This report covers the activities of the AIDS Law Unit of the Legal Assistance Centre for the period 1 January 2003 to 30 November 2003:

1 Staffing:

During the period under review, the AIDS Law Unit was staffed as follows:

- Michaela Clayton: Co-ordinator (Michaela is engaged as project co-ordinator on a four-fifths time basis)
- Tenu Avafia: Project Lawyer (Tenu left the unit to take up a position with a regional trade law initiative in April 2003)
- Delme Cupido: Project Lawyer
- Monica Nganjone: Paralegal / legal educator (Monica took up this position in July 2003)
- Collette Campher: Project Assistant (Collette took up the position of co-ordinator of the regional office of the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa in April 2003.)
- Naomi Kisting: Project Assistant (Naomi assisted on a half time basis from April 2003 until July 2003)
- Maggie Amweelo: Project Assistant (Maggie joined the ALU in July 2003)

2 Funding:

- Funding for the activities of the project during this period was secured from the Ford Foundation in the amounts of US$ 200 000. Further amounts of US$ 294 515 and N$ 73 353,75 were secured from Family Health International and German Development Services respectively.

3 Research, policy formulation and law reform:

- During the period under review ongoing research has been conducted on discrimination on the basis of HIV status in access to insurance and medical aid. The results of this research will assist us in deciding whether to launch a test case challenging the constitutionality of such discrimination.
Research has also been conducted on the right to health as contained in the Constitution and in international agreements to which Namibia is a party has been completed. This research was originally conducted with a view to assisting us in deciding on whether to launch a test case challenging the constitutionality of government’s failure to provide access to affordable mother to child transmission prevention medication. Given government’s recent undertaking to roll out PMTCT and HAART to all the regions, we have elected not to pursue this litigation at this time.

The Aids Law Unit has also been conducting research and monitoring developments taking place with regarding access to essential medicines within the broader context of health as a human right and the current trade negotiations taking place at the World Trade Organisation. Since the Doha Declaration of November 2001, members of the WTO have been involved in deliberations and negotiations to give meaning to paragraph 6, which empowers developing countries to set aside their international trade commitments to provide access essential medicines for their citizens. The research conducted by the Aids Law Unit was sent to the Namibian negotiators at the WTO in the form of a briefing paper. The aim of the briefing paper is to provide information to the negotiators to ensure that an empowering interpretation of paragraph 6, which would allow Namibia to make use of parallel importation of ARVs, instead of relying on compulsory licensing (which would not prove to be the solution to access to essential medicines in Namibia) is achieved.

Research on the grants and social services available to orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers has been completed. This research forms the basis of a pamphlet on the rights of OVC and their caregivers, the first draft of which has been compiled during the period under review.

The Unit has also been actively engaged in policy formulation and development at both national and workplace levels:

During the period under review the AIDS Law Unit has led the process of developing a national OVC policy at the request of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare.

During the period under review the ALU has assisted the Commercial Bank of Namibia, the Windhoek Vocational Training Centre, NAMCOL, SWACO, Namibian Engineering Corporation, Walvis Bay Corridor Group, NACSO, NANGO, the Government Institutions Pension Fund, the Namibian Agricultural Union, the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and
Rehabilitation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Local and Regional Government with the development of HIV policies for the workplace.

4. **Litigation and legal advice:**

The ALU conducts a legal advice clinic for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS at the offices Catholic AIDS Action in Katutura every Thursday from 10h00 to 11h30. Attendance at the clinic held at Catholic AIDS Action has been fairly consistent and the main issues dealt with include the drafting of wills, maintenance and social security claims, insurance, unprofessional conduct on the part of medical practitioners including breaches of confidentiality and adoption. The clinic also serves as an important referral agency in respect of problems that are not of a legal nature.

In addition two litigation cases are currently underway:

- **Testing without informed consent and breach of confidentiality**

A large number of lodge workers were tested for HIV without their knowledge or consent. After the results had been obtained, their employer was then informed of their statuses. Summons has been issued in the High Court against both the employer who requested the testing as well as the doctor who conducted it in which damages for breach of confidentiality have been claimed. Both the doctor and the employer have given notice of their intention to defend this matter and the parties are in the process of exchanging pleadings. A trial date should be obtained shortly.

In addition a complaint has been lodged in the District Labour Court on behalf of one of these employees who was subsequently unfairly dismissed. This matter has been settled out of court in the period under review and client has been paid damages.

- **Breach of confidentiality**

A young professional was required to go for an HIV test by his employer without being counselled and without his permission being obtained. The client was originally reluctant to pursue the case until such time as he had completed his articles. Subsequent to completing his articles he took up employment elsewhere and elected not to pursue the matter.
It is hoped that litigation of this nature will encourage medical doctors to give appropriate pre and post test counselling and that results will be given back to the person who undertakes the test rather to a third party. Despite the existence of guidelines stating otherwise and the constitutional provision guaranteeing a right to confidentiality, experience has shown that there are still doctors who do not respect the need for doctor-patient confidentiality.

5. **Advocacy:**

- As part of the AIDS Law Unit's ongoing campaign to raise awareness of the plight of people living with HIV/AIDS who are still denied access to affordable treatment for HIV, the Treatment Action Forum (TAF), an initiative of the ALU consisting of a number of AIDS Service Organisations, civil society formations and interested individuals and activists, held candlelight vigils in 4 towns in Namibia on 18 February 2003. The vigils were held in Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Keetmanshoop and Opuwo, and were attended by close to 2000 people, who witnessed a dignified and peaceful commemoration which received extensive media coverage and support both within Namibia and internationally.

- A treatment literacy campaign has also been initiated by the ALU to raise awareness and understanding about HIV/AIDS treatment as a human right. This has taken the form of the production and distribution of T-shirts, posters and booklets on access to treatment as well as the production of a series of radio programmes on access to treatment that will be broadcast on NBC radio. During the period under review the T-shirts were distributed at the Candlelight Vigil. The script for the radio programme on access to treatment for HIV has been finalised and was recorded during August 2003. It will be aired on NBC and Katutura Community Radio.

- The Treatment Action Forum (TAF), an initiative of the ALU consisting of a number of AIDS Service Organisations, civil society formations and interested individuals and activists has continued to comment actively in the press and through the media on the delay in the roll out of affordable access to ARVs. The fruits of this campaign came to bear when the Minister of Health and Social Services announced in October 2003 that the Ministry was rolling out ARV treatment at six sites in Namibia and planned to increase the number of sites where ARVs will be available next year.
On 8 July Michaela delivered a public lecture on HIV/AIDS and Human rights, focusing on vulnerability and the right to health as part of the 15th Anniversary programme of the Legal Assistance Centre.

On 10 July Delme appeared on the NBC radio broadcast “Namibian Mirror” to talk about the Human Rights based response to HIV/AIDS, and legal problems and solutions facing people living with HIV/AIDS.

On 13 August Delme produced a one-hour radio show focusing on stigma, discrimination and the role that the introduction of antiretroviral therapy can play in reversing these. During the period in question, Delme also participated in the re-launching of Katutura Community Radio, with a view to establishing a platform for the production of further radio programmes about various aspects of a rights based response to HIV/AIDS.

The art collection entitled “Breaking the Silence”, which focuses on HIV and Human Rights and which was acquired by the ALU with funding from Standard Bank, has been displayed at various venues during the year to raise awareness about the connection between HIV and human rights.

6. Education and training:

During the period under review the following education and training workshops have been held:

- **27 January 2003 – Katima Mulilo IRDNC**

  On 27 January Tenu conducted a morning training workshop on HIV/AIDS and the workplace as well as testing and confidentiality and stigma and discrimination. This workshop was attended by 22 IRDNC staff and community based workers.

- **3 February 2003 – SMA VCT**

  On 3 February, Michaela presented a training session on the legal and rights aspects of VCT at a workshop organised by SMA for the training of counsellors. This session was attended by 30 counsellors in training.
19 February 2003 – UNAM

On 19 February Michaela presented a guest lecture on socio and economic rights and vulnerability to HIV at UNAM. The lecture was attended by approximately 40 students and staff.

25 February, 2003 - Keetmanshoop

Delme conducted a Regional Workshop in Keetmanshoop on HIV/AIDS and the Law, covering –

- Issues of stigmatisation and discrimination towards PLWHA
- The legal problems and solutions for PLWHA in the workplace;
- Social Benefits available to PLWHA;
- Legal issues around testing for HIV and confidentiality; and
- Examining access to HIV medication.

The workshop was attended by 29 participants from the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Ministry of Basic Education, Sports and Culture, Community volunteers, peer educators, the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication, Lironga Eparu, trade unions (NAFAU, NAPWA), the Namibian Police, and the private sector.

5 March, 2003 – Windhoek

Delme conducted training at a workshop organised by the Legal Education Project of the LAC for 20 community paralegals focusing on HIV/AIDS and the workplace.

5 March 2003: NEC Okahandja

On 5 March Tenu conducted an information session at a training workshop organised by the Aids Care Trust for 12 Namibian Engineering Company peer educators on the country situation of HIV/AIDS in Namibia in relation to constitutional rights, the NDF case and counselling and testing.

12 March 2003 – British Council Human rights and Children affected by HIV/AIDS

On 12 March Michaela gave a presentation and participated in a panel discussion hosted by the British Council and the Rainbow Project on Human rights and Children affected by HIV/AIDS.
This event was attended by approximately 40 members of the public, representatives of the donor community, government and NGOs.
12 March 2003 – Gobabis Regional Workshop

Tenu and Erenstine conducted a regional workshop in Gobabis on 12 March that was attended by some 32 people, including targeted members of Lironga Eparu, social workers, nurses, counsellors, civil servants, health care volunteers (from CAA) and community paralegals. Topics covered included access to insurance and social benefits, workplace, stigma and discrimination, confidentiality and testing and access to treatment.

13 March 2003 – Witvlei CAA Health Care Volunteers

On 13 March Tenu and Erenstine conducted a short information session with 30 Catholic AIDS Action health care volunteers at Witvlei on human rights and HIV/AIDS with emphasis on confidentiality and the duties of counsellors to maintain confidentiality.

20 March, 2003 – Catholic AIDS Action Workshop, Windhoek

Delme conducted a workshop for approximately 25 CAA volunteers, home-based caregivers and counsellors focusing on general aspects of HIV/AIDS and the Law, and in particular on Will writing and Estates.

25 March 2003: Popa Malaria Clinic Divundu

On 25 March Tenu presented a one-day workshop on HIV/AIDS and the law to 31 people at the Popa Malaria clinic in Divundu. Topics covered included access to insurance and social benefits, workplace, stigma and discrimination, confidentiality and testing and access to treatment.

26 March, 2003 – SWAPO Party Youth League Workshop, Windhoek

Delme presented an information session at a workshop organised by the SWAPO Youth League (SYL) for approximately 20 SYL organisers and activists focusing on general aspects of HIV/AIDS and the Law.

28 March 2003: Windhoek College of Education

On 28 March, Erenstine and Tenu gave a presentation at the Windhoek College of Education on the
Namibian HIV/AIDS country overview, focusing on constitutional rights and the policy framework. The presentation was attended by between 25 and 30 people.

- **1 and 2 April 2003: Windhoek: Small and Medium Enterprises Joint Consultative Commission**

On 1 April, Tenu, Erenstine and Delme gave a presentation on confidentiality and testing, HIV in the workplace, access to treatment and social benefits for approximately 20 people at Greiters as part of this workshop that was organised by DED.

- **7 April, 2003 – Walvis Bay**

Regional Workshop on **HIV/AIDS and the Law**, covering –

- Issues of stigmatisation and discrimination towards PLWHA
- The legal problems and solutions for PLWHA in the workplace;
- Social Benefits available to PLWHA;
- Legal issues around testing for HIV and confidentiality; and
- Examining access to HIV medication.

The workshop was attended by 30 participants consisting of a number of representatives from fishing companies, youth groups, peer educators, home based care-givers, health care workers and ASO’s.

- **8 April 2003 – Walvis Bay**

1 Day Training of paralegals identified by WBMPC on statement taking, discrimination and stigma on the basis of HIV, the identification of legal problems around HIV, communicating the gist of problem and referrals.

- **15 April 2003 – Windhoek**

Delme appeared on the NBC television talk show, Talk of the Nation, as part of a panel discussion on the impact of “HIV/AIDS on Small to Medium Enterprises”.
24 April, 2003 – Windhoek College of Education

At an event organized by the HIV/AIDS committee of the Windhoek College of Education attended by more than 300 learners and educators, Delme did a presentation on Stigma and Discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

7 May 2003 – Nampol

On 7 May 2003, Michaela presented a training session for SADC police officers on HIV and human rights and PEP.

15 May 2003, UNAIDS Theme Group meeting

Delme did a presentation on HIV/AIDS in the Workplace as part of a UNAIDS initiative to develop workplace policies for the UN agencies, as well as the international embassies, based in Namibia.

3 June 2003: Walvis Bay corridor Group

Michaela presented a workshop for the Walvis Bay Corridor Group to develop and HIV workplace policy for the group.

5 June, 2003 – Planned Parenthood Association, NANGOF

Delme held a talk focusing on the link between HIV/AIDS and Human Rights and Access to Affordable Treatment for people living with AIDS with members of a youth group, whose members are drawn from a number of different schools in the township of Katutura, and who are active in peer education.


Delme did a presentation on behalf of the ALU at the National Conference on HIV/AIDS and Disabilities held at the Safari Hotel Conference Centre. The presentation focused on discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in the workplace, with particular reference to those aspects that affect people with disabilities.
12 June 2003 – Windhoek Health Training Centre

Michaela presented a training session for 15 nurses on HIV and human rights.

18 June 2003 – Midgard

Michaela presented a series of four seminar sessions at the USAID Regional Retreat for mission members on HIV and Human rights to approximately 80 mission members.

24 June 2003, Regional Workshop – Khorixas

Regional Workshop on HIV/AIDS and the Law, covering –

- Issues of stigmatisation and discrimination towards PLWHA
- The legal problems and solutions for PLWHA in the workplace;
- Social Benefits available to PLWHA;
- Legal issues around testing for HIV and confidentiality; and
- Examining access to HIV medication.

The workshop was attended by 22 participants consisting of a number of representatives from, youth groups, peer educators, home based care-givers, the Ministries of Higher and Basic Education, Women’s Action for Development, Lironga Eparu, and individuals from the community.

26 June 2003 - Regional Workshop, Opuwo

The workshop, which focused on a number of aspect related to HIV/AIDS and the Law (see above) was attended by 15 participants consisting of a number of representatives from Red Cross Namibia, Ombetja Yehinga, the Ministry of Basic Education, peer educators, home based care-givers, and members of the Namibian Police. Due to the polio vaccination drive of MoHSS, conducted simultaneously with the workshop, a number of health care professionals and community volunteers indicated that they would be unable to attend.
■ 2 July 2003: HIV workplace policy for NACSO

Michaela facilitated a workshop with NACSO to identify issues for inclusion in an umbrella HIV workplace policy for NACSO. This workshop was attended by 15 NACSO members and a first draft of the NACSO workplace policy was produced on the basis of input received at this workshop.

■ 3 July: Peer educator Training

Michaela presented a training session for workplace peer educators from various Embassies on HIV/AIDS, law and human rights in the workplace. This workshop was attended by 12 peer educators from different Embassies and UN agencies.

■ 10 July: Wills Training

Monica facilitated Wills Training in Rehoboth for the Philippi Namibia Training of Trainers. This workshop was attended by 19 participants (10 women and 9 men).

■ 24 July: Peer educator Training

Delme facilitated a training session for 30 of First National Bank’s workplace peer educators on HIV/AIDS. The presentation focused on Legal Issues within the Workplace, as well as Confidentiality and Testing.

■ 1 August: ARVS

Delme delivered a presentation for a breakfast meeting convened by Prosperita Health for 100 senior management personnel from the private and parastatal sector focusing on the cost effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy and the need to incorporate ART in medical aid schemes.

■ 5 August: Peer Educator Training

Delme delivered a presentation for 30 of First National Bank’s workplace peer educators on HIV/AIDS. The presentation focused on Legal Issues within the Workplace, as well as Confidentiality and Testing.
- **15 August: VCT Counsellor Training**

  Michaela presented a training session for CDC/SMA VCT counsellors on the legal aspects of counselling for HIV testing. This training session was attended by 30 CDC/ SMA counsellor trainees.

- **20 August: Regional Workshop: Khomas**

  Delme and Monica co-facilitated the regional HIV and AIDS workshop for the Khomas region at the Penduka Training Centre in Windhoek. The workshop was attended by people from different organisations such as Red Cross of Namibia, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Social Services, NHE, AIDS Care Trust, CAA and other HIV / AIDS organisations. This workshop was attended by 21 participants (13 women and 8 men). The topics covered at the workshop were Stigma and Discrimination, Confidentiality and Testing, Legal issues within the workplace, Social Grants and Treatment Literacy.

- **27 August: Workplace Policy Development Training:**

  Michaela presented a training session on HIV workplace policy development at a workshop of HIV in the workplace organised by SAfAIDS in Windhoek. This workshop was attended by 20 participants from various ASOs, Ministries and the private sector.

- **16 to 19 September 2003: HIV and Employment; Will writing:**

  Monica facilitated training sessions on HIV and employment and will writing at a Capacity Building Workshop held in Okahandja for the HIV and AIDS taskforce, organised by the Ministry of Basic Education. A total of 50 participants (17 men and 33 women) from different regions attended this workshop.

- **17 September: HIV and Socio-Economic Rights**

  Michaela delivered a paper on HIV/AIDS and human rights, focusing on the denial of socio-economic rights that gives rise to vulnerability to HIV at a conference on Futures for Southern Africa in Windhoek.
24 September: Will Writing:

Monica facilitated a session on will writing for Nampower employees. The workshop was organised by Philippi Namibia and was attended by 13 participants (7 women and 6 men).

30 September: Regional Workshop: Hardap:

Monica and Erenstine co-facilitated the Hardap regional workshop in Mariental at the Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing. A total of 17 participants were present (11 women and 6 men). Many were unemployed. The topics covered during this workshop were HIV / AIDS Stigma and Discrimination, Legal Problems and Solutions for HIV / AIDS in the Workplace, Legal Issues around HIV Testing and Confidentiality, Access to Affordable HIV / AIDS Treatment and mother to child transmission.

3 October 2003: HIV Mainstreaming

Michaela facilitated a training session for NACSO on mainstreaming HIV into community based resource management programmes in Windhoek.

15 October 2003: HIV, Human Rights and Ethics

Michaela facilitated a training session for HIV focal persons from all Ministries on HIV, Human Rights and Ethics.

17 October 2003: GIPF HIV Policy Development

Michaela delivered a presentation to the HIV/AIDS Committee of the GIPF on the legal and human rights aspects of HIV/AIDS in the workplace and on the development of an HIV policy for the workplace.

22 - 23 October 2003: Regional Workshop: Otjozondjupa

Monica facilitated the Otjozondjupa regional workshop at Otjiwarongo. The topics covered during this workshop were HIV / AIDS Stigma and Discrimination, Legal Problems and Solutions for HIV

- **27 October 2003: Education Sector HIV policy implementation workshop**

  Michaela delivered a presentation on the recently adopted National Policy on HIV/AIDS for the Education Sector at a workshop organised by the Ministries of Education to develop an implementation plan for the policy. The AIDS Law Unit led the process of developing this policy.

- **6 - 7 November 2003: Regional Workshop: Caprivi**

  Monica facilitated the Caprivi regional workshop at Katima Mulilo. The topics covered during this workshop were HIV / AIDS Stigma and Discrimination, Legal Problems and Solutions for HIV / AIDS in the Workplace, Legal Issues around HIV Testing and Confidentiality, Access to Affordable HIV / AIDS Treatment and mother to child transmission.

- **10 - 11 November 2003: Regional Workshop: Kavango**

  Monica facilitated the Kavango regional workshop at Rundu. The topics covered during this workshop were HIV / AIDS Stigma and Discrimination, Legal Problems and Solutions for HIV / AIDS in the Workplace, Legal Issues around HIV Testing and Confidentiality, Access to Affordable HIV / AIDS Treatment and mother to child transmission.

- **10 November 2003: NAU HIV Policy Development**

  Michaela facilitated a training session with representatives of the NAU on the legal aspects of HIV in the workplace and on the development of an HIV policy for the commercial agricultural sector.

- **12-13 November 2003: Regional Workshop: Otjikoto**

  Monica facilitated the Otjikoto regional workshop at Tsumeb. The topics covered during this workshop were HIV / AIDS Stigma and Discrimination, Legal Problems and Solutions for HIV / AIDS in the Workplace, Legal Issues around HIV Testing and Confidentiality, Access to Affordable HIV / AIDS Treatment and mother to child transmission.
13 November 2003: **HIV surveillance in the private sector**

Michaela delivered a presentation on the legal and human rights aspects of HIV surveillance screening in the workplace for Namibian financial institutions. The presentation was hosted by Standard Bank of Namibia and attended by representatives of Commercial Bank, Bank Windhoek, Standard Bank and First National Bank.

20 November 2003: **OV C Policy Meeting**

Michaela facilitated a workshop with key stakeholders to discuss and finalise the National OVC policy. The ALU has been requested by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child welfare to assist with the finalisation of this national policy.

17-21 November 2003: **GIPF Policy Development**

During this period, Michaela facilitated a series of 5 consultative meetings with GIPF staff members in order to gain their input on what they would like to see addressed in the GIPF HIV workplace policy.

26-27 November 2003: **Regional Workshop: Ohangwena/ Omusati**

Monica facilitated the Ohangwena/ Omusati regional workshop at Oshakati. The topics covered during this workshop were HIV / AIDS Stigma and Discrimination, Legal Problems and Solutions for HIV / AIDS in the Workplace, Legal Issues around HIV Testing and Confidentiality, Access to Affordable HIV / AIDS Treatment and mother to child transmission.

28 November 2003: **HIV Policy Development: Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation:**

Michaela facilitated a half day consultative workshop to do training on HIV in the workplace and to obtain input from Ministry employees as to the issues that they would like to see addressed in the Ministry’s HIV policy.
7. Production and distribution of education and training materials:

- Pamphlets and posters on access to treatment were finalised and distributed. The poster and pamphlet campaign on access to treatment won the designers, DV8, a Gecko Award.

- The final draft of the pamphlet on HIV in the workplace has been completed and edited and sent for printing.

- The final edit of the paralegal training manual is underway and it is anticipated that it will be ready for printing by the end of November 2003. The final edit has taken much longer than expected due to the volume of the manual.

- The first draft of the pamphlet on the rights of OVC and their caregivers and social grants has been completed. It is currently being edited and it is envisaged that this pamphlet will be finalised and sent to the printers in December 2003.

- As a result of Tenu’s resignation at the end of April and Collette’s transfer to the ARASA regional office, the AIDS Law Unit has been extremely short staffed during the first half of 2003. As a result the finalisation of publications has been delayed.

8. Regional Networking:

As a result of the meeting held on 25 and 26 October 2002 of organisations working on HIV/AIDS and Human rights in the SADC region, the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA) has been established.

The functions of this alliance are to facilitate sharing of information, materials and expertise between members, to act as a regional alert network to respond to human rights infringements in the region, to organise and facilitate training opportunities on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights for members, to disseminate information on regional developments on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights and to organise annual meetings on HIV/AIDS and Human rights in the region. The alliance is coordinated by a secretariat hosted by the AIDS Law Unit of the Legal Assistance Centre of Namibia. An advisory board consisting of representatives from the AIDS Law Project (South Africa), the AIDS Law Unit (Namibia), Women and Law in Southern Africa (Swaziland), SAfAIDS
(Zimbabwe), ZARAN (Zambia), Lironga Eparu (Namibia) and Programa de Direitos Humanos (Angola) has been established.

For the countries not represented on the advisory board, focal points have been identified. These are: National Women’s Lobby and Rights Group, (Malawi), MULEIDE, (Mozambique), (Tanzania), Ditshwanelo, (Botswana).

During the first advisory board meeting that was held on 4 February 2003 in Johannesburg, South Africa it was announced that funding has been secured from Ireland AID in the amount of 200 000 Euros over a two year period to support the work of the alliance. The funding will be held by the AIDS Law Project who will in turn make the money available to the ALU, which will host the regional office of the alliance. It was agreed that the primary functions of the regional office will be to:

- Develop and maintain an electronic database of members and their activities as well as of information and publications identified as being of potential use to members;
- Receive information from members on current issues and activities around HIV/AIDS and Rights on a two-monthly basis and disseminate this information by way of a quarterly publication that is to be distributed in the region;
- Facilitate the planning and organisation of training workshops;
- Facilitate placing of interns and assist members with identifying appropriate expertise where required within the region; and
- Lead lobbying and advocacy efforts on issues identified

It was also further agreed that the primary functions of ARASA identified at the October meeting in Windhoek will be as follows:

- Information dissemination
- Regional alerts
- Training
- Publications
- Establishment and maintenance of database
- Facilitation of internships and south / south exchanges of expertise
ARASA held successful training sessions on HIV and human rights in Johannesburg, South Africa and in Lusaka, Zambia during the course of 2003.

Collette Campher, who was the Project Assistant at the AIDS Law Unit, has been coordinating the regional office of ARASA as from 1 April 2003.

9. **Other activities:**

- The AIDS Law Unit is represented on the OVC Permanent Task Force by Michaela, who chairs the subcommittee on Human Rights and Child Protection. During the period under review the subcommittee drafted a workplan for the subcommittee for the year and Michaela presented this to donors on 9 April 2003. Michaela also attended the quarterly meetings of the Permanent Task Force.
- The ALU has been requested by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare to assist with the finalisation of the national OVC policy for Namibia. A first draft was presented at a Task Force Meeting on 10 July 2003. On the basis of input received from stakeholders a final draft has now been developed and it is anticipated that this will be submitted to Cabinet early in 2004.
- Delme attended the ICASA conference in Nairobi, Kenya from 22 to 26 September, where he presented a poster on HIV and socio-economic rights that was co-authored by Michaela and Delme.
- Monica attended an international training meeting on HIV/TB co-infection and advocacy in Paris, France in October 2003.
- Delme attended a meeting of international experts on access to HIV treatment and vaccines in Montreal, Canada, in November 2003.