



Economic Commission for Africa



Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

9:00-09:30 Opening Session

Welcome remarks by Senior Government Official
Opening address by CHGA Chairman

09:30 -11:00 Session I - Presentation on CHGA's progress
Chair: K.Y Amoako

This session will allow a broad debate on I. CHGA's strategic framework, including progress made by the Secretariat since the last meeting of the Commissioners in Addis Ababa, September 2003, and II. the way forward.

- I. Progress since the last meeting. This agenda item will have the following three components: (a) the completion of the CHGA Research Agenda – incorporating the specific comments of the Commissioners from the first meeting; (b) the establishment and consolidation of partnerships needed to operationalise the Research Agenda; and (c) the Terms of Reference for CHGA analytical studies.

11:00 – 11:15 Working Tea/Coffee Break

11:15 – 13:00

- II. The Way Forward. Under this item, the Secretariat will outline a draft timeframe of progress from March 2004 – June 2005. This timetable will have two broad components: (a) a timeframe for the research programme deriving from the Research Agenda; and (b) proposed dates and venues for the remaining Commissioners' meetings. This item will also consider a draft framework of how the Commissioner's "activist" role might be operationalised and moved forward.

13:00 – 14: 30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 Session II - Presentations by CHGA Research Partners
Chair: K.Y. Amoako

At the core of CHGA's Research Agenda are the partner institutions undertaking the analytical work within the five case study countries. Each of these partner institutions brings a considerable amount of specialist knowledge about a component of the pandemic's impacts on societies in Africa and the challenges for governance stemming therefrom. This session will provide a good opportunity for CHGA Commissioners to interact with some of these institutions. The Secretariat will ask a number of these institutions to present a brief paper detailing their specific contribution to the Commission's mandate, as well as a draft table of content of the anticipated report deriving from their research. This will then be followed by a discussion.

16:00-17:30 Session III – Presentations by CHGA’s partners on Best Practice
Chair: K.Y Amoako

At the first meeting, Commissioners expressed great interest in delineating Best Practice from available knowledge. In the time since that meeting, the CHGA Chairman has entrusted that task to three core divisions of ECA: The Africa Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD); Sustainable Development Division (SDD); Development Policy Management Division (DPMD). Each division will review research undertaken by partner institutions both within the UN system and elsewhere, and compile experiences of Best Practice to aid Commissioners with their advocacy work. In this session, the divisions will briefly present their specific contribution to the Commission’s mandate, as well as a draft table of content of the anticipated report deriving from their research. This will then be followed by a discussion.

18:30 Reception hosted by the Government of Mozambique

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

9:30-11:00 Session IV - UNAIDS/SHELL AIDS in Africa Scenarios Project

Presentation on progress to date by Julia Cleves Principal Adviser

Chair: Alan Whiteside (Commissioner)

The AIDS in Africa Scenarios project aims to develop Africa-wide scenarios focusing on the impact of and response to the AIDS epidemic. It is a multi-agency project led by UNAIDS and Shell with ECA as a core partner. The aim of this session is to brief the Commissioners about the scope of the project and its likely implications for the work of CHGA.

11:00 – 11:15 Tea/Coffee Break

11:15 – 13.00 Sessions V – Orphans in Africa

Presentation on: Orphans in Africa: Issues and Challenges

Discussant: Government of Mozambique Official

Chair: Joy Phumaphi (Commissioner)

In this session, the Commissioners will be treated to the first of two especially commissioned papers dealing with a critical HIV induced issue in need of policy response. This particular session will deal with the pressing issue of the continent’s growing orphan population. Although the overwhelming majority of orphans and vulnerable children are living with surviving parents or extended family, many of them are being cared for by a remaining parent who is sick or dying, elderly grandparents who themselves are often in need of care and support, or impoverished relatives struggling to meet the needs of their own children. Children living in these situations are at increased risk of losing opportunities for school, health care, growth, development, nutrition, and shelter; in short, their rights to a decent and fulfilling human existence. Predicated on these issues, the presentation will seek to map options available. CHGA Commissioners could then consider the options presented and consider strategies for advocacy and policy response.

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 17.30 Session VI: Public Hearing

This will be a jointly organised session with UNAIDS. It will aim to gather leading NGOs and CBO's to discuss what they see as the core challenges facing Mozambique in its response to HIV/AIDS. This will provide CHGA Commissioners with unique insight into how NGOs and CBO's are engaging with HIV/AIDS at the grassroots level.

19:00 Dinner hosted by Chairman

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

09:30-11:00 Session VII: The challenge of treatment and care in Mozambique
Chair: Richard Feachem (Commissioner)

For the first time in the history of the two-decade old epidemic, hopelessness over mass human anguish is giving way to hope over the prospect of improved access to effective care and treatment for the millions living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. Until recently, this goal had not seemed possible. High costs for drugs and for infrastructure, were cited as potential barriers along with issues related to compliance with the regimes required for effective use of the drugs. Predicated on access to cheaper medication and the availability of additional financial and non-financial resources (Global Fund, MAP, 3by5 etc.) the scope of this presentation will centre on specific challenges facing Mozambique in their attempt to scale-up access to treatment and expand care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS in their country. This session will provide an opportunity for CHGA Commissioners to engage with the host country's policymakers and others on one of the core issues facing them as they respond to the immediate needs for expanded access to ARV therapies and improved care and support for the growing number of people living with HIV and AIDS.

Professor Haile Debas has kindly offered to give an update on the work of the Institute of Medicine's Committee regarding scaling up of ART in resource constrained countries.

11:30-13:30 Session VIII – Closing session

Round Table Discussion by Commissioners

Preparation of position statements by Commissioners

Closing Remarks/Next Steps

Press Conference

