Summary of GCWA Steering Committee Meeting 13 July 2012

The purpose of this summary is to provide GCWA members with a brief synopsis of the steering committee meeting including the background, discussions and outcomes.

Background:

- At the GCWA annual steering committee meeting 17-18 November 2011, it was decided that “An external evaluation will be undertaken. The evaluation will include examining whether the GCWA should continue in its current form; or continue in a revised format; or disband the GCWA.”

- Subsequently, terms of reference were developed for the evaluation and a specialist evaluator was recruited through a transparent, competitive process. The evaluation was carried out during the period April-June 2012. The report of the evaluation with conclusions and recommendations was submitted to the GCWA steering committee on 05 July 2012.

- The steering committee was convened to meet in person on 13 July 2012 with the objective of the meeting “to discuss the future of the GCWA, based upon the report of the external evaluation”.

Key Discussions and Outcomes

- Steering committee members expressed concerns regarding the report of the external evaluation. For a variety of reasons, as a result, the external evaluation report was not accepted by the steering committee.

- The steering committee agreed to prepare a management response to the report of the external evaluation.

- Steering committee members discussed at length whether the GCWA should be continued in its current form, continued in an altered form, or disbanded. Most felt that the GCWA was no longer relevant and should be closed down. Others argued that there was still a need for the GCWA to advocate for women and girls’ rights in the HIV response.

- As it was not possible to reach a consensus, the steering committee members undertook a vote regarding the continuation of the GCWA. A majority of steering committee members (seven) recommended the closure of the GCWA, with three members opposed. The dissenting steering committee members noted that they upheld their right to externally communicate the reasons for their dissent.

- The steering committee was informed that the UNAIDS had obtained legal advice and was informed that the steering committee could issue recommendations to UNAIDS, but did not have the authority to close the GCWA.

- The steering committee established a drafting group, consisting of three steering committee members with support of the GCWA Secretariat, to write the text of the recommendation, with a deadline for finalization of 08 August. To date, this text has not been finalized.