Rapporteur’s report:
Panel 1: Universal Access and HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence

Co-chairs:  
Susan Timberlake, UNAIDS Secretariat  
Shaun Mellors, Foundation for Professional Development

Speakers:  
Mariangela Simao, Brazil  
Jerico Balauag Paterno, Pinoy Plus Association

Rapporteur:  
Sissel Hodne Steen, Norway

24th Programme Coordinating Board Meeting  
Geneva, 22-24 June 2009
Highlights

- Heard a lot of things, including about the personal impact – unusual because most people affected stay hidden; heard about the experience of one country that provides ART to migrants and has not been “overwhelmed”
- Talking about something bigger than HIV – the human rights and treatment of migrants. It is bigger than a health issue and have to work with people from ministries of migration, interior and justice to get the solutions.
- Task Team created a lot of momentum, and have to keep this up, keep up the pressure/dialogue with those who have restrictions. Have seen tremendous examples of governments being champions, taking this up with other governments – this is immensely powerful. *The 108 have to talk to the 59!*
Barriers to Universal Access

- Restrictions increase stigma around HIV and discourage *all* people from taking up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.
- Restrictions mean HIV testing without counselling, confidentiality, informed consent, and access to treatment.
- Restrictions may create a false sense of security for the national population.
- Migrants in a country with restrictions fear getting tested, and if positive, fear accessing health services.
- Travellers stop taking their medication.
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Examples of action that needs to be taken</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Solutions</strong></td>
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<td>Bilateral/regional government advocacy and action for the elimination of restrictions (e.g. EU, AU)</td>
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<td>Integrating HIV into the work of migrant organisations; creation of national/regional “task teams”</td>
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<td>Working with/educating Ministries of Interior, Migration, Foreign Affairs, HRtsgroups on HIV and need to separate out health</td>
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<td>Donor strong encouragement of grants to people on the move, lifting restrictions</td>
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Conclusions and Recommendations

- Restrictions represent an outdated, discriminatory and ineffective approach to HIV.
- Universal Access for everyone – nationals and non-nationals – is a more effective way to protect the public health than restrictions.
- Governments need to expand HIV programmes and services for people on the move in national AIDS strategies; where necessary, be supported by funding (Global Fund, bilaterals).
- Great need to create political will for change through continuous and strong pressure by governments, civil society, and international organisations.