

12 May 2008

**Civil Society Task Force of the 2008 High Level Meeting on AIDS  
Third Meeting, 6-9<sup>th</sup> May, New York**

**Quick Summary report**

During 6-9<sup>th</sup> May, 2008, the Civil Society Task Force (CSTF)\*, met in New York for the third time. During this meeting the CSTF focused on the selection of recommended civil society speakers for the High Level Meeting, as well as logistical arrangements for the meeting.

The CSTF will continue to provide periodic updates, informational notes and Action Alerts to keep you informed. Nonetheless, in recognition of our role and responsibility to communicate widely and in a timely manner with broader civil society, we would like to immediately share the following key issues discussed at this meeting:

1. **Civil society speakers:** Since its last in-person meeting, the CSTF had submitted recommendations for civil society speakers for the opening plenary, civil society hearing and panels. These recommendations have now been approved. The CSTF also identified alternate speakers and submitted these to the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA).
2. **Civil Society Hearing (CSH):** During this meeting the CSTF worked on fine tuning the program of the Hearing, which will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> June, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in C UN building Conference Room 4. During the first hour of the hearing, civil society speakers will make brief, four minute interventions. The remaining hour will be reserved for dialogue with governments and other civil society active participants.
3. **Briefing with Member States:** At its last in person meeting in April 2008, the CSTF requested that CSTF representatives participate in the next face-to-face briefing of Member States (governments), to include information on civil society participation throughout the HLM. Thanks to the support of the Facilitators (Ambassadors of Botswana and Estonia), this meeting has now been scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008, in New York. It is likely that Neeraj Mistry and Zonny Woods, New York-based CSTF members, and Kieran Daly, CSTF Co-Chair will attend.
4. **Travel to the HLM:** In order to be able to fund the participation of as many civil society active participants in the HLM, the CSTF agreed that task force members, civil society speakers, alternates and PCB NGO delegation members whose travel is supported by UNAIDS, will fly economy class unless they have a medical reason to fly business.
5. **Speakers' preparation:** Now that the majority of the speakers have been confirmed, focal points within the CSTF will work closely with each speaker to support them in preparing their interventions. For this purpose, small reference groups that include broader civil society organizations are being formed. In addition, prior to the HLM, on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2008, all speakers will be invited to participate in a speaker's preparation day, hosted by the CSTF.
6. **Civil society orientation and caucus meeting:** On the 9<sup>th</sup> June, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the UN building, the CSTF will hold a civil society meeting. This is an opportunity for civil society participants to understand how to get the most out of the HLM, to network, to plan advocacy and make recommendations for future reviews.

7. **Civil society daily caucuses:** During the HLM, on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008, the CSTF will coordinate daily civil society caucuses – to share information, network, and jointly strategize throughout the HLM. The morning caucuses will take place from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m in the UN building, while the evening caucuses will be from 6 to 7 p.m at a location nearby. We welcome all civil society members to take part of these caucuses.
8. **Access passes for the HLM:** all civil society participants (who must be from accredited organizations) must obtain a pass for the HLM. This can be done by going through the visitor's entrance of the UN building on 9<sup>th</sup> June and the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> June. The CSTF has requested this also be available on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June – the time is still to be determined.
9. **Accreditation:** The CSTF requested that a detailed update on accreditation be posted on the NGLS and UNAIDS websites, and that letters of invitation be sent urgently. It was agreed that UNAIDS would be the focal point to follow up with speakers, alternates and active participants for letters of invitation, visas, travel and accommodation. The CSTF discussed the situation of the three organizations that were not accredited because of objections of member states. The CSTF is prepared to actively engage on this issue with the UN, governments and the media, but is awaiting further guidance from the three organizations directly.
10. **Universal Access 2010:** The CSTF prepared a letter to Dr. Peter Piot (UNAIDS) and Dr. Margaret Chan (WHO) expressing concern at language in official documents that indicate a slippage away from a focus on 2010 universal access targets towards a focus on 2015 and the MDGs.
11. **Key messages:** The CSTF provided strong feedback on UNAIDS draft key messages for the HLM, and began work on their own key messages as a tool for civil society messaging and advocacy.
12. **Meetings:** The CSTF met with the Facilitators of the High Level Meeting (Ambassadors of Botswana and Estonia), several government missions to the UN, and participated in a briefing on the High Level Meeting for New York-based NGOs and foundations.
13. **Briefing papers:** The CSTF agreed on the basic outline and process for developing a series of two-page briefing papers on the topics that will be discussed in the Civil Society Hearing.
14. **Informational notes:** The Task Force provided input to the next official Informational Note to be published by the Office of the President of the General Assembly and is in the process of finalizing an Informational Note for Civil Society.

The CSTF will continue to work via email, conference calls and will meet again in person on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2008.

For further information and to join a mailing list and receive up-to-date information, please send an email to: [universalaccess2010@icaso.org](mailto:universalaccess2010@icaso.org).

***\*This Report-back has been prepared by the Civil Society Task Force: Kieran Daly (co-chair), Kate Thomson (co-chair), Claudia Ahumada, Elina Azaryan, Robert Carr, Syed Asif Altaf Cowdhury, Vince Crisostomo, Stijn Goossens, Linda Hartke, Neeraj Mistry, Lilian Mworeko, Rolake Odetoyinbo, Laxmi Tripathi, Zonny Woods.***  
***([www.icaso.org/cstf.html](http://www.icaso.org/cstf.html))***