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The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions in Geneva, to Organizations of the United Nations system and to the other Nongovernmental Organizations dealing with matters pertaining to HIV/AIDS not represented on the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB).

UNAIDS has the honour to inform the aforementioned Missions and Organizations that an Extraordinary meeting of the Board will be held on 2 October 2008 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. As previously agreed, this will be a single item agenda related to the process for nomination of the next Executive Director of UNAIDS. The meeting will begin at 09h00 and is expected to finish at 18h00. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided for the regular segment in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

UNAIDS wishes to draw the attention of the Missions and Organizations to the Modus Operandi of the PCB, which includes a provision allowing the Executive Director of UNAIDS, in consultation with the PCB Chairperson and upon receipt of a written application expressing a manifest interest, to grant observer status for PCB meetings to any Member State of any of the UNAIDS Cosponsoring Organizations, and any intergovernmental or nongovernmental organization. Observers shall make their own arrangements to cover expenses incurred in attending meetings of the PCB including any visa requirements. To facilitate logistical arrangements, applications for observer status, accompanied by a completed registration form (attached), must be received at UNAIDS by 12 September at the latest. Seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

UNAIDS wishes to take this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions in Geneva, to Organizations of the United Nations system and to the Nongovernmental Organizations, the assurances of its highest consideration.

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