



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 April 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, with support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements, including the identification of a person openly living with HIV and an eminent person actively engaged in the response to HIV/AIDS to speak at the opening plenary meeting, the identification of themes and finalization of the panel discussions for the High-Level Meeting.

Following consultations with Member States, held on my behalf by H.E. Mr. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia, and H.E. Mr. Charles Ntwaagae, Permanent Representative of Botswana, I have the honour to transmit herewith an information note on the organizational arrangements for the High-Level Meeting.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deiss".

Joseph Deiss

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

**Organizational arrangements for the 2011 high-level meeting on the comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (8-10 June 2011, New York)**

**Information Note 2**

**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 16 of the resolution, it requested the President of the General Assembly, with support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements, including the identification of a person openly living with HIV and an eminent person actively engaged in the response to HIV/AIDS to speak at the opening plenary meeting, the identification of themes and finalization of the panel discussions, and the arrangements for the informal interactive hearing with civil society. The arrangements for the informal interactive hearing with civil society were set out in the information note circulated to Member States by the President of the General Assembly on 29 March 2011.

**Participation**

3. Participation in the high-level meeting will be in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13 of resolution 65/180.

4. It is expected that the high-level meeting will be attended by several Heads of State and Government and will have a significant level of ministerial participation (Ministers of Health, Economy, Development, Finance, Foreign Affairs). In letters dated 22 February 2011, the Secretary-General extended an invitation to all Heads of State and Governments to participate at the high-level meeting.

5. In accordance with paragraph 14 of resolution 65/180, a list of civil society representatives that need accreditation to participate in the high-level meeting was drawn up by 31 March 2011 and was circulated to Member States, for consideration on a no-objection basis and for a final decision by the General Assembly.

6. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 65/180, Member States are encouraged to include in their national delegations to the high-level meeting parliamentarians and representatives of civil society.

### **Programme of the high-level meeting**

7. Pursuant to paragraph 2(a) of resolution 65/180, the high-level meeting will comprise plenary meetings and five thematic panel discussions.

### **Plenary meetings**

8. The plenary meetings are scheduled for the mornings and afternoons of 8, 9 and 10 June 2011.

9. Pursuant to paragraph 2(b) of resolution 65/180, the eminent person actively engaged in the response to HIV/AIDS to speak at the opening plenary will be H.E. Mr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae, former President of Botswana.

10. Pursuant to paragraph 2(b) of resolution 65/180, the name of the person openly living with HIV who will speak at the opening plenary meeting will be communicated in a subsequent note.

11. To enable maximum participation within the limited time available, statements in plenary should not exceed five minutes when speaking in the national capacity and eight minutes when speaking on behalf of a group. A list of speakers will be opened for inscription at the General Assembly Affairs Branch from 2 May 2011 (room IN-613A.tel. 1 (212) 963-5063; fax 1 (212) 963-3783; or e-mail: heddachem@un.org).

12. Representatives of civil society may attend the plenary meetings in the public gallery, within the limits of the space available.

### **Thematic Panel Discussions**

13. The five panel discussions will be held as follows:

- Panel 1: Morning of Wednesday, 8 June 2011
- Panel 2: Afternoon of Wednesday, 8 June 2011
- Panel 3: Morning of Thursday, 9 June 2011
- Panel 4: Afternoon of Thursday, 9 June 2011
- Panel 5: Morning of Friday, 10 June 2011

14. The panel discussions will be open to Member States and observers, representatives of the United Nations system, as well as civil society representatives.

15. The panel discussions provide an opportunity to have in-depth discussions on the main findings and recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General (advanced unedited version circulated on 28 March 2011). They will focus on selected areas that require special attention to advance the HIV/AIDS response, and will help examine the progress made, promote sharing of best practices, identify challenges and gaps and sustainable ways to overcome them.

16. The themes for panel discussions will be:

**Panel 1: Shared responsibility – a new global compact for HIV/AIDS**

*This panel will enable a discussion of priorities such as ensuring continued leadership and shared responsibility for the HIV/AIDS response, including a new generation of leadership, strengthening broad national ownership and engaging communities in order to foster local and sustainable solutions, securing long-term financing and increasing efficiency and ensuring mutual accountability of the future global response.*

**Panel 2: Prevention - What can be done to get to zero new infections?**

*This panel will enable a discussion of priorities such as the importance of accelerating targeted and effective prevention interventions, including eliminating stigma and discrimination, overcoming barriers to prevention for vulnerable groups, ensuring a comprehensive approach to prevention and treatment, and educating young people to lead the future HIV prevention efforts.*

**Panel 3: Innovation and new technologies**

*This panel will focus on opportunities for innovation and new technological developments in both treatment and prevention, smart investments in innovation, the more efficient use of resources and technologies and ensuring equity and access for these advances by those who need them most.*

**Panel 4: Women, girls and HIV**

*This panel will focus on the disproportionate burden of HIV/AIDS on women and girls and the need to ensure that their specific needs and vulnerabilities are adequately addressed. It could highlight the progress, challenges and opportunities in addressing the social determinants of women's and girl's vulnerability to HIV infection, as well as linkages between violence against women and girls and HIV.*

**Panel 5: Integrating the HIV/AIDS response with broader health and development agendas**

*This panel will focus on strategies for taking AIDS out of isolation and leveraging the response for broader health and development outcomes, strengthening health systems and enhancing links, coordination and cooperation with other areas of development at the local and global level. The panel will examine integration of HIV and TB services, as well as Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Maternal and Child Health services, with a focus on scaling up efforts to eliminate vertical transmission of HIV. The panel will also explore linkages with non-communicable diseases, food security/nutrition and education.*

17. To promote interactive, free-flowing discussions, participants will be invited to make brief remarks not to exceed three minutes, raise questions and to respond to other speakers. Written statements are strongly discouraged.

18. To help focus on the specific issues relevant to each of the five panel discussions, background notes will be prepared for each panel discussion and circulated in due course.

19. The President of the General Assembly shall select, by a drawing of lots, the regional group whose member will chair each of the five panel discussions. Thereafter, each regional group, through its Chair, should communicate to the President of the General Assembly, no later than 6 May 2011, the representative of Government who will chair the panel discussion.

20. Each panel will be comprised of a Chair and three panellists with a thorough knowledge and expertise of the subject. They will include national, United Nations and civil society representatives. A moderator will be appointed by the President of the General Assembly to support the Chair of each panel, as appropriate.

21. The composition of the panels, including the chairs and the panellists, will be finalized by the President of the General Assembly, with due consideration given to geographic and gender balance, and communicated in a subsequent note.

22. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 65/180 the Chairs of the panel discussions will present summaries of the discussions to the closing plenary meeting.

#### **Passes for Delegations**

23. The United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service will authorize delegation passes, as well as VIP passes for Heads of State and Government and Cabinet Ministers. To facilitate the issuance of these passes, lists of delegations should be submitted to the United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service (room NL-2058; tel: 1 (212) 963-7171; fax: 1 (212) 963-1921).

#### **Side-Events**

24. A calendar of various events related to the high-level meeting from 8 to 10 June will be posted on the website of the President of the General Assembly.