

Terms of Reference

RFP-2021-11

Supporting the effective and meaningful participation of civil society in the UNGA 2021 High Level Meeting on AIDS (HLM).

Background

In June 2016, world leaders, representatives of governments, UN and civil society, including people living with HIV and key populations, from across the world came together at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, for the General Assembly High-Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV/AIDS.

By adopting the [2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS](#), Member States committed to a set of specific, time-bound targets to be achieved by 2020 to get on the Fast-Track to end the AIDS epidemic within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and leave no one behind. Member States also agreed to convene a new HLM on HIV and AIDS to review the progress on the commitments made in the present 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.

Unfortunately, none of the 10 Fast-Track commitments of the 2016 Political Declaration have been met by the deadline of 2020. While numerous countries in multiple regions and epidemic contexts have embraced the Fast-Track approach and achieved important results, their gains have been offset by the many countries that are making little or no progress. The world is off track to meet the SDG commitment of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic sets it back further.

The next HLM, expected to be held in June 2021, will come at a critical moment for the AIDS response. It will provide a unique opportunity to renew the political and financial commitment needed to address the inequalities that continue to fuel the epidemic, as well as the additional challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also be imperative to adopt a new Political Declaration with a set of new targets that will help galvanise accelerated action to get the HIV response back on track towards the achievement of the SDG commitment of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. It is expected that the Global AIDS Strategy, currently under discussion by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, will help inform the HLM discussions for a new Political Declaration.

As a first step in the preparation of the 2021 HLM, on 11th November last year, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, the President of the General Assembly appointed H.E. Mr. Mitchell Peter Fifield, Permanent Representative of Australia and H.E. Mr. Neville Melvin Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia to co-facilitate the process related to the convening of the high-level meeting on HIV and AIDS. The Co-facilitators are currently leading negotiations among Member States on the draft [modalities resolution](#) on the organization of the 2021 HLM.

The participation of the communities and organizations of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, including key populations and other vulnerable groups – such as women and girls, sex workers, people who use drugs, gay men and other men who have sex with men and transgender people, indigenous peoples, and more – will be again fundamental for the success of the next HLM. The draft resolution foresees the organization of an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing (MSH) with the participation of communities and other stakeholders to be held no later than April 2021, as well as

other opportunities of participation during the preparation process and during the HLM itself. *In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that the MSH and the HLM will be held in virtual mode.*

At previous HLM's, a *Multistakeholder Task Force* (MSTF) comprising representatives from civil society and the private sector was convened by UNAIDS at the request of the President of the General Assembly, to facilitate civil society involvement and ensure an open, transparent and participatory process. The Task Force contributes to determine the format, theme and programme of the multi-stakeholder hearing (MSH), as well as help identify speakers for the MSH and HLM plenary and panel discussions. H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, the President of the General Assembly, has indicated his willingness for a similar approach for the 2021 HLM.

In order to promote the active engagement and meaningful contribution of civil society in the entire process, UNAIDS will select and contract a civil society or community led organization with recognized experience in the global AIDS response to collaborate in this work.

Objective

To coordinate all the work related to the establishment and efficient running of the Multistakeholder Task Force, including the organization of the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing and other relevant activities to be defined in the UNGA resolution on the organization of the 2021 HLM.

Scope

The selected organization will work in close collaboration with Laurel Sprague, Chief, Community Mobilization, UNAIDS HQ, and in coordination with the UNAIDS Liaison Office in New York.

The work will require constant virtual communications with networks and organizations of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, including key populations, of all regions of the world, as well as with the UNAIDS PCB NGO Delegation.

Expected Deliverables

- 1) A detailed roadmap charting the way forward to support the engagement and participation of civil society in the HLM 2021, including all proposed activities, events and respective timeline.
- 2) A set of draft documents to support the establishment and effective functioning of the Multistakeholder Task Force, including Terms of Reference, call for nominations, briefings for participants, presentations, and others.
- 3) A Communication and Advocacy strategy developed and implemented in partnership with UNAIDS, MSTF and other relevant stakeholders with focus on: 1) Contributing to the mobilization of, and giving visibility to the participation of, civil society and communities affected by HIV in the HLM, including the dissemination of information about meetings, civil society views, and positions (external communication); 2) Defining and securing mechanisms and tools to promote exchange of information and decision making among civil society representatives directly involved in the process (internal communication). The selected civil society or community led organization will also be responsible to provide data packages for internet connection for critical civil society or community representatives with limited access to internet.
- 4) A set of draft documents and support to the MSTF to assist in the organization of the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, including proposed format, call for nominations, list of proposed themes, briefings, draft position papers, draft summary and others.

5) A draft guide to the civil society representatives attending the HLM with the most important and strategic information about the meeting.

6) An online evaluation survey with civil society and community participants, to identify best practices and things to be improved. A report with the main findings of the evaluation, including recommendations for the next HLM focused on the participation of civil society.

Expected Outcomes

The work of the selected organization in partnership with relevant stakeholders will **contribute to the achievement of the following expected collective outcomes:**

1) The multistakeholder task force is formed with broad representation and is fully operational in time to inform and advise the preparation of the interactive multistakeholder hearing.

2) MSTF functions and duties are effectively and successfully discharged, to support effective and meaningful contribution and participation of civil society and communities in the preparations of and during the HLM.

2) The interactive multistakeholder hearing provides a fruitful space where civil society and communities can interact with Member States and share their perspectives and inputs to the 2021 HLM.

3) Civil society participation in the 2021 HLM is effective and meaningful. The voices and perspectives of the communities and organizations of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, including key populations and other vulnerable populations are included and heard at the HLM meeting. Their needs and proposals are reflected, to the extent possible, in the political declaration that is expected to emerge from the meeting.

Timeline

From the signature of the contract March until 60 days after the HLM (totalizing 180 days of work).

A calendar with the official dates and timelines will be based on the upcoming UNGA resolution on the organization of the 2021 High-Level Meeting.

Deadline for applications – 3 March 2021. Financial proposals must be sent with DAILY RATE.

Proposed Criteria for Selection of the Organization

- Familiarity with UN processes (especially in New York)
- At least five years of experience in regional or global HIV work, including with key populations (people living with HIV, gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who inject drugs and prisoners and other incarcerated people)
- Has established connections and networks with regional and/or global community and civil society organizations.
- Experience with multilingual groups
- Demonstrated skill with working across communities with differential technological capacities
- Experience in advocacy, especially with governments and UN agencies is a plus
- Additional advantage would be organizations with ECOSOC consultative status.