

9 April 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, to be held from 8 to 10 June 2021 in the General Assembly Hall, at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/260 ~~gpnkf~~ "ÖOrganization of the 2021 high-level meeting on HIV/AIDSö0

The General Assembly, in its resolution 75/260, invited Member States and

Regarding practical arrangements for participation, as well as the format of the high-level meeting on the basis of an assessment of the COVID-19-related health conditions, I intend to circulate a draft decision ~~intend~~ to circulate 40 g1 0 0 1 86.424 667.42 4 (tedions)e 4 (16ETd st)4 (ie)4

## **Concept Note**

**Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing  
as part of the preparatory process for the 2021 High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS**

**Friday, 23 April 2021**

### **Background**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/260, a high-level meeting (HLM) on HIV/AIDS will be convened from 8 to 10 June 2021, in the General Assembly Hall, at the UN Headquarters, in

Panelists will discuss their key priorities for the high-level meeting, while generating shared understanding of epidemic priorities, opportunities and challenges of the new global context, including addressing entrenched inequalities, coinfections, and the intersection of HIV and other existing and new epidemics including COVID-19, affecting hardest the communities most at risk of HIV/AIDS, especially specific and more vulnerable groups within those communities.

### **Guiding questions for the hearing**

1. What achievements in addressing challenges identified in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS should be expanded and built upon?
2. What critical areas of the HIV/AIDS response are lagging behind and need greater attention? To what extent have community-led interventions been prioritized in response to the 2016 Political Declaration? Which communities, regions and countries are being left behind and why?
3. In order to reach the 2025 targets, what should be the strategic priorities in the response? What transformative actions that will make it possible to upend inequalities and protect communities against health emergencies and pandemics, including COVID-19?
4. How do we ensure the continuity of HIV programs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and better pandemic preparedness, to keep people living with HIV and affected by HIV safe from COVID-19 and other imminent threats, including ensuring their inclusion among priority population groups for COVID-19 prevention, tests, evidence-based treatments and vaccines?
5. How can stakeholders collaborate to overcome prejudice, stigma, discrimination, human rights and gender equality barriers that slow progress in the HIV response and leave key populations behind?
6. How do we mobilize strong political leadership and strengthen partnerships between government, civil society, community-led networks and organizations, and other stakeholders in the AIDS response for a renewed sense of urgency and optimal efficiency?
7. How do we achieve the financing necessary to fully fund and sustain the HIV/AIDS response, including prioritizing and supporting community-, key population-, women-, young people and adolescents in all their diversity-led interventions? What support do countries and communities need to develop, resource and implement people-centered strategies and plans, including in advancing HIV/AIDS integration into health systems strengthening and universal health coverage efforts?

### **Format**

The hearing will be hosted on the remote simultaneous interpretation platform *Interprefy* on Friday, 23 April 2021, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will be webcast live and on demand on United Nations Web TV. It will be divided into an opening segment, four interactive panel discussions and a closing segment.

The four moderated panels will feature four speakers each (3 minutes interventions), representing diverse geographical, gender, identity and community realities, and both people living with and affected by HIV. The provisional themes for the panels are:

- 1) Equitable and equal access to HIV prevention, treatment and services
- 2) Structural and social barriers to achieving HIV outcomes (zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths, and zero discrimination)
- 3) Fully resource and sustain efficient HIV responses and integrate into systems for health, development, social protection, humanitarian settings and pandemic responses
- 4) Bringing it together: building synergies and addressing critical gaps

Further information on the composition of the panels will be provided in due course.

### **Outcome**

The outcome will be a summary by the President of General Assembly which will be circulated to all O go dgt "Ucvgu'cpf "qyj gt "ucngj qnf gtu'cpf "r quvgf "qp'yj g'RI Cø'y gdukg" <https://www.un.org/pga/75>) prior to the high-

**Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing**  
**as part of the preparatory process for the 2021 High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS**

**Provisional Programme**  
**Friday, 23 April 2021**

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| 09:00-09:30 | <p><b><u>Opening segment</u></b></p> <p>Statements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the General Assembly during the seventy-fifth session</li><li>H.E. Mr. Neville Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia to the UN, Co-facilitator on the preparations for the 2021 High- Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS</li><li>Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, UNAIDS</li><li>Person openly living with HIV</li></ul> |
| 09:30-10:45 | <p><b><u>Panel 1: Equitable and equal access to HIV prevention, treatment and</u></b></p>   |

16:15-17:30

**Panel 4: Bringing it together: building synergies and addressing critical gaps**

*This panel will address the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 cross-cutting, with a focus on political leadership, partnerships, advocacy, community ownership, monitoring and accountability.*

17:30-18:00

**Closing segment**

H.E. Mr. Mitchell Fifield, Permanent Representative of Australia to the UN, Co-facilitator for the preparations of the H