



AMPLIFYING THE AFRICAN VOICE IN TREATMENT ADVOCACY

PAN AFRICAN TREATMENT ACCESS MOVEMENT (PATAM)

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP REPORT

15 TO 18 DECEMBER 2006

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

Supported By

ACTION AID

Prepared By

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ALCS	Association de lutte contre le sida
ARV	Antiretroviral
CF	Collaborative Fund
CRP	Community Review Panel
EATAM	East African Treatment Access Movement
HIV	Human Immune Virus
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ITPC	International Treatment Preparedness Coalition
ISG	International Steering Group
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PATAM	Pan African Treatment Access Movement
PLWHA	Person/People Living With HIV/AIDS
OSISA	Open Society Institute of Southern Africa
TAC	Treatment Action Campaign
RAC	Regional Action Committee
SAfAIDS	Southern African AIDS Information Dissemination Service
SATAMo	Southern African Treatment Access Movement
SG	Steering Group
SWOT	Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organisation

INTRODUCTION

The Pan African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM) is a social movement comprised of individuals and organizations dedicated to mobilizing communities, political leaders, and all sectors of society to ensure access to antiretroviral (ARV) treatment, as a fundamental part of comprehensive care for all people with HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Founded in August 2002, the movement had become a formidable voice in the fight for access to AIDS treatment in Africa, with representation in more than 22 countries. However, the year 2005 saw some changes that affected the movement's effectiveness and threatened its survival. First, the PATAM moved from the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), which had been hosting the movement. Secondly, the TAC international co-ordinator who was also responsible for PATAM, resigned. At its inception, PATAM in partnership with the Collaborative Fund, played an important role in the continent and among grassroots communities. However, changes within TAC and the departure of the Njogu (the co-ordinator) resulted in having no offices to house it and subsequently no co-ordination. This negatively affected PATAM's operations and presented a temporary setback that the SG needed to address.

This made it necessary for the PATAM leadership to convene a strategic planning workshop and make decisions concerning the movement's future. PATAM is governed by a 10 member SG, with two representatives from each of Africa's five geographic regions. It was therefore imperative for the SG to meet and reorganize its work, as well as reach some key decisions to determine the movement's strategic direction.

A strategic planning workshop was held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 15 to 18 December 2006. The workshop, which was hosted by the ALCS and funded by ActionAid, was divided into two parts. The first two days were reserved for the SG to discuss internal matters, while the last two days included some of PATAM's key partners from various parts of the continent.

In addition, the movement's growth in membership and stature, together with developments in the area of treatment access, necessitated the strategic planning process as it would enable PATAM to reposition itself for more effective and relevant advocacy, while making preparations for an Africa-wide conference for its membership.

STEERING GROUP MEETING

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop objectives were;

1. To conduct a review of progress made by PATAM to date.
2. To discuss ways to resuscitate PATAM so that it becomes more visible and effective
3. To define the strategic direction for PATAM for the next two years.
4. To conduct an orientation of the newly elected PATAM steering group representatives
5. To pick up the trail from where the previous co-ordinator left off
6. To make decisions on the administration of PATAM for the next two years

SWOT ANALYSIS

The early session of the workshop was dedicated to introspection and involved an analysis of the movement's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT).

Strengths

- Continent-wide movement

One of PATAM's strengths is that it is continent-wide and is not limited to a few geographic regions. This makes it unique, as there are not many similar movements.

- Treatment focus

PATAM has a clear focus and mandate of advocating for access to treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. This has enabled the organization to develop a level of expertise in treatment advocacy with regard to issues that affect Africa. In addition, the movement does not waste its resources on diverse issues.

- Collaborative Fund

One of the movement's major successes was the establishment of the Collaborative Fund, in partnership with the Tides Foundation. This empowers grassroots organisations by fundraising and distributing financial resources through Community Review Panels (CRP) that are elected by grass root activists in each geographic region.

- Credibility of member organizations

PATAM's members include credible organizations that have a proven track-record in treatment advocacy throughout the continent. The movement benefits from the skills-base of its membership.

Weaknesses

- Loose structure

PATAM is designed to be a loose network with minimal to no overhead costs in order to devote the largest proportion of resources towards advocacy. There is therefore neither office nor salaried staff. All PATAM members volunteer their services and expertise. Administrative support is offered by member organisations on a rotational basis. Initially, PATAM was housed within the TAC offices and co-ordinated by that organisation's international co-ordinator. However, changes within TAC and the resignation of the international co-ordinator resulted in PATAM having no offices to house it and subsequently no co-ordination. This negatively affected PATAM's operations and presented a temporary setback. It also brought to attention the weaknesses of this system of administration.

- Communication

As a continent-wide movement, PATAM depends largely on e-mail for communication with its membership. This is, however, inappropriate due to ICT challenges in Africa.

- Limited involvement of French and Portugese speaking activists and organizations

PATAM remains largely dominated by English-speaking countries. This has resulted in limited participation by activists and organisations from Francophone and Lusophone countries, who are excluded as a result of the language barrier.

- Individual-focus

Only a few individuals know about PATAM, while some members are there to further their own agendas.

- The election process of the SG and change of representation

Representatives to PATAM's SG should be democratically elected on a regular basis. This may affect continuity as representatives migrate to the diaspora.

- Emergence of new coalitions involved in similar work

It was noted that new coalitions had emerged as a result of weaknesses within PATAM.

Opportunities

- Credibility

There is a great amount of good will towards PATAM. Many people and organizations are willing to work with the movement and this makes the outcome of the strategic planning workshop crucial. Among potential partners are:

- OSISA
- WHO/UNICEF who want to work with people on the ground.
- Partnership with the CF.
- Abuja Declaration

African governments have made commitments such as the Abuja Declaration, which form a blue print for what PATAM can demand. This creates opportunities for PATAM to push forward its treatment agenda by holding governments accountable to their promises.

Threats

- Emergence of competing organizations

Some continental organizations seem to feel threatened by PATAM

- Negative perceptions

PATAM is perceived as "anti-government" in general because of some of its members. As a result, some organizations do want to be associated with this perception.

- Hidden agendas

Some organisations and individuals have hidden agendas that they try to advance using PATAM. The movement has to be wary of being used to push such agendas.

Discussion

SG members agreed that given the changes that had taken place since the movement's inauguration, there was need to redefine PATAM and its objectives in order to remain relevant to its constituency.

Similar organizations to PATAM were bound to exist. However, it was important for the movement to maintain its focus, even though there would be areas of overlap. PATAM would

not compete, but would complement such movements, as the ultimate goal was to ensure access to treatment.

Members felt there was need for icons with credibility in PATAM's leadership. For example, the chairperson of TAC, Zackie Achmat, had given the movement credibility in the past. Beyond the support provided by TAC, Zackie's image helped the movement a lot and there was need to revive that.

KEY DECISIONS

The SG is aware of the need to revive the movement and give way to a new leadership. However, in order to hand over a functional and vibrant movement, the current SG will continue with its present mandate, while preparing for an African Treatment Summit that is slated for late 2007/ early 2008. The summit will open the floor for new SG elections. The selection process for the new SG will be discussed and agreed on through the e-mail list prior to the summit. It will also take into cognisance the PATAM code of governance.

- ALCS in Morocco would be the hosting organisation for PATAM for the next two years.
- To avoid the gaps due to changes within hosting organisations and staff turnover, PATAM would employ a co-ordinator. The person would have to be bi-lingual. The terms of reference would be developed as soon as funding was secured.
- PATAM would host an African Summit for its membership and key activists, during which elections for a new SG would be conducted. The incumbent SG wished to hand over a vibrant organisation hence the decision to revive the movement and then hold elections for a new SG after one year. This was seen as enough time to turn around the movement.
- PATAM would re-engage in the CF process and evaluate its MoU with the Tides Foundation concerning the fund.
- The SG would steer PATAM in a massive recruitment drive and update its membership register. Recruitment would be done through the website and workshops, among other activities.

NEW OBJECTIVES

In line with these decisions, the SG committed itself to the following objectives;

1. To promote and support national and sub-regional treatment access movement initiatives.
2. To lead Africa-wide global and local advocacy efforts to address political commitments and policies, thus ensuring access to treatment.
3. To promote activist-led field research on access to treatment at the grass-root level in African countries.
4. To advocate for implementation and monitor progress of HIV/AIDS treatment efforts at the grass root level.
5. To empower PLWHA and community activists to express demand for treatment; overcome social, economic and political barriers to treatment access; and possess sufficient treatment knowledge to be involved in their own healthcare decisions.

6. To advocate for more resources for treatment from international donors and African countries.
7. To build alliances with regional and international bodies to help make universal access sustainable.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

These objectives would be fulfilled through the following activities within the next two years;

1. Conducting regional advocacy and treatment literacy campaigns including workshops and promoting relevant contextualized toolkits.
2. Organizing an African Treatment Summit in 2007 to strengthen PATAM; revive the momentum; consolidate efforts towards access to treatment; and democratically elect a new steering group.
3. Launching an African campaign for access to second line treatment, affordable diagnostics and treatment for various opportunistic infections such as toxoplasmosis.
4. Capacity building of activists and grassroots organizations on clinical trials; and providing them with information tools to promote their knowledge on serious implications of various trials.
5. Monitoring and documenting the implementation of large clinical trials performed in African countries and making sure that optimal ethical standards are applied, as well as ensuring post-trial treatment.
6. Launching a campaign for additional resources for treatment for Africa.
7. Facilitating communication for members at various levels (including translation of documents, recruiting a bilingual list-serve moderator).
8. Establishing partnerships with African and international movements that share the same principles and objectives.

OTHER AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT

PATAM would engage in other processes that support its objectives and in line with its activities. The movement would bring in the African perspective on key issues that affect treatment globally. These include campaigns and activities such as;

- Missing the target
- Budget tracking
- Research processes
- African Social Forum
- Document processes
- Strengthening country level and sub-regional structures – through movement building, organizing and mobilizing
- Distinct, clear, concrete campaigns e.g treatment for children, the Abuja Declaration, drug pricing, ethical trials, etc
- Advocating for resources and ensuring that they were allocated to the appropriate communities for the right purposes

- Research should cover second-line treatment because most people are moving from first-line treatment now and drug trials last about 5 years and there is no plan for them beyond that.
- Drug, drug pricing and bench-marking should be considered because while the ideal is free treatment, that might not be sustainable for most African governments.

The SG is in the process of developing a comprehensive action plan that will outline how the activities will be conducted and the various roles to be played by stakeholders within PATAM.

In addition, the SG is fund-raising in order to implement the above activities.

ROLE OF ALCS

As the hosting organisation, ALCS' role would include;

- Serving as a transient secretariat for PATAM.
- Coordinating the movement.
- Providing administrative support to PATAM.
- Hosting the PATAM co-ordinator, including providing work space and logistical support to facilitate his/her work.
- Serving as a fiscal agent for the movement.
- Assisting with fund-raising.
- Developing French, English and Arabic publicity materials to promote PATAM. This would include resumption of the movement's quarterly newsletter, "Under the PATAM Tree."
- ALCS and SAFAIDS would jointly moderate the PATAM list-serve, while ALCS would be responsible for the website www.patam.org. Safaids was prepared to run the e-forum, even if the website would be hosted by ALCS.

Among the advantages of hosting PATAM under ALCS were the organisation's administrative capacity and credibility. Its presence in North Africa would reflect regional solidarity in the fight for access to treatment. The move was in line with PATAM's administrative policy of being hosted by various organisations on a rotational basis. In addition, ALCS could play a major role recruiting more organizations and activists in French speaking countries and North Africa.

MoU WITH ALCS

- An MoU would be signed between PATAM and ALCS.
- In the period immediately after the strategic planning workshop, an interim draft would be done and Rolake would sign on behalf of PATAM while Othman signed on behalf of ALCS.
- A more definitive MoU would be drawn and signed with ALCS top leadership.
- The TAC international co-ordinator, Regis, would send Othman a copy of the MoU that PATAM had with TAC, together with any other information on the movement's institutional memory.
- ALCS had worked with coalitions before but never charged administrative fees, hence it would not take any money from PATAM until the MoU was signed. Only when organizing a large summit would ALCS will charge administrative fees.
- ALCS would dedicate a member of staff towards PATAM work, pending the recruitment of the movement's co-ordinator.
- ALCS would immediately open a new account for administering PATAM funds.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For ease of administration, to assist ALCS, better manage the movement and start implementing the decisions made, SG members were allocated roles and responsibilities. These members would also be the principal contacts on matters pertaining to their areas of responsibility.

- Lobna and Matilda – fundraising
- Rolake – communications. Also responsible for “Under the PATAM Tree” with the first issue being expected in March 2007
- Othman – management and administration
- James - recruitment drive, networking etc
- Cyriaque & Laure – relationship between PATAM and ISG

PARTNERS’ MEETING

The last two days of the workshop included representatives from key networks and organizations that work with PATAM. It was important to engage these partners during the strategic planning process as they would play a major role in PATAM’s activities and would be involved in the implementation process. Due to financial constraints, a limited number of partners were invited.

PARTNERS’ PERCEPTIONS

As a starting point, the partners’ discussion included an assessment of PATAM. The following views reflect partners’ perceptions of the movement;

It is important to underline that all present participants take ownership of PATAM.

Membership

- There is a need to define the role of members and what qualifies people/organizations to be members of PATAM. The movement needs to come up with some kind of registration form for members, with the possibility to download it from the website.
- Potential members who wished to join the movement on-line were often frustrated because the website was not operational. The website needs to be improved so that potential members can navigate it and join PATAM without facing difficulties.
- PATAM should build on the strengths of its membership. For instance, it should take advantage of strengths of member organizations e.g SAFAIDS toolkits, TAC treatment literacy resources and facilities to strengthen country level chapters of the movement.
- Mass communication using list-serves is a major weakness in Africa. There is need for communication tools that can be used to bridge the ICT gap, particularly with regard to reaching out to grassroots organizations.
- It is important for PATAM to engage grassroots organizations in the build up to the African Treatment Summit so that they see themselves as part of PATAM.
- PATAM should mandate regional representatives to reach out and mobilize countries that have been excluded from the PATAM process to date.
- The movement should take advantage of various platforms (national, sub-regional) to market PATAM (e.g take advantage of existing opportunities such as Social Forum to strengthen PATAM).

- SG members should be the “ambassadors” of PATAM in order to promote it, build up a presence in various countries and strengthen foundations of the movement.
- One of the weaknesses of the current SG is they already have large responsibilities in their local organizations and may not have time, tools etc to promote PATAM. There is need to capacitate those organizations to support the SG members by providing assistance and logistics for that. SG members that are not affiliated to any organization should affiliate themselves with an organization or find a host organization in order to facilitate their work.
- A calendar of country-level, regional and continental meetings should be developed and can be used to market PATAM , project PATAM's viewpoint and advocate for treatment at various platforms.

Structure

- There is need to strengthen country and regional structures, then build up the continental body. Some regions like East and Southern Africa have developed clear structures through regional networks such as EATAM and SATAMo. This needs to be standardized in the continent's other regions.
- East Africa and Southern Africa are advanced in working on building structures, membership registers etc. The model of structure development at both country and regional level in these two regions could be replicated in other regions for PATAM's growth.
- Central and West Africa need to be separated because they are different and have peculiar problems. West Africa has 15 countries and Central Africa has 11 countries, bringing the total number of countries to 26. It is not fair to lump them together for administrative reasons when they have nothing in common.
- There is need to use existing structures both at country and regional levels. Under the CF, there is a component that is factored in to build country structures. Support from CF can be used to build country chapters that then build up the regions. The CF also has funding for regional support but for the time being it has been used for RACs.
- There is US\$50 000,00 available for use by RACs and they can decide how to use it. This funding could be channelled towards the development of country level structures.
- Most activities were being done in the CF because there was a gap and not much was being done by ITPC and PATAM.
- CF co-ordinators felt they were in a quandary because there was no work plan or mandate to help them while the CRPs were left to themselves without guidance from PATAM. This situation needed urgent redress.
- PATAM should hold a summit every two years. Strict selection criteria for delegates should be developed. For the election process, the East African CF co-ordinator would share the SG criteria used for the region during its elections.
- There was need to review the PATAM code of governance at Africa Summit to clarify some points.
- It was important for PATAM to develop transitional mechanisms for hosting organizations (rotational hosting) to avoid hic-cups in future.

* Delme had expressed his desire to step down from the SG because he had recently started working for a donor agency. Since SATAMo was hosting a RAC meeting in January 2007, the platform would be ideal for selecting Delme's replacement to the SG.

RELATIONSHIP WITH PARTNERS

The collaboration between PATAM and the CF is very important. PATAM's members played a pivotal role in fundraising for the CF. In addition, the CF grants are important for PATAM's member organizations to achieve advocacy and treatment literature on the ground.

Although there is a clear MoU between PATAM and Tides Foundation, this has not been totally adhered to as information was not availed to all stakeholders. At that time, PATAM did not have the capacity to play its part. Beyond the planning process, the SG does not have information about the progress made in the CF partnership to date. Further, some irregularities in the fund's administration have been noted and should be addressed. For example, some SG members are CRP members and grantees. In the spirit of transparency, this anomaly needs to be addressed.

In addition, reports about the fund's progress have been sent only to the Tides Foundation, thereby excluding PATAM. In order to redress the situation, the following decisions were made;

- *Evaluate the CF MoU and reinstate PATAM as a key player and equal partner to the Tides Foundation.*
- *Place emphasis on organizations rather than individual membership.*
- *Rethink the structure of the CRP.*

In line with these decisions, the following recommendations were made as a way forward;

- There is need to bench-mark PATAM.
- As a starting point, there is need to build regional movements, then let them be part of the CRP. This will give PATAM oversight over the CF process.
- RACs, where they exist, and SG members can monitor and evaluate the CRPs.
- Need to standardize so that that all CRPs have SG representation or somehow report to PATAM.
- New guidelines for the second funding round should be sent to the CRPs, after the SG meeting.
- CF co-ordinators to continue operating the way they have been doing, while a PATAM co-ordinator and mechanisms are put in place to harmonise the CF.
- PATAM to invoke its MoU with Tides and the CRPs in order to facilitate closer collaboration and for PATAM to re-engage in the CF process.
- CF co-ordinators to report to PATAM in a similar way that they report to Tides. In the interim, pending the appointment of a PATAM co-ordinator, reports that are meant for PATAM will be directed through the ALCS as the co-ordinating organization. ALCS will disseminate the reports to the PATAM SG.
- Beyond what is reported to the Tides Foundation, reports to the SG should cover a host of issues that affect the continent but are not necessarily important to Tides. Orientation should be given to the CF co-ordinators to collect the relevant information, which can in turn be used for advocacy purposes.
- Pending the evaluation of the MoU with Tides, the system that is in place in East Africa could be used as a model if it proves workable. This will enable regional movements to contribute and become involved in the scheme of PATAM's work.
- To improve communication within regions and the continent in order to enhance effectiveness, PATAM could borrow from the communication strategy developed by Peter Benjamin

A number of partners had expressed interest in working with PATAM.

- On two occasions, PATAM had been approached by OSISA and HealthLink for partnership to fund the movement. There was need to act on these offers.
- The TAC had a component of international solidarity for supporting campaigns. Part of this would be channelled towards PATAM and there was some money set aside for next year, details of which would be availed in January. Although it was classified as funding for PATAM treatment literacy workshops, it could be used to develop the movement in other ways.
- TAC also needed solidarity from PATAM in terms of the work it is doing so PATAM needs to think of ways through which it could support partners like TAC in terms of tackling the South African government.

CONCLUSION

On the whole, the meeting was a success as it achieved its objectives. A press release summarising the workshop outcomes was produced.

The expected results of the workshop were to develop a more functional and effective movement that is better managed and strategically placed to better advocate for access to treatment for Africans, evidenced by:

1. A stronger movement that is a formidable voice in the area of treatment advocacy.
2. A more professionally managed movement.
3. A clearly spelt out strategic approach towards treatment advocacy for Africa.

Although these outcomes could not be measured immediately, it is our belief that the decisions made and the workshop will result in these outcomes.

ANNEX 1

List of participants:

PATAM's steering group members* representing the five regions of the continent:

North Africa:

Lobna El Tabei (Egypt)
Othoman Mellouk (Morocco)

West Africa:

Morolake Nwagwu (Nigeria)
Cyriaque Ako (Cote D'Ivoire)

East Africa:

James Kamau (Kenya)

Southern Africa:

Matilda Moyo (Zimbabwe)

Central Africa:

Ambroise Mamona (Congo Brazaville)
Djneche Sylvania Laure (Cameroon)

(*) 2 SG members, Lydia Mungherera from Uganda and Delme Cupido from Namibia could not attend the meeting.

Partners' representatives

Joshua Chigodora – SAFAIDS

Tendayi Westerhof – ITPS-ISG

James Clovis Kayo - RAC

Mercy Otim – RAC/East Africa

Lilian Mworeko – RAC/ Women and Children

Regis Mtutu - TAC

(*) One partner, Tapiwanashe Kujinga from the RAC/Southern Africa could not attend the meeting.

ANNEX 2



PATAM Steering Group Meeting Marrakech, Morocco 2006 Agenda

Hosted by
Association de Lutte Contre le SIDA Morocco
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Meeting Agenda

Day 1 December 2006

Morning Facilitator: Othman Melouk, Morocco

08:30-09:00 Overview of Meeting: Background and Objectives
Othman Melouk, Morocco

Objectives

- To conduct a review of progress made by PATAM to date
- To discuss ways to resuscitate PATAM so that it becomes more visible and effective
- To define the strategic direction for PATAM for the next 1 - 2 years
- To conduct an orientation of the newly elected PATAM SG representatives
- To pick up the trail from where the previous co-ordinator left off
- To make decisions on the administration of PATAM for the next two years

09:00-09:40 SWOT analysis and review of PATAM to date
James Kamau, Kenya

09:40-10:30 Group Discussion (40 minutes)

- Where are we and where do we want to go?
- What are our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and strengths?

10:30-10:45 Refreshment Break

10:45-11:45 Reviewing/ reviving existing projects

- Under the PATAM tree
- PATAM research process
- Membership drive
- The PATAM website
- The PATAM list-serve that Safaids is currently managing.

11:25-12:30 **General Discussion**

12:30-13:30 Lunch

Afternoon Facilitator: Rolake Odetoyinbo, Nigeria

13:30-13:50 PATAM's research update

Lobna El Tabei, Egypt

13:50-15:10 Organising a conference for election of SADC representatives for PATAM

Elections for a Southern African CRP

Matilda Mayo, Zimbabwe

15:10-15:30 Refreshment Break

15:30- 16:10 Follow up on committees that were set up during the SADC PATAM conference in Zimbabwe 2004.

James Kamau, Kenya

Laure Dejeuche, Cameroon

16:10-16:30 Follow up on proposals that were made to donors

Lobna El Tabei, Egypt

16:30-17:30 **Discussion** (60 minutes)

17:30-18:00 Orientation for group work on day 2
Othman Melouk, Morocco

1. Role allocation

- How do we move forward from here?
- Who among the SG will be responsible for what activities? Here we need to take stock of our skills and what each of us can contribute to the SG and to PATAM.
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the SG?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the PATAM membership?
- We need to find ways of ensuring strategic representation at key conferences, meetings, summits and workshops
- Ensuring feedback to both the SG and PATAM membership on key issues.

2. Fund-raising

- Working with OSISA, Oxfam, Action Aid, Tides.
- Identification and courtship of new donors.
- Ensuring proposals meet donor deadlines.

3. PATAM administration

- A host organisation: Among the options are Safaids, Ketam and possibly ALCS. Which organisation shall house PATAM for the next few years and what criteria shall be used to select ur host?
- Discussion on the contents of the MOU to be signed by PATAM and the host organisation.
- PATAM's relationship and obligations with the employee assigned to administer PATAM affairs in the host organisation.

4. Strategic linkages and networks

This will cover working with other structures at;

- Local level
- Regional leve e.g CRPs
- International level e.g ITPC

It will also look at collaborative activities with;

- Organisations that have expressed an interest in working with PATAM -
- Organisations that we were already working with on policy matters outside
- HIV/AIDS organisations e.g MWENGO, Africa Action
- Follow up on these organisations to maintain relations.
- Activities around key dates and events, e.g when PATAM members in various countries had the day of action against Coca-Cola in 2003.
- the compilation of a calendar of key datesso activities could coincide with these

5. Challenges faced by the SG in its operations

- barriers to communication e.g language
- lack of access to e-mail/internet
- busy work schedules/inadequate time for PATAM work
- Whatever the challenges, these have to be discussed so that we understand the difficulties that each of us is facing and find possible solutions so that we move forward in one accord.

Day 2, December 2006

Morning Facilitator: Othman Melouk, Morocco

08:30-9:00 Review of Principal Points from Prior Day
Chair

09:00-11:00 **Group work**

1. Role allocation
2. Fund-raising
3. PATAM administration
4. Strategic linkages and networks
5. Challenges faced by the SG in its operations

11:00-13:00 **Group Presentations I**

13:00-14:00 **Lunch**

Afternoon Facilitator: Cyriaque, Cote D'Ivoire

14:00-16:00 **Group Presentations II**

16:00- 18:00 **Way forward**

- Inclusion of members in activities outside the list-serve
- Strategic direction for PATAM
- Allocation of roles to SG members
- Workplan for the next year
- How do we deal with our weaknesses and threats while capitalising on strengths and opportunities?
- Identification of a host organisation for PATAM plus administrative issues
- How we are going to raise funds and avoid losing opportunities.

18:00-19:00 **Preparation for PATAM's partners meeting**

ANNEX 3

ASSOCIATION DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA (ALCS)

PAN AFRICAN TREATMENT ACCESS MOVEMENT (PATAM)

PRESS RELEASE:

FROM CAPE TOWN TO MARRAKESH

African activists hosted by the Association de Lutte Contre le SIDA (ALCS) in Morocco met in Marrakesh to strengthen the Pan African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM) and strategize on the campaign and for access to treatment for all people living with HIV/AIDS on the continent and reiterated their commitment to strengthen African communities in treatment advocacy.

Out of the world's 40 million people living with HIV, 29 million are in Africa and of these, 4,6 millions are in need of antiretroviral drugs in Sub Saharan Africa. However, only 23% have access to these life-saving drugs. "Although Africa is the hotbed of the epidemic, it has the lowest proportion of people that are on treatment. This is unacceptable and the situation needs to be addressed urgently. We urge African governments to work their talks by committing more resources to ensuring sustainable access to treatment by implementing African Union earlier positions such as committing fifteen percent of national budgets to health care and the declaration for Universal access contained in the Abuja declaration. In the same vein, the international community must increase its contribution towards efficient instruments aimed at fighting AIDS such as the Global Fund," said Rolake Odetoyinbo from the Treatment Access Movement (TAM) in Nigeria.

The activists expressed their concern about the urgent need for second line treatment, drugs for opportunistic infections that have been neglected and the availability of diagnostics. We completely abhor a situation where treatable and preventable opportunistic infections are ignored and our countries just wait for us to have AIDS before we are treated.

"We will not be on first-line treatment forever and we are already developing resistance to some drugs. Second line treatment should be made cheaper and available as a matter of survival and to sustain the gains made so far from treatment," said James Kamau, from the Kenyan Treatment Access Movement (KETAM).

PATAM is an Africa-wide movement formed of activists and civil society organizations advocating for access to comprehensive treatment and care for people living with HIV and AIDS in Africa. It was founded in Cape Town in 2002 by activists from 22 African countries during the International Treatment Preparedness Summit (ITPS) to mobilize for access to treatment.

The movement will continue to empower activists in local communities, ensure greater involvement of communities in decision-making, promote the participation of PLHWA through in-depth treatment literacy and magnify the voices of vulnerable groups in line with PATAM's Pan African advocacy efforts.

To strengthen solidarity between the continent's regions in the fight against AIDS, and bring to fore the issues of all African regions, PATAM's secretariat moved from South Africa to Morocco where it is going to be hosted by ALCS. Though we face unique problems and battle different issues, we will support ourselves, raise our voices together and fight as one Africa.

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