



4 January 2006

## Invitation for Civil Society Nominations to attend UNGASS Review

UNAIDS is inviting nominations for civil society organizations wishing to take part in a formal review of progress towards targets agreed by United Nations member states five years ago to tackle HIV and AIDS.

At the end of 2005 the United Nations General Assembly agreed to convene a High-Level Meeting and undertake a Comprehensive Review of the progress achieved in realizing the targets set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

The Review will take place at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 31 May to 2 June 2006. Informal interactive civil society hearings will be held on the morning of 31 May.

Recognising the importance of civil society in the AIDS response UNAIDS has worked for many months with civil society partners and the General Assembly to secure meaningful and active participation of civil society at the Review.

The General Assembly Secretariat will draw up a list of civil society representatives to be invited to participate in the meeting by 15 February 2006.

This list will complement civil society organizations that are accredited to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and those civil society organizations that will attend the meeting as representatives on national delegations.

It is anticipated that more than 1,000 civil society organizations will take part in the Review.

The NGO members of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board will serve as the selection panel which will make the recommendations to the General Assembly Secretariat.

Organizations with a proven record of making a difference in the AIDS response are encouraged to indicate their interest in participating in the meeting through the completion and submission of an application form attached to this communication or available from the UNAIDS website [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org) by **3 February 2006**.

People living with HIV are especially encouraged to apply – although they should be aware of travel restrictions in the USA that might mean they need to disclose their health status to secure entry.

Details on the US waiver system can be found at the US Department of Justice website on <http://uscis.gov/graphics/publicaffairs/factsheets/HIVfs.htm>

Member States and Observers have also been invited to include civil society and private sector representatives in their national delegations to the meeting.

A different process will apply to civil society organizations that are accredited to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). These organizations should confirm their interest in participating in the meeting by 30 March 2006 with the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat at [desangosection@un.org](mailto:desangosection@un.org) providing information on the number of representatives expected to attend the meeting. Such registration will facilitate their consideration for participation in the round tables of the meeting.

The text from the formal UN Resolution reads: "...Requests the President of the General Assembly, following appropriate consultations with Member States, to draw up, not later than 15 February 2006, a list of other relevant civil society representatives, in particular associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, non-governmental organizations, including organizations of women and young people, girls and boys and men, faith-based organizations, and the private sector, especially pharmaceutical companies and representatives of labour, including on the basis of the recommendations of the Joint Programme and taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, and to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a no-objection basis for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the review and high-level meeting, including round tables and panel discussions;"

Information about possible sources of support in attending the meeting will be communicated at a later date.

Nominations should be sent, by 3 February, to [csp@unaids.org](mailto:csp@unaids.org) or:

**'UNGASS Nomination'**  
**Civil Society Partnerships Unit**  
**UNAIDS**  
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Fax: +41 22 791 4149  
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