



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 February 2008

Excellency,

On 19 December 2007, the General Assembly adopted resolution 62/178 entitled "Organization of the 2008 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS", by which it decided to convene the high-level meeting on 10 and 11 June 2008. The General Assembly also requested the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting.

I am pleased to announce that arrangements for the meeting are already underway. The report of the Secretary-General is being developed following the submission of national reports by Member States on their implementation of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment and the 2006 Political Declaration. In the coming weeks, pursuant to resolution 62/178, I shall, with support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and in consultation with Member States, finalize other arrangements, including the identification of a person openly living with HIV and an eminent person to speak at the opening plenary meeting, the identification of themes and chairs for the panel discussions, and the format of the informal interactive hearing with civil society.

The organisational arrangements also include the accreditation of relevant civil society representatives that do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or are not members of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS. The application process is also already underway, and I expect to have the full list ready for distribution to Member States before March 31, 2008.

I have requested the two facilitators, H.E. Mrs. Tiina Intelmann, Permanent Representative of Estonia, and H.E. Mr. Samuel Outlule, Permanent Representative of Botswana, to continue their work on preparations for this meeting. I wish to express my profound appreciation to them for their willingness to continue to undertake this important responsibility.

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

Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS is a Millennium Development Goal which also has an impact on attaining the other goals by 2015. This high-level meeting will provide an opportunity to take stock of the response to the disease, including the progress made and challenges remaining. I therefore encourage Member States to participate in the meeting at the appropriate level.

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



Srgjan Kerim