

**The Ministerial Meeting of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC)
HIV Prevention 2021-2025, taking stock, planning the future**

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Honorable Chairperson, Mahesh Mahalingam, Director, Communications and Global Advocacy, UNAIDS Executive Director, Your excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Other speakers, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

I bring you greetings from Ghana on behalf of my Honorable Minister and join earlier speakers to congratulate the UNFPA and UNAIDS for convening this meeting.

HIV prevention is at the heart of our mission to eliminate AIDS by 2030, And since the launch of this campaign and coalition, the Government of Ghana has continued to work closely with UNAIDS Ghana office to implement the road map and therefore thank all partners and Joint UN team on AIDS for your support to our national response to HIV and AIDS.

Ghana has prioritized HIV prevention in our National Strategic plan 2021-2025 and remains committed to overcoming challenges towards our achievement of the HIV prevention pillars.

Despite the challenges of a plateau in new infections around 19,000 in the past three years, a high MSM prevalence of 18% and some declines in service delivery this year due to covid19 we are pleased to report a few key achievements and good practices that we will build on in 2021 as follows:

Reprioritization of HIV Advocacy, Communication and social mobilization resulting in an increased media engagements on HIV since 2018.

Our national HIV prevention strategy includes interventions for MSM and FSW, which are in line with our PrEP focus on key populations and sero-discordant couples.

Enhanced Condom and prevention services to KPs within current GF NFM2 grant.

We just completed FSW study which saw a decline in FSW prevalence.

We have developed a comprehensive strategy for addressing Human Rights barriers to care for KPs following a baseline assessment. This is in addition to existing HR initiatives such as the online platforms for HIV counselling and reporting acts of stigma, discrimination and gender based violence and legal services to victims of S&D.

In August 2020, Ghana started implementation of PrEP focused on key populations and sero-discordant couples in 3 regions for scale up to all 16 regions next year.

ANC HIV prevalence declined to 2% in 2019 from previous year's 2.4%. PMTCT service has been integrated MNCAH services and task sharing guidelines have been developed to enhance the role of midwives in the care of the mother-baby pair.

Additionally, Ghana has developed educational content on HIV and sexuality education for adolescent girls, young women and their partners. These policies are part of the secondary education curriculum. The goal is to translate the educational policies on HIV and sexuality education into action within an integrated educational system. One such action we are happy to report on is that provider-initiated condom promotion has been integrated as part of sexual and reproductive health services for adolescent girls, young women and their partners.

We have Started the Community Adolescent Treatment support services to support the treatment cascade with the support of Zvandiri, and our new paediatric acceleration plan being developed for 2021-2025 prioritizes adolescent care interventions.

Because treatment is prevention we are committed to scaling up 959595 implementation strategies that support an increase in the number of PLHIV on ART beyond the 77% for second 90 as at June 2020, These include:

Index HIV testing, HIV self testing and differentiated service delivery which will remain priorities for 2021 to improve linkage to care and continuity of treatment for PLHIV. More community led and community-based services will be available in 2021 and these community services will improve access to ARV and condoms, and improve services for adolescent girls, young women and their partners as well as for members of key populations. Additionally, Ghana will complete a study to estimate the number of people who inject drugs to address the needs of this vulnerable population.

Clear covid19 guidance was developed to sustain general livelihood and HIV services. Multi month prescription of ART was provided together with the procurement and distribution of

important PPEs and the provision of critical social relief services under the leadership of Hon Minister for health and His excellency the President of Ghana resulting in our highly successful containment of the pandemic. Recognizing that covid19 will be with us for a while, we are increasing our health infrastructure, improving management protocols and opportunities, deploying new HIV PCR screening platforms to include covid19 testing with the support of the Global Fund.

We have initiated our social contracting mechanisms resulting in the selection of key CBOs to enhance complementary HIV services.

A social accountability and monitoring framework is in place to effectively monitor all prevention and community based interventions to ensure that we stay the course.

Let me conclude by affirming that despite the current global challenges Ghana is committed to enhancing its HIV prevention services to accelerate progress towards the Fast Track targets and help end AIDS by 2030 so to ensure sustainable funding Ghana has passed the AIDS act that paves way for the establishment of the AIDS fund to mobilize domestic financing to complement GF NFM3 grant for 2021 to 2023.

In line with the theme for upcoming WAD celebration we will build on current global partnerships to ensure a safer population as we strive harder towards achieving Epidemic Control soon.

Thank you.