

# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Outline

**Additional documents for this item:** N/A

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

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

**Cost implications for implementation of decisions:** none

## Introduction

1. The global AIDS response has shown the world that what many thought was impossible is achievable. Without a vaccine and without a cure, we have addressed this virus with cutting-edge science, community mobilization, human and gender rights advocacy, and world-changing political leadership.
2. 40 million people have died from this pandemic, it has been the most deadly in generations.
3. But let us also celebrate the other nearly 40 million—those alive today living with HIV.

## Vision for 2030

4. We are seven short years away from 2030, the year by which the world has committed to end AIDS as a public health threat.
5. This would be a world in which, instead of losing a life to AIDS every minute, few people will be dying of AIDS.
6. This will be a world where our responsibility to people living with AIDS remains, but we can shift from emergency response to sustaining the HIV response, access to medicines and the rights programmes they need to thrive.
7. We could focus on preparing to stop future pandemics without simultaneously trying to end this active pandemic.

## Continuing Pandemic

8. But we are still facing a pandemic of an infectious disease.
9. Today three quarters of all the people living with HIV in the world are on treatment when not long ago many told us to aspire to less.
10. But in this pandemic, we cannot be content with reaching three quarters.
11. New HIV infections have fallen by 38%.
12. But cannot be slowed down while there are millions of new infections and rising infection rates in some countries and communities.
13. That is how pandemics resurge, how the least powerful get left behind, and how the virus thrives.
14. We are fighting a pandemic amidst a world of rising turmoil, growing inequality, and a crisis of international cooperation.
15. It would be immoral to pull back now and not reach those still waiting.
16. We are, as my friend Ambassador John Nkengasong likes to say, at an inflection point.

## Getting to 2030

17. We are not at the end of AIDS, but we can be.
18. The Global AIDS Report in July showed that there is a path to end AIDS.
19. So what needs to happen now to reach that vision by 2030?

20. One: we must hit the 2025 targets on knowledge of status, HIV treatment, prevention, stigma and discrimination, law reform, and community-led services.
  - This requires resources, policies, programming, and political support. I am deeply concerned by worrying examples of some donor countries scaling back investment while some other countries scaling back on commitments to remove harmful laws and combat stigma and discrimination.
21. Two: we need to deepen our inequality-fighting commitment significantly beyond where it is today.
22. And three: we need the Joint Programme at its best.

### Planning for 2025 and 2030

23. I want to propose a set of new commitments to achieve these three goals. But first, I want to lay out our approach to planning for what is to come.
24. This Fall, we have already set in motion a laser-focused biennium workplanning and budgeting for 2024-2025 on targeted, high-impact strategic priorities that focus on reducing new HIV infections, reducing stigma and discrimination and inequalities and closing treatment gaps to deliver maximum impact.
25. Throughout all of 2024, the UNAIDS Secretariat, together with Cosponsors, will continue the process of gathering data and charting and envisioning the global HIV response to reach 2030 and to sustain the HIV response beyond 2030 – inputs into what is needed for the future, how we must position and be fit-for-purpose.
26. In mid-2024, we will conduct a mid-term review of the current Global AIDS Strategy (2021-2026), based on the 2023 Global AIDS Monitoring (GAM) data and other sources.
27. In late 2024 and early 2025, we will launch the consultative process to develop the next Global AIDS Strategy and 2030 HIV targets (2027-2031).
28. Building on work through 2024, in 2025 the UNAIDS Secretariat together with Cosponsors, will outline a long-term vision for the Joint Programme's role in the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond, based on an evidence-based scenario planning and broad discussions with Cosponsors, people living with HIV, partners and within the broader UN system.
29. We are acting now to plan for sustainability.
30. We need to plan for how, once we have achieved our 2030 targets, the progress we have achieved can be sustained. How will we organize to support tens of millions of people living with HIV to stay on life-saving medicine? How will we reach high viral suppression among them (U=U)? How will we continue to support communities in their efforts to reach those most at risk with timely testing and other services? How, together will we reform our institutions, our governance, and our resourcing to support countries in meeting the challenges they will face in that new phase? In our planning, we must take into account that tens of millions of people will still be living with HIV in 2050 and will need to have high-quality treatment.
  - We are engaging now in in-depth work with highly impacted countries to develop sustainability strategies that incorporate financing, policy, and program shifts.
  - We are working deeply with countries on modelling and data work toward driving HIV to sustainable levels and ensuring long-term data capacity to ensure progress.

- We are continuing to evolve the Joint Programme—building global strategic initiatives like the global alliance to end AIDS in children with UN Cosponsors WHO and UNICEF in the lead, making strategic use of our different capacities to address inequality and lagging progress.
31. And as we plan for the long term, we cannot take our eyes off the now: we must strengthen and accelerate the AIDS response, not pull back, or we will not reach our targets.

### The Triple Commit

32. We have gotten as far as we have as a partnership of 25 years of governments of the global North and South, civil society, and UN agencies creating what is an increasingly rare example of international cooperation.
33. To get on track, to reach our targets, we need to deepen our commitment now.
34. That is why I propose to you a commitment to action in which we all play our unique and essential part so that we can celebrate the end of the pandemic in 2030 not face off against a resurgent one.
35. **So for all countries, of the North and South, as you are tackling high HIV rates, I propose six commitments. They are not everything needed but could jump-start efforts to get on track to 2030:**
- First, know your inequalities and use data to close them.
  - Second, join with us in building an urgent, revolutionized HIV prevention approach starting now.
  - Third, we need you to treat policies and laws like you do HIV services—follow the evidence.
  - Fourth, domestic resources to fight HIV must increase. While many countries have increased their budgets for HIV, others have decreased.
  - Fifth, implement the newest technologies available and work together to make access affordable.
  - Sixth, and maybe most importantly: UNAIDS is calling to maintain and strengthen a truly multi-sectoral AIDS response.

### I propose donors commit

36. To support the proposals to enable developing countries to grow their fiscal space to fight AIDS by pushing for multilateral solutions for debt cancellation and reform of the international financial architecture.
37. Front-load resources wherever you can to the Global Fund and bilateral channels—because resources today are more valuable than resources four years from now in enabling this fight.
38. Fully fund the Joint Programme with multi-year funding so that we can provide the in-country presence, strategic information, and advocacy needed to achieve the 2025 targets.
39. To not pull back now and abandon the people who are most in need—those left behind who must be reached in the next few years to prevent a resurgent pandemic.

### **We at the UN Joint Programme will commit**

40. To pour everything we can into the strongest support to countries to plan and execute responses that can hit the 2025 targets.
41. Foster tight alignment between partners including Global Fund, PEPFAR, bilateral, governments, and civil society so that we use scarce resources in the most effective way.
42. Work now on a concrete, specific vision for the long-term sustainability of the AIDS response beyond 2030.
43. Deliver a new strategy for what we hope will be the last five years that is bold, evidence-based, and highly consultative among this board and our partners.
44. To help build an AIDS response that contributes to our preparedness to fight the next pandemic.
45. And look to evolve the Joint Programme to align with this next strategy and long-term sustainability vision.

### **Our Commitment Together**

46. And let us all commit to making multilateralism work.
47. This is both how we will end AIDS and the best way to tackle future pandemics.
48. This is how together we will sustain our responsibilities toward the tens of millions of people who will be living with HIV until there is a cure.
49. By coming together with the triple commit to support transformational improvements in prevention, treatment, and human rights, I am confident we can meet our 2030 targets, and ensure sustainability beyond.
50. You stand to be the generation of leaders for whom this will be a legacy. You will save and change millions of lives. Thank you.

*[End of document]*