

AIDS Advocacy Alert



Act now! Be heard!

Prepared by the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)

March 2010

Now Open
Call for nominations of civil society speakers for
Informal Interactive Hearings of the United Nations General Assembly
to provide input to the MDG Summit

Deadline for Nominations is April 16

Background

In order to provide input to the preparatory process for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) summit - a high-level plenary meeting - on September 20-22, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly, in resolution A/RES/64/184 has asked the President of its 64th session, H.E. Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, to convene "Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector."

The hearings will take place from June 14 - 15, 2010, at the UN headquarters in New York.

The President of the general Assembly recently formed a Task Force of civil society and private sector representatives, to advise him on the format and participation at the UN MDG review.

The UN Secretary-General has also established a Trust Fund to support the participation of NGO and civil society representatives from developing countries in the hearings and during the summit. All Member States in a position to do so have been asked to contribute generously to the Trust Fund.

For more on the outcome and format of the hearings, see over /...

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

September 20-22, 2010: Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Summit

June 14 - 15, 2010: Informal Interactive Hearing for NGO, civil society and private sector representatives (UN headquarters in New York)

RESOURCES & CONTACTS

For information and access to the summit, visit the new UN Millennium Campaign & UN-Non-Government Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) website: www.un-ngls.org/mdg2010

An online application form has been launched as a way for you to nominate potential speakers for the hearings. The DEADLINE for nominations is **April 16, 2010**. The nomination form is available in English: <http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=profileSurvey>

For more information about the Task Force, including its composition and Terms of Reference, visit: http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article2292&var_mode=calcul

Write to mdg2010@un-ngls.org or **Alec Khachatrian** at avet.khachatrian@un-ngls.org if you have any specific questions. You can also contact us at ICASO: universalaccess2010@icaso.org

Outcome of the hearings

The resolution (mentioned on page 1) encourages Member States to actively participate in the hearings at the ambassadorial level, in order to facilitate interaction between the Member States and the representatives of NGOs, civil society and the private sector. The resolution also "requests the President of the General Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings, to be issued as an Assembly document prior to the High-level Plenary Meeting." (Paragraph 16) The outcome of the hearings therefore constitutes a formal input into the political process leading to the summit itself.

Format of the hearings

The exact format and substance of the hearings are yet to be determined, but the resolution states: "The themes for the hearings will be based on the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General." (Annex III, Paragraph 4) This report is now available. It takes stock of the status of implementation of the MDGs; emerging issues and challenges such as climate change and the global financial, economic and food crises; lessons learned to accelerate progress at national and international levels; and an action-oriented agenda for the summit.

Among the themes identified for roundtable discussions during the summit that might be reflected in the hearing discussion are issues related to poverty, hunger and gender equality; health and education; sustainable development; emerging issues and evolving approaches; the special needs of the most vulnerable; and widening and strengthening partnerships. (Annex II, Paragraph 5).

The resolution also states that the informal interactive hearings "shall consist of a brief opening plenary meeting followed by four sequential sessions of the hearings on the basis of two sessions a day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Each session will consist of presentations by invited participants from NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and an exchange of views with Member States." (Annex III, Paragraph 1).

The Task Force is currently discussing the themes and format of the hearings in greater detail and will provide more information in the coming weeks. Please visit the website regularly for updates:

www.un-ngls.org/mdg2010

Speaker Nomination Process

An online application form has been launched as a way for you to nominate potential speakers at the event by **April 16, 2010** at the latest. The Task Force will review all applicants, and using selection criteria that include ensuring regional and gender balance, will make a recommendation to the General Assembly President on who should speak at the event. The entire membership of the General Assembly will have an opportunity to review the list as well.

The form can be accessed at:

<http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=profileSurvey>

Important information for you to know

Support for Participation

A Trust Fund to support participation of NGO and civil society representatives from developing countries in the event has been established. Both the General Assembly President and the Secretary-General have written to all Member States to announce the Fund, asking those in a position to do so, to contribute generously.

Task Force of the General Assembly President

As mentioned, the General Assembly President recently formed a Task Force to advise him on the arrangements for the hearings. The Task Force begins its work in March 2010.

For more information about the Task Force, including its composition and Terms of Reference, visit:

http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article2292&var_mode=calcul

MORE INFORMATION

The UN-NGLS website will be updated as more details become available. NGLS will also circulate any important information as widely as possible when necessary.

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**Nominate NGO, civil society and private sector speakers for the
Informal Interactive Hearings of the United Nations General Assembly
Please distribute widely!**