

STATEMENTS BY OTHERS



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Disclaimer: These statements reflect participants' views expressed during the multistakeholder consultation on 28-29 September and do not represent an official statement of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB). They are published with the authorization of the respective contributors.

Dear Co-Facilitators,

Thank you for your leadership of this process and for inviting perspectives from Member States, communities and United Nations colleagues. I welcome the opportunity to contribute reflections from country experience to your deliberations.

I write as United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kenya, in support of efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and coherence of our support to countries. Institutional arrangements are for Member States and the relevant governing bodies to determine. My purpose is to draw attention to the distinctive capabilities that UNAIDS has helped build and that, in my view, merit careful consideration in assessing future options.

Across Haiti, Burundi, Jamaica and now Kenya, I have seen the value of a partnership that brings government, communities, donors and the UN system around a common national response. Progress against AIDS belongs to that wider partnership. Within it, UNAIDS has made a distinctive contribution by helping partners work from shared evidence, sustain attention to inequalities and remain accountable to people living with and affected by HIV.

This contribution depends in part on relationships built over time. A trusted convenor can help reconcile institutional priorities with national needs. Comparable data give governments and partners a common basis for allocating resources and assessing results. Meaningful participation by people living with HIV and key populations helps identify barriers that routine reporting may miss. These functions reinforce one another; their value is greatest when they remain connected.

Reform offers an opportunity to put these capabilities on a more sustainable footing. Stronger national leadership and financing, together with closer integration of HIV services into national health systems, are important objectives. Future arrangements should also sustain the multisectoral action needed to address discrimination, gender inequality and other barriers to access. The ability to bring these concerns into policy and financing decisions remains an important strength of the Joint Programme.

There is a wider lesson here for the UN system. The experience of the AIDS response shows how community trust, shared information and collective accountability can strengthen cooperation in health. These capabilities may also contribute to preparedness for future emergencies. Their wider value deserves

consideration, with due regard to existing mandates and the continuing task of ending AIDS as a public health threat.

I would therefore encourage the Working Group to assess each option against its likely effect in countries. Alongside potential efficiencies, it would be useful to examine how impartial convening, reliable strategic information and meaningful community participation would be sustained, who would be accountable for them, and what capacity and resources they would require. The costs of transferring expertise and maintaining trusted relationships should form part of that assessment.

A phased transition, with clear milestones informed by country readiness, would help manage these questions. Responsibilities, resources and continuity arrangements should be in place before functions are transferred. Regular review, drawing on the experience of national authorities and communities, could identify gaps early and allow adjustments. The pace of change should support both timely reform and continuity of the capabilities on which countries depend.

At country level, a clear relationship with the Resident Coordinator system could strengthen coherence, while preserving the technical expertise and community relationships needed for an effective HIV response. I would be pleased to contribute further country perspectives through the appropriate UN coordination channels.

I hope the Working Group will give particular weight to these strengths of UNAIDS as it considers the options ahead. Reform can build on this experience to strengthen national ownership and the UN system's collective contribution to ending AIDS. Its success will ultimately be measured by the quality and continuity of support that countries and communities receive.

Please accept, Co-Facilitators, the assurances of my highest consideration.

UN Resident Coordinator
Kenya

Dear UNAIDS governance unit,

In Uzbekistan, UNAIDS demonstrates the value of an in-country presence. HIV is not only a health issue, but also one of trust, rights, and access. UNAIDS ensures that the concerns of people living with HIV and affected communities are represented in policy discussions, even when these issues are sensitive. This is achieved through close collaboration with the Government and the broader UN system.

This role is evident in practice. UNAIDS has integrated HIV priorities into the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, supported national analyses on gender and the legal environment, and enabled communities and young people living with HIV to participate in decisions that affect them. It links evidence and policy with the lived experiences of those most impacted.

This connection will become increasingly important as Uzbekistan approaches upper-middle-income status and donor support decreases. While greater domestic financing presents an opportunity, the transition requires careful management. UNAIDS can support the country in using evidence to set priorities, maintain prevention and community-led services, and ensure continued access for those most at risk.

The proposed changes to UNAIDS can enhance One UN collaboration by linking HIV with health, social protection, gender equality, and human rights. Success will depend on maintaining dedicated HIV expertise, clear accountability, and trusted relationships at the country level. While regional support is important, sensitive national issues require prompt local engagement.

As we shape UNAIDS' future, we must preserve its contributions at the country level: sustained political attention, stronger national ownership and a meaningful voice for communities. This approach will help safeguard progress as UNAIDS and national HIV responses evolve.

Best wishes,