

Motivation letter for election as a member of the Steering Committee

I, Sultangaziev Aybar, submit my candidacy to the steering committee in order to improve the situation in the sphere of drug policy in the region, and improve the rights of key population groups.

Since 2008 I am the head of the Harm Reduction Association "Partner Network", which is a non-profit organization, established and is operating in accordance with the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Non-Profit Organizations" and the Charter of the organization. Association "Partner Network" is a national network consisting of 26 non-governmental organizations, including organizations of PWUD communities, PLHIV, and geographically covers all regions of the country.

During the time at the head of the Association, we've developed a number of regulatory and legal documents in the field of health care, including HIV, TB, hepatitis and other socially significant diseases:

- The Law on Patents, which provides for flexible TRIPS provisions (approved in 2015)
- Law "On circulation of medicines" (approved in 2017)
- Draft amendments to the Law on Public Procurement (2018)
- The State Program on Counteracting the HIV Epidemic for 2012-2016.
- Program of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to counteract the HIV epidemic for 2017-2021.
- Protocol on diagnosis and treatment of parenteral hepatitis in the Kyrgyz Republic (approved in 2015)
- Protocol on diagnosis and treatment of HIV in the Kyrgyz Republic (2017)
- Regulations on essential medicines (2016)
- List of essential medicines (2018)
- Regulations on the Committee on HIV and TB
- MoH program on state social order (2018)
- Service standards for key population groups within the framework of the State social order in the Kyrgyz Republic (2018)
- Standards for the implementation of harm reduction programs and the provision of services to injecting drug users (Order No. 482 of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic of August 22, 2014)
- Regulations on the activities of the Board of Trustees in medical institutions (2018)
- Recommendations on the organization of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users in the Kyrgyz Republic (Order of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 532 of September 22, 1944)
- National strategy of in the field of TB.

With my direct leadership a series of studies and training modules were developed and conducted:

- A tool for managing the quality of services in HR programs (CARHAP, 2009)
- Review of the regulatory framework of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of providing access to narcological treatment for people who inject drugs (customer of the Voice of Freedom Foundation with the support of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan), 2015
- Analysis of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic in the sphere of observance of the rights of drug users (customer of the Kyrgyz Indigo Public Foundation with the support of Human Rights Watch), 2015
- Review of the situation and financing of harm reduction programs in the Kyrgyz Republic (with OSI support), 2014.
- Review of the situation of viral hepatitis C in the Kyrgyz Republic (OSI, Aids Fonds) 2010, 2015.
- Review of ARV drugs. Price, availability, barriers. (Aids Fonds) 2015
- Availability of modern ARV drugs in Kyrgyzstan (ITPC) 2017
- Study "Assessment of Barriers to Expanding Coverage with HIV Treatment" (2018)
- A strategy to increase the participation of communities affected by TB and civil society organizations in the fight against tuberculosis (European Coalition for TB, Public Association "Social"), 2014.
- Training modules on advocacy in the field of TB, psychosocial counseling with HCV, harm reduction program management, advocacy of harm reduction programs, etc.
- Overview of the Availability of Drugs in the Kyrgyz Republic (HIV, TB, HCV, oncological pathology, conditions after organ transplantation)
- Report on "Improving the state provision of medicines for patients with 5 diseases (HIV, TB, HCV, oncological pathology, conditions after organ transplantation)"
- Analysis of legislation to protect the rights of key populations
- Analysis of needs and shortage of funds for UGN.

Due to the abovementioned activities, there are a number of systemic improvements in ensuring access to HIV and TB services:

1. One of the annexes of the Government's program on countering the HIV epidemic approved a "roadmap" for the transition to national funding for HIV programs.
2. 7 medicines for HCV treatment were registered, and the cost of HCV treatment in the Kyrgyz Republic is around 450 \$ for a 12-week course, which is the lowest in the region.
3. 150-200 PLHIV are treated annually from HCV at the expense of the state budget.
4. Procurement of new drugs for the treatment of HIV has been started (dolutegravir and its combinations)
5. Public funding for HIV programs has been increased (43 million soms in 2018 and 75 million soms in 2019)
6. Procurement of ARV drugs from the state budget is planned in the amount of 20% of the demand in 2019 and 30% in 2020.
7. The MoH program on the state social order for 2019-2021 was approved. and the project of the republican budget includes funds for financing social contract in the field of HIV.
8. Creation of the Board of Trustees of the RC "AIDS" with the participation of communities and the civil sector.
9. The National Health Strategy up to 2030 includes, as priorities, counteraction to HIV and TB epidemics.
10. The mechanism for registration of medicines for the treatment of socially significant diseases, including HIV and TB, has been simplified.

To date, the priorities of the Association are

1. Protection of the rights of key population groups;
2. Ensuring public funding for prevention programs for all key groups (HIV, TB, PWUD);

3. Provision of free opioid substitution therapy for all PWUD, drug provision for key groups, through public funding.

My direct participation in the steering committee of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) will help to advance the interests of key groups at the regional level, fill the problematic aspects of drug policy in the region, and so on.

Executive Director

"Partner Network"

Sultangaziev Aybar

akdeer05@mail.ru

+996555619558

+996779444669