**Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing as part of the preparatory process for the 2026 High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS**

**Thursday, 14 May 2026**

**10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters**

**Concept Note**

## Background

In accordance with General Assembly resolution A/RES/80/256, the General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS on 22 and 23 June 2026 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The high-level meeting will review progress on the 2025 targets and other commitments made in the 2021 Political Declaration: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030.

The high-level meeting takes place at a moment of significant disruption in the global HIV response, including shifting donor priorities, evolving global health architecture, and policy changes that risk reversing gains.

The high-level meeting will provide "recommendations to guide and monitor the HIV/AIDS response beyond 2025, including new concrete commitments to accelerate action to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, as well as to promote the renewed commitment and engagement of leaders, countries, communities and partners to accelerate and implement a comprehensive, universal and integrated response to HIV/AIDS."

The General Assembly requested "the President of the General Assembly to organize, no later than May 2026, and preside over an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, which will be held in hybrid mode, with the active participation of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, including key populations, representatives of Member States and observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local governments, invited civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, the private sector and broader communities, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and further requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting." The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) will support the preparations of the hearing.

## Objective

The interactive multi-stakeholder hearing will provide all relevant stakeholders with a platform to surface urgent priorities, identify gaps in the current HIV response, and inform negotiations of the political declaration with concrete, community-informed recommendations. The hearing aims to support Member States with the preparatory process, including by informing the negotiations of the HLM political declaration through an interactive dialogue with communities, civil society and other key stakeholders. During the panel discussions, civil society representatives and other stakeholders are expected to share their views and experiences from their on-the-ground work.

The hearing aims to demonstrate the strength, diversity and commitment of communities, civil society and other stakeholders in the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to propose transformative actions that will make it possible to upend intersecting inequalities that are preventing progress to achieving zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination and ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. More specifically:

- Panelists will share their views and reflections on the progress and challenges since the 2021 Political Declaration. They will be encouraged to exchange views on successes on the ground, best practices, lessons learned, obstacles, people and communities often left behind in the HIV response, gaps, challenges and opportunities, as identified by civil society organizations and other stakeholders working in the field.

- Panelists will discuss their key priorities for the high-level meeting, while generating shared understanding of epidemic priorities, opportunities and challenges of the changing political environment, including addressing entrenched inequalities, coinfections, and the intersection of HIV and other existing and new epidemics, affecting hardest the communities most at risk of HIV/AIDS, especially specific and more vulnerable groups within those communities.

## Guiding questions for the hearing

1) **Building upon the commitments established in the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS**, what critical implementation gaps must be bridged to accelerate progress toward the 2030 targets of ensuring 40 million people living with HIV achieve viral suppression through sustained treatment, expanding access to antiretroviral-based prevention to 20 million individuals, and realizing the right to stigma- and discrimination-free HIV services?
2) **Where is the HIV response falling behind, and who is being left behind?** What structural, systemic and political barriers, including punitive laws and legal barriers, stigma, discrimination, gender inequality, and shrinking civic space, continue to limit people living with, at risk of and most affected by HIV in accessing services, and how can they be effectively addressed?

3) **What are the strategic priorities and "gamechangers" needed to achieve the 2030 targets?** How can countries and partners accelerate the equitable and sustainable scale-up of combination prevention, treatment, and support, including demand creation, community-system strengthening, awareness-raising, behavioral change communication, and uptake of new and existing technologies, particularly amid declining international funding and shifts in major donor policies?
4) **How can sustainable and equitable financing for people-centered HIV responses be secured at global and national levels?** At the same time, ensuring shared responsibility, international solidarity, recognition of debt burdens in low-income countries and effective transitions towards greater country ownership, including mobilization of domestic resources, innovative financing mechanisms, and alignment with broader health and development financing agendas.
5) **How can HIV responses be better integrated within broader health systems and non-health sectors**, including the integration of prison health in the overall public health sector and strengthening linkages into primary healthcare to ensure continuity, quality, and people-centered care across the life course?
6) **What concrete actions are needed to reduce inequalities and structural barriers in order to ensure equitable access to quality HIV services and innovations**, including testing, treatment, care, and new health technologies, particularly for underserved and marginalized communities?
7) **How can community leadership be strengthened, resourced, protected and institutionalized across all aspects of the HIV response**, including service delivery, decision-making and accountability, with adequate and sustained financing?
8) **How can data systems, including community-led and disaggregated data, be strengthened** to enable real-time accountability, track inequalities, and inform timely, community-led, and people-centered responses?
9) **How can the HIV response ensure continuity of integrated and people-centered services and protection of people living with and affected by HIV in humanitarian, conflict, and crisis settings**, while strengthening resilience and pandemic preparedness and integrating this into emergency preparedness and response systems?

## Format

The hearing will be held in a hybrid format, with some panelists participating remotely via Webex, on Thursday, 14 May 2026, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., in Conference Room 2 at the UNHQ, and will be webcast live and on demand on United Nations Web TV. It will be divided into an opening segment, four interactive panel discussions and a closing segment.

The four moderated panels will feature three to four speakers each (3-minute interventions), representing diverse geographical, gender, identity, and community realities, and both people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV. The themes for the panels are:

**Panel 1: Sustainable, Measurable and Resilient HIV Responses: Financing, Systems Integration and Shared Country and Global Responsibility to achieve the HIV response targets by 2030**

**Panel 2: Delivering Equitable, People-Centered and Stigma-free Services for All Across the HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care Continuum**

**Panel 3: Addressing Structural Inequalities and Promoting Equity and Inclusion in the HIV Response, including removal of legal barriers and shrinking civic space**

**Panel 4: Community Leadership, Accountability and Inclusive Governance in a Changing HIV Response in the context of reduced funding and increased reliance on community systems to sustain the response**

Further information on the composition of the panels will be provided in due course.

## Outcome

The outcome of the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing will be a summary by the President of the General Assembly, which will be circulated to all Member States and other stakeholders and posted on the PGA's website (https://www.un.org/pga/80) prior to the high-level meeting in June 2026.

## Provisional Programme

**Thursday 14 May 2026**

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| 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. | **Opening segment** |
| 10:30 a.m. -11:45 a.m. | **Panel 1: Sustainable, Measurable and Resilient HIV Responses: Financing, Systems Integration and Shared Country and Global Responsibility to achieve the HIV response targets by 2030**<br><br>This panel will examine what is needed and how to sustain the HIV response in a changing global political context, including declining donor funding, competing global priorities, and evolving global health architecture. It will explore financing approaches that balance country ownership with continued international solidarity, ensuring equitable responses that reach key populations and those most affected. The discussion will also address broader systems integration, including what is working in practice, to strengthen resilient, people-centered responses and |

identify approaches that can be rapidly scaled, replicated and sustained.

11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Panel 2: Delivering Equitable, People-Centered and Stigma-free Services for All Across the HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care Continuum**

This panel will focus on closing gaps in access to HIV services, particularly for populations being left behind, due to legal barriers, stigma and discrimination. It will explore how to scale up combination prevention by strengthening demand, community system strengthening service uptake, alongside equitable access to accurate information, quality service delivery for all people living with HIV. The Panel will also discuss how HIV interventions must be integrated with other public health and development agendas and systems, including for sexual and reproductive health, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, noncommunicable diseases, mental health and social protection.

3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

**Panel 3: Addressing Structural Inequalities and Promoting Equity and Inclusion in the HIV Response, including removal of legal barriers and shrinking civic space**

This panel will examine the structural and legal barriers that continue to limit progress in the HIV response, including stigma, discrimination, and restrictive legal and policy environments. It will explore actions to promote equitable access to services, including for people living with HIV, key populations, Indigenous Peoples, adolescent girls and young women, young people and people in prisons, including in fragile and humanitarian contexts.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Panel 4: Community Leadership, Accountability and Inclusive Governance in a Changing HIV Response in the context of reduced funding and increased reliance on community systems to sustain the response**

This panel will highlight the role of communities in shaping and delivering the HIV response, particularly in the context of transition to more country-owned responses. It will identify what “country ownership” entails and explore how to strengthen and institutionalize community leadership across service delivery, decision-making and accountability, including through enabling

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| | policy, governance structure, capacity, financing, and sustainable support systems. The discussion will also examine the role of community-led organizations, especially community-led data and monitoring in strengthening accountability and advancing human rights, gender equality, and structural equity in HIV response. |
| 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | **Closing segment** |