

SPEECH**UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA****HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY****UNAIDS statement delivered by:** Ms Jan Beagle, Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS**Date:** 25 September 2015**Place:** United Nations, New York

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Imagine a world 15 years from now. A world where every young person has access to high quality secondary education, and policies and legislation for gender equality protect and empower women and girls. We have substantially increased the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. The poor have access to financial services and markets. And road traffic deaths have been cut in half.

The AIDS epidemic is over and with it a tremendous tide of human suffering and loss of life have come to an end. 28 million HIV infections and 21 million AIDS-related deaths have been averted, while investment in a robust response has accrued US\$ 3.2 trillion in economic benefits. This is the world we have committed to today. Now it is our responsibility to support the people on the frontlines of development with means of implementation to realise the commitments made.

Fortunately we have a head start. From the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, people living with HIV demanded change on a transformative scale. People affected by the epidemic rejected the status quo - and worked across government, academia, science, civil society and the private sector to bring life-saving medicines to people all over the world at affordable prices.

Four years ago, the international community committed to getting 15 million people on HIV treatment by 2015. Sceptics said it would be impossible. They said that the barriers to progress were too high. They were wrong. That goal was achieved.

Between 2000 and 2014, the world has seen a 35% decrease in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths have plummeted by 42% since the peak in 2004. The trajectory of the

epidemic has been changed. Today we can hold our heads high and say we can keep promises - we can deliver ahead of time because every life matters.

But, the job is not done and there is no place for complacency.

Today, you have committed to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030. Science proves it is achievable - we have the tools and knowledge to make it happen. To get there, we must Fast-Track the AIDS response now.

Strengthening combination prevention programmes, tackling stigma and discrimination in all its forms, and reaching the 90-90-90 HIV treatment milestone by 2020: We must create a world where people living with HIV, sex workers, gay and other men who have sex with men, transgender people and people who use drugs, and their loved ones, live in dignity - free from stigma and discrimination - and enjoy their full range of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. Laws, policies and practices in all countries must protect the rights of key populations.

UNAIDS, which is itself a multisectoral joint partnership, is proud to be one of the first of UN organisations to align its strategy with the SDGs. Set to be adopted by the UNAIDS Board next month, the UNAIDS Strategy builds on the knowledge that the journey to end the AIDS epidemic demands integrated action across the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development, as set out in the SDGs. That's why UNAIDS is a champion for the whole agenda.

In 2016, the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS will provide the opportunity for Member States to recommit at the highest political level to a robust AIDS response, and means for achieving SDG Target 3.3.

As the global community sets out on this momentous journey to implement the SDGs, let us reinvigorate the burning passion that fuelled the AIDS movement. Let us expand this energy to ignite a movement for social, economic and environmental justice that places people at its centre and ensures the wellbeing of all. Nothing less will do.

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UNAIDS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to

achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners to maximize results for the AIDS response. Learn more at unaids.org and connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.