

Summary of the High Level Meeting

HIV and Human Rights: political action to achieve ZERO stigma

Seville. September 15, 2023

TECHNICAL REPORT

The Ministry of Health is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal 3, in particular goal 3.3, which calls for an end to the epidemic of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases as well as combating diseases such as hepatitis, waterborne diseases, and other communicable diseases.

In addition, sustainable development goals 10.2 and 10.3 emphasise the importance of eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices that impede the social, economic, and political inclusion of vulnerable social groups. Thus, addressing HIV stigma and discrimination continues to be a major issue within the European Union.

HIV stigma and discrimination undermine the dignity and equality of people living with HIV, harm their human rights, reduce their ability to exercise those rights, and degrade and corrupt society in general.

The Spanish government is committed to protecting and upholding human rights. Accordingly, the Ministry of Health has the responsibility to protect health and respect human rights through a joint and articulated collaboration between the administration, health professionals, social actors, civil society, and people living with HIV.



The elimination of stigma and discrimination associated with HIV is a political priority of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union that was reflected in the High Level Meeting (RAN) “[*HIV and human rights. Political action to achieve ZERO stigma*](#)”, held at the Real Alcázar of Seville on September 15, 2023. (Annex I).

This event addressed various strategies and agreements to eliminate stigma and discrimination associated with HIV in different social, political, and institutional settings.



There was a strong emphasis on European Union countries' political commitment to develop policies and combat HIV stigma and discrimination. In this regard, Spain has played a critical role since 2018 through the ["Social Pact for Non-Discrimination and Equal Treatment associated with HIV"](#). This initiative has actively attempted to promote equal treatment and social acceptance, and to reduce HIV stigma and discrimination.



These efforts and commitments resulted in Spain being accepted into the [UNAIDS Global Partnership of action to eliminate all forms of stigma and discrimination associated with HIV](#). Spain became the second European Union country to join the alliance after Luxembourg.

International and European organisations, including UNAIDS, WHO, and the ECDC, called for the monitoring of HIV stigma and discrimination to be integrated into their programmes and indicators. Efforts to eliminate HIV must also emphasise the importance of assessing progress towards reducing HIV stigma and discrimination.

These organisations stressed that eliminating HIV requires addressing stigma, and it is impossible to do so without promoting social changes that facilitate the integration and acceptance of people with HIV.

Other organisations, such as EACS, GESIDA, SEISIDA or GAT, noted the importance of addressing HIV stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings. Creating a safe and accepting environment for people with HIV is the first step toward achieving the HIV elimination goals proposed for 2030, and making it easier for them to receive quality care that meets their needs.

At the high-level meeting it was also stressed the importance of addressing HIV stigma and discrimination from civil society, since local leaders and third-sector organisations have been pioneers in responding to the various challenges arising since HIV was discovered.

In this regard, Spain has also been a pioneer in the development of local responses, as recognised in 2022 by the Seville Declaration and the implications associated with their critical role in HIV response. Currently, Spain has the largest number of local entities (a total of 173) adhering to the "[Fast-Track cities](#)" initiative.

The key points and results of the high-level meeting were reflected in the technical document "***Stigma and discrimination associated with HIV: the challenge***", prepared jointly by the Ministry of Health with the ECDC, WHO/Euro, UNAIDS and SEISIDA, and reviewed by over 20 leading national and international institutions.

This document provides a roadmap for the different countries of the European Union to combat HIV stigma and discrimination in various dimensions, including legal reforms, access to health care for the most vulnerable populations, addressing public service discrimination, promoting educational initiatives, or coordinating between political authorities and communities.

The action points of this document will be presented on December 1, World AIDS Day, at the European Parliament in Brussels.

November 27, 2023

Division for Control of HIV, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Viral Hepatitis, and Tuberculosis

Annex I Programme

U=23
PRESIDENCIA ESPAÑOLA
CONSEJO DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

**Reunión de Alto Nivel
VIH y Derechos Humanos:
Acción política para alcanzar cero estigma**

U=23
PRESIDENCIA ESPAÑOLA
CONSEJO DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

**Reunión de Alto Nivel
VIH y Derechos Humanos:
Acción política para alcanzar cero estigma**

8:30-9:00	Registro de participantes	Maestra de ceremonias: Dra. Débora Álvarez Del Arco
9:00-10:00	Bienvenida y sesión inaugural Respuestas políticas de los estados de la UE para eliminar el estigma y la discriminación asociados al VIH Moderadores: Dra. Julia del Amo, Directora División VIH, ITS, Hepatitis & TB, Ministerio de Sanidad, España y Sr. Binod Mahanty, Enfermedades infecciosas y Salud Global, Ministerio de Sanidad, Alemania -D. José Luis Sanz, Alcalde de Sevilla, España -Dr. Péter Takács, Secretario de Salud de Hungría -Sra. Stella Kyriakides, Comisaria europea de Salud y Seguridad Alimentaria (video) -Dr. José Manuel Miñones, Ministro de Sanidad de España	
10:00-10:30	Progresos en la eliminación del estigma y la discriminación asociadas al VIH -Dra. Andrea Ammon, Directora ECDC -Mr. Robb Butler, Director de la División de enfermedades transmisibles, medioambiente y salud, Región europea de la OMS -Dra. Christine Stegling, Directora Ejecutiva adjunta de ONUSIDA	
10:30-11:00	Firma de la adhesión de España a la Alianza Mundial de acciones para eliminar todas las formas de estigma y la discriminación relacionadas con el VIH Moderador: Ramón Espacio (CESIDA) -Dra. Christine Stegling, Directora Ejecutiva adjunta de ONUSIDA -Dr. José Manuel Miñones, Ministro de Sanidad de España	
11:00-11:30	Pausa de café en los patios del Real Alcázar	
11:30-11:45	Conferencia magistral. El estigma y la discriminación asociadas al VIH: el reto Moderador: D. Diego García, Adhara, Sevilla Check Point, Sevilla Dra. María José Fuster, Directora de SEISIDA, Profesora de la UNED, España	
11:45-12:00	Sesión 1: "Abordando el estigma y la discriminación relacionados con el VIH en los entornos sanitarios" Moderadores: Dr. Jorge del Diego, Director General de Salud Pública y Ordenación Farmacéutica, Andalucía, y Dr. Viatcheslav Grankov, OMS/Euro Mini conferencias -Dr. Esteban Martínez, presidente de EACS -Dra. Meg Doherty, Directora Global del programa de VIH, Hepatitis e ITS, OMS	
12:00-13:00	Mesa redonda 1: "Abordando el estigma y la discriminación relacionados con el VIH en los entornos sanitarios" Moderadores: Mr. Teymur Noori (ECDC) y Dra. Teresa Campos, Jefa de servicio de Coordinación, DG Salud Pública y Ordenación Farmacéutica, Andalucía -Dr. Miłosz Parczewski, Universidad Pomeranian, Szczecin, Polonia -Dra. María Velasco, Junta Directiva de GESIDA, España -Dra. Anna Koval, Universidad y Centro Médico de Hamburgo-Eppendorf, Alemania -D. Luis Mendão, GAT, Portugal/Coalition Plus -D. Gonçalo Lobo, Fast Track Cities -Dra. Concha Amador, Expresidenta SEISIDA, España Turno de preguntas	

13:00-14:30	Almuerzo buffet en los patios del Real Alcázar
14:30-16:00	Sesión 2: "Respuestas de la sociedad civil para eliminar el estigma y la discriminación asociados al VIH" Moderadores: D. Fernando Martínez Cañavate, Jefe del área de salud, Ayuntamiento de Sevilla y Sra. Umunyana Rugege, ONUSIDA Mini conferencia -D. Jorge Garrido, Apoyo Positivo. La Declaración de Sevilla, 2022 -D. Marc Angel, MPE de Luxemburgo y Vicepresidente del Parlamento Europeo (video) Mesa redonda 2: "Respuestas de la sociedad civil para eliminar el estigma y la discriminación asociados al VIH" Moderadores: Dr. Sanjay Bhagani (EACS) y Dra. Stela Bivol (WHO/Euro) -D. Nikos Dedes, Voz Positiva, Grecia -D. Ricardo Fernández, Presidente EATG -D. Denis Onyango, Fundación para la Defensa de África -D. Pietro Vittorio Barbieri, Comité Económico y Social Europeo (EESC) -Dra. Reyes Velayos, Presidenta de CESIDA, España -Sra. Ganna Dovbakh, Asociación Euroasiática para Reducción de daños, Lituania Turno de preguntas Consideraciones finales y siguientes pasos Moderadores: Dr. Carlos Iniesta, SEISIDA y Dra. Jessica Deblonde, Siensano, Bélgica -Dra. Pilar Aparicio, Directora General de Salud Pública, Ministerio de Sanidad, España -D. Matthias De Moor, Bélgica Cierre -Dra. Silvia Calzón, Secretaria de Estado de Sanidad, Ministerio de Sanidad, España
16:30-19:30	Tiempo libre (ver sugerencias en guía práctica)
19:30-20:30	Visita guiada privada al Real Alcázar
20:45-23:30	Cena de clausura en el Restaurante La Raza (ver guía práctica)

<https://streaming.sanidad.gob.es/index.html>

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD

15 de Septiembre de 2023
Lugar: Real Alcázar de Sevilla, España

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD

15 de Septiembre de 2023
Lugar: Real Alcázar de Sevilla, España

<https://streaming.sanidad.gob.es/index.html>