In 2000, at the first International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Durban, a small group of women’s rights advocates found that there was no place for women to meet. This led to Women at Durban 2000, Women at Bangkok 2004, and Women at Istanbul 2002, and Women at Bangkok 2010.

Athena grew out of this parallel organizing and in 2006, with the Blueprint Coalition, held the first Women’s Networking Zone (WNZ) in Toronto.

Women’s Networking Zones are unique spaces for women and gender advocates – in all our diversity - to share experiences, showcase work, move the agenda and create new alliances between these otherwise unlikely to meet. We thank all collaborators and partners in this movement; one that places women and girls at the center of the HIV response and has contributed to the gains made to end AIDS. Mujeres adelante!