



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

5 February 2018

Dear Ms. van Dam,

Thank you for your letters dated 30 November 2017 and 22 January 2018, respectively, on behalf of civil society organizations, regarding the role of Mr. Michel Kazatchkine as my Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Mr. Kazatchkine has been an unwavering champion for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. With rising HIV infections across the region, he has served as a tireless advocate and helped to unite stakeholders across sectors to address pervasive challenges that continue to leave our most marginalized communities behind. Mr. Kazatchkine is well positioned to build on this work in his new role as Special Adviser to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on HIV, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

In a complex and evolving development landscape, we must address the persistent inequities that threaten to reverse the tremendous progress made against HIV/AIDS in recent decades. UNAIDS must place particular focus on regions where HIV cases are increasing, taking account of the challenging social determinants that continue to spur its spread and associated stigma. As Special Adviser, Mr. Kazatchkine will be a crucial champion for this work.

Bold partnership across sectors and ambitious action rooted in human rights will be central to our success. Civil society will continue to be a key constituency to drive action for change and impact in communities most affected. I encourage you to leverage the forthcoming International AIDS Conference in July 2018 as a crucial moment to strengthen linkages between HIV/AIDS and the broader global health agenda – including access to medicines, antimicrobial resistance, tuberculosis and universal health coverage – so that we might move beyond traditional global health silos and advance progress towards an integrated agenda for everyone.

I look forward to your continued support and to our future collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

António Guterres

Ms. Anke van Dam
Executive Director
AFEW International
Amsterdam