



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 March 2011

Excellency,

On 20 December 2010, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/180 entitled “Organisation of the 2011 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS”.

In this resolution, the General Assembly requested “the President of the General Assembly to organize, no later than in April 2011, an informal interactive civil society hearing”. In my letter of 21 January 2011, I announced that the informal interactive civil society hearing will take place on 8 April 2011.

I have the honour to transmit herewith an information note and draft programme for the informal interactive civil society hearing that has been finalized following consultations with Member States and civil society, and with the support of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

I would encourage all Member States to participate actively in the hearing at ambassadorial level, in line with the provisions of resolution 65/180. I very much look forward to an open dialogue and interaction between Member States and representatives of civil society organizations and the private sector on progress and challenges in the HIV/AIDS response, which will provide an important contribution to the upcoming high-level meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deiss', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Proposed arrangements for the informal interactive civil society hearing of the General Assembly on the 2011 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (8 April 2011, New York)

Information Note

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 65/180 of 20 December 2010, decided to convene a high-level meeting from 8 to 10 June 2011, to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.
2. By paragraph 9 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to organize, no later than in April 2011, an informal interactive civil society hearing with the active participation of people living with HIV and broader civil society, and attended by representatives of Member States, the Observer State and observers, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations and the private sector, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting.
3. By paragraph 10 of the resolution, the General Assembly decided that the President of the General Assembly shall preside over the informal interactive hearing with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, and requested the President to prepare a summary of the hearing, to be issued as a document of the Assembly prior to the high-level meeting.
4. The General Assembly by paragraph 11 of the resolution also encouraged Member States to actively participate in the hearing at ambassadorial level to facilitate interaction between Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.
5. The President of the General Assembly established a Civil Society Task Force to assist him in organising the informal interactive civil society hearing.

II. Information for participation

A. Date and venue

6. The informal interactive civil society hearing (thereafter "the Hearing") will be held on Friday, 8 April 2011 in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

B. Participation in the Hearing

Participation and Seating

7. In accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 65/180, the Hearing will be open to representatives of Member States, the Observer State and observers, as well as non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations and the private sector. The list of invited participants was determined by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with representatives of civil society and the private sector. Every attempt was made to ensure the list of invited participants was balanced in terms of geographic representation, gender and the different constituencies involved in the HIV/AIDS response.

8. To allow for an informal interactive exchange, all Member States, and some representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC and invited civil society organizations and the private sector will have assigned seats on the floor of the General Assembly Hall. A proportion of the General Assembly Hall will be assigned to representatives of Member States who will be provided with name plates on arrival. This arrangement applies specifically to this informal interactive hearing and will in no way create a precedent for other meetings.

9. Remaining representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC and invited civil society organizations and the private sector will be seated in the 3rd floor Gallery and 4th floor Balcony.

Programme and Speakers

10. The Hearing will consist of opening and closing sessions, and three sequential informal interactive panels. The President of the General Assembly will chair the opening and closing sessions. Opening remarks will be delivered by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the UNAIDS Executive Director and a person living with HIV. Closing remarks will be delivered by the President of the General Assembly, the UNAIDS Executive Director and a person living with HIV (see Annex 1a).

11. The themes for the three panels will be:

- **Panel One - Enhancing Community-Level Access: Opportunities for Healing Social and Systemic Ills**
- **Panel Two - A New Generation of National Partnerships: Diversity in Dialogue**
- **Panel Three – Synergies among Global Movements: Opportunities for Shared Action**

12. Each of the three panels will be comprised of panellists representing civil society, representatives from Member States and an eminent person. Each panel will be overseen by a moderator. After brief presentations by the panellists, additional pre-selected civil

society representatives will be asked to make interventions from the floor (see Annex 1b). This will be followed by an interactive discussion with the floor. Concept notes for each of the three panels will be posted on the web site for the Hearing at www.unaids.org.

13. To provide for an informal interactive exchange, the moderator will call on other participants from Member States, civil society and the private sector to intervene in the order in which they ask for the floor, on the understanding that the exchange will balance the participation of those present.

C. Outcome of the Hearing

14. In accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 65/180, the Hearing will form part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and the President of the General Assembly will prepare a summary of the hearing to be issued as a General Assembly document prior to the high-level meeting.

D. Media Arrangements

15. The Hearing, including the informal interactive panels, will be open to the media and will be broadcast in-house by United Nations Television, including through live Web-cast. A press conference will be organized after the Hearing. Media advisories will be distributed on-site and through United Nations Information Centres/services, and will be made available electronically on the web site for the Hearing, at www.unaids.org.

E. List of invited representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector

16. The list of participants is posted on www.unaids.org.

**Informal interactive hearing with Civil Society for the high-level meeting on
HIV/AIDS**

Agenda

Friday, 8 April 2011, GA Hall

- 10.00 - 10.30* **Opening Session** Chaired by the President of the General Assembly
- Opening remarks by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the UNAIDS Executive Director, and Ms. Jeanne Gapiya of 'Association Nationale de Soutien aux Séropositifs et aux Malades du SIDA (ANSS)'.
- 10.30 - 11.45* **Panel One:** Enhancing Community-Level Access: Opportunities for Healing Social and Systemic Ills
- 11.45 - 13.00* **Panel Two:** A New Generation of National Partnerships: Diversity in Dialogue
- 13.15 - 14.45* Lunch Break
- 15.00 - 16.45* **Panel Three:** Synergies among Global Movements: Opportunities for Shared Action
- 16.45 - 17.00* **Closing Session** Chaired by the President of the General Assembly
- Closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly, the UNAIDS Executive Director and Mr. Maged El Syed Rabey, Program Coordinator of 'Friends of Life Organization'.

Informal interactive hearing with Civil Society for the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS

Panellists and Speakers

Panel One: Enhancing Community-Level Access: Opportunities for Healing Social and Systemic Ills

Panellists

Civil Society: **Mr Pardamean Napitu** (Indonesia), Indonesia Social Changes Organization (OPSI)
Mr Christopher Senyonjo (Uganda), St. Paul's Foundation for International Reconciliation

Eminent Person: **Mr Chris Hughes** (USA), Facebook

Member State: **Ambassador Eric Goosby** (USA)

Speakers from the floor

Civil Society: **Ms Nuraan Osman** (South Africa), Islamic Resource Foundation of South Africa
Ms Irina Maslova (Russia), St Petersburg Charitable Public Organization for Support of Social Initiatives
Ms Rani Ravudi (Fiji), Survival Advocacy Network Project

Panel Two: A New Generation of National Partnerships: Diversity in Dialogue

Panellists

Civil Society: **Ms Natasha Leonchuk** (Ukraine), East Europe and Central Asia Union of PLWH
Dr Steave Nemande (Cameroon), Alternatives-Cameroun

Eminent Person: **Professor Michel Kazatchkine** (France), The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Member State: **Hon. Sunil Pant** (Nepal), Nepal Constituent Assembly and Blue Diamond Society

Speakers from the floor

Civil Society: **Mr Kenly Sikwese** (Zambia), Network of Zambian People Living with HIV/AIDS (NZP+)
Ms Maria Lorena Di Giano (Argentina), Red Argentina de Mujeres Viviendo con VIH/SIDA
Ms Maxensia Nakibuuka Takirambule (Uganda), Lungujja Community health caring organization (LUCOHECO)

Panel Three: Synergies among Global Movements: Opportunities for Shared Action

Panellists

Civil Society: **Ms Manuella Donato** (Brazil), Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA)
Ms Kim Nichols (USA), African Services Committee
Ms Veronica Cenac (St Lucia), Caribbean Vulnerable Communities

Eminent Person: **Professor Jeffrey Sachs** (USA), Columbia University

Member State: **Ms Ana Isabel Nieto Gómez** (El Salvador), Ministerio de Salud Publica y Asistencia Social
Ambassador Anders Nordström (Sweden), Department for Multilateral Development Cooperation
Tbc, (Rwanda), Senior Government Representative

Speakers from the floor

Civil Society: **Ms Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda** (Zimbabwe), World Young Women's Christian Association
Ms Janice Eastman (Australia), Education International
Ms Joanne Lim-Pousard (USA), Levi Strauss and Co.