

PRESS RELEASE

UNAIDS Board calls for ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030

GENEVA, 4 July 2014—The 34th meeting of UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board has concluded in Geneva after three days of discussions and debate. The importance of ensuring the inclusion of HIV in the post-2015 sustainable development goals, ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 and social protection were topics high on the agenda.

During the meeting, the UNAIDS Board members recognized the value of the lessons learned from the Joint Programme's unique approach to enhancing strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus and country-level impact. The Board also called on UNAIDS and United Nations Member States to pursue a clear commitment in the post-2015 development agenda to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030. The Board stressed that ending the AIDS epidemic would be provisionally defined as the reduction of new HIV infections, stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with HIV and key populations, and AIDS-related deaths by 90% compared to 2010 levels.

The Executive Director of UNAIDS, Michel Sidibé presented his [report](#) to the Board and encouraged Board members to develop new and unconventional ways of thinking and approaches to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. "This is a singular opportunity to set an ambitious course that will ensure that we have the political space and resources to get the job done," he said.

At the meeting which took place from 1 to 3 July 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland, Board members were joined for the opening session by Sir Andrew Witty, Chief Executive of GlaxoSmithKline who talked about developing new medicines and the need for customised solutions, and Mr Subhanu Saxena, Chief Executive Officer of Indian generics manufacturer Cipla, who stressed the importance of innovation and the need to increase access to generic medicines.

The meeting concluded with a full-day thematic segment on social protection. Speakers included people living with HIV and from key populations at higher risk of HIV, members of civil society, government representatives and health and development experts who talked about the urgent need to address the social and economic drivers of HIV through social protection measures including financial incentives such as cash transfers, pension schemes, housing and lower cost transport options.

Participants and observers from UN Member States, international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting, which was chaired by Australia with Zimbabwe as vice chair. The Board elected El Salvador as rapporteur for 2014.

UNAIDS Executive Director's report to the Board, and the Board's decisions from the meeting can be found at www.unaids.org

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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.