

## **Civil society and communities statement on High-Level Meeting logistics & proceedings**

The undersigned organizations release the following statement noting concern over the proceedings of the UN Multistakeholder Hearings and subsequent process for drafting and adopting UN Declarations at the three health-related High-Level Meetings (HLMs) this year, particularly the High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPPR).

There have been several opportunities for organizers and decision-makers to open up the process and engage a broader set of relevant stakeholders, as has become standard for health-related UN HLMs, that have not been taken. Firstly, since there is no designated civil society engagement mechanism in place for the PPPR HLM, civil society was not able to feed meaningfully into the Multistakeholder Hearing panel speakers or topics as we were in previous HLMs and as formally designated mechanisms for the UHC and TB processes were. There was a lack of clarity behind the reasoning for the decisions made on which speakers were selected and what topics they were meant to represent.

Secondly, the timing and logistics of the UN Multistakeholder Hearings have resulted in much lower engagement than civil society and communities have come to expect. Whereas in previous health-related HLMs a two- or three-day hearing has been held to ensure a broad range of stakeholders are able to provide input ahead of the drafting process, the three hearings are each limited to half a day. This left very little time for panelists to deliver interventions (and zero time for an actual panel dialogue) or for representatives to give statements from the floor. While we appreciated the strict timing and commitment to consider written inputs in order to accommodate as many statements as possible, the limitations do impact our ability to advocate and provide weak accountability mechanisms. In addition, the timing of the registration process severely limited the participation of civil society and community representatives from countries that require a visa to the US - with less than a month to acquire a visa, the rooms were filled with only those with existing long-term visas or those from countries with reciprocity agreements.

These developments have led to a great deal of concern among civil society and communities as to how the drafting process will take our priorities into account. In order to rectify these missteps, we suggest the UN President of the General Assembly's office, WHO, and the HLM co-facilitators (The Permanent Missions of Guyana, Israel, Morocco, Poland, Thailand, and Uzbekistan) undertake the following:

1. As soon as possible, schedule a virtual hearing for each HLM topic with Member State representatives so that the purpose of the Multistakeholder Hearings, for Member States to hear civil society priorities and incorporate them, can be fully realized.
2. As there is no formal civil society and communities engagement mechanism for the PPPR HLM, and as the breadth of stakeholders is so wide due to the subject matter, hold a virtual briefing at each stage of the drafting process (after each reading) to update stakeholders on the proceedings and timelines and provide a platform for input as changes are made to the draft Declaration.

3. Solicit comprehensive civil society and communities input in the process of developing the agenda, topics, and speakers for the HLMs in September.

We look to WHO, the UN President of the General Assembly, the co-facilitators, and Member States to ensure that, as civic space recedes across the world, multilateral processes protect civil society inclusion and recognize the expertise, strength, and implementation support that civil society bring to these global agreements. We are very open to continued consultations on how the infrastructure to support and engage civil society can be strengthened.

We thank you for your consideration of these asks.

Signed:

Advocacy Network Africa (AdNetA)  
Africa Civil Society Platform for Health (CiSPHA)  
Africa Queer Network  
Afrihealth Optonet Association (AHOA)  
Aide Internationale pour le Développement Durable (AIDD)  
Alliance Burundaise pour la lutte contre la Tuberculose et la Lèpre et les maladies (ABTL)  
Americas TB Coalition  
Amoru AIDS Support Community Initiative  
Association For Promotion Sustainable Development  
AVAC  
Blossom Trust  
Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS  
COBCUS  
CODEPHA  
COEL - Women Elders and Innovation  
Community And Family Aid Foundation Ghana  
CSYM HUDUMA  
Disability Peoples Forum Uganda  
Dr Uzo Adirieje Foundation (DUZAFFOUND)  
ECD  
Equal Health and Rights Access Advocacy Initiative (EHRAAI)  
Friends of the Global Fight  
Frontline AIDS  
Fundamental Human Rights & Rural Development Association (FHRRDA)  
Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN)  
GNP+  
Good Health Community Programmes  
Grupo de apoyo Este Amor  
HEADP Nepal  
HEED Bangladesh  
Heritage Life Support Initiative  
IAVI  
ICASO  
India Working Group For Health Advocacy  
Indonesian Harm Reduction Network

Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)  
Innovations for Development  
Institute of Allergy and Clinical Immunology of Bangladesh (IACIB)  
International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC)  
Joyful Hope Resource Platform Centre (JHRPC)  
KHANA Cambodia  
Kuboresha-Africa Limited  
Lawyers Alert  
Lesotho Network of AIDS Service Organizations  
Mbuenet Mtandao Coalitions East Africa  
MBUNGONET  
Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders  
MOPHA  
Most At Risk Populations' Society in Uganda (MARPS in Uganda)  
Movement of Men Against AIDS in Kenya (MMAAK)  
Myanmar Positive Christian Group  
Myanmar Youth Foundation for SDGs  
Network of TB Champions Kenya  
North West Provincial Council on AIDS  
Occupational Knowledge International  
Pamoja TB Group  
Paneer HIV Positive Women Network Trust  
Paropakar Primary Health Care Centre PPUK  
Positive Women Together in Action  
Quest Bangladesh  
Rainbow TB Forum  
Rekat Peduli Indonesia  
Results Canada  
Results International (Australia)  
Results UK  
SAF-TESO  
Saglamliga Khidmat Public Union  
Society for Conservation and Sustainability of Energy and Environment in Nigeria (SOCSEEN)  
STOP AIDS  
Stop TB Canada  
Sustainable World Initiative for All (SUWOFA)  
Tanzania TB Community Network  
TB Champions Association of Botswana  
TB Women Global  
The Reformed Drug and Substance Abuse Initiative  
University for Development Studies  
Women Against AIDS and Poverty (WAA&P)  
WACI Health  
We Are TB  
Women4GlobalFund (W4GF)  
Women Together Edu-cultural Center, Kenya  
Women Voices

Wote Youth Development Projects  
Youth Centre for Global Health and Research