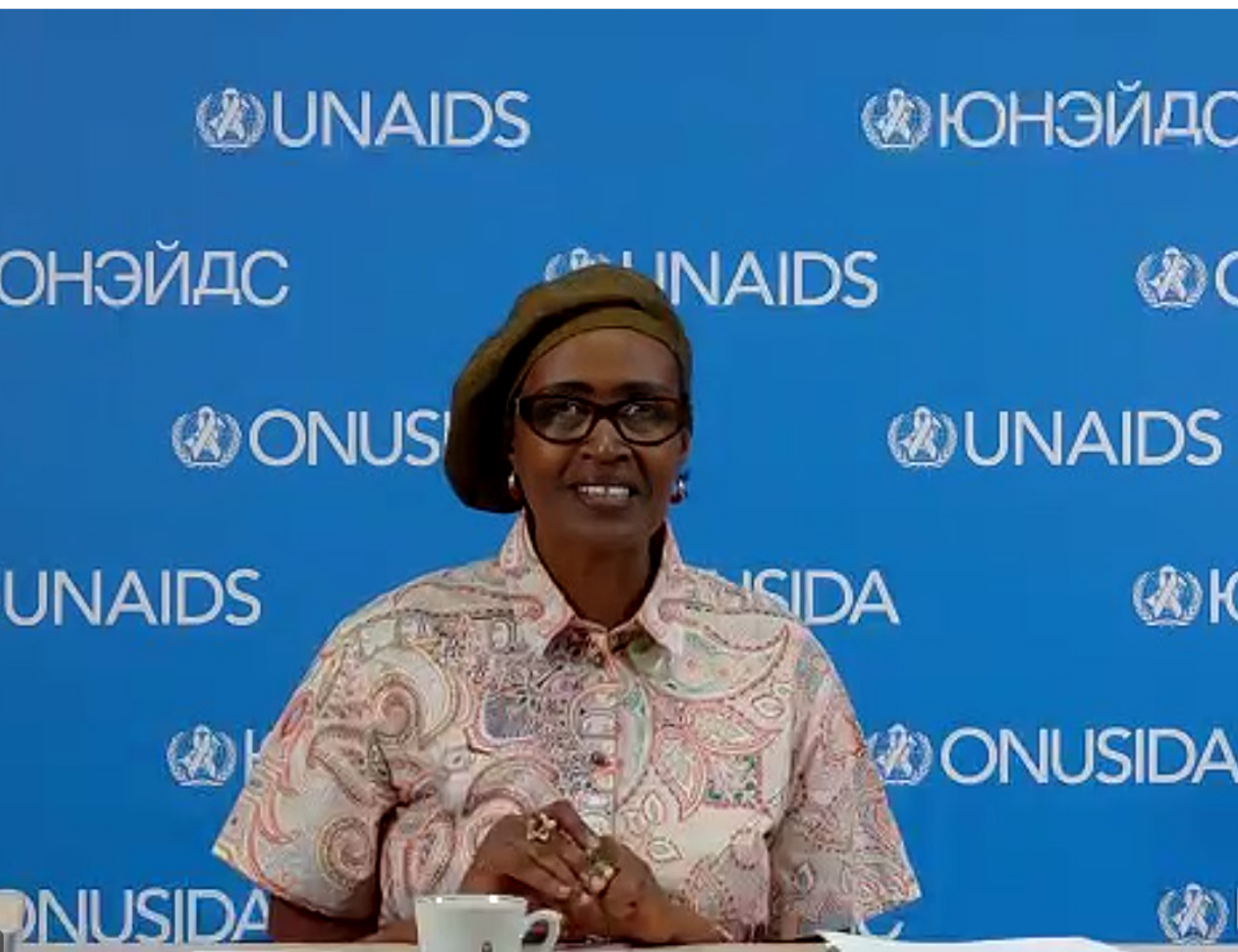


UNAIDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

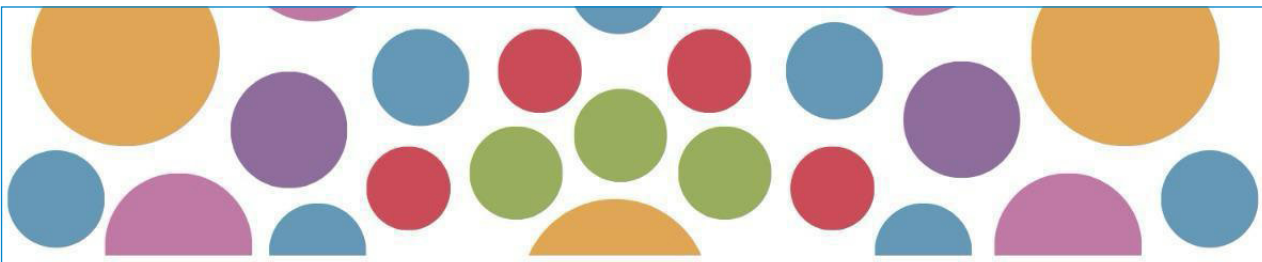
WINNIE BYANYIMA

UNAIDS | 2025



29 MAY 2025, VIRTUAL PUBLIC LAUNCH

LAUNCH OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR GLOBAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT



the campaign for

global public investment

VIRTUAL PUBLIC LAUNCH

The common challenges our world faces
and how countries can work together to
fund them in an effective and equitable way.

May 29, 2025
9am New York
3pm Brussels

SPEAKERS INCLUDE



Helen Clark

Former New Zealand
Prime Minister



Winnie Byanyima

Executive Director,
UNAIDS



Martin Abregu

Vice President -
International Programs,
Ford Foundation



Mandeep Tiwana

Interim Co-Secretary
General, CIVICUS



Andrea Ordoñez

Co-Founder,
Southern Voice
[MODERATING]



Harpinder Collacott

Executive Director,
Global Public Investment
Network

Thank you, Andrea [Ordonez, Co-Founder Southern Voice], Friends, I'm so glad that you've brought us together in such a fantastic group of people I admire—and on such an important topic. It is a great honour to speak after my friend Helen [Clark].

The impact of the sudden collapse of aid has been devastating from where I sit

I lead the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. We started this year excited about an opportunity. A new medicine called lenacapavir that can provide near total protection from HIV with injections every 6 months. In the next few years, that injection could be once a year. It's not a vaccine, but from the perspective of a person who is at risk, this is the closest to a vaccine for HIV.

We were speaking to governments, to companies—Gilead in particular—to communities, getting ready to seize this opportunity to move fast to end new infections and reach the end of this pandemic—to find a global solution to a global problem.

But then came sweeping US cuts—abrupt cuts—and these were on top of other cuts that had been going on by the rich countries of Europe. This threw the HIV response into crisis. And now we risk missing this historic opportunity of closing the tap of new infections and coming close to ending AIDS.

Clinics have closed. Prevention services halted. People are losing access to lifesaving medicines. And people are dying. Our data is beginning to show this. Before this crisis, we had 3500 new HIV infections every day around the world. Today, it's gone up to 5800 new HIV infections every day. If this continues unchecked, our modelers tell us that there will be an additional 6 million people newly infected with HIV in the next 4 years in 2029. And there will be 4 million people who will die of AIDS-related illnesses by 2029. This is about losing control of the epidemic.

So, we need a new approach

We can't rewind the clock. We need to adjust or reset to a new era in development. It doesn't mean we abandon hope. As Helen said, you can't lose the opportunity of a crisis. We must seize it. The consensus behind our old model of aid through which we've been making progress against this disease might be dying. But the end of aid need not mean the end of global cooperation. The end of aid as we know cannot be the end of global solidarity, of global cooperation. We adjust. We make a new arrangement. We need to put forward new, innovative ways to work together, to continue solving global problems together.

That's why we need we need global public investment

We need an approach that is rooted in shared interests, bringing countries together to tackle the challenges that can only be overcome together, in collaboration, and working together to solve a global problem because we all can contribute. Therefore, shared contributions, in which all

countries contribute according to their means. And then Shared decision-making, in which all countries are at the table, making the decisions on how to solve the global problems. Global public investment provides that approach. We need to remind leaders: viruses do not respect borders, the climate crisis doesn't respect borders, disasters do not respect borders. Humanity will always face problems—and will always present opportunities—that are global in nature. We need to cooperate to meet them. And we need to cooperate in justice.

Global public investment recognises our interdependence

It isn't charity, it's collective self-interest. Global public investment will make every country more secure and give it its dignity. Shared contributions from all countries, according to their means, will help everyone to see that they are part of the solution. The pooling of resources will benefit every country. Shared decision-making will ensure effective oversight and programmes that meet the needs of all, not programmes shaped by those with the money, and supervised by those with the money for those without the money.

Global public investment is an idea whose time has come

To overcome the crisis we are in, global public investment is essential, but let me add, it is not sufficient. We also need to ensure that low and middle-income countries have the fiscal space they need to invest in their health, education, social protection, and other critical priorities for their people. That means we also must act urgently on the question of debt and equitable access to financing, on tax, and on trade rules.

Today, 34 countries out of 55 African countries spend more on repaying their debt than on the health of their people, than on the education of their children. The same continent loses more than \$88 billion to illicit financial flows every year, mostly through abuse of tax rules.

We need global action to solve the problem of unsustainable debt and inequitable access to finance.

We need to move that UN framework convention on international tax collaboration to stop dodging that denies countries the domestic resources they need to pay for their people's needs.

Debt justice. Tax justice. Intellectual property justice. And global public investment

That's why the global public investment network so strongly champions and works closely in alliance with the campaigns for tax justice and debt justice. These are interconnected struggles and the people who work on the three are vital allies. We do not need to surrender or despair. We can build active hope. We are in a global crisis. We can resolve it through global solidarity. We can save lives, and we can keep everyone safe. Now we need each other, now is the time for global public investment.

Thank you very much.

