



## **Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Networks on HIV and AIDS (7 Sisters) Code of Conduct for Coalition members**

### **Introduction :**

**The COALITION (7S)** is a broad-based alliance of regional networks based and covering the Asia Pacific region, working on HIV and AIDS since 2001. As the HIV epidemic continues to grow increasingly complex, after nine years of existence, the need is even greater for a collective body that can give voice to the HIV driven needs of the most marginalized, vulnerable, affected communities and constituencies or what the GFATM is calling Key Affected Populations (KAP) at national, regional and global levels throughout Asia and the Pacific. The need to involve KAP in all stages of the global AIDS response has been well articulated. The Commission on AIDS in Asia (CAA) has reported that though governments have committed to supporting the participation of KAPs in national responses to HIV, in the majority of Asian countries, KAPs participation remains tokenistic.

### **Values and Principles<sup>1</sup>:**

- Meaningful involvement of Key Affected Populations;
- Promote and Respect for social, gender equality and sexual diversity;
- Uphold and ensure human rights standards.
- Represent unheard voices of the Key Affected Populations at all levels of the AIDS response;
- Collaboration based on consultation;
- Good governance and practice.
- Accountability to Constituents.

### **Purposes of this document and Applicability:**

This document is intended to inform both the members of the Coalition. Conformity to the codes that are laid down below is sought from all Board and Management Committee members solely for the purpose of Coalition matters.

Approved and put into effect during the 2009 Coalition Annual General Meeting, held in Bangkok from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 and further validated during Strategic planning workshop on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> From the Coalition membership agreement.

*Following are the covenants of the Code of Conduct for the Coalition members,*

**1. Seek inputs from KAPs that we represent:**

The Coalition members will facilitate communication from the community that they represent to the Coalition to allow the issues to be highlighted and addressed in different international, regional and national platforms and events.

**2. Linkages with Community:**

As much as we seek inputs from the community, the Coalition representatives will ensure that the community is provided with inputs about what is happening in international and regional levels with best possible mechanisms and wherever applicable. It will also ensure that the community gets feedback about how issues they raised are being highlighted and addressed.

**3. Increasing participation of KAP:**

We advocate and lobby for the participation and meaningful involvement of all KAP within all available systems, mechanisms and platforms where decisions and policies are adopted that might influence or affect the lives of KAP.

**4. Mentoring new community representatives:**

The 7S will mentor and build capacity of community representatives to participate in the global, regional and national responses to HIV and AIDS.

**5. Participating in Coalition matters:**

The Coalition members will participate to the fullest of their capacity in all areas of work, key issues and adoption of policies and procedures as agreed by 7S.

**6. Foster a culture of inclusion and respect:**

7S will respect the diversity of all Coalition members and also treat each other as equal partners.



### **7. Honest and Ethical Conduct:**

Coalition members will apply policies and procedures adopted by the Coalition with the highest standard of personal and professional integrity, honesty and ethical conduct.

### **8. Maintaining Confidentiality and Accountability:**

Coalition members will secure, preserve, safeguard and discreetly use confidential information in the best interest of the 7S. They should not divulge or communicate such information to third parties except when authorized and consented has been given by the all members.

Coalition members will also maintain the highest level of accountability by being open, discreet and responsible in whatever they are involved in when they are representing the Coalition.

**9. Protection and Proper Use of Coalition's Assets:** Coalition and secretariat staff members are responsible and accountable for appropriate use of all Coalition's assets which should be used only for legitimate Coalition related purposes.

### **10. Disclosure or conflict of Interest:**

It is in the Coalition's best interest to provide full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable disclosure or declaration of conflict of interest in writing to all Coalition members. In the event of voting to decide on Conflict of Interest, the first party will abstain from the voting.

**11. Disclosure of information:** If any of the Coalition members wish to use the name of the Coalition in any fundraising event, proposal submission, representation or cite the name of the Coalition in any matter which may directly or indirectly benefit the member or the network, such information about the desire to use the Coalition's name has to be disclosed to all Coalition members through the Secretariat. The Secretariat will further consult the Coalition's members on the same and provide permission thereafter.

**12. Waivers and amendment of the Code:** Any amendment or waiver of any provision of this Code should be approved collectively by the Coalition members.