



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 February 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 17 February 2021 from H.E. Mr. Mitchell Fifield, Permanent Representative of Australia and H.E. Mr. Neville Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia, the co-facilitators of the processes related to the convening of the high-level meeting on HIV and AIDS in 2021.

In the aforementioned letter, the co-facilitators refer to their letter of 3 February and to the steps that were subsequently taken to find a compromise proposal on the draft modalities resolution. The co-facilitators have now submitted this draft resolution for adoption during the next plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

To this end, the enclosed draft resolution will be considered for adoption on Tuesday, 23 February 2021.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Volkan Bozkir'.

Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



17 February 2021

Excellency,

We have the honour to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators of the processes related to the convening of the high-level meeting on HIV and AIDS. We refer to our letter of 3 February advising that silence procedure had been broken by a number of delegations.

In the two weeks since silence procedure was broken, we have convened an informal small group meeting with the delegations that broke silence procedure and conducted extensive bilateral outreach to try to find a compromise proposal, agreeable to all parties. The focus of these discussions was the two references to “key populations” in OP5 and OP8 and the language on civil society participation in OP11.

We have considered all options and have decided to strike the reference to “key populations” in OP5 and retain OP8 and OP11, with its footnote, unchanged. In our judgement this presents the best balance between the differing views of member states and the clearest path to a consensual adoption of the resolution.

Attached to this letter is the final version of the resolution, which we have submitted for adoption during the next plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

We would like to reiterate our thanks to you and your Mission for your active and constructive engagement in this process. We look forward to adopting this resolution and turning our focus toward the Political Declaration for the high-level meeting.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "M. Fifield".

H.E. Mr. Mitchell Peter Fifield
Co-Facilitator
Permanent Representative of Australia
to the United Nations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "N. Gertze".

H.E. Mr. Neville Melvin Gertze
Co-Facilitator
Permanent Representative of Namibia
to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

DRAFT RESOLUTION
Organization of the 2021 high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS

The General Assembly,

*Pp1 Reaffirming its commitment to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS¹ and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS adopted at the high-level meetings of the General Assembly in 2006²,2011³ and 2016⁴, **AD REF***

*Pp2 Recalling the HIV/AIDS-related goals and commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁵ in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁶ and in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁷ and welcoming the achievement of the target of Millennium Development Goal 6 to have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, **AD REF***

*Pp3 Recognizing that, through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁸ and its Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, Heads of State and Government made a bold commitment to ending the epidemic of AIDS by 2030, and emphasizing its interlinkages with the other goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, **AD REF***

*Pp4 Recognizing also that through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁹ Heads of State and Government supported research and development of vaccines and medicines, as well as preventive measures and treatments for communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular those that disproportionately impact developing countries, **AD REF***

*Pp5 Reiterating the commitment to the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, **AD REF***

*Pp6 Welcoming the significant gains achieved in the AIDS response, while noting with concern that progress has been uneven among and within countries, and that gains remain fragile and reversible without a renewed commitment and accelerated action, **AD REF***

¹ Resolution S-26/2, annex.

² Resolution 60/262, annex.

³ Resolution 65/277, annex.

⁴ Resolution 70/266, annex.

⁵ Resolution 55/2.

⁶ Resolution 60/1.

⁷ Resolution 65/1.

⁸ Resolution 70/1.

⁹ Resolution 69/313, annex.

Pp7 Expressing deep concern that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic the world was not on track to meet the time-bound targets set out in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS and missed them when they expired at the end of 2020, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional setbacks and pushed the AIDS response even further off track, **AD REF**

Pp8 Noting that 2021 will mark forty years since the first case of AIDS was reported and 25 years since UNAIDS commenced its valuable work, and also noting the ongoing work on a new Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026,

Pp9 Recognizing that AIDS remains an urgent global health and development challenge, and recognizing also the need to address persistent challenges and gaps in the AIDS response, including primary prevention, as well as the impact thereon of the COVID-19 pandemic and the underlying inequalities within and among countries on which both epidemics thrive,

1. *Decides* to convene a high-level meeting from 8 - 10 June 2021, which will undertake a comprehensive review of the progress on the commitments made in the 2016 Political Declaration towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, and how the response, in its social, economic and political dimensions, continues to contribute optimally to progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global health goal, including successes, best practices, lessons learned, obstacles and gaps, challenges and opportunities, including with regard to partnership and cooperation, and recommendations to guide and monitor the HIV/AIDS response beyond 2021, including new concrete commitments to accelerate action to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as well as to promote the renewed commitment and engagement of leaders, countries, communities and partners to accelerate and implement a comprehensive universal and integrated response to HIV/AIDS;

2. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting should be as follows:

(a) The high-level meeting will consist of:

(i) an opening segment with statements by the President of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, a person openly living with HIV and an eminent person actively engaged in the response to HIV/AIDS;

(ii) a general debate with statements by Member States and observers of the General Assembly, the list of speakers shall be established in accordance with the established practices of the Assembly, and the time limit for the statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States;

(iii) up to five thematic panel discussions, which shall be held consecutively with general debate;

(iv) a closing segment with statements from the chairs of the panel discussions, presenting summaries of the discussions;

(b) The meetings will take place from 10am to 1pm and from 3pm to 6pm;

(c) The format of the meeting, in-person, virtual or hybrid, will be decided by April 2021 by the President of the General Assembly based on an assessment of the health conditions and in close consultation with Member States;

3. *Also decides* that the proceedings of the high-level meeting and the multi-stakeholder hearing will be webcast, and encourages the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to give the highest visibility to the high-level meeting, through all relevant media platforms and information and communications technologies; **AD REF**

4. *Invites* Member States and observers of the General Assembly to participate and be represented at the highest level at the high-level meeting; **AD REF**

5. *Encourages* Member States to include in their national delegations to the high-level meeting ministers from all relevant ministries, as appropriate, representatives such as parliamentarians, mayors of cities significantly affected by HIV/AIDS, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and organizations and networks representing people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, persons in vulnerable situations and other relevant stakeholders;

6. *Invites* the United Nations system, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNITAID and other relevant stakeholders, including Goodwill Ambassadors, to participate in and contribute to the high-level meeting, as appropriate, and urges them to consider initiatives in support of the preparatory process and the meeting; **AD REF**

7. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to contribute to the high-level meeting; **AD REF**

8. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, no later than April 2021, and preside over an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, with the active participation of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, including key populations, representatives of Member States and observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local governments, invited civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, the private sector and broader communities, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and further requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting;

9. *Invites* non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and non-governmental members of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to participate in the high-level meeting, as appropriate; **AD REF**

10. *Decides* that representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector – one from each grouping – to be selected during the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, may also be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the high-level meeting, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the high-level meeting, including its panel discussions, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographic representation, with due regard for gender parity, to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis¹⁰ and to bring the list to the attention of the Assembly;

12. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, with support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, and for the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing no later than 15 April 2021, as well as the identification of a person openly living with HIV and an eminent person actively engaged in the response to HIV/AIDS to speak at the opening plenary meeting, and the identification of themes and finalization of the panel discussions no later than 7 May 2021;

13. *Requests* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to continue to facilitate, to the extent possible, inclusive consultations at the country and regional levels, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, such as Governments, civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to review the progress made towards the achievement of the time-bound goals set out in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS to be met by 2020, as well as opportunities to address gaps, obstacles and challenges;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and analytical report, at least six weeks prior to its consideration by the General Assembly, on progress achieved and challenges remaining in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS, as well as recommendations for sustainable ways to overcome these challenges, taking into consideration the outcomes and findings of the aforementioned progress review consultations, as available,

¹⁰ The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.

15. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to hold timely, open, transparent and inclusive consultations with all Member States, giving due consideration to the report of the Secretary-General and other inputs to the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, with a view to adopting a concise and action-oriented declaration as an outcome of the high-level meeting, to be agreed upon by Member States, which reaffirms and builds on the Declaration of Commitment and the Political Declarations to guide and monitor the HIV/AIDS response beyond 2020, towards achieving the commitment of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. **AD REF**