
Sissel Hodne Steen
Senior Advisor Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Thank you for the opportunity to make a short address.

- I am impressed by the interventions made by the countries about the progress that many countries have made. However, these clearly also point to remaining challenges and the need for continued and urgent action.

- Norway is happy to be a member of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition. Since this meeting is focusing on reviewing the progress on HIV prevention targets and commitments, I will limit my brief intervention to highlight three areas/points related to Norway’s commitments when we signed up to the HIV Prevention 2020 Road Map and where we stand in relation to these.

- Comprehensive sexuality education is a priority to Norway because it addresses factors that contribute to school dropout, reduces gender inequalities, and it equips girls and boys with knowledge and skills that empower them to prevent early and unintended pregnancy, gender-based violence and not at least HIV and other STIs.

Thus, since we became a member of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, Norway has significantly increased our support to UNFPAs and UNESCOs work on comprehensive sexuality education with NOK 135 million (2018-2022).

- Norway’s priority on HIV continues to be on reaching those who are marginalized and vulnerable. In the areas of harm reduction and HIV prevention in prisons, Norway has tabled several HIV prevention focused resolutions in the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), at the latest session: "Promoting measures to prevent and treat viral hepatitis C attributable to drug use”.

- Working through and with people who are discriminated and marginalized in society is the best way to improve their health and social situation. Thus, Norway continues to support the approach of partners like the Robert Carr Fund (RCF), and has in 2019 increased our funding to RCF from NOK 12 to 16 million (33 percent)[1].

- Norway continues to be committed to accelerating action to prevent new HIV infections and considers UNAIDS as an important leader and partner in this endeavor.

[1] NOK 48 million for the period 2019-2021