



**THE FIRST SOUTH CAUCASUS CONFERENCE ON HIV/AIDS
AMONG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN
AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE**

CONFERENCE REPORT

Tbilisi, Georgia
3-4 October 2011

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

EECA	Eastern Europe and Central Asia
GFATM	The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
HTC	HIV Testing and Counseling
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (people)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TG	Transgender (person)
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

Background

Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and Transgenders (TG) represent the groups of population highly exposed to risks of HIV infection in the context of concentrated HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA). In the global picture of HIV epidemic sex between men is thought to account for between five and 10 per cent of HIV infections. Though data are limited, a growing body of research suggests that risk of contracting HIV is very high among (MSM) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA).

During the recent years, after conducting the first bio-behavioral surveys, data on HIV prevalence among MSM have become more available. For instance, HIV prevalence among MSM in some of the countries in EECA region is: Ukraine 8.6% (2009), Moldova – 4.8% (2008), Belarus –2.1% (2009), Azerbaijan – 1.1% (2008)¹, Armenia – 1.9% (2010)², Georgia – 6.4% (2010)³.

However, according to experts, existing data about epidemic in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not reflect the real picture of HIV transmission among MSM and TG⁴. Research conducted in many cities of the region demonstrates that risk of HIV transmission among MSM is 10 times higher among general population. Reasons for that are different and numerous, such as lack of national strategies for HIV and STIs prevention among these groups of population, lack of funding for HIV prevention and treatment on the regional and national levels, high levels of stigma and discrimination associated with homosexual behavior, lack of research on MSM and TG populations etc.

In response to this situation UNDP in close collaboration with WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and community leaders, organized the Regional Consultation "Hidden epidemic: HIV, men who have sex with men and transgender people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia", which was held in November, 2010, in Kiev, Ukraine. The overall goal of the initiative was to promote an enabling environment for the realization of the "UNAIDS Action Framework for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and Transgender People (TG)" in the EECA region. Country delegations participating in the consultation consisted of community members, civil society representatives, people living with HIV, researchers, public health officials and representatives of bilateral donors and international organizations. As a result of the consultation, the participants elaborated Recommendations for development of HIV/AIDS prevention programs among MSM and LGBT in countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Following the Regional Consultation, in the frames of the amfAR-supported project "HIV/AIDS South Caucasus Consultation on MSM and TG People" Georgian NGO "Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma", in partnership with organizations "We For Civil Equality" from Armenia and "Gender and Development" from Azerbaijan, conducted the first South Caucasus Conference on HIV/AIDS among MSM and TG.

¹ "Men having Sex with Men in Eastern Europe", Implications of a hidden HIV epidemic. Regional analysis report. AIDSTAR-Two, November 2010. www.aidstar-two.org

² www.armajids.am

³ Bio-behavioral surveillance survey among men having sex with men in Tbilisi, Georgia, December, 2010, Study report, Curatio International Foundation, Association "Tanadgoma". www.curatiofoundation.org

⁴ "A Hidden Epidemic: HIV, Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia", Regional Consultation Report. Kiev, Ukraine, November 22-24 2010. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/communicable-diseases/hivaids/publications/2011/a-hidden-epidemic-hiv,-men-who-have-sex-with-men-and-transgender-people-in-eastern-europe-and-central-asia.-regional-consultation>

Goal and objectives

The **goal** of the conference was creating enabling environment for sub-regional cooperation, coordination and consensus among collaborating organizations, creating of regional vision, strategies and priorities concerning development of HIV-related programs for MSM and TG in South Caucasus.

Main **objectives** of the conference were:

1. Elaboration of recommendations which would contribute to reaching maximal effectiveness of HIV-related programs among MSM and TG;
2. Creation of sub-regional network of civil society organizations for further advocacy of HIV/AIDS prevention issues among MSM and TG in South Caucasus.

Results of the Caucasian Conference contribute to enhancing national strategies with more focus on needs of the MSM/TG and their direct involvement in the processes. Moreover, the conference set the ground for elaboration of national action plans regarding HIV prevention among MSM/TG in the three countries of South Caucasus.

Planning and participation

In order to prepare South Caucasus Conference on HIV/AIDS among MSM and TG, as well as conduct the conference and support creation of the sub-regional network for advocating issues of HIV/AIDS prevention among MSM and TG, the project management team created a committee, which included representatives of the three countries of the South Caucasus. Based on the open call this committee established a group of experts consisting of five persons.

Representatives of MSM/LGBT-services organizations were selected as members of the Experts' Group. This ensured compliance of the conference program with the needs and interests of MSM and LGBT communities. Experts' Group members had experience in different fields and represented not only countries of the South Caucasus, but also two countries of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia with HIV epidemics – Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The goal of the Experts' Group was to organize the preparation process for the South Caucasus Conference on HIV/AIDS among MSM and TG, to conduct the conference and to support establishment of the sub-regional network for advocating issues of HIV/AIDS prevention among MSM and TG. During the conference, experts were actively involved in facilitating session, group work and discussions. After the conference, Experts' Group took part in preparation and finalization of the conference report.

32 persons took part in a 2-days meeting. They represented civil society organizations, governmental institutions, donor organizations and UN agencies. Delegations were from Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia – all three countries of the South Caucasus, which have historically conditioned common approach to homosexuality, as well as similar structure of healthcare and epidemiological characteristics. Besides, the conference was attended by 4 experts from EECA region – members of the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), which took part in the Regional Consultation in Kiev.

The South Caucasus Conference took place on October 3-4, 2011, in Tbilisi, Georgia. Working language of the conference was Russian.

SUMMARY OF THE EVENT

The main outcomes of the conference are:

- A set of recommendations, elaborated by the participants, that outlines the priorities in overcoming barriers to effective HIV response among MSM and TG. Recommendations are suggested to governments and civil society organizations from three countries of the South Caucasus, as well as to international and donor organizations represented in this region;
- The agreement to establish a South Caucasus Network on HIV/AIDS among MSM and TG, as a sub-regional coordination body to implement these recommendations.

The **first day** of the conference focused on the situation overview of HIV among MSM in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as well as on basic approaches in response to HIV. Key note speeches presented an overview of available regional data on the HIV epidemic in the South Caucasus countries and its burden among MSM and TG people.

Group work during the first day of the conference was organized according to the sectors. Representatives of the governmental structures (Ministries of Healthcare, AIDS Centers), UN agencies, donor/international organizations and representatives of communities/civil society broke up into groups in order to identify needs in the field of HIV/AIDS on the sub-regional level. During the next session needs identified by the groups were prioritized for a) the whole sub-region of the South Caucasus and b) each country of the sub-region separately.

Second day of the conference was dedicated to elaboration of specific recommendations for state institutions, civil society organizations, international and donor organizations working in the field of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support among MSM and TG. Elaborated recommendations are presented below in this document.

In the concluding part of the conference three organizations from each country of the sub-region presented initiative regarding establishing South Caucasus Network on HIV/AIDS among MSM/TG. A draft of the Network Memorandum was presented, which would be signed by the initiator organizations. The document outlines goal and objectives of the Network, main areas, principles and forms of cooperation. Further steps for the development of the Network were also discussed, which include:

- Conducting organizational and technical needs assessment of NGOs working with MSM/TG;
- Planning and defining specific objectives of networking;
- Inviting new members to join the Network;
- Finalization and signing of the Memorandum for Strategic Partnership between three organizations - initiators of the conference, which are responsible for inviting new members and development of the Network;
- Developing initiatives and joint activities in the countries of the sub-region and joint implementation of the recommendations of this conference.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOUTH CAUCASUS CONFERENCE ON HIV/AIDS AMONG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

Preamble

HIV remains a major public health problem both in Europe and in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The current response to HIV among MSM communities and transgender people is largely failing to provide a basis for Universal Access (UA) among this key population. The issue is either essentially ignored due to lack of sufficient data and analysis, or marginalized due to lack of political will and little resource allocation within national HIV programs. In response to this situation, and in accordance with the “UNAIDS Action Framework: Universal Access for Men who have Sex with Men and Transgender Persons”, the Council of Europe’s “Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity”⁵ and the “Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity”⁶, “Kiev Recommendations on MSM and TG – 2010” have been developed. These recommendations outline the priorities in overcoming barriers to an effective HIV response among MSM and TG in EECA region.

Based on the Kiev Recommendations, Georgian NGO “Tanadgoma”, in partnership with organizations “We For Civil Equality” (Erevan, Armenia) and “Gender and Development” (Baku, Azerbaijan) initiated the further process of working on the recommendations in the context of the South Caucasus.

Within the group of post Soviet countries, there are deep cultural and social differences affecting the HIV response. South Caucasus region is characterized by its own peculiarities, namely:

- a) The Caucasus region has specific social systems and attitudes which differ from those of Eastern European post Soviet countries like Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. General social attitudes towards homosexuality remain highly unfavorable and homosexuality is largely viewed as a disease. Media coverage as well as public response to the issues of sexual orientation and gender identity is extremely negative.
- b) The influence of religion and traditions on behavior is very strong. Over the last three years, well established homophobic movements (religious, traditional or fascist) have actively prejudiced public opinion toward MSM and TG in all three countries of South Caucasus.
- c) Both internal migration from the countryside to the capital city and between the countries of the South Caucasus e.g. between Azerbaijan, Armenia could create higher risks of HIV for MSM and TG.
- d) There are some behavioral differences which need deeper analysis and thorough response, such as high levels of injecting drug use among MSM (4.9% in Georgia, 12% in Azerbaijan) and high rates of sexual contacts with female partners (41% in Azerbaijan, 66.6% in Georgia).

Given the specifics of the region and based on the similarities across these countries in regards to the situation concerning MSM/TG, it is vitally important to agree on the unified platform for planning and implementation of coordinated efforts, which would: a) contribute to enabling environment for HIV prevention, involving all key stakeholders and demonstrating commitment from all players, and b) prepare basis for national action plans in each country.

⁵<https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1606669&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

⁶ www.yogyakartaprinciples.org/principles_en.htm

The first South Caucasus Conference on HIV/AIDS among Men who have Sex with Men and Transgender People provided participants with the opportunities to share their experience and best practices in the field of HIV prevention among MSM and TG in the region, to assess problems and existing gaps, and to strengthen partnership with the goal of achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in the three countries of the South Caucasus.

According to the results of the conference participants presented recommendations, identifying priorities in overcoming barriers for effective HIV response among MSM and TG in the three countries of the South Caucasus. These recommendations are addressed to the following countries of the sub-region: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia. Along with the recommendations for all three countries, during the meeting separate sets of recommendations for each of these countries were developed. Based on the priorities, identified during the first day of the conference, recommendations are classified according to the following directions:

- a) “Know your epidemic” – considering relatively hidden character of the epidemic, ensuring implementation of the research in order to collect maximum information about MSM/TG groups;
- б) Elaboration and implementation of programs for MSM and TG; and
- в) Creating enabling environment for implementation of programs for MSM/TG and coordination of action among all stakeholders on the sub-regional level.

Special attention was dedicated to the issues such as migration among South Caucasus countries and to the countries of EECA, and significant lack of information about TG.

Recommendations

All stakeholders involved in planning and effective implementation of programs addressing the HIV infection among MSM/TG in the countries of the South Caucasus should take the following steps:

Recommendations for all countries of the South Caucasus

Non-Governmental Organizations (both HIV-service and LGBT organizations):

Know your epidemic

1. To carry out special research dedicated to issues such as violation of rights, stigmatization and discrimination of MSM/TG, access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs.
2. To plan and carry out qualitative research for assessing needs of TG in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.

Elaboration and Implementation of programs for MSM and TG

3. To plan, develop and implement specific programs for MSM, providing commercial sexual services.
4. In collaboration with state institutions and LGBT organizations to develop services for MSM/TG working and sex migrants between the countries of the region, and to other countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, such as Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Iran.

Enabling environment and coordination

5. To support creation of initiative groups from LGBT communities, support development of LGBT organizations for community mobilization and developing HIV/AIDS prevention services.
6. To contribute to creation of more NGOs, working with MSM, as well as their cooperation with state institutions.
7. To document cases of discrimination and stigmatization of LGBT communities' representatives for further improvement of legal environment in order to decrease stigma and discrimination, and to protect human rights of communities' representatives.

National governments and state institutions

Know your epidemic

8. In collaboration with NGOs, having appropriate experience, to develop methodologies and instruments of behavioral research, MSM size estimation research and guidelines for monitoring and evaluation of HIV prevention programs among MSM/TG and to coordinate these methodologies between the countries in order to ensure comparability of the results. In particular, develop regional methodological documents (guidelines) for monitoring and evaluation, behavioral surveillance, size estimation of MSM.

Elaboration and Implementation of programs for MSM and TG

9. To ensure referral systems for MSM/TG – clients of prevention and treatment programs - between NGOs and medical services.

Enabling environment and coordination

10. To create environment for state funding of NGO programs on HIV/AIDS and STIs prevention among MSM and TG.
11. Through existing Country Coordination Mechanisms, to advocate for assigning funding for conducting regular behavioral and biological surveillance and size estimation of MSM.

International and donor organizations

Know your epidemic

12. To support studying of risky behavior and possibilities of service development for MSM and TG working and sex migrants between countries of the region, and to other countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, such as Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Iran.

Enabling environment and coordination

13. To ensure sustainable funding of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support programs among MSM/TG, carried out by NGOs.

14. To elaborate technical support plans for development of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programs for MSM/TG in each country of the South Caucasus and in the whole sub-region.

All stakeholders, including government, international and donor organizations, HIV-service non-governmental and LGBT organizations:

Elaboration and Implementation of programs for MSM and TG

15. To elaborate practical guidelines for preventive work among MSM and TG on the sub-regional level, including specialized documentation, strategies of prevention work and resource mobilization, using best international and regional practices.

16. To support increasing access of MSM/TG to HTC services through lobbying usage or expanding use of rapid HIV tests.

17. To expand geographical coverage of prevention, treatment, care and support services for MSM/TG, with focus on service provision not only in big cities, but also in small cities and villages.

18. To mobilize additional resources for increasing capacity of state institutions in their work targeting MSM and TG, in particular, train medical providers, social workers, as well as law enforcement representatives on MSM/TG issue and specific approaches of working with MSM/TG.

Enabling environment and coordination

19. To develop regional recommendations for the countries of the South Caucasus on development of programs, aiming at decreasing stigma and discrimination of MSM/TG.

20. To support advocacy efforts, as well as cooperation in advocacy direction among all stakeholders (state structures, NGOs, international organizations) on the national and sub-regional levels.

21. To mobilize resources of the regional level, through conducting regular forum on HIV and MSM/TG on the regional level for experience sharing and coordination of actions among all stakeholders.

20. To create a sub-regional committee, which would:

- a. support implementation of the elaborated recommendations in the countries of the South Caucasus;
- b. develop practical guidelines for prevention work with MSM/TG, including specialized documents (on working strategies, strategies of resource mobilization, etc), which could be adapted by each country according to its context;
- c. develop unified form for presenting epidemiological information (regional methodological documents, guidelines for monitoring and evaluation, as well as data quality in general).

Recommendations for the countries of the South Caucasus: Azerbaijan

Non-governmental organizations

Elaboration and Implementation of programs for MSM and TG

1. To contribute to increasing the knowledge level of NGO workers in order to provide quality services (increasing organizations' capacity) and expand provided services for MSM/TG.
2. To expand geographical coverage of organizations' work through establishing centers for service provision to MSM/TG in different cities of the republic.
3. To enhance prevention programs through increased coverage of community representatives with different prevention programs (provision of information/informational campaigns, study programs, condom and lubricant social marketing, delivering expanded service package).

State institutions and government

Know your epidemic

4. In collaboration with NGOs to carry out regular (at least once in 4 years) epidemiological research, including population size estimation in order to: (1) assess epidemiological situation; (2) evaluate program coverage; (3) attract additional funding.

Elaboration and Implementation of programs for MSM and TG

5. To support and fund programs, aiming at increasing access of MSM/TG to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services on the country level.
6. In collaboration with NGOs, with support of the donor organizations and with the technical support of international organizations, to start piloting of rapid saliva tests.

Enabling environment and coordination

7. To cover broadly issues of HIV/STIs and viral hepatitis prevention among MSM and TG through mass media (TV, radio, internet etc).

International and donor organizations

Know your epidemic

8. To assist governmental and state organizations, in collaboration with NGOs, in conducting regular (at least once in 4 years) epidemiological research, including MSM and TG size estimation in order to (1) assess epidemiological situation; (2) demonstrate program coverage; (3) attract additional funding.

Enabling environment and coordination

9. To support and increase, through attracting additional donors, levels of financing for expanding prevention programs on the country level.
10. To provide technical support to state organizations and to government, as well as to NGOs, for improving quality of implemented prevention programs among MSM/TG.
11. Enhance monitoring and evaluation of quality of NGO-provided prevention services.

Recommendations for the countries of the South Caucasus: Armenia

Non-governmental organizations

Elaboration and Implementation of programs for MSM and TG

1. Take the leading role in advocating for launching and expanded use of rapid tests for HIV.

Enabling environment and coordination

2. To actively participate in advocacy for human and finance resources mobilization for implementation of prevention programs among MSM/LGBT.

3. In collaboration with governmental institutions to develop a system of education and professional support regarding the specifics of work with MSM/TG for outreach workers and other specialists from different fields, which provide psychological support, legal advice and social support.

4. To create enabling environment for internship in working with MSM/TG for students of medicine and law, as well as of sociology and psychology, and other specialists from different fields, which provide psychological support, legal advice and social support.

5. To take the lead and promote coordination between civil society organizations, working in service provision to MSM/TG.

State institutions and government

Elaboration and Implementation of programs for MSM and TG

6. In collaboration with NGOs to develop and launch training course on HIV rapid testing for NGO and governmental institutions' staff and specialists.

Enabling environment and coordination

7. To develop and introduce recommendations for incorporating a course on "Sexual orientation and gender identity" into the educational programs for students of medicine, law, sociology and psychology.

8. To support coordination of communication and cooperation among respective ministries (of Healthcare, Education, Social Protection, Internal Affairs, Justice) for effective implementation of the national programs of HIV prevention among MSM/TG.

International and donor organizations

Know your epidemic

9. To prepare best practices' overview on HIV rapid testing, especially based on the EECA experience, for further advocacy of this testing method on the country level.

10. To support study visits to EECA countries of key specialists from Ministry of Healthcare and NGO leaders for experience sharing and getting technical support in HIV rapid testing.

11. To prepare best practices' overview on inclusion of components for increasing tolerance towards MSM/TG and understanding of their specific needs in the field of health into programs of universities and colleges, that educate specialists in medicine, social work and psychology.

12. To develop small grants system for pilot projects in the field of education on inclusion of components for increasing tolerance towards MSM/TG and understanding of their specific needs in the field of health into programs of universities and colleges, that educate specialists in medicine, social work and psychology.

13. To support development of coordination among governmental organizations, state institutions and civil society organizations.

Recommendations for the countries of the South Caucasus: Georgia

Non-governmental organizations:

Know your epidemic

1. To carry out special research dedicated to issues such as violation of rights, stigmatization and discrimination of MSM/TG, access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs.
2. To plan and carry out qualitative research for assessing needs of TG in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.

Elaboration and Implementation of programs for MSM and TG

3. To plan, develop and implement specific prevention programs for MSM with middle and high income level, which are not covered by existing preventions programs.
4. Expand geographical coverage of preventions, treatment, care and support services for MSM/TG, with special focus on service provision not only in big cities, but also in small cities and villages.

Enabling environment and coordination

5. To inform general population on problems of MSM and TG in the field of public health and human rights in order to overcome tabooing the issue, stigma and discrimination, through active involvement of mass media.

State institutions and government

Know your epidemic

6. In collaboration with NGOs, to conduct regular (at least once in 4 years) epidemiological research, including size estimation of MSM in order to (1) assess epidemiological situation; (2) demonstrate program coverage.

Enabling environment and coordination

7. Through Country Coordination Mechanism to involve representatives of MSM group and LGBT community at all levels of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national programs of HIV/AIDS and STIs prevention.
8. To financially support prevention programs, targeting MSM/TG on the country level.

International and donor organizations

Elaboration and Implementation of programs for MSM and TG

9. Provide technical support to state institutions and government, as well as to NGOs, for improving quality of implemented prevention programs, targeting MSM/TG.
10. Provide technical support to state institutions and government for enhancing monitoring and evaluation of the quality of programs, implemented by both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

ANNEX 1: CONFERENCE AGENDA

The First South Caucasus Conference on HIV/AIDS among Men who have Sex with Men and Transgender People

Tbilisi, Georgia, October 3-4, 2011

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Day 1 (October 3, Monday)

Time	Presenters/Topic
10.00 – 10.20	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Nino Tsereteli, NGO “Tanadgoma”, Georgia Karen Badalyan, NGO “We For Civil Equality”, Armenia Kamran Rzayev, NGO “Gender and development”, Azerbaijan Manoela Manova, UNAIDS Country Coordinator Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia Javahir Suelimanova, HIV/AIDS and TB Country Coordinator, WHO, Azerbaijan</p>
10.20 – 10.40	<p>Introduction of participants</p> <p><u>Facilitator:</u> Kakhaber Kepuladze, NGO “Tanadgoma”, Georgia</p>
10.40–11.30	<p>Plenary session: Key issues of HIV epidemic among MSM/TG and cooperation on the regional level</p> <p><u>Co-chairs:</u> Nino Tsereteli, NGO “Tanadgoma”, Georgia Sevinch Topchubashova, Global Fund programs implementation bureau of the Ministry of Health, Azerbaijan</p> <p><u>Presentations:</u></p> <p>“MSM and TG: terminology and basic approaches in response to HIV epidemic”</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Oleg Alyokhin, Mykolayiv Association for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals “LiGa”, Ukrainian Council of LGBT organizations, Ethics and Internal Politics Committee, Permanent Reference Group on LGBT and MSM-service projects, Ukraine</p>

	<p>“HIV among MSM. Situation overview in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Gennady Roschupkin, Independent Consultant, Interim Board member of Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), Ukraine</p> <p>“HIV/AIDS among MSM in Georgia”</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Nino Tsereteli, NGO “Tanadgoma”, Georgia</p> <p>Questions and answers: 10 min.</p>
<p>11.30 – 11.50</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>11.50-12.30</p>	<p>Plenary session: Key issues of HIV epidemic among MSM/TG and cooperation on the regional level <i>(continued)</i></p> <p><u>Co-chairs:</u> Nino Tsereteli, NGO “Tanadgoma”, Georgia Sevinch Topchubasheva, Global Fund programs implementation bureau of the Ministry of Health, Azerbaijan</p> <p><u>Presentations:</u></p> <p>“HIV/AIDS among MSM in Armenia - situation overview”</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Tatevik Balayan, National Centre for HIV/AIDS prevention, Armenia</p> <p>“HIV/AIDS dynamics among MSM and TG in Azerbaijan”</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Afyat Nazarli, Epidemiology and HIV prevention Department, Republican AIDS Centre, Azerbaijan</p> <p>Questions and answers: 10 min.</p>
<p>12:30-14:00</p>	<p>Group work: Discussing needs on the sub-regional level</p> <p><u>Instructions</u> Anna Dovbakh, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine</p> <p>Group 1: State institutions and Ministries of Health</p> <p><u>Moderators:</u> Gennady Roschupkin, Independent Consultant, Interim Board member of Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM); Yury Sarankov, Independent HIV/AIDS expert, Interim Board member of Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM)</p> <p>Group 2: International donor organizations and UN</p> <p><u>Moderators:</u> Oleg Eryomin, NGO “Vstrecha”, Belarus; Dzmitry Filippau, menZDRAV Foundation, Russian Federation</p>

	Group 3: Civil society organizations <u>Moderators:</u> Anna Dovbakh , International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine; Oleg Alyohin , Mykolayiv Association for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals “LiGa”, Ukrainian Council of LGBT organizations, Ethics and Internal Politics Committee, Permanent Reference Group on LGBT and MSM-service projects, Ukraine
14.00-15.00	Lunch
15.00- 15.40	Presentations of the groups <u>Co-chairs:</u> Oleg Eryomin , NGO “Vstrecha”, Belarus Anna Gyurdjan , UNDP, Armenia
15.40-16.40	Group work: Defining priorities on the country level <u>Facilitators:</u> Yury Sarankov , Independent expert on HIV/AIDS, Interim Board member of Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), Ukraine Karen Badalyan , NGO “We For Civil Equality”, Armenia
16.40-17.00	Coffee break
17.00-17.30	Summing up the first day <u>Facilitators:</u> Nino Tsereteli , NGO “Tanadgoma”, Georgia Dzmitry Filippau , menZDRAV Foundation, Russian Federation
20.00	Dinner

Day 2 (October 4, Tuesday)

Time	Presenters/Topic
10.00 – 10.15	Brief overview of the first day/agenda and goals of the day <u>Co-chairs:</u> Karen Badalyan , NGO “We For Civil Equality”, Armenia Kamran Rzayev , NGO “Gender and development”, Azerbaijan
10.15-11.45	Elaboration of country recommendations: Group work <u>Instructions:</u> Dzmitry Filippau , menZDRAV Foundation, Russian Federation Group 1: Armenia <u>Moderators:</u> Gennady Roschupkin ; Ukraine, Oleg Eryomin , Belarus Group 2: Azerbaijan <u>Moderators:</u> Kamran Rzayev , Azerbaijan; Dzmitry Filippau , Russian Federation

	<p>Group 3: Georgia <u>Moderators:</u></p> <p>Anna Dovbakh, Ukraine; Yury Sarankov, Ukraine</p>
11.45-12.05	Coffee break
12.05-12.45	<p>Presentations of the groups</p> <p><u>Co-chairs:</u> Jamila Jarrakhova, UNAIDS, Azerbaijan Lia Tavadze, UNAIDS, Georgia</p>
12.45 – 13.15	<p>Discussion: Further steps for each sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donor organizations, UN and principal recipients of the GFATM grants; • Civil society; • Ministries of Health and AIDS Centers. <p><u>Facilitators:</u> Javahir Suleimanova, WHO, Azerbaijan; Anahit Harutyunyan, “Positive People Armenian Network”, Armenia</p>
13.15 – 13.45	<p>Presentation of the initiative: creation of South Caucasus Network on HIV among MSM/TG</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Nino Tsereteli, NGO “Tanadgoma”, Georgia Karen Badalyan, NGO “We For Civil Equality”, Armenia Kamran Rzayev, NGO “Gender and development”, Azerbaijan</p>
13.45 – 14:45	Lunch
14.45 – 15.15	<p>Summing up. Conference evaluation and closing</p> <p><u>Facilitators:</u> Anna Dovbakh, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine Nino Tsereteli, NGO “Tanadgoma”, Georgia</p>

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The First South Caucasus Conference on HIV/AIDS among Men who have Sex with Men and Transgender People

Tbilisi, Georgia,
3-4 October, 2011

List of Participants

N	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	COUNTRY
1	Anna Arutyunyan	Ministry of Healthcare of Republic of Armenia	HIV/AIDS programs M&E specialist	Armenia
2	Tatevik Balayan	National Centre for HIV/AIDS prevention	Epidemiologist	Armenia
3	Anna Gyurdjan	UNDP	HIV/AIDS Programs Manager	Armenia
4	Anahit Harutyunyan	Positive People Armenian Network	Chair	Armenia
5	Karen Badalyan	NGO "We For Civil Equality"	President, Experts' Group member	Armenia
6	Ruzanna Davtyan	NGO "Learning for Healthcare"	Psychologist	Armenia
7	Zara Shushanyan	NGO "We For Civil Equality"	Policy Program Director	Armenia
8	Sevinch Topchubashova	Global Fund programs implementation bureau of the Ministry of Health, Azerbaijan	Project Group Manager	Azerbaijan
9	Afyat Nazarli	Republican AIDS Center	Head of epidemiology and HIV prevention Department	Azerbaijan
10	Farid Mamedov	NGO "Gender and Development"	Outreach Coordinator	Azerbaijan
11	Jamila Jarrakhova	UNAIDS Country Office	UNAIDS Country Coordinator	Azerbaijan
12	Javahir Suleimanova	WHO Country Office	Country Coordinator for HIV/AIDS and TB program	Azerbaijan
13	Elhan Bagirov	NGO "Gender and Development"	Project Coordinator	Azerbaijan
14	Kamran Rzayev	NGO "Gender and Development"	Director, Experts' Group member	Azerbaijan
15	Maia Tsereteli	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs	Head of HIV/AIDS, TB, viral hepatitis and STIs department	Georgia
16	Amiran Gamkrelidze	WHO Country Office	Country Coordinator for STIs/HIV/AIDS program	Georgia
17	Maia Tsintsadze	Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Centre	Epidemiologist	Georgia

18	Lia Tavadze	UNAIDS Country Office	Social Mobilization Advisor	Georgia
19	Nino Nadashvili	Global Projects' Implementation Centre (Principal Recipient of GFATM programs)	Project Coordinator	Georgia
20	Irakli Vacharadze	NGO "Identoba"	Executive Director	Georgia
21	David Shublazde	NGO "LGBT Georgia"	Executive Director	Georgia
22	Tea Tsagareli	Save the Children	HIV Prevention Expert, Georgia HIV Prevention Project (GHPP)	Georgia
23	Miranda Akhvlediani	Public Defender's Office	Right to Health Protection Expert	Georgia
24	Elden Chamberlain	International HIV/AIDS Alliance	Most At Risk Populations and Networks Specialist, AIDSTAR Two	UK
25	Manoela Manova	UNAIDS Regional Office in Europe and Central Asia	UNAIDS Country Coordinator Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia	Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia
26	Lela Lomia	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Georgia	Civil Society Programme Officer	Georgia
27	Dzmitry Filippau	menZDRAV Foundation	Director, Experts' Group member	Russian Federation
28	Anna Dovbakh	International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine	Director, Regional Technical Support Hub in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Experts' Group member	Ukraine
29	Oleg Alyokhin	Mykolayiv Association for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals "LiGa"	Director, Project expert	Ukraine
30	Yury Sarankov	Independent expert on HIV/AIDS, Interim Board member of Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM)	Project expert	Ukraine
31	Oleg Eryomin	NGO "Vstrecha"	Coordinator of National programs on HIV/AIDS among MSM, Project expert	Belarus
32	Gennady Roschupkin	Independent Consultant, Interim Board member of Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM)	Project expert	Ukraine
33	Nino Tsereteli	NGO "Tanadgoma"	Director, Experts' Group member	Georgia
34	Kakhaber Kepuladze	NGO "Tanadgoma"	Project Coordinator	Georgia