



TAKING STOCK, MARKING PROGRESS



UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING:
Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS
and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS





TAKING STOCK, MARKING PROGRESS

Once a year, United Nations Member States come together to take stock of the world's response to HIV and to mark the progress made against the commitments unanimously agreed at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS in June 2016.

On 12 June 2018, at a meeting of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, more than 30 countries updated the General Assembly on the progress made, and the challenges in, their AIDS responses.

They described the need to scale up HIV prevention services and to ensure that everyone living with HIV has access to treatment. They spoke about barriers, including the investment gap. And they voiced the need for zero discrimination and the importance of committing to respect and dignity. Above all, countries reaffirmed their commitment and resolve to ending their AIDS epidemics by 2030, at the very latest.

Many countries remarked on the importance of UNAIDS both to their national AIDS responses and the wider response. I thank the Member States for their confidence in both the Joint Programme and the Secretariat.

This brochure highlights some of the key remarks made by Member States at this year's gathering on the state of the worldwide response to HIV. While much progress has been made, there is a clear agreement that we still have a long way to go. The disproportionate effect of the HIV epidemic on young women and adolescent girls, and the slow uptake of HIV services by men and boys, are but a few of the challenges that need to be addressed.

When the world meets for its next stock-taking on HIV next June, at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, I trust that countries will be able to report on more progress and fewer challenges on the path to meeting the commitment to end AIDS by 2030.

MICHEL SIDIBÉ,
UNAIDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“The pandemic is not over, but it can be.
We must all do our part. Let us move forward
in a bold new spirit of partnership to overcome
the cycle of HIV transmission and deliver health
and well-being for all.”

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES,
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

“We cannot, just, speak about HIV and AIDS.
It is not just about this virus. We also have to
look at the context around it.”

MIROSLAV LAJČÁK,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AFRICAN GROUP



“We believe that zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS deaths are attainable before 2030 ... We applaud the recommendation in the report on promoting gender equality and economic empowerment of women and girls as critical tools for prevention of HIV infections.”

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

“We call on all Member States to intensify efforts to implement resolution 60/2 as it remains the authoritative resolution on specific needs of all women and girls in the fight against HIV and AIDS.”

EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

“There is a strong linkage between HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights. We must work to ensure that HIV prevention is better integrated into reproductive health services and vice versa. And we must do all possible to provide women with their sexual and reproductive health and rights.”

ARGENTINA



“The goal for the future consists of eradicating stigma and discrimination, facilitating access to services, improving the quality of medical care and increasing the participation of people living with HIV in the decision-making process.”

“We reiterate once again our strong support for the work of UNAIDS and the full implementation of its programmes and strategies, and we call for the provision of all the necessary resources to enable UNAIDS to carry out its mandate in pursuit of the ultimate goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by the year 2030.”

ARMENIA



“While progress has been made, AIDS is yet far from being over. A decrease in international donor funding continues to pose serious challenges for the HIV response in eastern Europe. A continued decrease in financing could seriously undermine the sustainability of prevention and treatment programmes in resource-limited countries, posing a major threat for the implementation of the key targets and objectives of the 2016 Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals.”

AUSTRALIA



“We cannot meet the targets without compassion, understanding, respect and partnership with key populations; not just because it’s the decent thing to do, but because it’s proven to be the most effective approach to tackling the epidemic.”

BELARUS



“Preventing HIV requires not only health-care workers but society as a whole.”

“We are interested in establishing active cooperation not only bilaterally with UNAIDS but also multilaterally.”

BOTSWANA



“Botswana continues to, and is committed to, integrating and linking HIV with tuberculous, sexual and reproductive health services, cervical cancer, maternal and newborn and child health services.”

BRAZIL

“Respect for human rights, with emphasis on eliminating gender inequalities, constant fight against stigma and discrimination, as well as strengthening dialogue and cooperation with civil society organizations, are also pivotal features of Brazil’s national programme which have greatly contributed to its positive outcomes.”

CAMBODIA

“Following the adoption of the Agenda 2030 in which we committed ourselves to leave no one behind, the Royal Government of Cambodia has set the ambitious goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2025, five years before the globally agreed date.”

CANADA



“When young people are empowered with knowledge and skills related to their sexual health, they are more likely to seek HIV testing and to start treatment earlier on.”

“We will continue to look to the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to promote accountability for results for a human rights-based response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to lead us on the path to ending AIDS by 2030.”

CHINA



“The world is at a critical moment in the global response to the epidemic. To review our joint efforts and determine where we are in the process of achieving the declaration of commitment for the targets of 2020 will help us intensify our efforts and create the world for future generations where the AIDS epidemic will no longer be a public health threat.”

COLOMBIA



“AIDS continues to be a public health and development problem and it requires a firm political commitment, significant international cooperation and a long-term response.”

CUBA

“The full exercise of the rights to education and health care is essential to end the epidemic.”

ESWATINI

“The Kingdom of Eswatini remains highly
committed to ending AIDS in our country
by 2022.”

HAITI

“We need to take concrete measures aimed at advancing the response to HIV, particularly for the most vulnerable, including new ways of increasing the uptake of testing and linking people to quality treatment.”

INDIA

“We understand that the full achievement of the agreed targets by 2020 requires further efforts and, above all, political will to ensure the expansion of community-led, people-centred approaches to HIV treatment, immediate linkage to and retention in care, and adherence to treatment.”

“We would like to thank UNAIDS on this occasion for its leadership in mobilizing the world against the HIV/AIDS epidemic with success.”

JAMAICA

“Jamaica supports addressing HIV/AIDS in a comprehensive way, in particular through addressing the overlapping epidemics of HIV and tuberculosis. In this regard, we are pleased to note that the first high-level meeting on tuberculosis will be held later this year and we support a stronger link between HIV and tuberculosis in the outcome document for that meeting.”

KAZAKHSTAN

“The strategy will become a reality if no one is left behind, with all stakeholders determinedly working together: the public health system, people living with HIV, community activists, international organizations, scientists, experts, politicians, businesses and others.”

KENYA



“We call on Member States to commit to close the US\$ 7 billion investment gap that is required to end AIDS.”

LESOTHO

“Human rights and gender barriers still prevail for key and vulnerable populations, including people living with HIV.”

“[Our] achievements are only possible because of the strong support and partnership with our partners, such as PEPFAR, UNAIDS, Global Fund, amongst others. We acknowledge with gratitude the recent technical support of UNAIDS in establishing the HIV and Health Situation Room, which will enhance accountability and transparency.”

LIECHTENSTEIN

“HIV/AIDS is not only a public health issue, but also has an important sustainable development and human rights dimension.”

MALAWI



“It is important to note that many challenges still remain in our collective drive to end AIDS as a public health threat both in Malawi and in many other sub-Saharan African countries. As clearly indicated in the *Blind spot* report launched by UNAIDS last year, access and utilization of HIV testing and treatment services among boys and men is disproportionately low.”

MEXICO



“Undoubtedly, HIV prevention must be the axis of the international response. According to our national experience, preventive policies are cost-effective compared to other control interventions.”

MYANMAR

“Our global response is not complete and AIDS is not over. We need stronger and more dynamic partnerships among Member States, the UN system, civil society and the private sector, etc., on the way forward.”

NAMIBIA

“Engaging the public in the fight against HIV/AIDS is key to eliminating the virus.”

“We continue to work with all bilateral partners, particularly UNAIDS, and call on the global community to implement the political declaration fully so that we eliminate AIDS by 2030.”

NEPAL

“We aim to achieve zero tolerance to
discrimination against people with
HIV/AIDS by 2030.”

NETHERLANDS

“Only by truly working together, exchanging best practices and learning from scientific research we will reach the targets we have set during the High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS.”

NORWAY



“We are not finished, we need to be bold and courageous again, and take the prevention challenge seriously, so that we may reach the global targets we have set.”

PANAMA



“Panama is fully committed to this declaration and to global action adopted to promote human rights, zero discrimination and zero stigma, so that all people can live with respect and dignity.”

“Panama has a firm commitment to accelerate the response to HIV to achieve the Fast-Track Targets and zero discrimination by 2020 as mandated by the Political Declaration on Ending AIDS. As we move forward in this direction, UNAIDS is and will continue to be a strategic ally of Panama.”

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



“We support an integrated approach to addressing the problem of fighting the epidemic alongside other diseases. According to the official statistics, those living with HIV are 20–37 times more likely to catch tuberculosis than healthy people. We trust that this aspect will be reflected in the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending Tuberculosis on 26 September.”

RWANDA

“Mainstreaming of gender equity as a cross-cutting area remains a priority goal for Rwanda.”

SWITZERLAND

“We stress that an accelerated response to HIV must also ensure that no one is left behind.

Information and services must reach key populations, including people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men and other key populations, and their rights must be respected and protected. We encourage the UN, through UNAIDS, to continue to take a multisectoral approach to the fight against AIDS and guide the action of the whole UN system and its partners.”

THAILAND



“True, the fight against AIDS is not yet over, but it is our conviction that, together, with strong partnership with civil society, the private sector and most importantly the communities and each and every individual themselves, we will win.”

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



“UNAIDS’ focus on producing the world’s most extensive data collection on HIV epidemiology, or “AIDS data” as it is known, continues to be fundamentally important. We have concrete targets to meet in order to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, SDG 3, and we cannot do it without the right data to track our progress, pinpoint unmet need and effectively and efficiently direct resources. The United States strongly supports UNAIDS and its leadership in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic.”

ZAMBIA



“We call on our partners to ensure that together we control the HIV epidemic and eventually attain an AIDS-free generation by 2030.”

