

# UNAIDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

WINNIE BYANYIMA

---

UNAIDS | 2022



FIGHT FOR WHAT COUNTS, GLOBAL FUND  
18 SEPTEMBER 2022, NEW YORK





Today in Ukraine people fleeing both war and viruses are showing up in overwhelmed clinics in the West of the country seeking treatment for drug-resistant TB.

Today in the Philippines a young gay man facing criminalization is struggling to get access to the same HIV prevention drugs that are available down the street here in New York.

Today in Nigeria a baby and a mother are likely to die of Malaria.

That's why we're here today.

Thank you Henry.

I am delighted to join Secretary Becerra and Dr Kaberuka, Peter Sands and everyone here today for the opening session of the Fight for What Counts Campaign event.

Peter- thank you for inviting me.

I salute all the political leaders who have come here.

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the whole United Nations family including the UNAIDS Joint Programme.

Let me start by commending President Biden and the US Government for hosting this 7th Replenishment Conference. The United States has been the indispensable partner and investor in global health institutions and countries working to end AIDS, TB and malaria. It also plays a vital leadership role in the global COVID-19 response.

The Fund is similarly indispensable and an indispensable part of a global ecosystem fighting these three pandemics. Global partners like ourselves at UNAIDS, like the Stop TB Partnership, and Roll Back Malaria depend on the distinctive model of the Fund while the Global Fund too depends on our support in countries to deliver results.

This unique partnership, with strong country leadership supported by Global Fund investments of more than US\$55 billion, has saved 50 million lives. The combined death rate from HIV, TB and malaria has been reduced by more than half in countries where the Global Fund invests. These are important achievements, and proof positive of the life-saving strength of this partnership.

But we are now at a critical moment. The COVID-19 pandemic has wiped off years of progress on poverty eradication.

It disrupted health services, resulting in a drop in immunization coverage for the first time this decade. Deaths in TB and malaria are increasing. Our recent Global AIDS Report showed that there are rising new HIV infections in countries where they used to be falling.

I want to be clear, inequalities are driving pandemics—AIDS, TB, Malaria, as well as COVID as well as Monkeypox. And future pandemics will also be driven by inequalities if we do not act. Where we ignore them, viruses fester.

Inequality is growing, and this is harming our capacity to fight pandemics. A fiscal and debt crisis is hitting many developing countries, dramatically effecting their ability to deliver on urgently needed health investments.

We know what to do. We do it: We work to get cutting edge medicines to those who need it most, not those who can afford to pay. We work collectively to improve human rights environments so people can trust public health systems and access services. We work together to shift gender norms to ensure that young women and girls have the power to control their own bodies and their health. This is pandemic response.

The Global Fund is ready for this moment. Working with us at UNAIDS, with Stop TB, with Roll Back Malaria and other partners, we are able to use the resources that the Global Fund raises to harness science, to support communities, and to engage across sectors to stop these diseases. The Global Fund must have sufficient resources.

With a yield of investment of 1:31, it is the best investment in Global Health. Ever. And this week, every investor, every partner, every donor has a chance to leverage that investment to get the world back on track to end AIDS, TB and malaria.

It is equally critical to our efforts to build robust, resilient, inclusive health systems. Systems which integrate both disease specific responses and pandemic preparedness and ensure equitable access for all.

This will be our most strategic step to finally get ahead in our fight against current and future pandemics.

The Global Fund's model of responsive, inclusive and transparent funding will enable our collective success. But only if it is fully funded.

Only then will we deliver on the promise of ending AIDS, TB and malaria. And make the world more equitable and safer from future threats.

Thank you very much.



