

24 January 2001

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Harri Holkeri,  
President of the 55th Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Open-Ended Informal Consultations of the Plenary  
on agenda item 179: Review of the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its  
aspects - HIV/AIDS/CRP.1**

The 2nd meeting of the Open-ended Informal Consultations of the Plenary on the special session of the General Assembly to review and address the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects is called to order.

Members will recall that the General Assembly, by its resolution 54/283 of 5 September 2000, decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly.

Members will further recall that the General Assembly, by its resolution 55/13 of 3 November 2000, decided to convene, as a matter of urgency, a special session of the General Assembly, from 25 to 27 June 2001, to review and address the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, HIV/AIDS, in all its aspects, as well as to secure a global commitment to enhancing coordination and the intensification of national, regional and international efforts to combat it in a comprehensive manner.

Resolution 55/13 invited the President of the General Assembly to make recommendations, for consideration by Member States during the preparatory process, for final decision by the Assembly, as to the form of the involvement of civil society actors, in particular associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, non-governmental organizations and the business sector, including pharmaceutical companies, in the special session and, to the extent possible, in the preparatory process.

Members will recall that I convened the first meeting of the Open-ended Informal Consultations of the Plenary to introduce to the Membership my suggestions for the outline of the organizational aspects of the special session, and my recommendations for the form of participation of civil society actors to the special session and the preparatory process. My suggestions and recommendations were contained in the HIV/AIDS.CRP.1 paper, made available to Member States and Observers, in all official UN languages since Wednesday, 13 December 2000. The annex to the CRP outlined also the schedule of major events and tentative dates of issuance of documents during the preparatory process for the special session. (The HIV/AIDS/CRP.1 paper can also be found on the President's web site, under "Statements and Messages".)

I should like to mention that I chose the CRP modality for introducing my suggestions and recommendations for this special session and the preparatory process, in order to make them

available to the Membership in all the United Nations languages, which I hope, will facilitate the process of negotiating the subsequent resolution on these issues.

The purpose of this meeting of the Open-ended Informal of the Plenary, is to introduce the elements of a draft resolution, which is based on my CRP.1 paper, but which already now reflects the two rounds of informal/informal discussions held under the leadership of one of the two facilitators to this process, Ambassador Ka of Senegal. I note that the elements paper is available in English only. It has been distributed yesterday by fax to all Permanent Missions and Observers, and copies of it are available also in this room. With these brief remarks, I should now like to call on Ambassador Wensley to introduce the elements of a draft resolution on organizational matters and on the participation of the civil society actors in the preparatory process and the special session on HIV/AIDS.