

# **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OUTLINE OF THE REPORT**

**Additional documents for this item:** none

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

3. *Take note* of the report of the Executive Director

## OUTLINE OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE 45<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETING

### Introduction

- World AIDS Day demonstrated global solidarity and appreciation for the role played by communities featured in UNAIDS World AIDS Day campaign and our report
- Gratitude for expressions of support in my new role and for your continued support to advance the life-saving work of UNAIDS

### We are not on-track to meet country commitments to Fast Track by end-2020 and ending AIDS by 2030

- In September 2015, countries adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, committing to end AIDS by 2030
- In June 2016, countries adopted the Political Declaration on AIDS, committing to reach ambitious targets by end 2020
- At end of 2019, global wake-up call that world is not on-track to reach these goals and targets
- UNAIDS 2019 World AIDS Day Report, Power to the People, highlights:
  - Progress toward the 2020 Fast-Track Targets remains mixed, with some successes but profound gaps
    - Unprecedented 24.5 million people receiving antiretroviral therapy by mid-2019 (more than double the number from 2012)
    - Strong progress towards 90–90–90, with Eastern and Southern Africa making the greatest gains, but most countries and regions still lagging behind
    - 46% of children living with HIV are still not on treatment
    - By end-2020, we will not meet target of eliminating new HIV infections among children and ensure mothers' health and well-being
  - World is not on track to reach target of 75% reduction in new HIV infections by end-2020:
    - Greatest reduction in new infections in Eastern and Southern Africa, the region with the greatest HIV burden
    - In some regions and countries, rate of new infections actually increasing
    - Over half of new HIV infections in 2018 were among key populations
    - 6000 adolescent girls and young women still infected every week

- In sub-Saharan Africa, girls represent 4 of 5 new HIV infections among adolescents
- Time is running out for the world to meet country, regional and global targets by end-2020:
  - Gaps remain across the HIV testing and treatment cascade
  - Must close gaps to reach target of 30 million people on treatment
  - Less than half (47%) of people living with HIV had unsuppressed viral loads in 2018
- Life-savings interventions are being scaled-up slowly:
  - PrEP having positive impact, but uptake too slow and coverage limited
  - Too much time still lost between infection, diagnosis, access to treatment, and U=U
  - Progress held back by the lack of services and related rights for key populations (over 1/3 of sex workers, MSM and transgender people, and half of people who inject drugs still do not know their HIV status)
  - Countries yet to implement 'treat all' still face large gaps between testing, diagnosis and treatment
  - Retention in treatment and care remains major challenge in all regions
  - With 770,000 people who died of AIDS in 2018, high rate of AIDS-related mortality unacceptable; proof HIV treatment is still not reaching those most in need

### **Amid changing context, Joint Programme example of success of multilateralism**

- Multilateralism increasingly being challenged
- Global AIDS response and the Joint Programme represent some of the strongest examples of the value of multilateralism and global solidarity (particularly important during upcoming 75th anniversary of the UN in 2020)
- UNAIDS pivotal in mobilizing the UN to put collective multisectoral expertise behind one Joint Programme, delivering concrete results to advance the end of AIDS and Agenda 2030
- Joint Programme essential to ensure that coordinated multilateral support complements and increases the impact of bilateral and domestic programmes
- Global commitments and progress reflect UNAIDS strategies and policies, adopted by this PCB, as well as commitments made by Member States at the UNGA
- Grateful for strong commitment of Executive Heads & staff of UNAIDS Cosponsors to:
  - Deliver results at country level through UBRAF

- Continue to promote evidence-based and rights-based responses
- We would not be where we are without people living with HIV and communities showing us the way, demanding inclusive, human rights-based policies and programmes that work for people in all their diversity:
- As called for by UN Secretary General, we are at dawn of a new decade of accelerated action across the Sustainable Development Goals
- Time for a renewed focus and push at country level to deliver urgent results for people by end-2020 and get on-track to end AIDS by 2030

### **For UNAIDS Secretariat, 2020 will be a year of planning to ensure UNAIDS is fit for purpose to lead and coordinate the goal of ending AIDS by 2030**

- We must keep the promise of leading the world to end AIDS, but business as usual at UNAIDS will not get us there
- Plan to establish an advisory group to guide me on how we step-up our work in four key areas in 2020:
  1. Internal culture transformation of UNAIDS Secretariat
  2. Development of the next UNAIDS Strategy
  3. Financing for the global AIDS response and the Joint Programme
  4. Emerging programmatic priorities for action

### **An inspired, value-driven UNAIDS staff leading and coordinating the global response**

- My priority is UNAIDS staff
- 2020 will be a time for process of healing and recovery
- UNAIDS was built by activists, our staff have exceptional technical competence and political skills respected and admired around the world
- Committed to ensure we bring back the joy and pride of working for UNAIDS
- Internal culture of UNAIDS must be transformed to reflect the values we espouse in our work around the world
- Will aim to make UNAIDS the place where all staff are empowered, equal, at their most creative, and deliver at their best
- Following such crises, I appreciate trust is low among staff and managers
- The process of rebuilding trust and recovery cannot start in earnest unless we can demonstrate we are ending impunity
- The closure of outstanding cases is an urgent priority for me; already taken some steps

- We will invest in prevention, by using a feminist approach to drive culture change, embracing new ways of working, aligning our behaviour with the mission of UNAIDS and the values of the United Nations
- We will invest in the response side, strengthening our systems for reporting and investigations, using a victim-centred approach
- Management Action Plan (MAP) gives us important foundations for transformative change. A lot of work is already happening, and more remains to be done to fully support and empower our staff.
- We shared an interim MAP implementation update (CRP3), as background to discussion on the Joint Inspection Unit's report and our management response.
- Committed to deepen and expand the MAP to ensure all staff are engaged in transforming the culture of UNAIDS
- Secretariat must be in the best shape to deliver for the people who depend on it – people living with and affected by HIV
- Some issues require United Nations system-wide change, and I am committed to contribute to these changes

### Next phase of ending AIDS even more challenging: New UNAIDS Strategy

- While we should be proud of our collective achievements, the next phase of the global AIDS response will be even more difficult
- As highlighted in our recent report, we are not on track to end AIDS
- Next UNAIDS Strategy must ask the difficult questions and provide an ambitious road map to get to the end of AIDS
- We need a new UNAIDS strategy to reach people who are marginalized, stigmatized and criminalized
- The coming decade is for accelerated action across the SDGs - the last lap to reach 2030
- The next UNAIDS strategy will be a bridge get from 2020 to 2025, and to the end of the AIDS epidemic by 2030
  - UNAIDS already leading a technical target-setting process for 2025, which will be fully integrated in the new strategy
- The process for the development of the next strategy will be deeply consultative
  - UNAIDS staff and our Cosponsors will be strongly involved
  - We will engage with civil society, led by people living with and affected by HIV, young people, activists, human rights defenders, friends and allies in other social movements, policy and law makers

- We will engage with member states, encouraging them to own their HIV responses and drive progress
- We will engage with donors to maintain solidarity for the global AIDS response
- We will engage with scientists to push hard and drive innovation
- This will be the focus of the Secretariat throughout 2020
- Plan to bring a new draft strategy to the 47<sup>th</sup> PCB in December 2020 for your consideration and adoption
- Strategy to be followed by a process of UNAIDS realignment, so we are fit for purpose, fully staffed and resourced to deliver the new strategy
- Following the target setting and the development of a new UNAIDS strategy, we aim to culminate in 2021 with the next UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS

### Resourcing the Joint Programme

- Serious concern about significant underfunding of UBRAF (since 2015)
- With 30% gap in core (UBRAF) resources, increasingly difficult for Joint Programme to deliver required support to ensure successful development and implementation of Global Fund grants, national AIDS programmes and bilateral programmes such as PEPFAR
- Joint Programme remains heavily reliant on small number of donors, who deserve special thanks and recognition for your support to UNAIDS during this critical period
- We need to diversify funding sources and strengthen fundraising, with more outreach to other member states, private sector, foundations and philanthropy
- In 2020, we will need to trim our operations to remain within our current budget envelope, without undermining the process of strategy development and realignment that will follow

### Emerging programmatic priorities to get UNAIDS and global AIDS response back on-track to end AIDS

- The recent UNAIDS report outlines that the epidemic continues to change, with new trends of HIV infections in different regions
- Yet, how UNAIDS is structured has not kept up with these trends
- Next UNAIDS strategy will help us to address these emerging trends, but we should not wait for the new strategy

- Already in 2020, we must step up our work in these areas to address these emerging trends.

### **Women and girls in Africa**

- We won't beat AIDS unless we make urgent progress on the rights of women and girls and gender equality
- Women and girls in Africa are the face of the epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa:
  - AIDS is the biggest cause of death for women of reproductive age in Sub-Saharan Africa
  - Four out of five new infections among adolescents in the region are among girls
  - In South Africa alone, over 1400 new infections every week are among adolescent girls and young women
- UNAIDS is going to step up work with our Cosponsors (especially UNFPA, UNICEF & UN Women) to address sexual and gender based violence, its social and structural drivers, and social norms and policy gaps which lead to the higher vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection

### **Defend Human Rights of Everyone to End AIDS**

- The system is working for millions of people with HIV, but it is still failing those who are marginalized: gay men, men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers, people who use drugs, prisoners, people on the move, including migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people, and people with disabilities; their rights are still being denied and their health is still being compromised
- Everybody has the right to be covered by Universal Health Coverage and treated with respect and dignity
- Social injustices, human rights violations are drivers of HIV which must be tackled, or we will lose the battle on HIV prevention
- Countries must repeal laws which continue to discriminate and criminalize groups of people and keep them from accessing life-saving services

### **Putting science, innovation, and technology in the hands of people**

- We need to put science, innovation and technology to work to save lives
- The true power of science, innovation and technology is only when it is in the hands of the people
- In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, no person should:



- become infected with HIV
- die of AIDS
- face stigma and discrimination
- Encourage renewed push for a vaccine and a cure
- Also need to continue to improving tools and innovations in prevention, diagnosis and treatment that work for all people – where and how they live their lives

### **Owning and financing the global response**

- In response to the call of President Macron, the Global Fund Replenishment was an unprecedented success
  - 23 implementing partners also contributed to Replenishment
  - proof that global solidarity is not exhausted
- Yet, resources remain inadequate to end the AIDS epidemic
  - in 2018, first time decline in global HIV resources by \$1B USD
  - Now facing an annual funding gap of \$7B USD in the global AIDS response
- Continued support of PEPFAR to the global AIDS response and to UNAIDS remain critical
- UNAIDS committed to ensure countries own their HIV national responses
  - We will work with countries and partners to ensure sustainable financing through: domestic resource mobilization, restructuring debts, protect and increase social spending on health, education and HIV, and address international tax avoidance
- Domestic resources accounted for 56% of the total financial resources for HIV responses in low- and middle-income countries in 2018, with wide variation among countries and regions
  - South Africa contributes almost \$2B USD per year for HIV from its domestic budget - excellent example of shared responsibility
- We recognize many countries are facing financial challenges, with mounting debts and lower levels of growth
- Joint Programme committed to our unique regional and country presence to support governments and partners to design and implement evidence-based HIV responses which will
  - address the real epidemic and speak to the needs of all people affected and at risk

- ensure resources are efficiently and optimally used for maximum impact, stretching all resources as far as possible
- encourage countries to meet 2016 HLM commitment to ensure at least 30% of all service delivery is community-led by 2030, and strengthen and empower communities to monitor and hold services providers and governments accountable for the delivery of quality services.

## Conclusion

- 2020 is critical year for the HLM targets and will determine if we are on track to end AIDS by 2030
  - We must step up in next 13 months with ambition & innovation
  - We need to leverage investments, expand services, confront injustice and address the determinants that continue to make people vulnerable
- Inspired by the passion and commitment of the PCB to end the AIDS epidemic
- Looking forward to engage with the PCB members on these vital issues

*[End of document]*