A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO TACKLE HIV STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION
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On this Zero Discrimination Day, ICASO acknowledges the global efforts to combat HIV related stigma and discrimination which has received an enormous boost recently with the announcement of a partnership spearheaded by GNP+ and UNAIDS.

The Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate All Forms of HIV related Stigma and Discrimination is a call to action to catalyze and accelerate implementation of commitments made to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination by UN Member States, UN agencies, bilateral and international donors, NGOs and communities as essential for ending AIDS as part of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

“The partnership underpinning this global action is unlike anything we have seen in response to HIV stigma and discrimination” says Mary Ann Torres, Executive Director of ICASO, “This is the type of innovation in partnerships that the global response to HIV is known for and we applaud the leadership of the NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS PCB for championing this effort. ICASO is proud to play a role in the implementation of the Global Partnership”.

The overall objectives of the Global Partnership, which covers 6 thematic areas, are three-fold:
1. Translate political and human rights commitments into action;
2. Revitalize stakeholder partnerships among stakeholders to advocate for scale up of effective programs; and,
3. Generate and disseminate evidence-based data from around the world across the thematic areas.

“After 30 years of the response, people living with HIV and key populations still experience neglect, stigma, discrimination, criminalization, violence and human rights violations simply because of who they are. This unfinished business is outrageous. There will be no end of AIDS without addressing these fundamental issues. This is clearly articulated in the ICASO strategic plan, and, at ICASO, we will work tirelessly to help all communities affected by HIV have their voices heard and their rights respected,” says Ben Plumley, Chair of the ICASO Board of Directors.