



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 March, 2016

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 26 February 2016, I have the pleasure to inform you that I will convene an Informal Interactive Civil Society Hearing as part of the preparatory process towards the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS during 8-10 June 2016. The Hearing will take place on Wednesday 6 April, 2016 at 10:00 am in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. Copies of the concept note and the provisional programme are attached.

The Hearing will provide civil society and all relevant stakeholders an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing preparations in a day of interactive panel discussions with Member States and representatives from civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, organizations and networks representing people living with HIV, women, adolescents and young persons and other relevant stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to encourage the active participation of Member States in this important process.

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

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

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Concept Note

Informal Interactive Civil Society Hearing in support of the preparatory process towards the High-Level meeting on HIV/AIDS

6 April 2016

**Trusteeship Council Chamber
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Background

In accordance with resolution A/RES/70/228, a high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS will be convened from 8-10 June 2016 to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS of 2006 and 2011 including successes, best practices, lessons learned, obstacles and gaps, challenges and opportunities.

In order to support the inclusive, active and substantive engagement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the process, the President of the General Assembly will convene an informal interactive civil society hearing in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), on 6 April 2016.

Objective

The Hearing will provide all relevant stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing preparatory process in a day of interactive panel discussions that will include Member States, as well as representatives from civil society, non-governmental organizations, the academic and scientific community and others. The Hearing will focus on taking stock of the various aspects of the AIDS response. Participants will be encouraged to exchange views on key priorities for the High-Level meeting, while underscoring best practices on the ground, and highlighting the special challenges faced by civil society organizations and other stakeholders working in the field.

The civil society hearing aims to demonstrate the strength, diversity and commitment of civil society and other stakeholders in the response to the AIDS epidemic by discussing challenges and opportunities in the AIDS response and by proposing key actions that will make it possible to end AIDS within our lifetime.

The Hearing will support Member States in the preparatory process, including in the negotiations of the outcome document, by encouraging civil society and other stakeholders to share practical experiences from their work on the ground.

Guiding questions for the Hearing:

1. How do we achieve the financing necessary to fully fund the AIDS response, particularly ensuring adequate resources for community advocacy and services, and to scale up programmes for treatment, prevention and human rights targets?
2. Given the recent call for 'ending AIDS' how should the international community best address the needs of society as a whole, including marginalized groups, key populations and communities, taking into account age, gender and vulnerability perspectives?
3. Acknowledging the links between human rights and the AIDS response and development policy, what synergies could be created between relevant stakeholders and Member States addressing alternative development, including within the framework of the SDG's?
4. What are the key factors for change that will enable the institutionalization of community responses in domestic and international funding; including planning processes, costing and budgeting, and policy and regulatory frameworks?
5. How should civil society best support Member States to envision and implement inclusive, people-centered and evidence based AIDS responses and equal access to justice?

Format

The one-day Hearing will be divided into an opening segment, interactive panel discussions and a closing segment. The four panels will feature diverse geographical, gender, identity and community panelists, both living with and affected by HIV. The provisional themes are: 1) Financing the AIDS Response and the Cost of Inaction 2) Who is left behind in the AIDS response? 3) Innovation introduction – new and improved tools, approaches and policies and 4) Partnerships for success and the role of community responses for resilient health systems.

Outcome

The outcome will be a President's summary which will be circulated to all Member States and other stakeholders.

Informal Interactive Civil Society Hearing
in support of the preparatory process towards the High-Level meeting on HIV/AIDS
Trusteeship Council Chamber

Provisional Programme
6 April 2016

<p>Morning Session</p> <p>10:00-10:30</p>	<p><u>Opening segment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly • H.E. Mr. BanKi-moon, UN Secretary-General of the United Nations (TBC) • H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, Co-facilitator, High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS • Mr. Michel Sidibe, Executive Director, UNAIDS • Ms. L'Orangelis Thomas Negron, Taller Salud, Puerto Rico, US
<p>10:30-11:55</p>	<p><u>Panel 1: Financing the AIDS Response and the Cost of Inaction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mr. Rajiv Kafle, Nava Kiran Plus, Nepal <p>Stakeholder Panelists (3 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Marama Pala, International Indigenous Working Group on HIV/AIDS, Co-Chair, Stakeholder Task Force, HLM on HIV/AIDS, New Zealand • Ms. Erika Castellanos, C-NET+, the Collaborative Network of Persons Living with HIV, Belize • Mr. Sergey Votyagoy, Eurasian Harm Reduction Network, Lithuania • Mr. Raoul Fransen Dos Santos, International Civil Society Support, Netherlands • Ms. Maurine Murenga, Lean on Me, Kenya <p>Interactive Q and A</p>
<p>12:00 - 13:00</p>	<p><u>Panel 2: Who is being left behind in the AIDS response?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Ms. Morolake Odetoyinbo, Positive Action for Treatment Access, Nigeria <p>Stakeholder Panelists (3 minutes):</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Jules Kim, Scarlet Alliance, Australia/Korea • Ms. Carolyn Gomes, Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC), Jamaica • Mr. Ifeanyi Orazulike, International Center on Advocacy for the Right to Health, Nigeria • Ms. Phylesha Acton-Brown, Family, Identity, Navigate and Equality, New Zealand • Ms. Souhala Bensaid, Association Tunisienne De Prevention Positive, Tunisia <p>Interactive Q and A</p>
15:00 - 16:10	<p>Panel 3: <u>Innovation introduction – new and improved tools, approaches and policies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mr. Ben Plumley, Pangaea, US <p>Stakeholder panelists (3 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lelio Marmora, UNITAID, Switzerland • Mr. Andre Mere, Gay Latino, Peru • Ms. Lydia Mulwany-Mukombe, International Community of Women Living with HIV, Uganda • Ms. Tamar Gabelnick, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, US • Mr. Sylvere Bukiki, International Treatment Preparedness Coalition, Cote d’Ivoire <p>Interactive Q and A</p>
16:15- 17:40	<p>Panel 4: <u>Partnerships for success and the role of community responses for resilient health systems</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mr. Kenechukwu Esom, African Men for Sexual Health and Rights, South Africa <p>Stakeholder panelists (3 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mark Dybul, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, Switzerland (TBC) • Mr. Cedric Nininahazwe, National Network of young people living with HIV, Burundi • Ms. Svitlana Moroz, Eurasian Women’s Network on AIDS, Ukraine • Ms. Maria Lourdes Marin, Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV and AIDS (7Sisters), Thailand • Mr. Othoman Mellouk, International Treatment Preparedness Coalition, ITC, Morocco • Mr. Javier Hourcade-Bellocq, Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Co-Chair, Stakeholder Task Force, HLM on HIV/AIDS, Argentina

	Interactive Q and A
17.45 – 18.00	<u>Closing segment</u> H.E. Mrs. Mwaba Patricia Kasese Bota, Co-facilitator, High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly