

THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL HIV PREVENTION COALITION (GPC):

HIV Prevention 2020-2025, taking stock, planning the future

Date: Wednesday, 18 November 2020

Time: morning session 09:00-12:00; afternoon session 15:00-18:00

TALKING POINTS

Good morning

Thank you Mahesh

Minister Tadesse of Ethiopia- thank you for chairing this morning's session of the Global Prevention Coalition.

Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, thank you for being with us.

Honourable Ministers, Delegates, thank you for prioritizing this meeting, as you all battle the colliding pandemics of HIV and COVID19. It is an honour to be with you all this morning.

From Ethiopia to India, communities and civil society organisations together with governments have transformed their activities to facilitate new ways of delivering HIV prevention and treatment. Just as with HIV, communities have been front and centre of the response to COVID19 in an outstanding display of solidarity. I am inspired by this joint mobilization and look forward to hearing more from the shadow reports and the engagement at country level from civil society members present.

And Honourable Ministers allow me to thank you- it is thanks to your commitment and leadership that national HIV prevention roadmaps are being implemented at country level.

As confirmed by an independent external review of the Global Prevention Coalition, we have jointly been able to restore and re-energize leadership in HIV prevention leadership at global and national levels.

Public systems to strengthen prevention programmes led by the National Authorities responsible for HIV, the National AIDS Commissions, are receiving increased attention and investment- this has also benefitted the needed multisectoral response to COVID.

My sincere thanks to the Government of Kenya National AIDS Control Commission for hosting the secretariat of the National AIDS Council Community of Practice. We can go much further when we go together.

In 2020, we have much unfinished business when it comes to HIV prevention.

- The number of new HIV infections remains unacceptably high! 1.7 million new infections last year,
- Among key population groups like people who inject drugs, gay men and other men who have sex with men new infections are increasing rather than declining. Key populations now account for 62% of all new HIV infections. In southern Africa between 50 to

70% of all sex workers are living with HIV, and 10% get newly infected every year

- And you know only too well the shocking numbers regarding infections among adolescent girls and young women.

In sub-saharan Africa, 4500 adolescent girls and young women between 15 and 24 years old are becoming infected with HIV every week.

Young women accounted for 24% of new HIV infections in 2019, despite making up only 10% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa.

At UNAIDS we welcome the scientific breakthroughs that offer the promise of more tools and options for HIV prevention. Like the news earlier this month of results showing that long-acting injectable medicines are highly effective in preventing HIV among women.

These scientific breakthroughs must be accompanied by urgent work to tackle the human rights issues and the many barriers (social, educational economical and legal) that increase vulnerability to HIV and hinder access to information and services for the most vulnerable populations.

I urge you to heed my call today for bold leadership to stop new HIV infections:

- Leadership from governments, the Global Fund and other international donors, to find the resources for adequate scale and impact of proven HIV prevention interventions
- Leadership to take action on the critical legal and policy changes to empower our girls and young women, men and young boys and key populations to access and use prevention, treatment and care services
- Leadership by civil society organizations to engage meaningfully in the design, implementation and monitoring of national HIV prevention responses and hold governments and donors accountable for delivering on joint commitments

As part of this renewed effort, I assure you that UNAIDS will:

- Maintain a focus on HIV prevention as a core element of the next Global AIDS Strategy
- Continue leading the Global Prevention Coalition together with UNFPA and support its further expansion and partnerships during the coming 5 years.
- work closely with you and with the Global Fund to ensure that resources committed in country grants support strategically focused evidence based and impactful HIV prevention programs
- we will ramp up our work to end the inequalities and the harmful policies and practices that fuel the HIV epidemic

- we will promote sexual and reproductive health and rights for all,
- we will step up work to eliminate gender-based violence; restrictive laws; stigma and discrimination
- We shall bring the strength of our knowledge and expertise in responding to the HIV epidemic to inform and support the response to COVID-19

We can never stop being outraged by the injustices in the HIV response. It's been a long battle but AIDS remains unfinished business.

We need to re-commit today to delivering on everyone's right to a future free of HIV, to delivering on their right to health.

Thank you and I look forward to this morning's discussions.

ENDS