

## **News from the Board of GNP+**

The current voting board of GNP+ held its annual meeting in Durban, South Africa, July 23-25. We want you, our key partners and stakeholders, to be the first to know of the key decisions we approved unanimously after two days of in-depth, challenging discussions on our vision as a movement of people living with HIV and as a global network. We recognise the need to strengthen the collective impact of people living with HIV in the HIV response, and the changes we decide to make will ensure our sustainability and strengthen our work.

### **On governance, we voted to:**

1. Restructure the current board to an 11-member supervisory body under which the executive director will no longer be a voting member and will directly report to the Board.
2. Replace current board appointment by affiliated regional networks to an application process through which the Board selects Board members, and the selection process is guided by pre-defined criteria, including skills and expertise GNP+ needs for effective governance and organisational growth.
3. Ensure geographic, demographic and key population representation and gender equity when filling vacant seats. Regional networks of people living with HIV are encouraged to put forward individuals who meet the criteria defined to apply for vacant board seats.

The current Board will determine by 1 October 2016, the selection criteria and the timeline and process of selecting new members.

The newly selected Board will review and revise as needed operational details to internal policies and regulations, such as the appointment of Board co-chairs, the treasurer and secretary, Board terms, and term limits.

Once in place, the new GNP+ Board will oversee and conduct the search process to hire a new executive director, who will then implement the partnership and programmatic vision described below. Until then, Jennifer Bushee, with support from long-time GNP+ ally Raoul Fransen, will continue to coordinate work at the Global Secretariat in the interim period. The Board has full confidence in their ability to maintain organisational activities and administration during this period.

### **On partnership and organisational collaboration, we voted to:**

1. Restructure GNP+ from a network of regional and population-based organisations to a network comprised of individual members living with HIV that does its work through partnerships with global, regional, and national organisations.
2. Explore the potential of expanding partnerships, collaboration and organisational relationships in an effort to ensure effective use of resources, reduce redundancy, and improve structures for communications, advocacy, and capacity building.

In preparation for these discussions, GNP+ Board Members will consult with regional partners to: (1) determine if and how these organisational relationships can be redefined to be more effective; (2) which organisations and/or networks have similar goals and missions to GNP+ and may offer opportunities for expanding partnership and collaboration; and (3) define the strengths, weaknesses and priorities for GNP+ to consider when assessing any such collaboration, partnership or other type of organisational relationships.

Based on the outcomes of the regional consultations, conversations will also take place with other networks identified by the GNP+ Board. Consultations and initial discussions between the respective boards will take place by December 2016.

**On program development and organisational priorities, we agreed to focus on three primary areas of work:**

- **Community Mobilisation**: to encourage solidarity among people living with HIV across geographies and populations to ensure funding and services are available to all people living with HIV regardless of where they live, the income level of their country, or their identity or gender.
- **Advocacy**: to ensure equitable and adequate funding for the HIV response, treatment and prevention guidelines development that are evidence based and grounded in medical ethics, access to and quality of treatment and support service delivery, and human rights protection and service delivery access for people living with HIV and key populations.
- **Capacity building**: to train and support peer-based HIV service delivery, advocacy to reduce stigma and discrimination, monitor HIV responses, and strengthen groups of people living with HIV around the world.

We believe the changes put in motion set the stage for a strengthened GNP+ that can provide leadership and support for a movement of people living with HIV around the world.

We hope we can count on your continued support.

Kind regards,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is a stylized, cursive 'C' followed by a horizontal line. The second signature on the right is a more complex, cursive signature that appears to be 'Jaime Luna'.

Cecilia Chung and Jaime Luna (Co-chairs)