



# 2<sup>nd</sup> ISC Meeting Report

30 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2023

**Society for AIDS In Africa (SAA)**

ICASA 2023 Permanent Secretariat  
Plot 58 Container, Otano Estates Behind NHTC,  
Adjiringano, East Legon  
Accra, Ghana  
Tel: + 233 (0) 30 393 681 4 / 233 (0) 30 291 3739 |  
[icasa2023.saafrica.org](http://icasa2023.saafrica.org)



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## VALIDATED AGENDA

2<sup>nd</sup> International Steering Committee meeting

Rainbow Towers Hotel, Harare, Zimbabwe

### OBJECTIVES:

- I. Briefing on ICASA 2023 progress report
- II. ICASA 2023 Draft Budget and gaps
- III. Review and finalize ICASA 2023 Plenary speakers
- IV. Review and finalize concurrent sessions (NADs, Workshops and Special sessions)
- V. Review and validate Scholarship criteria
- VI. Call for Partnership
- VII. Call for bid - ICASA 2025 (23<sup>rd</sup> Edition)
- VIII. Call for Abstract reviewers

### CHAIRS:

- Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, President of ICASA 2023/Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA)
- H.E. Gen (Rtd) Dr. C.D. N. Chiwenga, Vice President and Minister of Health and Childcare, Vice President of ICASA 2023

### DAY 1: 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

TIME	Activities	Discussion Lead
9:00	Registration of participants	Secretariat
9:15	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcoming address</li><li>• Opening remarks</li><li>• Introduction of participants</li><li>• Endorsement of the agenda</li></ul>	ICASA 2023 President & ICASA 2023 Vice President
9:30	Session 1: Update from ICASA Secretariat Progress report to date, followed by Q/A	ICASA Director
9:40	Session 2: Presentation on ICASA 2023 Draft budget and gaps Presentation of ICASA 2023 draft budget, gaps and validation	ICASA Director
9:55	Session 3: Presentation of ICASA 2023 Plenary speakers Presentation from the 3 programme committees highlighting gaps	SAA Vice President
10:05	Session 4: Fixing Gaps of Plenary speakers per committee Group discussion to fix gaps and to finalize ICASA 2023 plenary speakers	ICASA 2023 Committee Chairs
10:50	Session 5: Final Presentation of plenary speakers ICASA 2023 from the Scientific, Leadership and community committee	Programme Chairs
11:20	Session 6: Review and finalize concurrent sessions Fixing gaps and validation by Programme committees	Programme Committees
11:35	Session 7: Fixing the Gaps of concurrent sessions per committee Group discussion to fix gaps and to finalize ICASA 2023 concurrent sessions	Programme Chairs
12:20	Tea Break	
12:35	Session 8: Final Presentation of concurrent sessions from the Scientific, Leadership and community committee	programme Chairs

13:05	Session 9: Validation of Scholarship Criteria Presentation of the scholarship criteria, followed by Q/A	Head of local Secretariat
13:20	Session 10: Call for Partnership Presentation of ICASA 2023 marketing and partnership strategy	ICASA Director
13:35	Lunch	
14:35	Session 11: Call for Country Bid – ICASA 2025 (23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition)	ICASA 2023 President
14:50	Session 12: Call for ICASA 2023 Abstract reviewers	Scientific Programme Co-Chair
15:05	Wrap up of Day 1	ICASA 2023 President
15:20	Session 13: Visitation of the Conference centre/Group picture	All participants

### DAY 2: 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023

9:00	Review of ICASA 2021 recommendations	Head of Local Secretariat
9:15	Open floor for discussion on the recommendations on ICASA 2023 programme	All participants
10:30	Closing Remarks	ICASA President and Vice President
10:45	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> International Steering committee meeting	
11:00	ICASA 2023 Press conference	High table
	2 <sup>nd</sup> ISC Meeting Evaluation	Online

## VALIDATED PLENARY TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

### Scientific Programme

Session Type: Plenary	Speakers
1. <b>Fast-tracking pandemic vaccines: lessons to learn from COVID-19 to HIV vaccine development?</b>	Prof. Glenda E. Gray
2. <b>Delivery and access to innovative biomedical interventions, remove barriers, and build capacity in Africa (prevention, diagnostics, and therapeutics, adherence).</b>	Gerald Macharia
3. <b>Finding the missing targets: what more to do for HIV, Tuberculosis, STIs and Hepatitis?</b>	Prof. Quarraisha Abdool Karim
4. <b>Human centered inclusion of key and vulnerable populations and implementation of differentiated service delivery approaches to overcome barriers.</b>	Prof. Mehdi Karkouri
5. <b>Optimization of innovative Paediatric therapeutics and prevention (DTG, TAF, bNAb, etc).</b>	Dr. Lynda Stranix-Chibanda

### Leadership Programme

1. <b>Innovative financing for HIV in the context of Universal Health Coverage: What works?</b>	Kalipso Chalkidou
2. <b>Refocusing HIV finance in closing HIV equity gaps in Africa and prevention for youth.</b>	H.E. Mrs Monica Geingos
3. <b>Supporting Innovation and People-Centered, Integrated Responses to End AIDS</b>	Amb. John Nkegasong
4. <b>From boutique to systemic and sustainable scale up: The case for HIV Prevention</b>	Dr. Ruth Laibon Masha
5. <b>Pandemic Preparedness Framework, implication for Africa</b>	Joy Johannah Phumaphi

## Community Programme

1. <b>Community-Led data Driven responses: What works and what doesn't. The case of Key and Vulnerable Populations during COVID-19.</b>	Richard Lusimbo
2. <b>We are still getting HIV: Address the HIV Prevention crisis, accelerate access to biomedical prevention services/tools for women, adolescent girls and young people.</b>	Maximina Jokonya
3. <b>Africa, where are our SRHR? - Understanding the importance of youth involvement in developing and implementing national, regional and continental SRHR policies.</b>	Dr Lilian Benjamin Mwakyosi
4. <b>People living with HIV- Led responses - Gaps in Domestic resource mobilization/financing towards ending new HIV infections in Africa.</b>	Christine Kafando
5. <b>Recognizing disability in the HIV continuum of care with a cross-impairment approach.</b>	Yatma Fall

## VALIDATED NON-ABSTRACT DRIVEN SESSIONS

### Scientific programme

1. <b>Managing tuberculosis in children and adolescents</b>
2. <b>The growing epidemic of non-communicable diseases in Africa and considerations for HIV management</b>
3. <b>High HIV incidence for AGYW: what are the programming gaps?</b>
4. <b>Tuberculosis, HIV and the challenges with managing migrants, refugees and internally displaced population in Africa</b>
5. <b>Aging, elderlies and the management of advanced HIV disease and opportunistic infections</b>
6. <b>Are People living with HIV (PLWH) at increased risk of infections with resistant organisms?</b>

### Leadership programme

1. <b>A Whole Government Approach: Addressing a multi-layered Challenge of New HIV Infections, SGBV and Adolescent Pregnancy (Triple Threat)</b>
2. <b>Intensifying Youth-led Social Accountability to accelerate the SRHR and HIV Response</b>
3. <b>Role of civil society and community actors in the resilience of HIV programmes during the COVID19 pandemic in Togo</b>
4. <b>The need to mainstream human rights and gender issues to end AIDS in 2030</b>
5. <b>Accelerating HIV prevention through a continuum lens: Multisectoral approaches for AGYW Older women of reproductive age</b>
6. <b>Strengthen integration for better SRHR outcomes: Exploring linkages between unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortion, and HIV WLHIV</b>

## Community programme

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1. **Lessons learned: Leveraging sub-regional strategies to strengthening community programmes in decolonizing context**
  2. **Accelerating combination prevention for key Populations; Addressing structural barriers, provision of services and social inclusion for People who use Drugs, Sex Workers and Trans Communities**
  3. **HIV Financing: resources optimization to meet the 2030 targets amid the global health financing crisis**
  4. **HIV Prevention-Right Place, Right time**
  5. **Improving Data utilization to better address stigma and discrimination: Fixing the Gap of financial resources, policies, strategies, and ownership**
  6. **Knowledge and Access to SRHR Services to Prevent HIV/AIDS among the youth**  
Sub- themes:  
SRHR  
Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)  
Harmful norms and practices
- 

## VALIDATED SPECIAL SESSIONS

### Scientific programme

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1. **Making it last longer: considerations for HIV treatment optimization for children**
  2. **Gender Based Violence among young people living with HIV: impact on mental health, sexual risk behavior and medication adherence.**
  3. **HIV therapies and cancer management for women living with HIV: how have we fared with prevention?**
  4. **The triple burden of HIV, Hepatitis and Tuberculosis in Africa**
  5. **Shortening the time for access to new HIV, tuberculosis and malaria prevention technologies in Africa**
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### Leadership programme

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1. **Socio-Economic empowerment policies for HIV prevention among adolescent girls and young women: End Gender inequalities to end AIDS**
  2. **Education Plus investment cases for transformative results –leveraging girls completion of secondary education for HIV prevention**
  3. **HIV Prevention 3.0**  
**Leadership, People-Centered Choices and Precision**
  4. **Promoting criminal justice reform and prison health reform in Africa**
  5. **Leadership and Accountability to END AIDS in Children**
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## **Community programme**

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- 1. Community led Monitoring & Accountability Community Score Card: Are we ready?**
  - 2. Diagnosis and management of Advanced HIV disease.**
  - 3. Diversity, Tolerance and Equity at the heart of the HIV/AIDS response**  
**Sub themes:**  
Gender  
Male involvement  
Disability
  - 4. Human Rights & Legal Environment**
  - 5. Ending AIDS in pediatric and children by 2030**
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## **VALIDATED WORKSHOPS**

### **Scientific programme**

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- 1. Sexual and reproductive health for people with disability**
  - 2. Social capital and the digital space for HIV prevention and treatment access**
  - 3. Managing the diagnosis and management of cryptococcal meningitis**
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### **Leadership programme**

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- 1. Optimizing HIV self-testing and PREP to expand access and address inequities in HIV prevention response among young people from Key Populations**
  - 2. Toward Triple Elimination: Tools Exist**
  - 3. Community Led monitoring of HIV services in TOGO**
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### **Community programme**

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- 1. CLM (community-led monitoring) – a good tool to support HIV response in the region**
  - 2. Digital health and Rights: Participatory Action Research Project**
  - 3. Lifting our Voices: Human rights, Community engagement and Gender Equality on the path to World Health Organisation (WHO) validation for Triple Elimination**
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## Call for ICASA 2023 Abstract Reviewers

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ABSTRACTS

In the context of ICASA 2023 an abstract is a stand-alone statement that briefly explains the essential information of a study, research project, policy or programme. As described in the Abstract Submission Guidelines, abstract submitters are asked to choose one track category for their abstract and choose one of the following options for abstract submission:

#### OPTION 1

Suited for research conducted in all disciplines. Abstracts submitted under the first option should contain concise statements of:

**Background:** Indicate the purpose and objective of the research, the hypothesis that was tested or a description of the problem being analyzed or evaluated.

**Methods:** Describe the study period /setting /location, study design, study population, data collection and methods of analysis used.

**Results:** Present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings / outcome of the study. Please summarize any specific results.

**Conclusions:** Explain the significance of your findings / outcomes of the study for HIV prevention, treatment, care and / or support, and future implications of the results.

#### OPTION 2

Suited for lessons learned through programme or project implementation or management. Abstracts submitted under the second option should contain concise statements of:

**Background:** summarize the purpose, scope and objectives, of the programme, project or policy.

**Description:** describe the programme, project or policy period/setting/location, the structure, key population (if applicable), activities and interventions undertaken in support of the programme, project or policy.

**Lessons learned:** present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings/outcomes of the programme, project or policy; include an analysis or evaluation of lessons learned and best practices. Please summarize any specific results that support your lessons learned and best practices.

**Conclusions/Next steps:** explain the significance of your findings/outcomes of the programme, project or policy for HIV prevention, treatment, care and/or support, and future implications of the results

### Review Criteria

All submitted abstracts go through a blind peer-review process carried out by a team of approximately 500 abstract reviewers, who are international experts in the field of HIV, in addition to members of the Scientific Programme and Track Committees.

The abstracts and the scores are confidential.

Each abstract is allocated to three (3) reviewers and should receive at least three (3) scores per abstract.

Each abstract will receive scores for five pre-determined criteria on a scale of 1-6, where 1 is the lowest score and 6 is the highest. The final score will be the average of these 3 scores.

Each criteria will have the same weight in the final score.

The final score will be translated into a written recommendation regarding selection.

## **Scoring Criteria**

### **Option 1**

1. Is there a clear background and justified objective?
2. Is the methodology/study design appropriate for the objectives?
3. Are the results important and clearly presented?
4. Are the conclusions supported by the results?
5. Is the study original, and does it contribute to the field?

### **Option 2**

1. Is there a clear background and justified objective?
2. Is the programme, project or policy design and implementation appropriate for the objectives?
3. Are the lessons learned or best practices important, supported by the findings and clearly presented?
4. Are the conclusions/next steps supported by the results and are they feasible?
5. Is the work reported original, and does it contribute to the field?

## **SCORING SCALE (APPLICABLE FOR BOTH OPTION 1 AND OPTION 2)**

SCORE	SCORE DESCRIPTORS
1	Very weak: shows one or more critical shortcomings
2	Weak: shows significant weakness
3	Adequate: meets criteria
4	Good: meets criteria and has some distinctive value
5	Strong: meets all and exceeds some criteria, and has distinctive value in several ways
6	Excellent: exceeds expectations on all criteria

## **FINAL SCORE RECOMMENDATION (APPLICABLE FOR BOTH OPTION 1 AND OPTION 2)**

SCORE	FINAL SCORE RECOMMENDATION
1.0 – 1.4	Definite rejection
1.5 – 2.4	Recommended as rejected
2.5 – 3.4	Recommended as a potential poster exhibition
3.5 – 4.4	Recommended as poster exhibition or potentially as a poster discussion
4.5 – 5.4	Recommended as poster discussion or potentially as an oral
5.5 – 6.0	Definite oral

Call for Abstract reviewers opens from **3<sup>rd</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

The ICASA 2023 Abstract reviewer system is a state of the art, user-friendly system to help abstract reviewers access, review and score allocated abstracts.

ICASA 2023 Abstract reviewers will receive a 10% discount registration fee to attend ICASA 2023 as an in-person delegate and free registration as a virtual attendee.

Abstract reviewers will receive certificates from the conference.

Link to register as an abstract reviewer: <https://saafrica.eventsair.com/icasa-2023-zimbabwe/icasaabstractreviewersreg>

Scan to Register as abstract reviewer



## ICASA 2025 Call for BID

### INVITATIONAL BID TO HOST THE 23<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS AND STIs IN AFRICA (ICASA 2025)



GROUP PHOTO OF ICASA 2019 OPENING CEREMONY SPEAKERS AND INVITED DIGNITARIES

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) represented by its President; Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, hereby invites **African countries** wishing to host the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa in 2025 (ICASA 2025) to send in their application bid document to the SAA Secretariat in Accra- Ghana. Closing date for submission of Application is **30<sup>th</sup> July 2023**.

ICASA 2025 will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the International Conference on AIDS and STI's in Africa to be organized by the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA).

Any **African country** is eligible to be considered to host ICASA. However, certain criteria must be fulfilled to qualify for selection.

The procedure for application is as follows:

## STEP 1

Interested countries should submit a bid document of intent to the SAA Secretariat backed up with detailed proof of evidence of the following information:

1. Strong Government support: financial commitment and political will to host the conference. -Provide and financially support the Conference venue: Capacity of Plenary rooms: 5000 seats with at least 7 break way rooms with capacity from 150 to 1500 seats.  
-Provide financial support for the local Secretariat that will be working with the International secretariat.  
-Provide Scholarship for at least 500 local Participants.
2. Availability of standard hotels to accommodate up to 10,000 participants as well as conference venue(s) with standard conference facilities.
3. Good transportation network within the country.
4. Good telecommunication network within host country with links to other African countries and international communities.
5. Presence of cohorts of scientific, leadership, civil societies, organized groups of PLHIV, private sector, youth organizations oriented towards HIV/AIDS related activities.
6. Easy access by air and by road where needed.
7. Recognizable presence of Government organ/body responsible for HIV/AIDS coordination in the country.
8. Good security network to guarantee participants' safety.
9. Guarantee easy visa facilities and assistance to conference participants and no restriction to entry for PLHIV, MSM and other minorities group.
10. Political stability.
11. No discriminatory government policies based on gender, HIV status and religion.

The detailed bid document of intent backed up with evidence should reach the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) Permanent Secretariat both by email, attachments and by courier services to the SAA President:

Society for AIDS in AFRICA  
SAA Permanent Secretariat Accra  
P.O. Box 2072  
Plot Container 58 Otano Estates,  
Behind NHTC, Adjiringanor  
EAST LEGON  
Mob: (+ 233) 54 37 48 78 1  
Office Line: (+ 233) 30 39 36 814  
Email: [ICASA2023bid@saafrica.org](mailto:ICASA2023bid@saafrica.org)  
Website: [www.saafrica.org](http://www.saafrica.org)  
Accra- Ghana

## STEP 2

Submitted applications will be evaluated by Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) paid members whereby 2 countries will be preselected, based on meeting the criteria as listed in Step 1.

Assessment visit will be conducted by 2 or 3 SAA's Council members to the preselected countries. The preselected countries will invite SAA for the two days assessment visit from **20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

Please note:

- I. The process of pre-selection will be concluded from **1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**
- II. After SAA Council members' assessment visit and deliberation, the host country of ICASA 2025 will be notified on the **31<sup>st</sup> October 2023** followed by a press release.
- III. Prior to final selection of the host country of ICASA 2025, and before the announcement of the host country, an MOU will be signed between the selected country and Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) the organizer of ICASA.
- IV. SAA President is ICASA 2025 Chair; the host country will appoint a Co-chair for ICASA 2025 in consultation with SAA. The Council reserves the right to revoke the hosting rights of a country if there are reasonable doubts of ability to deliver.

## ICASA 2023 Key dates

Key Dates	Open	Close
Call for ICASA 2023 logo	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
Call for ICASA 2023 Thematics	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
ISC Proposed membership	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
ICC Members	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
1 <sup>st</sup> ISC meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
Call for Abstract	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023
Early Registration	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023, 24.00 GMT
2 <sup>nd</sup> ISC meeting	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023
Adoption of Draft Budget	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023
Call for Abstract reviewers	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2023	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
Regular Registration	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023, 24.00 GMT
Exhibition Booking	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023
Satellite Session Booking	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023
Late Registration	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023, 24.00 GMT
Scholarship Application	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2023	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023
Reviewing of Abstracts	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
Letters to speakers	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
Feedback from speakers	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
Marathon Meeting	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	26 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
Notice of Acceptance, Abstract	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
Announcement of Recipient Scholarship	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
ICASA 2023 Online Programme	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	
ICASA 2023 Conference Date	4 <sup>th</sup> December	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2023



*From Left: Dr. Fikile Ndlovu, SAA Deputy Secretary General, Hon. Dr. John Mangwiro, Deputy Minister of Health and Childcare, Zimbabwe, Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, ICASA 2023 President, Mr. Luc Armand Bodea, ICASA Director and Dr. Bernard Madzima, Head of ICASA 2023 Local Secretariat*



*Cross section of the ICASA 2023 Community programme committee during their breakaway session*





*Cross section of the ICASA 2023 Leadership programme committee during their breakaway session*



*Cross section of the ICASA 2023 Scientific programme committee during their breakaway session*



*Cross section of participants at the ICASA 2023 Second International Steering committee meeting in Rainbow Towers Hotel and Conference Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe from 29<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023*



SAA PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

P.O.BOX AF2072

Accra, Ghana

Plot 58 Container, Otano Estates

Behind NHTC, Adjiringanor

East Legon

Accra, Ghana

Website: [www.saafrica.org](http://www.saafrica.org) Email: [info@saafrica.org](mailto:info@saafrica.org)

Telephone: +233 (0) 543748781 / +233 (0) 303936814

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