

5

Development of the Strategic Plan 2007-2011

During 2006, SANAC, under the leadership of the Deputy President, Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, mandated the Department of Health (DOH) to lead the development of the NSP to ensure continued guidance and strengthening of the national, multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS.

This plan will build on what has been done, take into account the current state of the epidemic and developments in scientific knowledge, and will establish national targets and monitoring frameworks. Guided by the Minister of Health, Dr Manto Tshabalala- Msimang, SANAC concluded that the NSP 2000-2005 is fundamentally still relevant. This work earnestly began in August and September 2006 with an assessment of progress in the implementation of the NSP 2000-2005.

The methods used were a review of documents supplied by lead agencies implementing the NSP and secondary data analysis. The initial findings were presented to government and civil society for validation. Thereafter stakeholders were afforded an opportunity to provide additional information. About two hundred people represented a wide range of different government departments and organisations across various sectors in these workshops in August and September 2006. There were representatives of fifteen different government departments, organisations representing PLHIV, faith-based organisations (FBOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community based organisations (CBOs), traditional healers, legal and human rights organisations, organisations representing people with special needs, youth organisations, organised labour, business, the hospitality industry, organised sport and academic institutions.

The first draft of the NSP 2007-2011 was presented by the DOH at a consultation with all sectors on 20 October 2006. Inputs from this consultation were incorporated and a second draft was circulated to all stakeholders for further comments. Civil society structures also had an opportunity to consult among themselves at a congress held on 27 and 28 October 2006. Some of the resolutions of this congress were considered. The draft NSP was then presented to SANAC on 31 October 2006.

Further consultations with NGOs, PLHIV, women's groups, the youth troika (the National Youth Commission, National Youth Council and Umsobomvu), labour, and the children's sector yielded additional inputs, which were considered. Inputs from other government departments, expert clinicians, researchers and professional organisations were also included. In addition, the Deputy President held bilateral meetings with several important sectors including organised labour, media groupings, business, children's sector – in order to obtain their views and to discuss ways to facilitate their meaningful participation.

The DOH and the National Health Council (NHC) interrogated and endorsed the final draft, which was then presented to the civil society section of SANAC on 20 November 2006, where it was decided that more work to enhance the document was to be done by a task team of experts. A national expert task team was appointed (Annexure A). During February and March 2007, this team (led by the DoH) met to further develop an evidence informed description of the HIV epidemic in South Africa, review targets, develop an M&E framework and to cost the NSP.

The team presented the final draft to a national consultation on the 14-15 March 2007 for endorsement. Inputs from the more than 500 people present at the two-day national conference were incorporated. The NSP 2007-2011 was then adopted by the new SANAC at its inaugural meeting as the document expressing the national commitment and approach to HIV & AIDS and STIs.





