

UNAIDS STATEMENT

Occasion: 57th session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (02 May 2024, New York)

Agenda item 3(b): Assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

Chairperson,

The ICPD has squarely placed the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the global development agenda. It is complemented by and mutually reinforcing with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS is committed to work with all stakeholders towards full and timely implementation of all these milestone commitments.

We can all be proud of the tremendous progress that has been made over the past 30 years. As of 2022, new HIV infections have been reduced by 59% since the peak in 1995. Record number of 29.8 million people were accessing antiretroviral therapy.

Progress on HIV has also contributed to the reduction of maternal and child deaths, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. The integration of HIV testing and treatment with maternal and child care services has drastically reduced AIDS-related deaths in children, from 360 000 at its peak in 2004 to 84 000 in 2022.

Chairperson,

Despite great progress, AIDS is not over and significant challenges remain. As of 2022, 39 million people were living with HIV worldwide, 1.3 million people became newly infected with HIV, while AIDS claimed a life every minute. About 1000 young people become infected with HIV every day. The impact of HIV on adolescent girls and young women is especially disproportionate in sub-Saharan Africa, where they are more than three times as likely to acquire HIV than their male peers. Stigma, discrimination and punitive laws continue to persist worldwide against people living with HIV and key populations (such as men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers, and people who inject drugs).

Clearly, more efforts are needed to achieve the objectives of the ICPD PoA and end AIDS, as set out by SDG 3.3.

1. Better integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services is necessary, to make them more accessible for and responsive to the needs of people, especially those who are left behind. This will help ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people and key populations, which is critical for ending AIDS. There is also greater recognition of the need for

integration of HIV with programmes for noncommunicable diseases, especially for older people with HIV, as well as mental health.

2. Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is shown to empower young people with the knowledge, values and skills they need to take responsible and informed decisions regarding their health and well-being. We call on Member States to implement the International Technical Guidance on CSE¹.
3. Access to secondary education is a critical game-changer for adolescent girls and young women. Keeping girls in secondary school reduces their risk of HIV vulnerability by up to half and delivers broader health, social and economic benefits². To this end, the Education Plus initiative aims to accelerate investments in a package of multi-sectoral interventions that will benefit adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa, including those living with, at risk of and affected by HIV. We commend the 15 African countries³ that have committed to the Education Plus and call on other African countries to consider joining, as well as on funding mechanisms and other partners to support this transformative initiative.
4. Elimination of stigma, discrimination and punitive laws against people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV are essential, as they hinder access not only to HIV, but also to broader health and social services. To this end, the Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate All Forms of HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination, focuses on elimination of stigmatising and discriminatory practices, policies and laws in six settings: health-care, workplace, education, justice system, community and emergency settings. We are very encouraged by the support of many countries who have joined the Partnership so far and call on others to consider doing so as well.
5. Last but not least, we should not let up our efforts to end gender-based discrimination, violence and inequalities.

Thank you for your attention.

¹ International technical guidance on sexuality education: an evidence-informed approach; UNESCO, 2022.

² Dangerous Inequalities: World AIDS Day Report 2022, UNAIDS, 2022.
Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 — End Inequalities. End AIDS; UNAIDS, 2021.

³ Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.