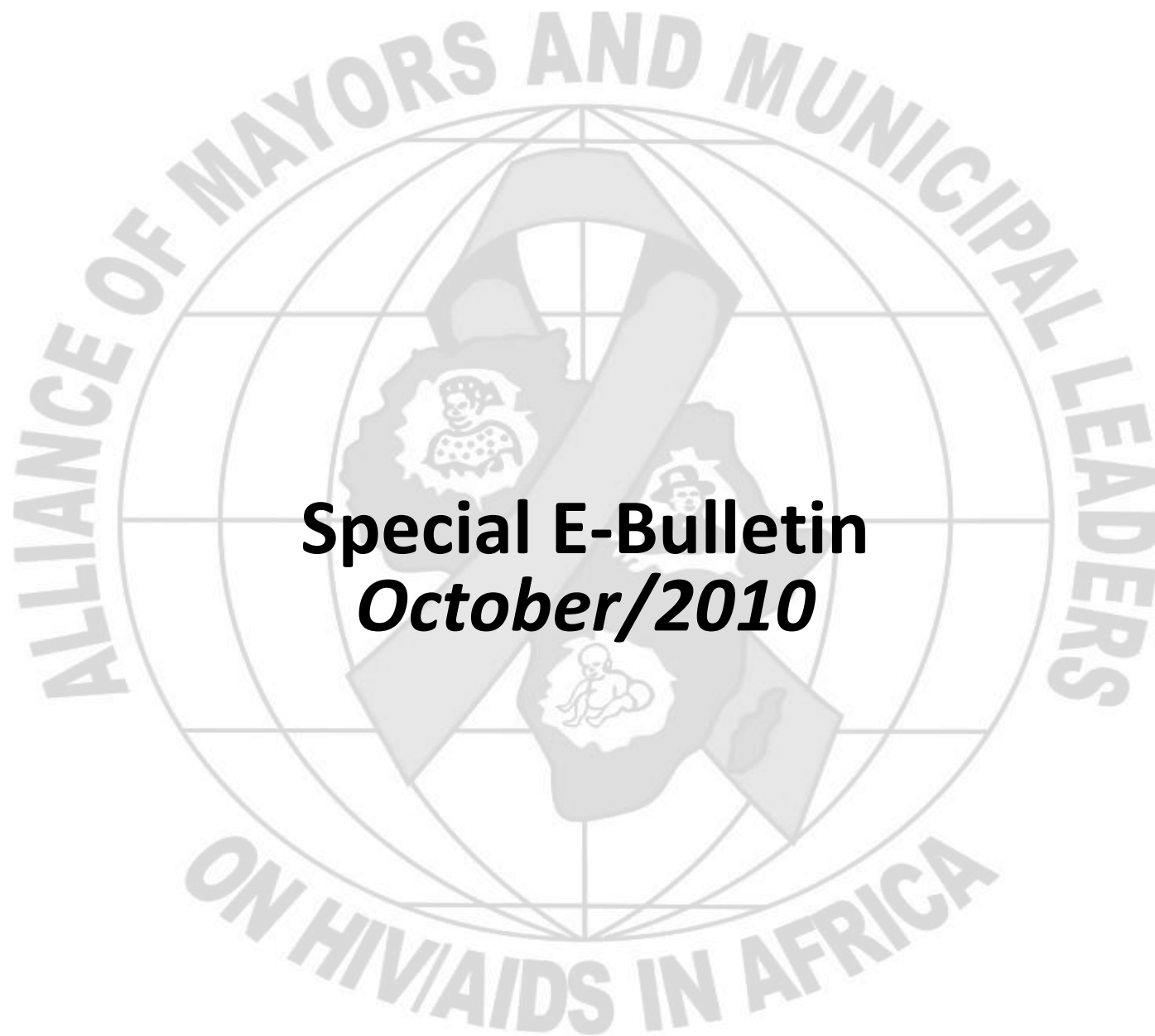




ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA



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Summary of The Alliance President's Visits

In September, 2010, The Alliance President, Mayor Peter Muwanga, paid courtesy visits to Namibia and South Africa to meet strategic partners and stakeholders of The Alliance. Identified institutions and candidates that were met were The Secretariat staff, The Windhoek City Council, The South African Local Government Association and The World Bank.

Meeting with the Mayor of Windhoek

On 30th September 2010, the President met with the Mayor of Windhoek to discuss the renewal of the office lease agreement between The Alliance and the Windhoek City Council. The expired lease stated that after a period of five years, a renewal would be considered, based on a mutual agreement between the two parties. Mayor Shikongo has tasked his office to develop a new agreement in consultation with the relevant municipal staff.

Other topics on the agenda included reviving The Alliance relationship with UN HABITAT, reviving the relationship with The French Mayors Against HIV/AIDS, and strengthening the relationship with the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing in Namibia.

In the past, The Alliance had a working relationship with the UN Habitat Urban Management Programme (UMP). This relationship benefitted Kenya and Malawi but came to an end in 2004/2005 when the UMP was integrated in other UN Habitat programmes.

The former mayor of Barcelona, Spain, His Excellency Joan Clos, is the Executive Director of UN Habitat.

If a close relationship had existed between him and The Alliance, it would have been easier to revive the latter's relationship with UN Habitat.

It was agreed during the meeting that a worthy relationship to explore is that with the French Mayors. This structure was established by the French Mayors and could support The Alliance in its activities; especially in the Francophone Chapters.

Meeting with AMICAALL Namibia

On 30th September 2010, a meeting was held to discuss the relationship between The Secretariat and the chapter.

The AMICAALL Chairperson, Niita Alughodi, stated that The Secretariat has been supportive to the chapter from the start to the point where it mobilized office space for AMICAALL Namibia. NALAO has also been a partner of the Secretariat and has on occasions availed itself to provide the requested support.

Meeting with The Secretariat Staff

On 30th September, 2010, The Alliance President met with The Secretariat staff and articulated his new leadership vision under three main areas:

- **Membership expansion criteria**

Membership expansion will be demand driven and two approaches will be adopted; the first being the traditional approach of assisting Chapters to set up structures and programmes, lobbying government and other strategic partners. The second approach is to launch in countries where there are local government HIV/AIDS programmes implemented

and have the necessary support at country level e.g. from the Ministry and other local partners.

- **Sustainability of member Chapters and rededication to our organizational mandate**

This activity will be strengthened through visible leadership and empowered leadership. The Alliance Executive Council will visit Chapters, taking into consideration the geographical location and for this reason it is of utmost importance that the Chapters submit to The Secretariat their calendar of events.

- **Sustainability of The Secretariat**

The President stated that The Secretariat must continue establishing strategic partnerships to ensure that The Alliance and its work are known. The Secretariat should also continue to mobilize resources for its sustainability and these resources should be from membership fees and also through donor funds. The Secretariat should further increase visibility to members by mobilizing funds and equipment to distribute to Chapters.

A decision was made that The Alliance President would inform chapters on their outstanding membership fees. He would also write to members to advise them to make budgetary provisions for The Alliance annual meetings

Meeting with The SALGA

On 4th October, 2010, a meeting was held to follow up on the revival of AMICAALL South Africa through programme implementation.

At this meeting, SALGA requested support in various areas from the Secretariat. These areas included: setting up the appropriate structures for AMICAALL before the end of 2010 to ensure that

the new councillors who will be elected in the 2011 Local Government Elections find the structures in place, supporting the chapter in resource mobilization, and assisting the Social Development Unit to develop a short paper with talking points that would be used by the Chairperson of the Working Group in the National Executive Council (NEC) that was scheduled to meet on the 14th October 2010.

Meeting with World Bank

On 5th October, 2010 a meeting was held with the World Bank to follow up on the concept note that The Alliance submitted.

Ms Naidoo of the World Bank advised that the focus of The Bank has changed to that of Swaziland (on Infrastructural Development) and South Africa (on Social Development Programmes such as HIV/AIDS).

The Bank received a request from the South African Treasury Department requesting support. In response to the query, a programme is currently being drafted for South Africa and is in its inception stage. She stated that AMICAALL SA could benefit from the programme. The activities that could be funded should include leadership training for the new councillors that will be elected in 2011.

Ms Naidoo referred The Alliance to Mr. Joel Kolker to discuss possible support in the following areas:

- Data collection and analysis of the impact of planning for HIV/AIDS response at municipal level
- Knowledge management
- Expansion of participation of more African countries in AMICAALL programs

- Support to enhancing the technical capacity of The Alliance Secretariat and national AMICAALL Chapters
- Possible support for the revival of the South African Chapter

The Secretariat has since communicated with Mr. Kolker and discussions are still being pursued with his department

Meeting with UCLGA President

On 5th October, 2010, a meeting was held to follow up on the draft work plan submitted for consultations with the UCLGA structures. The UCLGA Working Group met and made some suggestions to the document. The suggestions will be communicated to The Secretariat as soon as they have been consolidated.

Another item on the agenda was to follow up on the meeting of the SADC Ministers on Local Government. UCLGA would investigate the possibility of getting an invitation for The Alliance to attend the meeting as an observer. In the event that The Alliance could not attend, the President of The UCLGA would raise the issue of the developmental mandate of local government and the representation of local authorities through local government associations.

News

Rudolph Maziya, who is also the Country Programme Director of Swaziland, has been appointed as the new chairman of The Alliance Technical Standing Committee.



*Technical Standing Committee
Chairman, Rudolph Maziya*

What are your family and educational backgrounds?

I have been married for 29 years with 5 children; three girls and two boys. I hold a master of public health degree with a focus on Epidemiology from Tulane University, New Orleans, United States of America.

What other jobs or lines of work have you been or are involved in?

I have worked for the Ministry of Health in various capacities including as a Medical Technologist, senior Medical Technologist, National Coordinator for the Swaziland National AIDS Program, Research Coordinator and Under-secretary. I also work for UNAIDS as a Country Program Advisor in Zimbabwe. joined AMICAALL Swaziland in October 2001.

What has your experience been like; working with AMICAALL?

Ten years after I joined AMICAALL, I still believe that AMICAALL is a great concept of a decentralized AIDS response with a lot of potential to make a difference especially because it was unique in that it was an initiative of community leaders. I have however found it to be a hard sell to partners because of competition for turf among traditional

AIDS response partners. Similarly, the AMICAALL concept goes against traditional response arrangements which call for an organized response at sub-national levels. I have also found that the AMICAALL concept even though great, runs the risk of being compromised by petty politics.

What needs to be changed within the next three years?

The size of the alliance; its status with respect to national, regional and international visibility; Alliance processes; oversight role of the Executive Council; roles of the Technical Standing Committee; information sharing among national programs; funding level as well as the structure and mandate of the Secretariat. Basic Alliance institutional arrangement and the relationship between the Alliance Secretariat and national programs also have to be kept and honored.

What are your assigned tasks that you would like to place strong emphasis on?

Improvement of organizational visibility, professionalism, oversight, accountability and transparency as well as resource availability.

Notices

The Alliance Secretariat got a new team member. Simpson Au is our new Resource Mobilisation Manager and joined us on 25th October, 2010. Please join us in welcoming Simpson and learn more about him:



**The Secretariat's
Resource Mobilization Manager, Simpson Au**

Born, raised and educated in Vancouver, Canada, Simpson says the culture there has impacted on him and like the typical west coast person, enjoys snowboarding, skiing, softball, trying yoga and living an active lifestyle. He likes Indie rock, pop, folk music, electronic music and attending music festivals and concerts.

Professionally, he worked as a program officer / business development for a small management consulting firm for four years. Many of their clients were development agencies – like the World Bank, USAID, and Asian Development Bank.

Regarding his greatest achievements in his life, Simpson says, “I think overcoming my reserved nature and going back to my more open self that I had in my younger days [has been an achievement]. I like that I am comfortable with who I am now. I had great experiences working in Pakistan. I think a lot of this section is to be written – ask me again in a few months!”

Simpson’s experience of Namibia is positive so far. He says, “I’ve been in Windhoek for a little more than a week and it has already been very fun. My friends took me to a concert and a club, and I joined a gym and got to know the shopping areas a bit. I am getting settled in and am looking forward to exploring the rest of Namibia during my week long camping trip with the rest of the new volunteers in Namibia.”



**THE ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL
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