



20 April 2016

Call for Input: High Level Meeting 2016 Zero Draft

The United Nations will gather for the High Level Meeting on HIV on 4-6 June 2016. Many say this may be the last High Level Meeting on HIV ever. This also depends on whether member states dare to give the HIV response teeth with greater political commitments to fight stigma and discrimination, protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ensure universal access to treatment, care and support for all people living with HIV.

This is our chance to move members states to come to an unequivocal agreement with clear, time bound targets that ensure the rights and protection of people living with HIV and key populations.

A 'Zero Draft' of the political declaration, developed by co-facilitators Switzerland and Zambia was just released. This key document lays the foundation of the negotiations towards the High Level Meeting this upcoming June.

The Zero Draft has been developed without the input of civil society, PLHIV and key affected communities.

Now it is up to us to provide comments and input for the Zero Declaration to ensure that the real needs of people living with HIV are met in the years to come. You can access the draft here: <http://bit.ly/1SuJ96y>

Tell us what should be improved in the Zero Draft. **Send us your comments, thoughts and recommendations on the Zero Draft by mid-day Friday, April 22nd to Rhon Reynolds, Advocacy Manager at GNP+ at rreynolds@gnpplus.net**

Below is a summary of some of the key messages and principles we demand from our national delegates.

- We must demand that the UN declaration explicitly calls for the **full recognition and realization of sexual and reproductive health, human rights and fundamental freedoms as affirmed in the Zero Draft in paragraphs 4, 9, 17, 26, 28, 58(e), 59(a), 60(b)**, for all people living with HIV and key populations including men who have sex with men, sex workers, drug users and transgender people as an essential pillar of the global response to HIV.
- Nothing for us – without us. We demand that the Greater Involvement of People living with HIV (GIPA) principle be enshrined in the outcomes document. We will no longer accept anything less than **full civil society participation and representation by people living with HIV (including key populations living with HIV) as articulated in the Zero Draft in paragraph 11**, in all aspects of strategy development, target and goal setting initiatives, funding decisions and national AIDS responses. The outcome document must articulate how governments will investment in capacity building, advocacy and other opportunities that will facilitate the involvement of people living with HIV.

- **The High Level Meeting must call for increased financing for the overall HIV response as illustrated in paragraphs 2, 19 34, 38, 48, 51, 62 (a-c), as well as the critical work of civil society in fighting HIV (*which is not specifically addressed in the Zero Declaration*). Since the beginning of the epidemic, civil society has played a crucial role in addressing HIV. We have been at the frontline of delivering services, monitoring and evaluating policies and programs, mobilizing constituencies and holding key stakeholders into account. Yet the critical work of civil society continues to remain underfunded. As austerity measures continue to drain resources from the global AIDS response, increased funding the work of civil society makes good economic sense, as these investments will foster greater accountability, transparency and responsibility by all in fight against HIV.**
- The 2016 High Level Meeting outcome declaration must continue to scale up targeted, measurable, evidence based approaches to fighting HIV which include the demand that member states work proactively towards **dismantling punitive laws that criminalize behavior of LGBT people, sex work, drug use and HIV exposure and transmission as called out in the Zero Draft in paragraphs 31, 32, 60 (a-h), 61 (a-g)**. We are pleased to see that the draft recognizes that we can no longer tolerate vague political promises without a real commitment by member states towards reforming punitive political and legal environments that perpetuate stigma and discrimination against LGBT people, criminalize HIV exposure and non-disclosure as well as sex work and drug use.
- We must ensure the 2016 High Level Meeting agrees clear, time-bound, measurable targets and promotes evidence based interventions (including OST and other harm reduction programs, needle and syringe exchange programs and comprehensive sex education) in addition to our ongoing **demands for universal access to health coverage and treatment, support and ethical care options free of stigma and harassment for all people living with HIV as addressed in the Zero Draft in paragraphs 3, 16, 30, 31, 58(e),60 (a-h), 61 (a-g)**.
- By 2020, middle-income countries will be home to 70% of people living with HIV. These countries not only carry a high burden of HIV, the transmission of the virus is often concentrated amongst key populations: people who use drugs, men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgenders, prisoners and migrants. In many low- and middle-income countries, key populations in these countries face HIV prevalence rates that are 15-25 percent higher than the surrounding general populations. **The 2016 High Level Meeting and outcome document must specifically call out and prioritize the needs of the inadequately served communities living with HIV, including but not limited to sex workers, drug users, transgender people, incarcerated people and MSM, as articulated in the Zero Draft in paragraphs 29 & 36.**
- We must demand that this UN declaration includes a commitment to provide people living with HIV **reliable and sustainable access to the highest quality medicines, diagnostics and monitoring for all people living with HIV as affirmed in the Zero Draft in paragraphs 58(h), 62(c & e), 66**, including access to second- and third-line treatment regimens and access to treatment (including curative treatments) for

Hepatitis C, TB and other related opportunistic infections, co-infections and non-communicable diseases

The Zero Declaration has some strong components, yet still does not go far enough. We must advocate aggressively to ensure that our U.N. country delegates communicate the real needs and priorities of people living with HIV and key populations and others most stigmatized and marginalized by HIV.

NOW is our opportunity to have our voices be heard - **send us your comments, thoughts and recommendations on the Zero Draft by mid-day Friday, April 22nd to Rhon Reynolds, Advocacy Manager at GNP+ at rreynolds@gnpplus.net**

Alternatively, ICASO - International Coalition of AIDS Service Organizations is collecting feedback on the Zero Draft through an online survey available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWGM8MQ> (Deadline Thursday 21 April)