



**World Health Organization
Organisation mondiale de la Santé**

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Ninety-fifth Session

Provisional agenda item 12

EB95/60
4 January 1995

Paris AIDS Summit (1 December 1994)

Report by the Director-General

This document provides a brief review of the preparatory activities carried out for the Paris AIDS Summit organized by the French Government and WHO on 1 December 1994. Initial plans for the implementation of the declaration are described. The Annex reproduces the text of the declaration (original French) signed by the 42 heads of government or their representatives participating in the Summit.

A draft resolution for the consideration of the Executive Board is given in section IV.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In December 1993, during the VIIIth International Conference on AIDS in Africa, the French Government announced its intention to convene a Summit of heads of government on AIDS in 1994. Representatives of major donor countries attended a preparatory meeting on 8 April 1994, where it was recommended that WHO should play a key role in the preparation and follow-up of the Summit to be held on 1 December 1994, especially in view of its secretariat function for the interagency working group preparing the joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS.

II. REVIEW OF PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

2. At the beginning of May 1994, in response to the above recommendation, the Director-General concluded an agreement with the French Government defining the respective responsibilities of WHO and France concerning the organization of the Summit. A Summit task force was established in the WHO Global Programme on AIDS (GPA) to help prepare the Summit and ensure liaison with the French authorities through a France-WHO steering committee. At the same time, a working group composed of people living with HIV/AIDS, "la cellule des personnes atteintes du VIH/SIDA", was formed to participate in the preparation of the Summit and to keep community groups and people living with HIV/AIDS throughout the world informed.

3. On 9 May 1994, during the Forty-seventh World Health Assembly, the Director-General organized an informal meeting of the 42 Member States invited by the French Government to participate in the Summit to discuss plans for the Summit. A series of preliminary proposals for priority action, prepared in accordance with the conclusions of the April preparatory meeting, was provided for consideration.

4. A pre-Summit meeting, to which ministers of health from the 42 countries were invited, took place in Paris on 17 and 18 June 1994. UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank, together with the European Union, the Council of Europe, OECD and five nongovernmental organizations (the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, the International Council of AIDS Services Organizations, the Global AIDS Policy Coalition, the World Conference on Religions and Peace, and the International Conference of Voluntary Agencies) were also invited to attend. The participants agreed that five strategic meetings of experts - on blood safety, development and accessibility of preventive technology including vaccines and microbicides for HIV/AIDS, care and support of people affected by HIV/AIDS, prevention (HIV and sexually transmitted diseases), and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS - should be convened to define concrete initiatives for inclusion in the Summit declaration. These meetings were held during September and October 1994 in Paris and Geneva.

5. On 26 and 27 October 1994 representatives of the heads of government of the 42 countries participating in the Summit met to draw up the text of the Summit declaration. Also present were representatives of the organizations listed in paragraph 4 above.

6. The Paris AIDS Summit took place on 1 December 1994 with the participation of the heads of government or representatives of the 42 invited countries. The Paris AIDS Summit declaration, which was signed by all heads of delegation, is reproduced in the Annex. The declaration will be forwarded by the French Government to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for endorsement by other Member States.

III. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

7. The future joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS and its six member organizations and programmes were given the mandate to implement the declaration in coordination with multilateral and bilateral aid programmes and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (see declaration).

IV. DRAFT RESOLUTION

8. The Executive Board may wish to adopt the following draft resolution expressing its support for the Summit:

The Executive Board,

Aware of the increasing spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its consequences for health and development, and of the importance of high-level political commitment to mobilize countries and communities to take the required action for prevention and care to deal with the pandemic's social and economic consequences,

1. **COMMENDS WHO** and the Government of France for co-organizing the Paris AIDS Summit of heads of government on 1 December 1994;

2. **REQUESTS** the Director-General to ensure adequate follow-up of the Summit declaration, in close collaboration with the Executive Heads of the cosponsoring organizations of the United Nations system in the joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS and with its newly appointed Director.

ANNEX

Declaration¹

**PARIS AIDS SUMMIT
(1 December 1994)**

Meeting of Heads of Government or representatives of the 42 States participating in the Paris AIDS Summit:

Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Djibouti, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

¹ Original: French.

We, the Heads of Government or Representatives of the 42 States assembled in Paris on 1 December 1994:

I. Mindful

that the AIDS pandemic, by virtue of its magnitude, constitutes a threat to humanity,

that its spread is affecting all societies,

that it is hindering social and economic development, in particular of the worst affected countries, and increasing the disparities within and between countries,

that poverty and discrimination are contributing factors in the spread of the pandemic,

that HIV/AIDS inflicts irreparable damage on families and communities,

that the pandemic concerns all people without distinction but that women, children and youth are becoming infected at an increasing rate,

that it not only causes physical and emotional suffering but is often used as justification for grave violations of human rights,

Mindful also

that obstacles of all kinds - cultural, legal, economic and political - are hampering information, prevention, care and support efforts,

that HIV/AIDS prevention and care and support strategies are inseparable, and hence must be an integral component of an effective and comprehensive approach to combating the pandemic,

that new local, national and international forms of solidarity are emerging, involving in particular people living with HIV/AIDS and community-based organizations,

II. Solemnly declare

our obligation as political leaders to make the fight against HIV/AIDS a priority,

our obligation to act with compassion for and in solidarity with those with HIV or at risk of becoming infected, both within our societies and internationally,

our determination to ensure that all persons living with HIV/AIDS are able to realize the full and equal enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms without distinction and under all circumstances,

our determination to fight against poverty, stigmatization and discrimination,

our determination to mobilize all of society - the public and private sectors, community-based organizations and people living with HIV/AIDS - in a spirit of true partnership,

our appreciation and support for the activities and work carried out by multilateral, intergovernmental, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, and our recognition of their important role in combating the pandemic,

our conviction that only more vigorous and better coordinated action worldwide, sustained over the long term - such as that to be undertaken by the joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS - can halt the pandemic,

III. Undertake in our national policies to

protect and promote the rights of individuals, in particular those living with or most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, through the legal and social environment,

fully involve nongovernmental and community-based organizations as well as people living with HIV/AIDS in the formulation and implementation of public policies,

ensure equal protection under the law for persons living with HIV/AIDS with regard to access to health care, employment, education, travel, housing and social welfare,

intensify the following range of essential approaches for the prevention of HIV/AIDS:

- promotion of and access to various culturally acceptable prevention strategies and products, including condoms and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases,
- promotion of appropriate prevention education, including sex and gender education, for youth in school and out of school,
- improvement of women's status, education and living conditions,
- specific risk-reduction activities for and in collaboration with the most vulnerable populations, such as groups at high risk of sexual transmission and migrant populations,
- the safety of blood and blood products,

strengthen primary health care systems as a basis for prevention and care, and integrate HIV/AIDS activities into these systems, so as to ensure equitable access to comprehensive care,

make available necessary resources to better combat the pandemic, including adequate support for people infected with HIV/AIDS, nongovernmental organizations and community-based organizations working with vulnerable populations,

IV. Are resolved to step up international cooperation through the following measures and initiatives. We shall do so by providing our commitment and support to the development of the joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, as the appropriate framework to reinforce partnerships between all involved and give guidance and worldwide leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The scope of each initiative should be further defined and developed in the context of the joint and co-sponsored programme and other appropriate fora:

1. Support a greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS through an initiative to strengthen the capacity and coordination of networks of people living with HIV/AIDS and community-based organizations. By ensuring their full involvement in our common response to the pandemic at all - national, regional and global - levels, this initiative will, in particular, stimulate the creation of supportive political, legal and social environments.
2. Promote global collaboration for HIV/AIDS research by supporting national and international partnerships between the public and private sectors, in order to accelerate the development of

prevention and treatment technologies, including vaccines and microbicides, and to provide for the measures needed to help ensure their accessibility in developing countries. This collaborative effort should include related social and behavioural research.

3. Strengthen international collaboration for blood safety with a view to coordinating technical information, proposing standards for good manufacturing practices for all blood products, and fostering the establishment and implementation of cooperative partnerships to ensure blood safety in all countries.
4. Encourage a global care initiative so as to reinforce the national capability of countries, especially those in greatest need, to ensure access to comprehensive care and social support services, essential drugs and existing preventive methods.
5. Mobilize local, national and international organizations assisting as part of their regular activities children and youth, including orphans, at risk of infection or affected by HIV/AIDS, in order to encourage a global partnership to reduce the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic upon the world's children and youth.
6. Support initiatives to reduce the vulnerability of women to HIV/AIDS by encouraging national and international efforts, aimed at the empowerment of women: by raising their status and eliminating adverse social, economic and cultural factors; by ensuring their participation in all the decision-making and implementation processes which concern them; and by establishing linkages and strengthening the networks that promote women's rights.
7. Strengthen national and international mechanisms that are concerned with HIV/AIDS related human rights and ethics, including the use of an advisory council and national and regional networks to provide leadership, advocacy and guidance in order to ensure that non-discrimination, human rights and ethical principles form an integral part of the response to the pandemic.

We urge all countries and the international community to provide the resources necessary for the measures and initiatives mentioned above.

We call upon all countries, the future joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS and its six member organizations and programmes to take all steps possible to implement this Declaration in coordination with multilateral and bilateral aid programmes and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

The original of the Paris Declaration, drafted in French, will be supplied to the Government of the French Republic for retention in its archives. The Government of the French Republic will provide each of the participating States with a true copy of the Paris Declaration.

The Government of the French Republic is requested to transmit the text of the Paris Declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for distribution to all Members of the Organization as a United Nations document.

The Government of the French Republic is also requested to transmit the text of the Paris Declaration to all the intergovernmental, multi-lateral and nongovernmental organizations invited to the Summit.

In faith whereof, we the undersigned Heads of Delegation of the participating States have placed our signatures at the bottom of this document.

Done in Paris, 1 December 1994

For the Republic of Argentina, Juan Archibaldo LANUS, Ambassador of Argentina in France

For Australia, Duncan KERR, Minister of Justice

For the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Arthur FOULKES, Ambassador of The Bahamas in France

For the Kingdom of Belgium, Jean-Luc DEHAENE, Prime Minister

For the Federal Republic of Brazil, Carlos Alberto LEITE BARBOSA, Ambassador of Brazil in France

For the Republic of Burundi, Anatole KANYENKIKO, Prime Minister

For Cambodia, DY Narong Rith, Secretary of State for Health

For the Republic of Cameroon, Simon ACHIDI ACHU, Prime Minister

For Canada, Jean CHRETIEN, Prime Minister

For the People's Republic of China, CHEN Min Zhang, Minister of Health

For the Republic of the Côte d'Ivoire, Daniel Kablan DUNCAN, Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Denmark, Poul NIELSON, Minister of Cooperation

For the Republic of Djibouti, Barkat GOURAD HAMADOU, Prime Minister

For the Republic of Finland, Esko AHO, Prime Minister

For the Republic of France, Edouard BALLADUR, Prime Minister

For the Federal Republic of Germany, Horst SEEHOFER, Minister of Health

For the Republic of India, B. SHANKARANAND, Minister for Health and Family Welfare

For the Republic of Indonesia, Azwar ANAS, Minister Coordinator for Welfare

For the Republic of Italy, Raffaele COSTA, Minister of Health

For Japan, Taro NAKAYAMA, Representative of the Government of Japan, previously Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the United States of Mexico, Ignacio MORALES LECHUGA, Ambassador of Mexico in France

For the Kingdom of Morocco, Abdellatif FILALI, Prime Minister

For the Republic of Mozambique, Jacinto SOARES VELOSO, Minister of Cooperation

For the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Jan P. PRONK, Minister of Cooperation for Development

For the Kingdom of Norway, Werner CHRISTIE, Minister of Health

For the Republic of the Philippines, Juan M. FLAVIER, Minister of Health

For the Republic of Portugal, Anibal CAVACO SILVA, Prime Minister

For Romania, Dan Mircea POPESCU, Minister of State, Minister of Labour and Social Protection

For the Russian Federation, Edouard NETCHAIEV, Minister of Public Health and Medical Industry

For the Republic of Uganda, Kintu MUSOKE, Prime Minister

For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Virginia BOTTOMLEY, Secretary of State for Health

For the Republic of Senegal, Habib THIAM, Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Spain, Gustavo SUAREZ PERTIERRA, Minister of Education and Science

For the Kingdom of Sweden, Ingela THALEN, Minister of Social Affairs

For the Swiss Confederation, Ruth DREIFUSS, Federal Counsellor, Department of the Interior

For the Kingdom of Thailand, M.R. Thep DEVAKULA, Ambassador of Thailand in France

For the Tunisian Republic, Hedi M'HENNI, Minister of Public Health

For the United Republic of Tanzania, Amrani MAYAGILA, Minister of Health

For the United States of America, Donna E. SHALALA, Secretary for Health

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, NGUYEN KHANH, Deputy Prime Minister

For the Republic of Zambia, Michael C. SATA, Minister of Health

For the Republic of Zimbabwe, Timothy STAMPS, Minister of Health and Child Affairs

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