

Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS Review Selection of Civil Society Participants

Update

23 February 2006

In 2005 the United Nations General Assembly agreed to convene a High-Level Meeting and undertake a Comprehensive Review of the progress achieved in realizing the targets set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS from May 31 to June 2, 2006 (Resolution A/RES/60/224).

To ensure the Review draws on the expertise of all key sectors engaged in the AIDS response the Resolution called for the Office of the General Assembly President to draw up a list of civil society participants (to join those already accredited through ECOSOC) for consideration by Member States by 15 February 2006.

The Office of the General Assembly President asked UNAIDS Secretariat to receive applications. UNAIDS published information and an application form on its website and received applications for possible participants up until an agreed deadline of 3 February. That process is now closed and late applications are not being accepted.

On 15 February the Office of the General Assembly President forwarded completed applications from this process to Member States for their consideration on a "no-objection basis" as described in the Resolution A/RES/60/224. A small percentage of organizations applying did not provide complete information and so their details could not be forwarded to Member States for their consideration.

Member States are now reviewing the list and have the right to object to suggestions that were put forward for consideration by 3 March 2006.

The General Assembly President will then formally present a list of organizations to the Assembly for decision. As soon as possible thereafter the list of organizations that has been agreed for accreditation will be published.

It is important to note that civil society organizations cleared for accreditation to attend the Review Meeting will not be guaranteed any financial support however UNAIDS will endeavor to secure support for some organizations to attend the Review and will publish details of that process on its website in March.

ECOSOC accredited organizations will be able to participate in the Review through a separate process. These organizations are being asked to confirm their interest in participating in the meeting by 30 March 2006 with the DESA Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat.

In all cases civil society organizations are encouraged to approach their governments to be included in national delegations wherever possible.