

OUTLINE OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Additional document for this item: *none*

Action required at this meeting—the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:
Take note of the Report of the Executive Director a.i.

Cost implications for implementation of decisions: *none*

OUTLINE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE 44th SESSION OF THE UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

1. The world has the knowledge and tools required to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030. The once unimaginable is now possible. But our success cannot lead to complacency. The epidemic is far from over, and we have miles to go.

- The recent report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the General Assembly, *Galvanizing global ambition to end the AIDS epidemic after a decade of progress*, highlights both the successes to date and the challenges ahead.
- Remarkable progress has been made—in some countries and in some regions. But the scale of unmet need—for both prevention and treatment—is substantial. We must act with urgency to reach all people and communities who currently are left behind by our efforts.
- Thanks to the collective commitment and improved capacity for monitoring and reporting, we have increasingly sophisticated knowledge about the ever-evolving, diverse nature of HIV epidemics in countries and regions, and about what is required to address those epidemics.
- Data granularity is key for us to understand epidemics locally and to act on them in targeted ways that work for people who are living with HIV and who are vulnerable to HIV infection.
- Experience of countries reaching the 90–90–90 targets demonstrates the importance of engaging with the people and communities who are most affected.
- National responses that are successful put in place:
 - diverse approaches to expanding access to HIV testing;
 - differentiated health-care service delivery;
 - treatment literacy and adherence support programmes; and
 - an enabling legal and policy environment that upholds human rights and advances gender equality.
- We have important proof of concept that the Fast-Track approach works: PEPFAR PHIA data shows that some countries are approaching epidemic control.
- However, progress is uneven across regions, across countries and within countries. A majority of countries are in danger of missing the 2020 targets that were agreed to within the 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS, and efforts to prevent HIV infections are off-track.
- While we know what works, we are failing to attain the scale and intensity of effort required to reach today's young people with the HIV prevention information and services they need. Persistent inequalities and power imbalances are driving vulnerability to HIV infection. There is an ongoing crisis of new infections among adolescent girls and young women—over 700 of whom acquire HIV every day in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Reaching young men is equally important—both for their own health, and for the health of adolescent girls and young women.
- Communities must be better supported to play their important roles. People living with and affected by HIV, key populations, women, adolescents and young people should be meaningfully included in the design, implementation and monitoring of health and social programmes—so that resources reach the people and places in greatest need, and so that there is accountability for doing so.

- Finally, we must continue our efforts to eliminate the stigma and discrimination—both HIV-related and generally—that impedes our work to reach all who need information, services and care.

2. Continued increases in donor and domestic resource allocations are needed to reach the levels of service coverage called for in the 2016 Political Declaration, together with ever-greater efficiencies.

- UNAIDS is grateful for the continued commitment and leadership of the United States Government through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). As the single-largest provider of international support, PEPFAR is a vital partner in the global response to AIDS.
- Furthermore, we acknowledge the need for greater global solidarity and shared responsibility—additional donor and domestic commitments are needed to reach the 2020 investment target.
- The sixth replenishment conference of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to be held in October 2019, will be crucial for securing additional donor commitments for 2020–2022 and for spurring additional domestic investment.
- Exploring new public-private partnerships will also be important for identifying catalytic funding, including for innovations that can help accelerate progress and underpin sustainability of country-led responses.
- Restoring full funding to the UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework is crucial for leveraging the full potential of the Joint Programme and accelerating progress towards the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

3. In this moment of leadership transition in UNAIDS, maintaining stability and continuity is key. A fully funded UBRAF is one dimension of stability that will provide a solid platform for the incoming Executive Director to define and take forward the leadership priorities, maximizing the Joint Programme's support to countries.

- The *Management Action Plan for a healthy, equitable and enabling workplace for all UNAIDS staff* is strengthening transparency and accountability and is increasing the trust of staff in our systems and decision-making processes.
- Investing in staff wellbeing, collaboration for results, and learning and development are all integral to optimizing our organizational performance and strength.
- The heads of the cosponsoring organisations also confirmed their full commitment to the Joint Programme through this leadership transition, and we are grateful to Natalia Kanem, Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations, for her leadership.

4. UN reform is an opportunity for the Joint Programme to serve as a pathfinder for a strong, coherent UN development system, maximizing results for people.

- The Joint Programme model has amplified leadership, put the people who are most affected at the centre of governance and strategy, generated state-of-the-art data and evidence for decision-making, and united the diversity of partners necessary for achieving results—accelerating progress in the AIDS response around the world. It is a model that is relevant to accelerating progress in relation to many more of the world's most pressing challenges.
- Recent Joint Programme experience with country funding through the "country envelopes" is a practical example of efforts to focus joint action to address individual country needs and circumstances.

5. The Board's leadership at this meeting is critical for the future of the Joint Programme and for attaining our shared goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

- Your consideration of the report of the Search Committee for the next Executive Director—ensuring that we maintain strong leadership and build on the valuable legacy of UNAIDS' previous Executive Directors.
- Adopting the budget for the next biennium, at a time when UNAIDS is needed more than ever—supporting countries to sustain gains and ensure that no one is left behind in the response.
- Your engagement in relation to the Management Action Plan and on strategic human resources management issues, so that all staff have a working environment that enables them to maximize their contribution to the HIV response, as we progress towards our goal zero harassment, sexual harassment, discrimination or abuse of authority.
- Your policy leadership on Universal Health Coverage, so that we identify and utilize the win-win opportunities—contributing experience from the HIV response with people-centred approaches and ensuring that people living with HIV benefit from more comprehensive and integrated approaches to health service delivery. The HIV response has a lot to offer in making sure that the most marginalized people can access services and care in ways that work for them.

Your work during these three days will provide a strong, stable environment for a new Executive Director, setting the stage for an ever more impactful UNAIDS—accelerating country progress towards the 2020 targets, uniting partners to develop the next UNAIDS strategy and keeping up with the evolving HIV epidemics and the changing landscapes for global health, development cooperation and sustainable results.