



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

**DR VINCENT BAGAMBE, DIRECTOR PLANNING AND
STRATEGIC INFORMATION-UGANDA AIDS COMMISSION**

AT

**THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNAIDS PROGRAMME
COORDINATING BOARD**

WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2025

GENEVA

[Please check against delivery]

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Uganda aligns itself with the statement delivered by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group.

We recognize the importance of the UN80 reforms in building a more coherent and impactful UN system.

However, the proposal to sunset UNAIDS by the end of 2026 represents a serious deviation from the transition pathway unanimously endorsed by Member States through the PCB and ECOSOC.

This is not a procedural matter — it is about safeguarding the governance framework that underpins the global HIV response.

Uganda reaffirms that any structural or programmatic changes to UNAIDS must remain under the authority of the PCB and ECOSOC, and be implemented through the two-phase transition endorsed in June 2025.

This approach is deliberate, inclusive and designed to ensure sustainability, continuity, and ownership at country level.

Our national experience demonstrates why UNAIDS remains indispensable.

1. **Strategic information:** Uganda depends on UNAIDS-supported Spectrum and Naomi models to produce annual HIV estimates. UNAIDS experts work with national teams to analyze, validate and peer-review data, generating reliable evidence to guide policy and resource allocation.
2. **Sustainability:** UNAIDS has supported Uganda to develop its Transformational Plan, a roadmap for transitioning from donor reliance to country-led programming. It also backs the NASA process, which tracks HIV spending and informs financing strategies.
3. **Technical assistance:** UNAIDS has enabled the production of critical studies and analytical work — including on prevention, PMTCT quality, and key population size

estimates — that no other UN entity currently delivers with the same depth.

These functions are not abstract; they are foundational to our response. Disrupting them prematurely would have tangible, harmful consequences.

Between 2010 and 2024, Uganda reduced new infections by 61%, AIDS-related deaths by 63%, and expanded ART coverage to 85, yet challenges persist:

Uganda's 95-90-86 status reveals gaps among adolescents, men and children, and vertical transmission remains a concern. A rushed transition could erode these fragile gains, undermining progress toward the 2030 goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat.

Uganda urges the PCB and all partners to uphold agreed timelines, ensure orderly and evidence-based reforms, and preserve the vital support UNAIDS provides.

This is about more than institutional restructuring — it is about protecting lives, sustaining systems, and honoring shared commitments.

I thank you.



**REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**PCB/UNAIDS SPECIAL SESSION
STATEMENT PRESENTED BY ANGOLA**

Madam President;

Angola endorses the African Region's declaration and reaffirms its commitment to the HIV response in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Angola has made progress in accessing prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services, reducing new infections, and improving the quality of life of people living with HIV. These advances reflect the commitment of the Angolan Executive, in collaboration with national and international partners, to protecting vulnerable people.

Angola took note of the United Nations Secretary-General's Progress Report on the UN2.0/UN80 initiative and recognizes the importance of reforming the United Nations system, which aims to make it more effective and adapted to the new global reality. However, it is essential that these transformations ensure the continuity of technical and financial support to least developed countries.

The African continent continues to bear the greatest burden of the HIV pandemic, and Angola expresses its deep concern regarding the references to UNAIDS, particularly the proposal to end the program by 2026. This proposal contradicts the transition timetable approved by the PCB and subsequently ratified by ECOSOC.

The global response to HIV is facing pressures by reduced international funding. Any acceleration of the transition process could compromise the effectiveness of the response in the regions most affected by the epidemic.

Excellencies,

Angola reaffirms its strong and collective support for UNAIDS, its Executive Director, and the PCB-led transformation process, emphasizing the relevance of UNAIDS in the global and multisectoral response to HIV.

Muito Obrigado.



Coalition of Community
Networks and Civil
Society in Nigeria

07 October 2025

Abuja, Nigeria

His Excellency,
Mr. António Guterres,
UN Secretary-General

Your Excellency,

Appeal by the Nigerian Civil Society Coalition on the Proposal to Sunset UNAIDS

We, the undersigned Coalition of Nigerian Community Networks and Civil Society Organizations working at the forefront of the HIV response, wish to respectfully express our deep concern regarding the recommendation within your UN80 report *"Shifting Paradigms:*

United to Deliver" calling to "sunset UNAIDS by the end of 2026."

We recognize and support the UN's aspiration to reform and strengthen multilateral systems for the future. However, we believe that dissolving UNAIDS at this critical juncture would not only be premature, but would fundamentally weaken the global HIV response, reverse decades of progress, and risk leaving behind the very populations the UN has pledged to protect.

Despite substantial progress in reducing new infections and AIDS-related deaths globally, HIV remains a significant public health threat, particularly in low and middle-income countries. In Nigeria, and across much of Sub-Saharan Africa, the epidemic continues to affect millions of people living with HIV, as well as generating large numbers of new infections.

In the midst of the massive retrenchment of support for the AIDS response from the US government, the proposal to sunset UNAIDS sends a troubling signal at a time when recommitment, not retreat, is most needed. The agency plays an irreplaceable role in coordinating the global HIV response, mobilizing domestic and international resources, strengthening the role of communities in the governance

Coalition of Community Networks and Civil Society in Nigeria

Address: C/O NEPWHAN, 35 Justice Sowemimo Street, Off TY Danjuma Street, Asokoro,
Abuja Tel: +234-8032522393. Email: conetnigeria@gmail.com

and decision-making of the response, and driving accountability toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat, among others.

Removing this pillar from the UN system will create a leadership vacuum, destabilize donor coordination, and jeopardize the sustainability of national responses, including those built on years of progress, supported by UNAIDS' technical and political leadership.

Communities Must Not Be Left Behind

UNAIDS is the only UN agency with a governance model that meaningfully includes civil society and affected communities. Its commitment to community leadership is not symbolic, it is foundational to what has made the global HIV response effective.

To dismantle UNAIDS is to silence those voices, and to risk further marginalizing the populations most affected by the epidemic. It is also to ignore the evidence - that strong community-led responses save lives and deliver results.

This proposal raises pressing and unresolved concerns: Who will lead the coordination of the global HIV response? How will the UN maintain accountability toward the 2030 target? What assurances exist for continued protection and investment in affected communities?

Without clear leadership of the AIDS response, this recommendation introduces uncertainty, weakens coordination, and may undermine the very reforms the UN seeks to advance. Distributing UNAIDS leadership functions to its cosponsoring organizations is a recipe for fragmentation and non-accountability.

We respectfully appeal to the Secretary-General and Member States to:

- (i) Reject the proposal to sunset UNAIDS.
- (ii) Reaffirm and strengthen UNAIDS' mandate, ensuring it remains equipped to lead and support the global HIV response.
- (iii) Protect the integrity of the UN80 reform process, ensuring that efforts to modernize the UN do not undermine critical health gains or marginalize vulnerable populations.







Your Excellency, the global AIDS response stands at a crossroads. Let it not be said that at a moment when solidarity was needed most, the world chose to step back. We appeal to your leadership to guide the UN system toward a path that affirms the dignity, health, and rights of all.

The Coalition remains committed to constructive dialogue and collaborative engagement. We are ready to work with the UN and Member States to co-create a future where UNAIDS can continue to lead, innovate, and deliver until AIDS is truly ended for everyone and everywhere.

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Endorsed by the Nigerian Coalition of Community Networks and Civil Society Organizations:

S / N	NAME OF ORGANISATION	NAME OF SIGNATORY	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1	Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN)	Abdulkadir Ibrahim	National Coordinator	
2	Nigeria Key Population Health and Rights Network (NKPHRN)	Onyema George Ndukwe	Chairperson	
3	International Community of Women Living with HIV – West Africa (ICW-WA)	Assumpta Reginald	Regional Director	
4	Association of Women Living with HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (ASWHAN)	Esther Hindi	National Coordinator	
5	Association of Positive Youth Living with HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (APYIN)	Sarah Godwin Seyilnen	National Coordinator	
6	Civil Society Network for HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (CiSHAN)	Hamza Aliyu	Ag. Executive Secretary/ZC-NC	

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CC:

- The Nigerian Presidency, through the Director General of NACA
- UNAIDS Executive Director
- PCB Chair-Brazil
- PCB Rapporteur, Kenya
- African Union Commissioner for Health and Humanitarian Services
- Director General Africa CDC

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JOINT STATEMENT BY THE AFRICA GROUP ON THE UNAIDS TRANSITION PROCESS

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings to you all,

The Africa Group has taken note of the United Nations Secretary-General's Progress Report on the UN2.0/UN80 initiative, issued on 18 September 2025. While we acknowledge the importance of reforming the United Nations system to ensure greater efficiency, coherence, and impact, we wish to express our concern regarding the references to UNAIDS contained in the report.

In particular, the report includes a proposal to sunset UNAIDS by 2026. This suggestion represents a significant departure from the transition timeline that was formally agreed upon by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) and subsequently endorsed by ECOSOC. The proposal, as currently framed, risks creating confusion, misinterpretation, and undermines the decisions and authority of the intergovernmental bodies charged with oversight of UNAIDS.

The Africa Group wishes to emphatically reaffirm that any structural or programmatic changes concerning UNAIDS fall under the sole purview of ECOSOC and the PCB, as

established by their respective mandates. The reference in the Secretary-General's report does not reflect the established and ongoing Member State-led process to guide the transformation of UNAIDS. Furthermore, it appears to disregard the conclusions reached through the inclusive and consultative high-level panel process, which informed the PCB's decisions.

The Africa Group expresses its strong and unwavering support for the process adopted by the PCB and reiterates the importance of preserving the integrity of its decisions. We reaffirm the Board's approval of a 2026 Transition Budget, which was designed to provide the necessary flexibility to respond to the evolving global context, including changes within the UN system and developments in the HIV response.

It is important to recall that the HIV response is already under immense strain, largely due to severe reductions in global funding — both to UNAIDS and to bilateral support mechanisms. Any attempt to accelerate the transition timeline without due consideration risks further disrupting an already fragile response, particularly in regions where the epidemic remains most acute.

The African continent continues to bear the heaviest burden of the HIV pandemic. While Africa comprises only 19% of the global population, it accounts for:

- 65% (26.5 million) of the 40.8 million people currently living with HIV;

- 4.7 million of the 9.2 million people globally who still lack access to antiretroviral treatment (representing over 51%); and
- 670,000 of the 1.3 million new HIV infections recorded globally in 2024 (over 51%).

These figures are a stark reminder of the critical importance of UNAIDS' continued leadership, coordination, and technical support. UNAIDS plays an indispensable role in ensuring a multisectoral, inclusive, rights-based, and accountable HIV response, both globally and at country level. No other entity within the UN system is mandated or equipped to fulfil this unique role.

In light of the above, the Africa Group calls on all stakeholders to:

- Respect the authority and mandate of the PCB and ECOSOC regarding the future of UNAIDS;
- Uphold the governance principles of transparency, accountability, and Member State ownership; and
- Ensure that any transition process is deliberate, evidence-informed, and responsive to the needs of countries and communities most affected.

In conclusion, the Africa Group reiterates its strong collective support for UNAIDS, its Executive Director, its ongoing transformation process as guided by the PCB, and the centrality of UNAIDS to the global HIV response. We urge all partners to resist any premature actions that could jeopardize

decades of progress and to work collaboratively toward a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future for the AIDS response.

I thank you.