

Western Perspectives and Eastern Values

Conflict over Prevention and Containment of HIV/AIDS

Geneva. Switzerland

The World Health Organization (WHO) is currently debating the best way to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. While all countries admit to their commitment to this issue, conflict arose today over methods used to decrease the transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Columbia exclaimed, "No one is going to force a country to give condoms to second graders."

This comment implied the ineffective nature of resolutions that deal exclusively with the practice of widespread public condom availability and these resolutions have been opposed by Middle Eastern states, such as Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia condemns condom distribution due to cultural values which stress that the expression of sexuality outside the context of marriage should not be embraced.

Different countries clearly have varying perspectives on how to decrease transmission rates of HIV/AIDS. The United States stated that the best way to limit and stop transmission is through abstinence. Unless abstinence is included as at least one of the methods of prevention and containment, the United States currently refuses to sign any resolutions relating to HIV/AIDS. Ecuador has managed to find a balance between cultural norms and open sexuality by following the Ugandan example of the innovative ABC HIV/AIDS awareness program. This program focused on abstinence, being faithful, and condom use in order to reduce transmission rates among Ugandans. As suggested by the United States, abstinence is clearly the key way for HIV/AIDS prevention to be successful due to its viability with one of the world's leading global powers. ♦

North American Times



Perspectives Occidentales et Valeurs Orientales

Conflit sur la Prévention et l'Endiguement du VIH/SIDA

Genève. Suisse

L'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) débat actuellement sur le meilleur moyen de mettre fin à la propagation du VIH/SIDA. Alors que tous les pays reconnaissent avoir fait leur part à ce problème, il y a eu des conflits aujourd'hui sur les méthodes utilisées pour diminuer la transmission du VIH/SIDA.

Les représentants de la Colombie se sont exclamés : « Personne ne va obliger un pays à donner des condoms à des étudiants de 2^e année primaire. » Ce commentaire a démontré que les résolutions qui ne se concentrent que sur des moyens de distribution de condoms à grande échelle publique sont inefficaces. Les États du Moyen Orient comme l'Arabie Saoudite se sont opposés à de telles résolutions. L'Arabie Saoudite condamne la distribution de condoms à cause de leurs valeurs culturelles selon lesquelles l'expression de la sexualité à l'extérieur du mariage ne devrait pas avoir lieu.

Les points de vue sur les moyens de diminuer le taux de transmission du VIH/SIDA diffèrent évidemment entre les pays. Les États-Unis ont affirmé que la meilleure manière de mettre fin à la transmission est l'abstinence. À moins que l'abstinence ne soit admise comme au moins une des méthodes de prévention et d'endiguement, les États-Unis refusent pour l'instant de signer toute résolution liée au VIH/SIDA. L'Équateur a trouvé un juste équilibre entre les normes culturelles et la liberté sexuelle en suivant l'exemple du programme innovateur ABC VIH/SIDA de sensibilisation de l'Ouganda. Ce programme préconise l'abstinence, la fidélité, et l'utilisation du condom pour réduire le taux de transmission entre les Ougandais. Comme les États-Unis l'ont suggéré, l'abstinence est sans contredit la clé du succès de la prévention, grâce à sa viabilité, étant donné qu'elle est supportée par le leader mondial. ♦

Le Times de l'Amérique du Nord



World Health Organization Discussion on AIDS Geneva, Switzerland

The exponential growth of HIV and AIDS was the topic of discussions in the World Health Organization (WHO) today. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has set the official goal of the United Nations as the eradication of AIDS by the year 2015. This issue is one of particular significance for China, which is experiencing a 32% increase in the rate of AIDS. For its part, China has decided to set a national goal of decreasing their rate by 2010. They are encouraging other countries to participate in international cooperative efforts in order to promote education and containment of the disease.

Like China, Vietnam is a strong supporter of the unique cooperation found with countries of the WHO, however they feel that they have not received adequate cooperation from the United States. Vietnam's WHO Representative Nabil G. Fahel "felt deeply disturbed by the silence of the United States of America in respect to working together toward the mandate of the WHO." It is Vietnam's position that their needs to be a pluralistic and democratic discussion on the issue of HIV and AIDS. Fahel accused the US of being "unilaterally divorced from these discussions." The United States representative was unavailable for comment. ♦

Asian Express

Colombia Decries Apathy of Developed World Bogotá, Colombia

A Columbian delegate at the World Health Organization conference on HIV/AIDS stated that there must be a dramatic increase in education expenditure for youth and women, especially in developing countries. She stated that these expenditures are needed in order to prevent further destruction caused by the virus. The WHO aimed to have the disease under control by 2015, but funding has been inadequate since the programs were implemented two decades ago.

"Does [the current situation] go until 2015 before changes are made?" stated the Columbian delegate. She added that the current rate of the virus will be out of control by that time.

The Chinese delegate said her government plans to devote attention to the virus, and hopes to reverse the infection and death rates by 2010. "By developing the other nations, [the developed world] will be bettering their own," she said. ♦

African Press

