

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF COSPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS (CCO)

Additional documents for this item: N/A

Action required at this meeting—the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:

- *Take note* of the report of the Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations;

Cost implications for the implementation of the decisions: none

1. Chair, Excellencies, Member States, civil society, observers, and partners in the global HIV response, this statement is delivered by the ILO on behalf of the Cosponsors.
2. At the outset, we wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner and UNFPA Executive Director Natalia Kanem, both of whom will be stepping down this year. We extend our heartfelt gratitude and wish them every success in their future endeavours.
3. 2025 has been one of the most challenging years in the history of the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS. As CCO Chair, we are providing stewardship at a time of sharp funding cuts, disrupted HIV services, intensified pushback against human rights and gender equality, shrinking civic space, and growing hostility toward marginalized groups—all compounded by climate shocks, conflicts, high cost of living, job and food insecurity, and humanitarian emergencies, among others. Despite these difficulties, Cosponsors remain focused on working towards the end of AIDS by 2030.
4. This report will address the Joint Programme's response to the recommendations of the UNAIDS High-Level Panel, the next Global AIDS Strategy (2026–2031), UBRAF implementation and the restructuring of the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors within the broader context of the UN80 reform agenda.

High-Level Panel

5. As HLP co-convenor with Winnie, I wish to thank the Co-Chairs and Panel membership for their unwavering commitment to the Panel's task, despite the challenges and uncertainty. We appreciate the significant consultation that went into this process.
6. Cosponsors worked closely with the Secretariat to develop a report titled "Report on the recommendations for revisions to the Joint Programme Operating Model". This report will be discussed in detail under a separate agenda item.
7. The Secretariat and Cosponsors broadly agree on many key proposals in the report, including streamlining the Secretariat and reducing the number of lead Cosponsors; relocating staff to lower-cost locations; enhancing civil society engagement; reaffirming a multisectoral response; simplifying planning, reporting and work-planning processes; reducing the frequency of in-person PCB meetings; and strengthening country ownership and domestic funding, among others.
8. That said, there are a few areas where the Secretariat and Cosponsors have different views. They include: undertaking annual strategic and financial reviews of the new operating model, given the current financial volatility; providing predictable catalytic funding to lead Cosponsors to strengthen the Joint Programme and HIV response; and simplifying the resource allocation criteria in line with the overarching theme of simplifying all processes.
9. Going forward, Cosponsors will work closely with the Secretariat to submit a new budget and workplan with up to six lead Cosponsors in October 2025. There would be more to say when this agenda item is discussed.

Global AIDS Strategy (2026–2031)

10. The Global AIDS Strategy (2026–2031) is being developed at a time when the global HIV response is facing a crisis. Between 2024 and 2025, voluntary core contributions to the UNAIDS Secretariat declined by nearly 50%, falling from US\$ 146.4 million to an estimated US\$ 67–75 million. This sharp drop threatens the viability of essential

services, technical support and joint UN programming on HIV, as well as the reversal of hard-won gains.

11. To confront today's realities, the next Strategy must include the following:

- Ensure uninterrupted access to essential prevention, testing and treatment services as countries transition to new funding realities.
- Position human rights, gender equality, women's empowerment and civic space as non-negotiable priorities.
- Encourage national ownership and leadership of the HIV response, including the promotion of domestic funding as a survival imperative.
- Maximize access to pre-exposure prophylaxis, including exciting new long-acting antiretrovirals to ensure that this game-changing opportunity is seized.
- Safeguard the integrity and strength of the multisectoral response, ensuring it is not diminished or undermined.
- Provide laser-like focus on key and vulnerable populations, including children and adolescent girls in all contexts, including humanitarian situations.
- Elevate support for and resources to people living with HIV, civil society organizations and communities.
- Dismantle societal and structural barriers that block access to services and expand social protection coverage for all people living with HIV and vulnerable populations.
- Anchor the Global AIDS Strategy in the principles of social justice, ensuring that fairness, equity and equal opportunities for all, serve as our north star.

UBRAF (2024–2025) implementation

12. As of 2025, only four of the 11 Cosponsors have received their full allocation of resources, due to substantial funding cuts to the Secretariat. The prospects for securing additional resources remain bleak. Consequently, the Joint Programme is experiencing serious implementation constraints. Support to countries has been scaled back, and the achievement of the 2025 targets is now at significant risk.

UNAIDS restructuring and UN80

13. Cosponsors stand in solidarity with the UNAIDS Secretariat and its staff during this difficult and painful period of staff reductions.

14. Similar to the Secretariat, Cosponsors are undergoing significant organizational restructuring in response to widespread budget reductions across the UN system. These measures, already underway, include severe cuts to leadership positions, such as reductions of up to 50% at the Deputy Director-General and Assistant Director-General levels in ILO and WHO, and senior management positions in UNHCR. Thirty-six percent overall reductions in costs are expected at UNHCR. A loss of approximately 6,000 staff is expected at WFP and a 20% reduction in workforce is expected at UNODC. WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, ILO and UNICEF are adopting measures such as relocating staff to lower-cost duty stations, among other steps.

15. In the months and years ahead, as our restructuring efforts reach completion, we will gain greater clarity on our collective capacities to respond to HIV and on how we must adapt to achieve our shared objectives. The size of our HIV portfolios may change but our resolve to end AIDS by 2030 remains unwavering.

16. Finally, as we present our final joint CCO statement as the complete set of 11 Cosponsors, we extend our deepest gratitude to Member States, civil society, communities and donors for your unwavering support. Together we have forged a unique and remarkable model of UN coherence and multisectoral solidarity, one of the most impactful examples of joint work within the UN system.
17. Our greatest legacy will be a world where AIDS is no longer a public health threat, every child is born free of HIV and every person living with HIV thrives, with access to treatment, food, shelter, work and dignity. May we strive to convert our hopes into lasting reality for all.
18. **Thank you.**

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