



31 May 2011

Excellency,

We are writing to update you on progress with the negotiation of the text of the declaration which will be adopted by the forthcoming High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS in New York, 8-10 June.

The second round of informal consultations on the zero draft was concluded in the early hours of Saturday 28 May. A further compilation document incorporating all of the amendments made to the zero draft as at that stage was electronically circulated on 29 May.

Negotiating progress on the declaration has been especially difficult because of the extremely large number of amendments – around 2000 – which were made to the original ten page document, which now stands at 59 pages.

In the light of this, as Co-Facilitators, we were asked by Member States at the conclusion of the second round to prepare a simpler negotiating text for the next stage of negotiations which begin tomorrow, Wednesday 1 June.

This document will be circulated later today, 31 May. It will use the latest compilation text as its basis. It will include areas where there has been ad referendum agreement. It will include a limited number of possible compromise proposals by the Co-Facilitators in a small number of areas where Member States appear to agree and where only minor changes to language would be necessary to reflect that convergence.

More crucially, it will include the different language Member States have proposed where significant areas of difference remain – including on prevention, TRIPS and access to medicines, human rights and related issues, targets and resources. At this stage there has not yet been sufficient common agreement to propose any possible compromise language in these areas.

You will appreciate that we will need to engage intensely on finding this common ground on these major issues in particular over the next couple of days if we are to complete the declaration in advance of the HLM.

Our latest advice is that a large number of Heads of State, Heads of Government and Senior Ministers will be attending the HLM. The expectation is that we will have a final version of the declaration agreed in advance. We remain committed to completing this on Friday 3 June.

We would like to thank all Member State delegations who have been engaged in bringing the negotiations to this point. However, we must flag that it will be essential that delegations now be mandated by their governments and colleague Permanent Representatives to make the necessary compromises on outcome language in the declaration.

We look forward to your continued close support to achieve the kind of significant declaration we have all been aiming for.

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



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