

## ALESSANDRA CABRAL DOS SANTOS NILO

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Alessandra Nilo was born in August 25<sup>th</sup> 1967 in Paulo Afonso, Bahia, Brazil. She holds a Bachelors degree in *Journalism and Mass Communication* from the Catholic University of Pernambuco (1990) and has a specialization in *Communication and Health* by the University of California, Santa Cruz (U.S.), 1995. She holds post-graduation studies on *International Relations* at Damas Faculty, in Recife, with a monograph on *Civil Society Participation in the Sustainable Development Goals processes at the UN* (2016).

Ms. Nilo is co-founder and currently General Coordinator of Gestos – HIV and AIDS, Communication and Gender,<sup>1</sup>– a non-governmental organization created in 1993, in Recife, Brazil, where she lives.

Since 2001, she has been engaged in United Nations monitoring processes by publicizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS as a tool to monitor and evaluate the implementation of national policies on sexual and reproductive health. To that end, in 2003, she developed the UNGASS-AIDS Forum platform in Brazil, which was later expanded (2007-2012) to sixteen countries in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean and was used as an advocacy and research tool to support a South-to-South network of AIDS and women activists in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights. Ms. Nilo acted as the general coordinator and facilitator of the project, building an interdisciplinary civil society network in all countries involved.

Furthermore, Ms. Nilo has strived to promote the integration of global SRH&R policies into a multi-sector development platform for fighting AIDS at national level, and has dedicated her time to improving and increasing women's influence on AIDS policy decision-making processes at local, national and international levels. Some of her efforts have been focused on achieving a greater and more qualified participation of AIDS groups in the promotion and surveillance of the Cairo Plan of Action. Her work has helped to establish links between the AIDS movement and women's movements, locally and internationally.

In 2012, she was nominated for the *High Level Task Force for ICPD and Beyond*<sup>2</sup>, established to help galvanize political will to advance the SRHR agenda in the Post-2015 processes, that resulted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Ms. Nilo has represented civil society in the official Brazilian national delegations to the United Nations since UNGASS-AIDS 2001, including for the past ten years into the CSW, MDG, CPD, and SDG's delegations.

She has lead the campaign *Women Won't Wait – Stop AIDS & Violence Against Women & Girls* in LAC from 2009 up to now, and is the Regional Director of LACCASO, the Latin American and

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1 [www.gestos.org](http://www.gestos.org)

2 <http://www.icpdtaskforce.org>

Caribbean Council of AIDS Organizations<sup>3</sup>, a network acting in twelve countries.

She served in many international boards, like the ITPC, International Preparedness Coalition on Treatment and from 2012 to 2014 and she currently represents the NGOs from LAC at the Program Coordinating Board of UNAIDS.

At the national level she coordinates the campaign for Financial Transaction Taxes (the Brazilian Robin Hood Campaign<sup>4</sup>) is director of the Brazilian Association of NGOs<sup>5</sup> and is the co-coordinator of the CSO Working Group for 2030 (GT SC A2030<sup>6</sup>) Agenda, a network created in 2014 to articulate a bold strategic vision among organizations from economic, social and environmental fields, to support a progressive implementation of the 2030 Agenda framework at global, regional and national levels.

Notwithstanding, Ms. Nilo has an interdisciplinary professional career for she has also worked as film director and screenwriter. Her first short-film as director, *Urbanos*, 35mm, 15', released in September 2014, has had a successful festival run, including the best short film in the FestIN<sup>7</sup>, Lisbon, Portugal, April 2015.

She started her career as video documentary maker and reporter, where she produced several pieces, including institutional campaigns. Ms. Nilo has used communication as one of the main instruments in the fight against inequalities throughout her active life from editor of the Health segment of a statewide mainstream daily, where she created the first column about AIDS in a newspaper (Jornal do Comercio) in the northeast of Brazil, in 1994. She also produced and presented a one-hour show dedicated to Health and Culture, from 1994 to 1995 at late TV Manchete.

As a consultant in the communication, civil society mobilization and organizational development areas, Ms. Nilo worked for Centro Josué de Castro (2002), for the Brazilian NGO Association (2003), for the Centro Dom Helder Camera and the Centro das Mulheres do Cabo (2004). In the past years she has done several consultations to UNAIDS, including supporting the creation of a Gender Assessment Tool, designed to be implemented in 56 countries worldwide. This work also included planning several workshops in the Caribbean, Asia and Africa.

In 2015 and 2016 she was the consulted for United Nations to implement multi-stakeholder training and support national reviews on transitioning to SDGs and the Agenda 2030.

### **As Author and Publisher**

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3 [www.laccaso.net](http://www.laccaso.net)

4 [www.ttfbrasil.org](http://www.ttfbrasil.org)

5 [www.abong.org.br](http://www.abong.org.br)

6 <https://gtagenda2030.org.br>

7 <http://urbanosfilme.wordpress.com>

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