



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

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EDITORIAL



Mr. Simon Campaore, Mayor of Ouagadougou and President of the Association of the Municipalities of Burkina Faso

In the face of the unchecked spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic: the Association of the Municipalities of Burkina Faso commits itself

Ouagadougou, the capital of the country of men of integrity - Burkina Faso - hosted the International Conference on AIDS and STDs in Africa (ICASA) from 9 to 13 December 2001.

The conference theme that this vast gathering was to reflect upon was: "The fight against AIDS, a community commitment". It was so relevant that it calls for little further comment. The meeting at Ouagadougou did indeed raise the awareness of the international community and more particularly that of the national community of Burkina Faso, of the fact that the fight against HIV/AIDS can only hope to achieve its objectives if all the actors within the nation take an active part.

And among these actors are the mayors, community managers of our urban communities.

We mayors have an obligation to be in the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS all the more so because in Burkina Faso, as all over Africa, urbanization is progressing and it is in towns that the concentration of people is the greatest.

This is why the Association of the Municipalities of Burkina Faso found that the XIth ICASA provided an exceptional opportunity to launch, with all due solemnity, the local chapter of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS.

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INAUGURATION OF ALLIANCE SECRETARIAT

KATUTURA, NAMIBIA - 27 MARCH 2002

A key milestone in the life of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa occurred with the official inauguration of the Alliance Secretariat Offices in Katutura, Namibia, on the morning of Wednesday 27th March 2002.

Presiding over the event was His Worship the Mayor of Windhoek, Cllr. Matheus Shikongo and the Mayor of Lusaka Colonel John Kabungo, representing the Deputy Coordinator of the Alliance Mr. Fisho Mwale. Also gracing the occasion was the Honourable

Minister for Regional, Local Government and Housing in Namibia, Dr. Nickey Iyambo and the Deputy Minister, Honourable Prof. Gerhard Töttemeyer.

The impressive ceremony was witnessed by around 100 guests, representing a broad spectrum of Alliance collaborators including local authorities, UN agencies, the Diplomatic community, development partners, media, NGO's, the private sector, and civil society organisations.

The event kicked off with a cultural performance by dance troupe the 'Bridge Walkers'. In calling the occasion to order,



Minister for Regional, Local Government and Housing, Hon. Dr. Nickey Iyambo (left) and His Worship the Mayor of Windhoek, Mr. Matheus Shikongo with the plaque commemorating the opening of the Secretariat.

Master of Ceremonies, Martin Shipanga, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek, welcomed all guests to the official inauguration. Following the National Anthems of the Republic of Namibia and the Organisation for African Unity, Mr. Shipanga proceeded to introduce the guest speakers.

Colonel John Kabungo, the Mayor of Lusaka, on behalf of Mr. Mwale, presented a brief history of the Alliance and its activities and gave special thanks to all those who contributed to making the dream of a home for the Alliance a reality. These included the Government of the Republic of Namibia, City of Windhoek, UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, UNAIDS, USAID, Elus Locaux Contre le SIDA, France and STOP AIDS NOW Foundation. Col. Kabungo also recognised the encouragement and moral support provided by the many NGO's, civil society and private sector organisations to the establishment of the Alliance Headquarters in Windhoek.

A statement by Dr. Kemal Mustafa, Resident Coordinator a.i. of the UN System in Namibia, followed. Dr. Mustafa referred to the concept of partnership being at the heart of the Alliance and AMICAALL initiative. He also highlighted the importance of locally led responses and creation of an enabling environment for action at community level. Dr. Mustafa concluded by expressing the view that the Alliance can make a difference and predicted a flourishing Alliance in future years.

Rebecca Black, the Deputy Director of Regional Urban Development Office, USAID, who flew to Namibia from Pretoria to participate in the inauguration event, spoke on behalf of USAID, a significant financial supporter of the

Secretariat. Ms. Black referred to the impact that HIV/AIDS has on the entire range of operations of local authorities and pledged the continuing support of USAID to the Alliance and AMICAALL initiative.

The Minister for Regional, Local Government and Housing, Dr. Nickey Iyambo, gave an inspiring address that touched on the more personal implications of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the lives of people. Dr. Iyambo interspersed his thought provoking remarks with personal experiences that conveyed a strong message of concern and hope. The Honourable Minister pledged to continue to support the Alliance and its activities as far as possible and for as long as assistance is required.

His Worship, Mayor Matheus Shikongo, gave the keynote address in which he informed the audience and participants in a unique way of the notorious history of the building in which the Secretariat Offices are now housed. The building was a former police facility which acted as a "pass office" where non-Europeans were required to report and obtain permission if they wished to enter Windhoek.

His Worship also provided an outline of the events that led up to the Secretariat Office becoming a reality as well as the activities of the Alliance and the AMICAALL programme. Mayor Shikongo then officially declared the facility open.

Dr. Helen Nkandi-Shiimi, the President of the Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN), proposed a vote of thanks to the official guests. Dr. Nkandi-Shiimi also took the opportunity to draw attention to the work done so far in developing the AMICAALL Namibia Programme and committed the support of all local authorities in Namibia to proactive municipal

responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the local level.

The vote of thanks was followed by a further message of appreciation by the Acting Administrative Officer of the Secretariat, Terry Parker, on behalf of the Secretariat and the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme. Mr. Parker thanked the Secretariat staff, City of Windhoek and all who had worked hard to arrange the day's events. The appreciation of the Alliance for the support given was displayed by the presentation of mementos to the Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing and the City of Windhoek. The gifts were presented to Minister Iyambo and Mayor Shikongo, on behalf of their respective institutions, by the Secretariat's Programme Assistant, Rosemary Uises.

Then followed the unveiling by Mayor Shikongo, in the company of the official party, of a bronze plaque which commemorated the occasion.

An inspection of the offices was made by the official party and invited guests. All guests then gathered informally to take refreshments, during which Mayor Shikongo proposed a toast to the future success of the Alliance.

Co-ordinating Committee:

Co-ordinator: Ernest N'Koumo Mobio, Abidjan
1st Deputy Co-ordinator: Fisho P. Mwale, Lusaka

Contributors:

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Burkina Faso
Terry Parker, Alliance Secretariat Acting
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Jean Luc Romero, President of Elus Locaux Contre
le SIDA, France
Zénabou Drabo, Mayor of Bogodogo, Burkina Faso

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Statement by Dr. Kemal Mustafa, Resident Coordinator a.i. of the United Nations System in Namibia

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Secretariat of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa – Katutura – 27th March 2002

It is my honour to be here today to represent the United Nations system in Namibia at this very important occasion.

The inauguration of the Alliance Secretariat office today symbolises one of the key values of the Alliance of Mayors and the AMICAALL strategy – that of *partnerships*. This project was the outcome of a partnership between the Alliance, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the City of Windhoek, the United States Agency for International Development and the UN system through the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, together with local authority colleagues, NGOs and other civil society partners who have provided the much needed moral support, advice and encouragement to ensure the success of this endeavour.

I applaud the spirit of commitment and dedication of the Government of Namibia, particularly the Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing, and the City of Windhoek who have recognised the achievements of the Alliance so far, and the potential contributions the Alliance will make in the future, to the Africa wide fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Despite competing demands for limited resources, the Government and the City have acknowledged the value of this venture by committing meaningful financial and in kind support to the establishment of this facility here in Katutura. I also acknowledge the significant and valuable contribution by USAID and the UN family to making this facility a reality.

Through the Alliance and AMICAALL, African Mayors and Local Government Authorities are demonstrating both the political will and the social responsibility to protect and promote the health and quality of life of their citizens and communities.

As the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Namibia said in his statement to the General Assembly of the Alliance at the Africities 2000 Summit here in Windhoek:

“Although national policies are important instruments to define broad direction, locally induced and led action, based on community participation, is a fundamental complement to reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and its devastating impact on development”.

What this initiative is essentially about is involving and working with people at the grassroots, and the recognition that sources of learning and understanding must be local. Response activities must be based on the realities of actual experiences, and also tap into values that are important to people.

The Alliance - and its AMICAALL initiative – is contributing to creating a more enabling environment for decentralised action on HIV/AIDS – an environment in which local government, civil society and communities can work together to identify problems and find solutions – an environment also embraced by the Government of Namibia through its decentralisation initiative. A true partnership in terms of ideology - and its practical

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It was indeed high time that the mayors of Burkina Faso, following the example of those in a number of other African countries, avail themselves of a tool, which also symbolizes their determination to counter HIV/AIDS.

Now, with the establishment of the local Chapter of the Alliance and with Ms Zénabou Drabo at its helm, that is accomplished.

It is therefore appropriate and timely to express here our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Ernest N’Koumo Mobio, the Mayor of Abidjan and Coordinator of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa for all the support he has given us in our endeavour. We are also grateful to the Resident Representative of UNDP/Ouagadougou, to the Representative of UNAIDS and to Ms Mina Mauerstein-Bail of the UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme for their diverse contributions in the creation of the Burkina Faso Chapter of the Alliance. Henceforth, our national Alliance is fully operational as it has, from its inception, adopted a workplan and a programming strategy.

Therefore, while not wishing to take undue advantage of the opportunity given to me here, I do call upon our partners in development to provide their support to the young Burkinabé Alliance to strengthen the impact of its activities on the ground.

translation into concrete action - is certainly promising.

We all know that the issues upon which policies and programmes are needed to adequately confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic are often extremely complex – involving moral, ethical, social, cultural, political, economic, religious and legal issues.

We also know that the epidemic implies the discussion of sensitive issues about which frank dialogue may not be customary and that fear, stigma, discrimination and complacency all add fuel to this epidemic.

Determining how best to approach the epidemic is a challenge which faces countries, communities and individuals around the world.

In countries where the Alliance is active and national AMICAALL programmes have been started, Mayors and local leaders are making a difference. They are involving people living with HIV and AIDS in municipal action planning, programme development and implementation – they are speaking out and addressing fear and stigma.

They are fostering creative and innovative partnerships with civil society, the private sector and community leaders in their countries and internationally. They are creating a more enabling environment in which difficult questions can be discussed and concrete actions taken to support programmes in affected communities - programmes which provide practical support to affected households and communities, as well as support for orphans; home based care; legal support to women; food, clean water and material support; and the linking

with prevention and awareness activities.

Mayors and municipal leaders are well placed to make a substantial impact – they can be very powerful advocates. I encourage all of you in these unique positions of influence to step forth and make that difference.

I know that the Alliance is still young, but already in a short period of time you have shown that you are improving the lives of people you serve.

Another milestone has been achieved here today – I congratulate all

involved in bringing this vision to reality and wish you many more landmark achievements as you grow. You now have the institutional structure to facilitate more achievements in the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa. We look forward to seeing the expansion of the Alliance eventually to all countries in Africa and AMICAALL programmes flourishing throughout the continent.

I am grateful to you for allowing me to be part of this historic occasion.

I thank you.

BURKINA FASO LAUNCHES ITS CHAPTER OF THE ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA

In December 2001, some 5000 people from around the world met in Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso in West Africa at the XIIth International Conference on AIDS and STDs in Africa (ICASA) to share information and experiences. The theme of ICASA 2001 was: «Communities Commit Themselves». UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot, former Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings, Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore, and Ouagadougou Mayor Simon Compaore were among those who spoke at the opening ceremonies.

During the Conference, mayors from over 40 urban communities in the country came together to form the Burkina Faso Chapter of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa. «Mayors must be on the frontlines,» said Simon Compaore, «and work closely with communities to reverse the devastation of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. There must be sustained efforts by local governments, communities and society at large.»

The launch of the Burkina Faso Chapter of the Alliance was organized in tandem with a Round Table Meeting entitled «From Rhetoric to Action: Mayors and Communities Working Together on HIV/AIDS», organized with support from the Continental Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa and the UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme.

During the ICASA conference closing ceremonies, the creation of the Burkina Faso National Chapter of the Alliance of Mayors was formally announced and reported by the local media. A Burkina Faso Alliance Coordinating Committee was formed to facilitate and manage the development of a national AMICAALL programme. Mayor Zenabou Drabo of the District of Bogodogo in Ouagadougou was named the Committee Coordinator.

In Burkina Faso, a country of approximately 11.6 million people, it is estimated that 10% of the adult population is living with HIV/AIDS. The epidemic has had a dramatic impact on the country, lowering its economic growth, creating a new class of orphans, and impoverishing families and communities. The involvement of mayors and local government authorities, working in partnership with civil society and communities has been identified as a priority in the National AIDS Strategy for Burkina Faso.



Mayor Ernest N'Koumo Mobio (left), the Coordinator of the Alliance and Mr. Simon Compaore, Mayor of Ouagadougou, at the launch of the Burkina Faso National Chapter of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa

Declaration of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders of Burkina Faso on HIV/AIDS

Aware of the scale of the AIDS epidemic and sexually transmitted diseases, their social and economic consequences just as deadly as the disease itself throughout our country, Burkina Faso,

Aware of the gravity of the situation in the face of the tragedies AIDS provokes and creates within the households of our country, all the more so as, to-date, there exists no totally efficient treatment, nor cure for this illness,

Aware that within ten years, half the population of our planet will live in urban agglomerations and that the cities and towns have an important role to play in confronting the challenges of the epidemic,

Aware that local authorities remain the first institutions closest to the people and that they can be effective in raising people's consciousness and in mobilizing them,

We, the Mayors and Municipal Leaders of Burkina Faso, gathered at Ouagadougou, at a General Assembly, on Monday the 10th of December 2001, have decided to create the National Chapter of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa.

To this end, the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders of Burkina Faso has made the pledge to:

1 - Contribute, by every means, to reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases on our communities.

2 - Participate in mobilizing and raising the awareness of our people through the coordination and promotion of multisectoral approaches developed by the national council to fight HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

3 - Create community alliances throughout the national territory and mobilize the financial resources required to fight the epidemic.

4 - Associate our citizens in the implementation of the different responses which will be developed.

5 - Guarantee transparency in the management of the resources put at the disposal of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders of Burkina Faso and the community alliances.

6 - Work closely with all structures participating in the response to HIV/AIDS in Burkina Faso.

Signed at Ouagadougou, 10 December 2001

Ms Zénabou Drabo named Coordinator of the Coordinating Committee of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders of Burkina Faso on HIV/AIDS

At the launch of their National Alliance, the mayors and municipal leaders of Burkina Faso decided to place a woman, Ms Zénabou Drabo, at the helm of their organization. This innovative move in the context of the Alliance of African Mayors and Municipal Leaders merits attention. It is indeed the crowning confirmation of an exceptional political career and of Ms Drabo's unquestionable competence.

Ms Zénabou Drabo is one of the three women mayors of Burkina Faso. She entered into politics in 1983 and in December 2000, she took an electoral victory in the district of Bogodogo of Ouagadougou, the capital city of Burkina Faso. It was a constituency known to be particularly difficult and Ms Drabo's victory came after a hard-fought campaign. Today, Madam Mayor leads a district with a population of 255,849.

By training, Ms Drabo is a member of the medical profession. She is in fact an

anaesthesiologist. So her professional activities and her experience have given her a special understanding and sensitivity in regard to matters relating to HIV/AIDS.

As soon as she was appointed, she was therefore able to outline, without hesitation, the vision of the Alliance she means to share with her colleagues. She intends to encourage her mayoral colleagues to a greater awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS on their respective local communities, to lead the institutional development of the National Alliance of Burkina Faso, and, finally, to contribute to launching an AMICAALL programme with the support of the UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme.

Ms Drabo has all the assets and qualities required to realize her ambitions for the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders of Burkina Faso. She enjoys the confidence of the Chairman of the Association of Mayors of Burkina Faso, Mr Simon Campaore, Mayor of

Ouagadougou, but above all, she also has the intellectual and human qualities to be a leader. The positive testimony of the associations on HIV/AIDS working with her in her district bare witness to that fact. Let us wish her full success in tackling the immense task ahead.



Ms Zénabou Drabo, Coordinator of the Coordinating Committee of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders of Burkina Faso on HIV/AIDS.

The Mayors of Mali launch a National Alliance on HIV/AIDS

After the creation of an Alliance of Mayors of Burkina Faso, on 10 December 2001, the mayors in neighboring Mali established the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders of Mali on HIV/AIDS. The launch took place on the 15th of March 2002, in the Congress Building in Bamako, where the International Association of Francophone Mayors (Association Internationale de Maires Francophones - A.I.M.F.) was meeting on the following day, on the subject «The Town and the Informal Economy».

The official opening ceremony for the launch of the Malian Alliance was held under the chairmanship of the Minister for Local Government, represented on this occasion by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Health. Among the many who attended the ceremony were the Secretaries General of the Ministries of Finance and of Social Development and Solidarity, Mr Jean-Louis Ledecq, UNAIDS Country Programme Advisor, Mr Ibrahima N'Diaye, President of the Malian Association of Municipalities and Mayor of the district of Bamako. The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa was represented by its Coordinator, Mr Ernest N'Koumo Mobio, Mayor of Abidjan and by Mr Emmanuel Ibo-Bainguie of the Abidjan Sub-regional Office of the Alliance.

Mali is one of the largest countries of the Sahel, with a population of some ten million. As regards local government, the country has just initiated a decentralization policy which entrusts important responsibilities to 703 municipalities. As a result, the country's capital, Bamako, with a population of one million, has become a district led by a Mayor heading a municipal council and assisted by six Mayors, each administering a local community. It is noteworthy that of the 703 municipalities, only three have a woman as mayor.

The mobilization of the mayors and municipal leaders at this ceremony deserves a tribute: of the 48 locally elected official in attendance, 26 were

mayors, 10 deputy mayors and 9 municipal councilors. They were supported by 38 representatives of central governmental administrations involved in programs of action against HIV/AIDS and in particular, by officials of the National AIDS Programme. Some ten NGOs, including associations of persons living with HIV and of Youth, were also represented at the launch.

At the conclusion of their deliberations, the Mayors adopted a declaration, known as the Bamako Declaration, as well as the statutes establishing the local Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS. An Executive Bureau of six members, headed by M. Abdel Kader Sidibé, the Mayor of Bamako's Municipality III and Deputy Secretary General of the Malian Association of Mayors, was also elected.

The post of First Vice-president has been entrusted to a woman, Ms Niangado Mah Drabo. The Executive Bureau is tasked with developing, as soon as possible, the program of action of the newly formed Alliance.

The creation of the Malian Alliance, on the eve of the important Colloquium of the AIMF which brought together more than 300 elected municipal repre-

sentatives of francophone cities worldwide, raised considerable interest among participants of this meeting. In particular, at the opening of the colloquium, the Chairman of the AIMF and Mayor of Paris, Mr. Bertrand Delanoë stated in his speech that the AIMF would support its members' projects of action on HIV/AIDS. In this way, and thanks to the launch of the Alliance of Mali in conjunction with the holding of the colloquium, the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa has gained a significant partner and contributor. It is worth noting that the Coordinator of the Africa-wide Alliance, Mr Ernest N'Koumo Mobio is the Secretary General and a member of the AIMF Executive.

Thus, the Alliance of Mayors of Mali on HIV/AIDS was born in a favorable environment for its development and outreach. Let us wish it an active and dynamic presence, bringing good results by contributing to reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in Mali, which are currently estimated at 2.3%.

And where next will a national Alliance be launched?



From left to right : Mr Mobio, Mayor of Abidjan and Coordinator of the Alliance, Mr Tounkara, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health, and Mr Ibrahima N'Diaye, President of the Malian Association of Municipalities and Mayor of the district of Bamako.

Mayors from Africa and the United States working together to find solutions to the HIV/AIDS epidemic

‘Healthy Cities and Towns: An Emerging Agenda for Leaders’ was the theme of the 28th National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM), held in Jackson, Mississippi, from 23-27 April, which attracted over 500 black mayors from 28 states as well as mayors from Africa and other national leaders in the USA, such as Senate majority Leader Tom Daschle. The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa was invited to participate in this year’s conference and was represented by Fikile Mthembu, Executive Secretary of the Alliance and Fisho Mwale, Deputy Coordinator of the Alliance. They made a presentation on the Alliance and AMICAALL to the NCBM Standing Committee on International Affairs and participated in a press conference, together with Mayor Wellington Webb, NCBM president, and other African mayors attending the Conference.



Jerry Brister, Special Events Coordinator, Jackson Police Department welcomes Fisho Mwale, Deputy Coordinator of the Alliance, to the city of Jackson, Mississippi, which hosted 28th annual National Conference of Black Mayors.



From left to right: Ms. Fikile Mthembu, Executive Secretary of the Alliance, Mr. Fisho Mwale, Deputy Coordinator of the Alliance and Mr. Jack Simms, District Heights, Maryland, USA, Chairman of NCBM Standing Committee on International Affairs.

The NCBM adopted a Resolution, urging all of its members to actively support the Alliance and its members. NCBM set up a Working Group of Mayors to explore how technical and financial partnerships can be developed within the framework of AMICAALL. A number of US Mayors have already expressed interest in supporting twinning in the area of HIV/AIDS and follow up is being facilitated by the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme and the Alliance Secretariat.

National Conference of Black Mayors, INC. - RESOLUTION 4 -

In support of the Alliance of Mayors’ Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL)

WHEREAS, the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa was created in January 1998 to promote and support partnerships among cities, with civil society and the private sector in order to expand community based responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and

WHEREAS, mayors and municipal leaders are seeing first hand the devastating impact of the epidemic within their communities and are a vital link between national policies and local action; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. (NCBM), by resolution, urged its members to be of assistance to the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. (NCBM) strongly recommends that its members work together with the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders to identify concrete actions that can be

supported in the towns and cities who have made a commitment to addressing HIV/AIDS in their municipal agendas within the framework of AMICAALL.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCBM stongly encourages its members to set up a task force dedicated to identifying a specific number of actions that can be taken in the very near future to support the Alliance and its program of work, including the identification of resources, technical and financial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCBM welcomes the opportunity to work with the UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme, which was set up to support the work of the Alliance and facilitate the implementation of national AMICAALL programs, in further developing a program of action in support of goals of the Alliance.

On this 26th day of April 2002

National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. Wellington E. Webb, Mayor

Attested: Clarence W. Hawkins, Mayor

Building Partnership and Solidarity

Association of Locally Elected Officials against AIDS, France

The Association of Locally Elected Officials against AIDS, France (Elus Locaux Contre le SIDA - ELCS) was established in 1995 in order to encourage French elected officials to commit themselves in the communities they represent, to undertake projects relating to prevention, care and support to the sick and their families; to reduce the risks for drug users, raising awareness and promoting tolerance for the infected who, all too frequently still, are the victims of stigma; and to support non governmental organisations and associations. Today, our association has a membership of more than 10,000 elected representatives of all political persuasions, for we, in ELCS, believe that the fight against AIDS is neither of the right, nor the left-wing.

While in France the management of public health problems is theoretically the exclusive responsibility of the State, the local representatives, members of our association, can of course not remain indifferent to the crisis in Africa which so clearly reveals the inequalities of our world.

We, therefore, enthusiastically support the initiatives of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa and AMICAALL. Locally elected representatives in France as in Africa, who are at grassroots level and in direct contact with the multiple aspects of the epidemic, are best placed to appreciate the needs, and promote actions in support of prevention and access to testing, adapting their response to local realities, which they know so well.

This is why it will be a pleasure to welcome members of the Alliance/ UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme to take part in our forthcoming general assembly (Etats Généraux) - an annual colloquium hosted this year by the Regional Council of Ile-de-France. We consider it important indeed to inform French elected officials, and to promote the possibilities open to them in matters of international solidarity, particularly in the framework of the decentralized cooperation between regions and the twinning of communities.

Furthermore, we shall endeavour to assist the Alliance/UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme in soliciting financial support from the French Ministry for Cooperation (Ministère de la Coopération et de la Francophonie), as soon as the new French Government is formed, so as to develop and sustain this partnership action.

Finally, and exceptionally, we have decided to make a symbolic contribution of 1000 Euros towards the establishment of the Alliance of Mayors' Secretariat in Windhoek.

We rejoice in the new perspectives opening up as a result of this partnership, hoping that it will contribute to bringing concrete responses to the crisis of your continent, a continent with which, despite the thousands of kilometers between us, we feel and stand in close solidarity.



Jean-Luc Romero, President of ELCS

Building Partnerships – The Netherlands

In April 2002, representatives of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders were invited to participate in the annual conference on Africa of the Evert Vermeer Foundation (EVS) in Utrecht, Netherlands and were hosted by STOP AIDS NOW, an independent organization dedicated to mobilizing support for the battle against AIDS both nationally and internationally. The EVS conference is characterized by debate and interaction between panelists and the public. The Coordinator of the Alliance, Mayor of Abidjan, Mr. Ernest N’Koumo Mobio, the Executive Secretary of the Alliance Secretariat, Fikile Mthembu from Manzini in Swaziland and Fiso Mwale, co-founder of the Alliance and member of the Alliance Coordinating Committee explained how mayors and municipal leaders in Africa have begun to organize

themselves to ensure that HIV/AIDS is a public policy priority on municipal agendas; how mayors and municipal leaders are working together with communities to ensure that resources and support services are reaching people in need and addressing urgent, immediate needs associated with the devastation of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on households and communities.

Following the EVS Conference, representatives of the Alliance met with representatives of the of Dutch National AIDS Foundation, a non-governmental organization, which since 1985 has been working for a world without AIDS and supports international projects, to explore collaboration. A meeting was also organized with the Mayor of Amsterdam, Job Cohen, who

expressed his support for the work that the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa is doing and congratulated the Alliance for its leadership and commitment. Meetings were held with Association of Netherlands Municipalities who also expressed their interest and support for the Alliance and agreed to explore concrete areas of collaboration.

The Alliance is grateful to the UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme for facilitating the visit to the Netherlands, which provided an excellent opportunity to reach out to a wide range of individuals and organizations, to share information and to promote and expand collaboration in support of the work of the Alliance, in particular in heavily affected countries in Africa.



From left to right: Mr. Mobio, Mayor of Abidjan and Coordinator of the Alliance, Mr. Cohen, Mayor of Amsterdam, Mr. Peter van Rooijen, AIDSFONDS Foundation, Netherlands, Ms. Mina Mauerstein-Bail, Director of UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, Prof. Babacar Kante, Legal Advisor to the Alliance, Mr. Fiso Mwale, Deputy Coordinator of the Alliance and Ms. Fikile Mthembu, the Executive Secretary of the Alliance Secretariat.

THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

The Alliance and UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme were recently invited to participate in the UN HABITAT World Urban Forum, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29 April to 3 May 2002.

The substantive focus of the Forum was international cooperation in shelter and urban development and implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The central theme was how to best tackle the problems of urbanisation so that everyone, rich and poor alike, can fully exercise their 'right to the city'.

A wide range of partners participated in the Forum, including representatives of national governments, local authorities, non-governmental organisations, community based organisations, development professionals, research institutes, academia, private sector, foundations, United Nations organisations and other development agencies. Prominent amongst the 600 participants were about 200 slum and shack dwellers from around the world.

The working arrangements for the Forum included a series of "Dialogues" on key topics, including 'Managing HIV/AIDS Pandemic at the Local Level'. The Alliance and AMICAALL were well placed to make a significant contribution to the deliberations as part of the panel. Presentations were made by Prof. Babacar Kanté, associate of the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, and Mr. Mbuso Dlamini, the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Swaziland.

Prof. Kanté spoke about the objectives and activities of the Alliance and of the AMICAALL programme of action, which is being implemented by an increasing number of municipalities in Africa.

Mr. Dlamini presented a case study of the City of Manzini in Swaziland – how the AMICAALL approach has been applied with considerable success in the local municipal response to HIV/AIDS.

The "Dialogue" acknowledged the need for political commitment and leadership in managing the response to the epidemic, the adoption of community focused actions, the critical role that local authorities play and the need for capacity building for multi sectoral HIV/AIDS management strategies.

The key recommendations resulting from the World Urban Forum will be forwarded to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002.



Prof. Babacar Kanté, the associate of the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (left) and Mr Mbuso Dlamini, the principal Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Swaziland

Cities and Towns: Women, Poverty and HIV/AIDS

World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) and the Alliance of Mayors Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL)

The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa and the UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme, set up with support from UNAIDS and working to help translate the goals of the IPAA into concrete actions in cities, towns and neighborhoods, participated in the Third Forum of the World Alliance of Cities against Poverty (WACAP) in Huy, Belgium, 10-12 April. During a plenary session, attended by city representatives from all continents, representatives of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa shared experiences on how they are becoming increasingly involved in addressing the

impact of HIV/AIDS in their communities, particularly on women, and the challenges this brings to governance and the quality of life of the people they serve. Through their strategy – Alliance of Mayors Initiative for Community Action on AIDS (AMICAALL), which is multisectoral and emphasizes partnerships between local government, civil society, including the private sector and communities, mayors and municipal leaders in Africa are working through existing cities networks as well as with other partners and networks to ensure that HIV/AIDS is integrated into municipal agendas, to promote public-private partnerships, develop

approaches to capacity building based on local ownership and leadership, to involve people living with HIV/AIDS in planning and implementation of community based initiatives, to learn and share lessons. UNAIDS/IPAA also participated in this plenary session and provided a very useful overview of the epidemic, its impact on women and stressed the importance of a decentralized response to the epidemic. In their final Declaration, participants of the Forum committed themselves to work with communities and civil society partners to expand prevention efforts and to assist affected households.

AMICAALL and Scaling up

By Saul Helfenbein, Senior Fellow at Management Sciences for Health, USA

With the growing international effort to expand and secure a more effective response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, increased attention is being given to the notion of scaling up. While there is a lot we do not know about the evolution of the epidemic, the fact remains that there is at present a great body of experience and knowledge about what works. Unfortunately, the percentage of affected and vulnerable populations actually covered by effective responses still remains very low.

Scaling up is not only a question of funding, but also a question of strategy. Several major strategic issues in scaling up are: *demand and supply; ownership; access and inclusion; process and partnership*. The AMICAALL approach to enhancing capacities in support of decentralized community-based response lends itself to addressing effectively these strategic issues.

Demand and Supply - The AMICAALL approach of "one size does not fit all" recognizes that each community will have a different mix of constraints on demand and supply of services, and that each has to find its own set of solutions. Municipalities and local communities that can develop appropriate strategies for creating awareness, providing information, and promoting appropriate behaviors in light of the particular mix of vulnerable and affected groups,

have a better chance of rapidly expanding coverage than those who follow cookie cutter approaches.

Similarly, AMICAALL's approach of working with a diversity of and different combinations of stakeholders lends itself to mapping out and finding solutions to supply constraints. Local communities are best situated to determine the appropriate balance between addressing demand or increasing supply as the most effective way of increasing coverage.

Ownership - The timing of a scaling up initiative is extremely important. A scaling up initiative needs to be launched at the right time, or it is likely to meet resistance and fail. Timing depends on three factors: technical feasibility, assessment of positive costs and benefits, and societal and political support. Local communities are best suited to determine which among the many effective interventions for prevention and care is most feasible in the existing setting.

In this case, the AMICAALL approach of encouraging and supporting local analysis of the impact of the epidemic and ways local communities can effectively respond is an important element in determining what is technically feasible and how interventions can be best adapted to the local human, organizational and managerial capacity.

Local communities are also best suited to determine the posi-

tive cost and benefits of potential prevention and care interventions on different affected and vulnerable population groups, and so can adapt the responses to the specific needs of population groups, whether they are the general population, high risk behavior groups, or affected groups like orphans. Local and municipal levels are also best suited to address the third element of timing, political and societal support for sustaining a scaling up initiative over time.

AMICAALL's approach to harnessing and utilizing local political will of mayors and local government is critical for identifying the kinds of political and societal support needed, how it can be most effectively mobilized, and how it can be nurtured over time.

Access and inclusion - A major issue in scaling up coverage is providing adequate access to services by different vulnerable and affected groups. Access should reflect both the magnitude of the vulnerable and affected populations and the kinds of prevention, care, support and impact mitigation services that will ameliorate the problems they face as a result of the epidemic. To expand coverage in both scope and quality, a scaling up initiative thus needs to consider both *breadth of coverage* and *depth of coverage*.

From the perspective of breadth of coverage, institutional, personnel, and management capacity requirement is critical. It will also be important to tackle

specific access issues of vulnerable and affected populations that may be extremely difficult to reach because of social or economic isolation from the mainstream. Depth of coverage focuses on the complexity of the impact of HIV/AIDS on different groups, and the different social, economic and health related services that must be provided concurrently to lessen the impact.

AMICAALL's approach to working with multiple stakeholders offers the most efficient way of addressing *both* access issues. Working with multiple stakeholders can facilitate the identification of a wider range of suitable institutional venues for offering the mix of needed social, economic and health services.

The AMICAALL strategy of developing a *Municipal Team and Policy Roundtable* bringing together local government authorities, NGO's, community based organizations from cities and towns, can help identify both traditional and non-traditional institutional sources for delivering services. In-depth local knowledge of the local situation can help identify a range of institutional resources that are often invisible to planners at the national level.

AMICAALL *Municipal Teams* can also help set up local coordinating mechanisms to link these organizations into networks and associations to increase depth of coverage; as well as to identify specific organizations to coordinate individual client referrals or act as gateway organizations to other organizations which provide needed services.

Process and partnership - A final and equally important strategic issue in extending coverage focuses on the *process* of scaling up, that is, the mechanisms for establishing high quality and sustainable services. Depending on the prevention, care and mitigation strategies, and the social, economic, political, governance context, mechanisms might include one or more of the following:

- a) Establishing autonomous services. Some prevention and care interventions may have certain personnel, technical, and management requirements. They may need their own separate infrastructure and systems to run smoothly.
- b) Integrating new services with existing services. Some prevention, care and mitigation efforts can be easily grafted onto existing services, with only marginal adjustments or modifications of an existing program.
- c) Creating a web of referrals to access different services at different times depending on specific needs. This strategy may be called for when the service components are very different, such as health, educational, social and economic support.

The advantages and disadvantages of each would depend on the problems of vulnerable and affected groups, the magnitude of the epidemic, the mix of organizations, the technical and managerial capacity of human resources, and the kinds of prevention, care and mitigation services that are to be scaled up.

AMICAALL has developed a comprehensive *Action* approach that can facilitate the search for appropriate local mechanisms. The key is in AMICAALL's commitment to providing municipal leaders and local government authorities with tools to understand the evolution of the epidemic and the most effective way to mobilize local human, institutional and managerial resources in developing effective responses. Further, by enabling local groups to find ways of scaling up solutions, municipalities and communities can choose the most appropriate mix of approaches that they can adequately support. And, by taking a multi-sectoral approach to resource mobilization, the AMICAALL Municipal Teams and Policy Roundtables can also contribute to effective networking solutions that match different services with needs of vulnerable and affected groups.

Overall, AMICAALL represents an imaginative approach to scaling up at the local level. The challenges of going to scale and expanding coverage lies in the magnitude of the undertaking and the difficulties in mobilizing the resources and political will necessary to maintain momentum over the time needed to accomplish this enormous task. The AMICAALL strategy offers a more feasible approach to going to scale by focusing on local needs, local solutions, and local resources. Expanding the AMICAALL partnership within countries and throughout the region can make the idea of scaling up a routine part of program design and implementation.

Orphans and children in a world of AIDS

The AIDS epidemic has orphaned millions of children. Even if prevention campaigns become hugely successful and HIV infection drops dramatically, most people already living with HIV are expected to succumb to AIDS-related illnesses. Millions more children and young people will lose one or both parents over the next ten years.

The total number of children orphaned by the epidemic since it began - 13.2 million - is forecast to more than double by 2010.

Sub-Saharan Africa is hardest hit. It is home to over 70% of young people living with HIV/AIDS and to 90% of the AIDS orphans in the world (12.1 million children and young people).

Many children and young people are struggling to survive on their own in child-headed households. Others have been forced to fend for themselves in the streets. Consequently, there is an increasing number of unprotected, poorly socialized and under-educated young people.

HIV/AIDS will continue to affect the lives of several generations of children. The impact will mark their communities for decades as the numbers of impoverished children rise, their insecurity worsens, education and work opportunities decline, nurturing and support systems erode, and mortality rises.

Large-scale, long-term efforts are needed to cope with these harsh new realities.

Governments, organizations and communities are faced with the acute need to devise ways of assisting these children and young people, equal to the enormous scale of the crisis.

At the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in June 2001, Member States committed themselves to pursuing a powerful set of targets, among them:

«Urge the international community, particularly donor countries, civil society, as well as the private sector, to complement effectively national programmes to support programmes for children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in affected regions, and to direct special assistance to sub-Saharan Africa».

Excerpt from a UNAIDS publication *«Children and young people in a world of AIDS,»*
August 2001

Rufina's Story

With the dawn of each new day, Rufina Aol is conscious of the imminence of death, of the fact that one day her body will be defeated by disease. It is for this reason that in every step she takes, Rufina exudes life.

Rufina Aol learned that she was infected with HIV in 1990 as she watched her husband's second wife quietly waste away. Faced with the thought of inescapable pain, Rufina decided it would be easier to pass immediately to death. She took an overdose of pills and closed her eyes on a dark world.

That evening, a friend and doctor rescued Rufina's body. Weeks later, a stranger's "wonderful suffering" restored life to her spirit.

At the urging of friends, Rufina went for the first time to visit AIDS patients in their homes. She remembers stepping from the morning sunlight into the dark coolness of a hut, where a young man's thin body was limp on his papyrus mat. When Rufina's eyes met those of the man, joy replaced the anguish in his hollowed face. As she watched the transformation, Rufina felt a change in her own understanding of suffering.

In 1991 Rufina joined Meeting Point, where she has worked for the past decade, dedicating her days to visiting AIDS patients and their families. She has comforted them in sickness, shared with them in sorrow, planned with them for the future, and accompanied them to the last.

"I am here to face the reality of AIDS so they are not alone as they suffer," she said. "My problems right now are light compared to theirs... I run to them so we can share our experiences without fear."

Rufina's son, Obalo Alex Aol, was 11 years old when his mother explained to him that she was carrying HIV. From that day forward he has been her sustenance and support.

"She did not chose this sickness, so we must put it in God's hands and use our time now to share and to be happy together," Alex said.

In 1998, when Rufina fell ill and could not care for herself, Alex quit school for two years in order to care for his mother and his four younger cousins, all children orphaned by AIDS.

Even after his mother's health had stabilized, Alex was hesitant to leave her side. It was Rufina who pressed him to return to vocational school in a nearby district, reminding him that one day the care of his wife, son and young cousins would rest on his shoulders alone.

Rufina wants her family to be prepared for her death, but what she emphasizes more is that they prepare for their own lives. She discusses openly with her children the dangers of HIV and the precautions they must take as responsible members of their community. It is part of her commitment, her legacy, to the future.

Obalo Alex has inherited abundant gifts from his mother – lessons of faith, self-sacrifice, joy, suffering – they are pieces of Rufina that will not be extinguished by disease.

In Alex's face, in his broad cheekbones and his easy smile, is a reflection of his mother's radiance, of the light that will exist beyond her abbreviated time on earth.

Excerpt from "Unearthed Grace: Stories from Northern Uganda", by Gina L. Brammuci

OTJIWARONGO COMMUNITY CARE CENTER - NAMIBIA

"I was the second born in a family of twelve. I was born in Otjiwarongo and raised by my mother - a domestic worker. Despite hardship, I was motivated to work hard to become the person I am today. I realized that even through hardship, one could reach the top. Since then I became the breadwinner for my younger brothers and sisters. I developed a loving, sharing and caring attitude. As a teacher, I used to work with a lot of disadvantaged children. Despite having limited resources at my disposal, I helped them when I could. It has always been my wish to help people in need.

When I was elected a Councillor for the Local Government, I realised this was a stepping-stone towards achieving my dreams. As Councillor, I was brought closer to the Communities. I started to learn about the problems facing the majority of the people in the town. I made contributions to help them where I could. As a mother, my heart was bleeding when I saw AIDS orphans, and those who were suffering from the disease. The ever increasing number of HIV/AIDS cases in the town brought me to a point where I decided to do something to assist the people in the community. I therefore started to dream of establishing a community care centre."

- Moderatha T. Shaduka

Mayor, Otjiwarongo Municipality

Otjiwarongo, which in the Herrero language means 'Beautiful Place,' is the regional capital of the O'tzjozondjupa region of Namibia, with a population of approximately 27,000 people. Six years ago, with the assistance of the Town Council, Moderatha Shaduka, the Mayor of Otjiwarongo, opened a day care centre for the disadvantaged youth of Orwetoni, Otjiwarongo. The Centre, managed by a group of community volunteers, provides proper care and offers the children a safe environment to learn, play and receive

the type of nurturing every child requires.

The municipality contributed two adjacent buildings in Orwetoni to house the Centre, and it continues to support the program by providing electricity and water. Local business establishments have voluntarily supplied the Centre with food, ensuring that the children are provided daily with adequate meals.

In order to address the increasing implications of the HIV/AIDS crisis in the town, the Mayor, with the support of the entire Town Council, plans to expand the Centre to include a temporary, transitional home for AIDS orphans until a longer term solution can be found.

Recognising the critical role a community can play in the fight against the epidemic, the Otjiwarongo Community Care Centre is responding to HIV/AIDS in a multi-sectoral, collaborative way, with emphasis on community involvement and education.

The overall objectives of the Otjiwarongo Community Care Centre are:

- To support the family and community structure by providing sustenance, schoolwork assistance and life skills development for disadvantaged children.
- To serve as a training centre for community based HIV/AIDS counsellors.
- To provide information to the community through an information centre.
- To provide a boarding facility for AIDS orphans until a longer term solution can be found.

The local authority of Otjiwarongo has responded to the changing dynamics of the communities and embraced the AMICAALL strategy, where local needs are being identified and addressed by the local authority in collaboration with the community.

For more information, contact the Public Relations Officer for the Municipality of Otjiwarongo:

Mr. Ismael Howose

Tel: (+264.67) 302-231

Fax: (+264.67) 302-098

Email: hrpro@otjmun.org.na



Mayor Moderatha Shaduka (second adult from left), Volunteers and children outside one of the Center buildings

The Challenge

HIV/AIDS is triggering national emergencies around the globe. It is destroying the lives of individuals and communities, wiping out hard-earned economic and social development gains and threatening social and political stability.

Even the worst-case scenarios of a decade ago underestimated the severity and scale of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As morbidity and mortality rates rise—and the effects cascade through societies—the epidemic is weakening countries' institutions, and reversing decades of much-needed progress in health, education, literacy, and human and economic development.

Fortunately, it can be turned around. Although the varied nature of HIV/AIDS defies a universal blueprint, 20 years of experience have shown the need for an extraordinary, expanded response incorporating the following elements:

- Constant, visible examples must be set to promote openness about HIV/AIDS and defuse the associated stigma and discrimination;
- The response required to deal with the epidemic should extend across the various sectors (and at the different levels) of the state and civil society;
- Coherent national strategies and plans that draw a wide range of actors into the response are essential;
- Social policy reforms are needed to reduce people's vulnerability to HIV infection;
- Strategies should be grounded in communities' activities and mobilization, but these communities must also be enabled to rise to those challenges;
- The involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS is paramount;
- Broad and equitable access to prevention and care is vital, as is the realization that those dimensions are inseparable;
- Lessons learned must be translated back into practice;
- Adequate resources must be deployed—nationally and globally—against the epidemic.

Excerpt from «*Together we can: Leadership in a world of AIDS*», UNAIDS, 2001

Notebook

Local Government in Tanzania represented at National AIDS Commission

TACAIDS, the Tanzania Commission for AIDS, was launched by the Prime Minister, Frederick Sumaye on 20 February 2002. The Commission is headed by an Executive Chairperson, Major General Lupogo, who was appointed by President Benjamin Mkapa in March 2001. The Act to establish the Tanzania Commission for AIDS was passed in Parliament in October 2001 and endorsed by the President in January 2002. Last month the 10 members of TACAIDS were appointed by the Prime Minister. They include the following representatives: two from Government (one from Ministry of Health and one from President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government), two from Faith based organisations (one Christian and one Muslim), two from NGOs, one from the Private Sector, one PLHA, one Member of Parliament and one youth. Four of the 10 members are women. TACAIDS will provide strategic leadership and coordinate all actors in the national multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS.

How to join the Alliance

I, the undersigned: _____
 Title: _____
 Country: _____
 City: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Fax: _____
 Email: _____

want to become a member of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa, and subscribe to the Newsletter.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please send this form to the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa Secretariat, P.O. Box 60401, Katutura, Windhoek, Namibia

How to contact the Alliance

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Upcoming events

Conference of the Institute of Local Government Management of South Africa (ILGM), Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, 3-5 June 2002. For more information contact: ilgm@agnet.co.za

Knowledge and Commitment for Action, XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona, Spain,

July 7-12, 2002, Website: http://www.aids2002.com/IE_home.asp