



UNAIDS

UN-NGLS 
Non-Governmental Liaison Service

Apply to speak at the 2016 High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS and Civil Society Hearing

DEADLINE: 12 February 2016

Please read these instructions in full. [Link to apply is at the end.](#)

I. STAKEHOLDER SPEAKER OPPORTUNITIES

1. April Informal Interactive Civil Society Hearing in April:
10-15 Speakers as part of a full day programme that will also include remarks by UN Member States
2. High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS (HLM) on 8-10 June:
 - One Opening Plenary speaker (a person openly living with HIV/AIDS)
 - One speaker on each of up to 5 Thematic Panel Discussions
 - Three speakers for the plenary sessions (one each from: 1) NGOs in consultative status with the ECOSOC, 2) civil society organisations; 3) the private sector

II. TRAVEL FUNDING

Travel funding will be provided for five speakers to participate in the civil society hearing, and five speakers to participate in the High-level Meeting.

III. BACKGROUND

On **8-10 June 2016**, a High-level Meeting (HLM) on HIV / AIDS will be convened in New York by the United Nations General Assembly to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the 2001 [Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS](#) and the 2006 and 2011 [Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS](#).

Opening plenary: In accordance with the General Assembly resolution [70/228](#) that sets out the organizational arrangements for this meeting, one person from civil society who is openly living with HIV will be invited to speak at the opening plenary session of the High-Level Meeting. The other opening plenary speakers will be the President of the UN General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Director of UNAIDS, and an eminent person (to be selected).

Civil society hearing: A one-day informal interactive civil society hearing will take place in early April, chaired by the President of the General Assembly. The dialogue will provide an opportunity to exchange views with representatives of governments. The format for the hearing and specific topics will be determined by the Office of the President of the General Assembly in consultation with the Stakeholder Task Force for the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS and UNAIDS.

Plenary meetings: 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, selected during the informal interactive 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.

Panels: During the High-level Meeting, up to 5 thematic panel discussions will be held on specific themes (not yet selected), to be identified and finalized by the President of the General Assembly, with support from UNAIDS and in consultation with Member States, no later than 15 April 2016. It is expected that these themes will be informed by the report of the UN Secretary-General to be submitted ahead of the High-level Meeting. One speaker from civil society may also be invited to speak at each thematic panel discussion along with representatives of governments and inter-governmental organizations.

IV. CRITERIA

In 2008 and 2011, the Civil Society Task Force established criteria for selection and a speaker application process, including the criteria and timelines, given below. The same criteria used in 2008 and 2011 will be used for 2016.

The criteria for all speakers (civil society hearing, HLM opening, plenary and panels) include:

1. Strong and dynamic speaker
2. Ability to speak credibly from a civil society perspective
3. Related to networks or organizations working in the field of HIV / AIDS
4. Demonstrated ability to speak on global issues, while ensuring links are made to country and community realities
5. Ability and willingness to engage with the media effectively
6. Availability to be present in New York and engaged in the Civil Society Hearing and pre-meetings in April 2016 and/or the High-level Meeting and related meetings between 8-10 June 2016. This includes ability to obtain a visa for travel to the US.
7. Fluency in one of the official United Nations languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish)

Additional criteria for the civil society speaker at the opening plenary include:

8. Must be a person who is openly living with HIV
9. Must come from a developing country

Applications are strongly encouraged from: women; young people; sex workers; people who use drugs; men who have sex with men; transgender persons; ex-prisoners; migrants; refugees and internally displaced persons; people in conflict and post-conflict situations; and people living in poverty. People living with HIV who attend the High-level Meeting – and are prepared to speak from their experience as an openly HIV-positive person – need to be comfortable that their status may become widely known due to the possibility of broad media coverage.

V. SELECTION PROCESS

A Stakeholder Task Force (STF) for the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS has been established by the President of the United Nations General Assembly to advise on preparations for the High-level Meeting and the Civil Society Hearing. The Task Force will review all speaker applications received by the deadline, and propose speakers for the April civil society hearing in April and the High-level Meeting in June, for the roles



outlined in section I of this document.

The STF will review applications on the basis of the established criteria, and will create a short-list of candidates, ensuring regional and gender balance, diversity of age and expertise, and strong representation of people living with and affected by HIV. This short-list will be submitted for consideration to the President of the General Assembly, who will finalise the arrangements in consultation with Member States.ⁱ

Please note that short-listed candidates may subsequently be interviewed by phone. The STF's recommendations of speakers to the President of the General Assembly will be published publicly.

The STF is working within tight timeframes and understands the challenges presented by the short deadline. This is required to allow time for a fair selection process, the approval by the President of the General Assembly, review by Member States on a non-objection basis, and then for the final selected speakers to be able to arrange their travel and visa requirements. Your assistance in circulating information about this opportunity to apply is appreciated.

APPLY HERE BY 12 FEBRUARY: <http://bit.ly/2016-HIV-AIDS-HLM-Participate>

ⁱ Per requirement of Operative Paragraph 14 of A/Res/70/228