

**2008 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS
10-11 June 2008, United Nations, New York**

Information on the Organization of Side Events

Purpose

This note aims to inform groups interested in organizing side events to supplement the official program¹ of the 2008 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS (HLM). It seeks to facilitate the contribution of various stakeholders to the HLM.

Possible objectives in organizing side events

In line with the General Assembly's decision 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, as well as promote continued engagement of leaders in a comprehensive global response to AIDS", the side events may seek to:

- Clarify issues around the current state and trends of the AIDS epidemic and describe the results that have so far been achieved – or not achieved - in responses to it. The discussions could also cover possible ways forward.
- Reinforce political commitment to the achievement of the universal access targets.
- Provide a forum for critical issues that would otherwise not be discussed in sufficient detail in the official events.

Guiding principles

- Maximize resources through collaboration.
- Foster inclusion, accommodation and effective coordination.
- Avoid scheduling conflicts with official events, which should take precedence over side events.
- Enhance local capacity and commitment so that the HLM leaves both a global and local legacy.

Forms of side events

Side events may include the following:

1. Unofficial working meetings, such as working breakfasts or working lunches
2. Unofficial panel discussions, town hall meetings, lectures, etc. including those organized by UNAIDS Cosponsors, Member States, civil society, special interest groups, and the UNAIDS Secretariat
3. Advocacy activities to support the HLM and universal access, both inside and outside the UN, such as public awareness campaigns and exhibitions

Contact Information

For additional information, interested parties may email HLM2008events@unaids.org or call +1 212 867 1840.

¹ The 'official events' will comprise plenary meetings, five thematic panel discussions and an informal interactive civil society hearing. These official events are organized under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly (PGA), with support from UNAIDS.