



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4 March 2011

Excellency,

On 20 December 2010, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/65/180 entitled "Organization 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", by which it decided to convene the High-level Meeting from 8 to 10 June 2011. The General Assembly also requested the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the High-level Meeting.

I am pleased to announce that arrangements for the meeting are already underway. The Secretary-General on 22 February 2011 issued an invitation to all Heads of State and Government calling for their participation in the High-level Meeting. An advanced unedited version of the Secretary-General's Report is expected to be available on 31 March 2011. In my letter of 21 January 2011, I announced that the informal interactive civil society hearing will take place on 8 April 2011.

As I have previously announced, I have established a Civil Society Task Force to assist me in organising the civil society hearing and with maximising civil society input to the High-level Meeting. The Civil Society Task Force met from 21 to 25 February 2011 and discussed the preparations for the informal interactive civil society hearing. The Task Force highlighted the strong desire of civil society for an interactive and meaningful discussion between civil society and Member States, which addresses progress and challenges in the HIV response at the community, national and global levels. I attach the draft agenda for the informal interactive civil society hearing for your attention.

Given the need to finalise urgently the arrangements for the informal interactive civil society hearing, I would be grateful if you could convey your inputs to Mr. Wasim Mir (mirw@un.org) in my Office on this issue by 14 March 2011.

In the coming weeks, pursuant to resolution 65/180, I shall, with support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and in consultation with Member States, finalise arrangements for the civil society hearing and the High-level Meeting, including the identification of a person openly living with HIV, an eminent person to speak at the opening plenary meeting and the identification of themes for the panel discussions.

I have requested the two facilitators, H.E. Mr. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia, and H.E. Mr. Charles Ntwaagae, Permanent Representative of Botswana, to consult on the preparations for this meeting. I wish to express my profound appreciation to them for their willingness to continue to undertake this important responsibility. The co-facilitators will be reaching out to Member States through regional groups. At the same time, delegations could also reach out to them bilaterally, should they have specific proposals on the way forward.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Deiss', written in dark ink.

Joseph Deiss

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

Civil Society Hearing for the High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS: 8 April 2011

Proposed Draft Agenda

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| <i>10.00 - 10.15</i> | Opening Session Chaired by the PGA |
| <i>10.15 - 11.45</i> | Thematic Panel One - Enhancing Community-Level Access |
| <i>11.45 - 13.15</i> | Thematic Panel Two - A New Generation of National Partnerships |
| <i>13.15 - 15.00</i> | Lunch Break |
| <i>15.00 - 16.45</i> | Thematic Panel Three – Opportunities for Shared Action |
| <i>16.45 - 17.00</i> | Closing Session Chaired by the PGA |