



**Re: The Critical Need to Sustain and Strengthen UNAIDS A Feminist Call for Accountability and Action**

Thank you, chair! UNAIDS Executive Director, Excellencies, Ambassadors, Member states, Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, All Protocols Observed,

Good morning, good afternoon, or good evening, depending on where in the world you're joining us from for this special UNAIDS PCB session.

My name is Irene Ogeta, and I serve as the Program Officer at ATHENA Network, a feminist Network committed to advancing the leadership of young women as a fundamental component of achieving gender equality, strengthening sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and ensuring effective HIV responses. Our goal is to foster solidarity and build consensus across issues, thematic areas, and movements in pursuit of an intersectional feminist HIV agenda, one that is firmly rooted in the protection and promotion of human rights and the advancement of gender-equitable societies. This submission reflects the unified voice of our collective, expressing deep concern and unequivocal opposition to any proposal that seeks to sunset or dismantle UNAIDS.

The implications of such a decision would be devastating for women and girls and especially for AGYW in all their diversity. The intersection of gender inequality, poverty, and limited access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights services continues to fuel a crisis that is far from over.

UNAIDS is not only a technical body or a policy mechanism, it is a lifeline. It has been a key advocate and champion for gender-transformative, community-led, and rights-based approaches, especially for those who are most marginalized and often made invisible in global decision-making spaces. Without UNAIDS, there will be no dedicated institutional home for the unique needs of AGYW within the HIV response. The proposed sunset would effectively erase decades of progress in centering gender justice within the global HIV architecture.

We are gravely concerned that sunseting UNAIDS at this critical juncture would abandon the unfinished business of the AIDS response, a move that would disproportionately harm young women and girls in Sub-Saharan Africa. It risks undoing hard-won gains, exacerbating gendered

health inequities, and silencing the community-led, feminist voices that UNAIDS has worked to bring to the table.

At a time when the world faces increasing backlash against gender equality, bodily autonomy, and the rights of women and girls, we urge the United Nations to stand firm in its commitments and not retreat from them. Now is the time to deepen investment in UNAIDS, not sunset it.

We call on the excellency Secretary-General, United Nations with the support and solidarity of member states to:

1. Publicly reaffirm the UN's commitment to UNAIDS as a critical global institution for ending AIDS and advancing gender equality.
2. Ensure that the rights, needs, and leadership of AGYW are protected and prioritized in all decisions regarding the future of the HIV response.
3. Strengthen not weaken the role of community-led, feminist organizations within global health governance.

The Secretary-General, United Nations', and member states leadership, at this moment is not only a matter of institutional policy, it is a matter of global justice, health equity, and human dignity.

In solidarity with all AGYW whose futures depend on sustained action and accountability, I submit!

Thank you, Chair!

Sincerely,

Irene Ogeta,

ATHENA Network

**Statement delivered by Plenna ([www.plenna.org](http://www.plenna.org)) to Item 2 (UNAIDS revised operating model and UN80) of the Special Session of the UNAIDS PCB held on 8 October 2025**

Obrigado Presidente

Plenna encourages preparation for death and dying for individuals ... whatever their age or situation.

Permit me to speak in a personal capacity as someone who works on planning, and who has had experience working with UNAIDS, believing passionately in its mission.

Planning is important. Over the last few years, some voices in the Joint Programme called for scenario planning, yet beyond very simple financial projections in the HLM document shared for the 56th PCB, UNAIDS has not visibly done this. Better planning might have helped to reduce some of the urgency and difficulty that the Programme has been encountering.

For the sake of people living with and affected by HIV, and for Joint Programme employees, it is an essential – I would say sacrosanct - duty to plan well for all potential circumstances, to adapt to change in a well-managed and measured way.

As has often been the case, the UN can learn lessons from UNAIDS' experience. We may lament the situation facing us, but let us focus on clear foresight and practical action rather than improbable and rhetorical hopes, speculation and nostalgia. Our duty is to do the best we can, with the resources available to us: maintaining idealism but striving to be realistic - and therefore effective.

I hope more serious attention will be given to scenario planning in the uncertain months ahead. Thank you.

## **Philippine Civil Society Oppose the Proposal to Sunset UNAIDS by 2026**

PCB Meeting, 8 October 2025

The Philippines continues to register the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the Asia-Pacific region. At least 57 individuals are diagnosed with HIV on a daily basis and 33% of new infection are among young people aged 15 to 24. We are far from achieving the 95-95-95 targets with only 55% of estimated PLHIV diagnosed, only 66% of diagnosed PLHIV on treatment, and only 40% virally suppressed as of first quarter of 2025.

At this critical stage, the Philippine government, as well as civil society and communities, need the technical expertise and guidance that only the UNAIDS has been able to provide. Its unique perspective, combining HIV science, health financing, civil society engagement and community systems strengthening, is invaluable to addressing the HIV situation in the Philippines.

As we, Civil Society and communities affected by HIV, work tirelessly to achieve the goals of the Global AIDS Strategy and as we approach the end of Agenda 2023, we fear any drastic structural changes in UNAIDS would set us back years and undermine the gains we have made. Transitioning UNAIDS functions to other UN agencies, at this point, is not strategic. We fear it gives the message that HIV is no longer a priority while millions of people worldwide continue to be affected. While thousands of young people in my country continue to be infected.

We urge the UNAIDS PCB to reject the proposal from the UNSG Report to sunset UNAIDS by end of 2026.

### Contact Details:

Mara Quesada, Executive Director  
Action for Health Initiatives, Inc. (ACHIEVE)  
mara.quesada@gmail.com

ICW Latina

I am Mariana Iacono from the international community of women living with HIV, Latin America.

It's important to know that no agency will be able to take the place of UNAIDS, neither the Global Fund nor the IAS.

And if any NGO believes this is possible, it's just an illusion.

No UN program has worked with communities the way UNAIDS did.

Of course, we demand a thousand changes: an end to bureaucracy, changes in the system, and the replacement of personnel who aren't committed to our cause.

But don't forget that the vaccine to cure us living with HIV hasn't yet been released, and that many people living with HIV are still dying, and many more continue to be infected.

Anti-rights governments are targeting our lives.

The UN cannot target our lives.

Historic Justice with this program that, together with the WHO, saved so many lives around the world. In the face of the crisis, we must be stronger, transforming everything and confronting this post-colonial onslaught.

Nothing for us without us, nothing with the United Nations without UNAIDS  
thank you

**Keep UNAIDS — the HIV response in EECA is not finished**  
**Statement from the regional networks of Eastern Europe & Central Asia**

1 October 2025

We, the undersigned regional networks of civil society organizations working on HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), national organizations and community groups, express our grave concern regarding discussions about closing or dismantling UNAIDS. At a time when the HIV epidemic in our region continues to grow, removing the only global agency with a specific mandate to lead, coordinate and monitor the response would be a profound mistake with devastating consequences.

HIV infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia continue to rise, with an estimated 140,000 new cases in 2023, representing a twenty percent increase since 2010, - which stands in stark contrast to other regions that have seen declines in new infections and AIDS-related deaths. The epidemic in our region is concentrated among key populations, particularly people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, people in prisons and other marginalized groups who already face stigma, criminalization, and barriers to accessing health services. These dynamics demand stronger, not weaker, global leadership.

UNAIDS plays a unique role in ensuring that governments, international organizations, and civil society are united behind a coherent and evidence-based response. . In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where shrinking civic space and punitive policies continue to endanger lives, the independent voice and normative authority of UNAIDS is essential.

We need a reformed, fit-for-purpose and resilient UNAIDS, not a dismantled one. To close it now, at the very moment when the HIV epidemic in our region is worsening, would risk undoing decades of progress. It would weaken international solidarity, fragment data collection and monitoring, and silence an institution that has consistently stood with the most affected communities. The cost of such a decision would not only be measured in institutional terms, but in human lives.

We therefore urge Member States, the United Nations, and international donors to reject any proposal to close or dismantle UNAIDS, and instead to commit to sustaining its mandate and resources.

Only with a strong and fit-for-purpose UNAIDS can the world — and Eastern Europe and Central Asia in particular — stay on the path toward ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Signed by 24 regional and national civil society organizations:

ARAS - Romanian Association Against AIDS

Association for harm reduction Stigma, Slovenia

BerLUN e.V / Gemeinschaft der grogenkonsumierenden Menschen aus Osteuropa, Berlin, Germany

Center for Humane Policy, Bulgaria

Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma, Georgia

Charitable organization "Charitable Foundation "SPODIVANNYA", Ukraine

Club Eney, Ukraine

ECOM - Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity

Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA), CEECA region

Eurasian Movement for the Right to Health in Prisons, CEECA region

Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA), CEECA region

Fund social support Revansh, Kazakhstan

Health Advocacy Coalition (HAC), CEECA region

HOPS – Healthy Options Project Skopje, Republik of North Macedonia

HPLGBT, Ukraine

International Treatment Preparedness Coalition in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ITPC EECA)

New Generation Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO), Armenia

NGO Fund Woman, living HIV, Kazakhstan

Public Association "Protection of the Rights of Service Users in the Field of Mental Health – “Overcoming”, Kazakhstan

Public Association “PULS Community”, Republic of Moldova

Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health for Eurasia, CEECA region

The Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN)

WESTERN UKRAINIAN RESOURCE CENTER «UKRAINIAN NETWORK OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS “YOUR HOME”, Ukraine

Women and Modern World Social Charitable Center-CWMW, Azerbaijan



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](mailto: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.






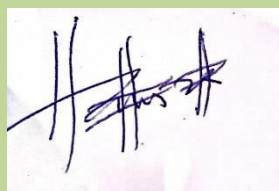
Your Excellency, the global AIDS response stands at a crossroads. Let it not be said that at a moment when solidarity was needed most, the world chose to step back. We appeal to your leadership to guide the UN system toward a path that affirms the dignity, health, and rights of all.

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.

**Coalition of Community Networks and Civil Society in Nigeria**

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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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