

May 23

UN2049  
EOSG

Note to the Secretary-General

Final programme proposal for activities relating to High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS

1. Today we met with representatives of UNAIDS and the Office of the President of the General Assembly for a final review of the activities proposed for your participation during the meeting on HIV/AIDS.

>>Attached is a proposed programme for your comment/approval.

2. I would draw your attention to several points in response to questions you have raised previously:

a. Intervention by Mrs. Bush on 2 June: If Mrs. Bush is present, the President will first open an "informal meeting" of the Assembly. Mrs. Bush will speak as Head of Delegation of the Host Country. Immediately after her statement, the President will gavel closed the informal session and gavel open the High-level Plenary itself. (N.B. Mrs. Bush's attendance has still not been confirmed.)

b. Role for Mr. Holbrooke: the office of the President of the General Assembly is exploring the possibility of giving Mr. Holbrooke a prominent place in the programme on the evening of 1 June in the General Assembly Hall which features AIDS activists, celebrities and performers.

c. Informal breakfast reception for Heads of State/Government and their spouses: (2 June; 8:00-8:50 a.m.) If you agree, this gathering, hosted by you and Mrs. Annan, would take place in the Indonesian Lounge. Only Heads of State/Government and their accompanying spouses (currently thought to number about 10-12) will be invited. (N.B. several delegations will be headed by First Ladies who will not be accompanying or accompanied by Heads of State. These First Ladies would not be invited to the breakfast reception.)

d. The President of the General Assembly will host a luncheon for Heads of Delegation on Thursday 1 June. You are not expected to attend.

3. Press Stakeout: The Office of the General Assembly President has proposed that you join the President at a press stakeout immediately after the opening meeting on Wednesday 31 May, before proceeding to the Civil Society Hearing. If you agree to join the President, we propose to drop the stakeout originally proposed for 1 June, after you and Mrs. Annan meet with people living with HIV.

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4. **Celebrity Event:** You will recall that an event involving celebrities and activists in the fight against HIV/AIDS was originally proposed for the evening of 1 June on the West Side of Manhattan. On our recommendation, you indicated that we should decline. This **event has now been moved to the General Assembly Hall** and **includes** interventions and performances by the **African Children's Choir, Richard Gere, Angelique Kidjo, Naomi Watts, Wyclef Jean and Whoopi Goldberg**, among others. The **President of the General Assembly will address** the gathering. **You are again asked to consider speaking briefly at the beginning** of the programme, **after which you could remain, or leave.**

**>>Would you wish to speak at the opening of the celebrity event, or should we refer this to the DSG?**

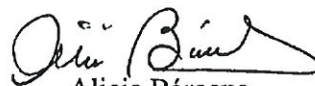
5. It is still not certain how many First Ladies will be present for the High-level meeting. We understand that Mrs. Annan may wish to host a tea for them. We are checking on this and will provide her with information as soon as it is available.

6. Finally, the **CEO and President of Merck, Richard T. Clark**, has **invited you to attend a dinner on Wednesday 31 May to honour Raymond V. Gilmartin**, the former Merck President and CEO "for his contributions, service and leadership in the areas of global health and corporate citizenship". The **invitation does not ask you to speak or otherwise participate** in the evening's programme. The event takes place at the Harvard Club; reception at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 8:00 p.m.

**>>Would you wish to accept Mr. Clark's invitation, or shall we regret on your behalf?**

Please advise.

Thank you.



Alicia Bárcena

23 May 2006