



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 February 2016

Excellency,

On 23 December 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/228 entitled “Organization of the 2016 high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS”, by which it decided to convene the high-level meeting on 8-10 June 2016, in New York.

As mandated by resolution 70/228, the high-level meeting will undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made in addressing the epidemic; make recommendations, including concrete strategies for action, to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030; and promote continued commitment and engagement of leaders to accelerate a comprehensive universal and integrated response to HIV/AIDS. In light of the importance of the meeting, I reiterate the invitation set out in resolution 70/228 for all Member and Observer States to attend the high-level meeting at the highest level.

The General Assembly requested me, with support from the UNAIDS and in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, including arrangements for the civil society hearing, identification of themes for the panel discussions of the high-level meeting, as well as a person openly living with HIV and an eminent person actively engaged in the response to HIV/AIDS to speak at the opening plenary. The General Assembly also requested me to hold timely, open, transparent and inclusive consultations with all Member States, with a view to adopting a concise and action-oriented declaration as an outcome of the high-level meeting.

Further to my letter of 5 November 2015, I have the honour to inform you that H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland and H.E. Dr. Mwaba P. Kasese-Bota, Permanent Representative of Zambia, will continue to serve as the Co-Facilitators for the preparations of the high-level meeting. I wish to thank them for the willingness to continue to undertake this important responsibility, and trust that you will extend your full cooperation and support to them. The Co-Facilitators will be reaching out shortly to Member States through regional groups to begin the process of consultations.


I also have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with resolution 70/228, I will organize and preside over an informal interactive civil society hearing, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting. The hearing will take place on 6 April 2016, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. I will share the agenda and other details of the meeting in due time. As stipulated by the afore-mentioned resolution, I look forward to your active participation and involvement in the hearing.

In conclusion, I have the honour to invite you to attend a briefing for all Member and Observer States and interested stakeholders, which I will convene on Friday, 26 February 2016, at 3:00pm in Conference Room 4. I am pleased to inform you that the Co-Facilitators,

Ambassador Lauber and Ambassador Kasese-Bota, will join the briefing, which will provide an opportunity to share more details and exchange initial views on the preparations for the high-level meeting. I have also invited the Executive Director of UNAIDS, Mr. Michel Sidibé, to participate in the meeting. Mr. Sidibé will provide a briefing on the current status of the AIDS epidemic, the progress made to date and the remaining challenges. He will also highlight the opportunities for accelerating the response towards achieving the commitment of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 in a manner that is grounded in the Sustainable Development Goals, leverages inter-linkages among them and leaves no one behind.

I look forward to your participation at the briefing and continued engagement in this important process.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York