

Ministerial Statement at the Meeting of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, 18 Nov. 2020

Salutations (add)

Greetings everyone!

It gives me immense pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Ladies and gentlemen, the year 2020 has been a challenging one. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed everything. Allow me to begin by extending the Government of Zimbabwe's deep appreciation to all people of goodwill, from the local to global level, who continue to work day and night to bring the pandemic under control. You have my admiration.

Over the last year, the Government of Zimbabwe working with all stakeholders has worked to develop an ambitious National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan for the period 2021 to 2025 to support our National Health Strategy. We have set very bold targets for HIV prevention in the strategy focusing our investments in areas that have lagged behind such as adolescents and young girls as well as ensuring we protect the gains achieved so far in other programme areas. I am confident its implementation will set the country on the right path and lay a solid foundation for ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

The country is also refocusing its HIV prevention to ensure domestic resources are deployed to support evidence-based prevention programmes as well as exploring local manufacture of HIV prevention commodities.

Ladies and gentlemen, next year, we are launching social contracting. Here, using domestic resources, support will be provided to civil society-led HIV and AIDS services delivery in support of national priorities as set out in our National Strategic Plan. This strategic shift is inspired by our deep commitment to a strong community response to HIV prevention ensuring that those with a comparative advantage in delivering our desired results. Use of our community structures has always been a cornerstone of the national HIV response and I do believe this move will further consolidate the sustainability of the national HIV response.

As I earlier mentioned COVID-19 has challenged the progress of the national HIV response. Early in the epidemic, we established rapid and nimble mechanisms to monitor any disruptions in the HIV response. This has enabled us respond quickly and I am glad to report that this strategic information has enabled us respond swiftly. The adapted guidelines issued by the Government have enabled service continuity amidst a ravaging pandemic.

As I conclude, allow me to extend special thanks to the Global HIV Prevention Coalition for the excellent work HIV prevention high on the agenda. As I reviewed the scorecard for my country, I could not fail to clearly see the miles to go if AIDS is to be ended. I wish to reiterate our commitment to the objectives of the Coalition and indeed our own commitment to attain the set targets.