

Mr Darren Welch, Director of Global Health, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK

-Thank UNAIDS for placing a spotlight on preventing new HIV infections. COVID-19 has exacerbated the challenge. Disruption to prevention services means more people do not know their status – increase in risk of new infections, particularly in those groups where targets are already most behind.

-UK is committed to HIV prevention - through our partnership with UNAIDS, our contribution to the Global Fund and our work through Robert Carr Fund and others.

-Thank Winnie and her team for their important leadership and work on the ambitious new Global AIDS strategy 2021-2026 – will guide our collective efforts over the next 5 years.

- UK welcomes strong focus and sense of urgency placed on HIV prevention– vital to meeting the 2030 goal.

-And the attention to addressing the inequalities that are driving new infections –recognising large disproportionate burden of new infections in key and vulnerable populations. We know young women, particularly in Africa, are worst affected by HIV – with the highest number of new infections and deaths from AIDS

-Need to address societal and structural factors that increase HIV vulnerability undermining peoples' chances to access and benefit from HIV services – vital to bringing down new infections.

-Need to uphold rights of all individuals and to ensure dignity of every person – why UK firmly supporting SRHR, gender equality, equity and leaving no one behind.

-COVID-19 has placed a spotlight on systems.

-We need systems that work for everyone with a people-centred approach that meets the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised on their terms.

-We need integrated approaches to service delivery where possible- already seeing good examples and need to build on this

-We need resilient systems that can deliver on the HIV response even as other epidemics threaten us – we cannot lose ground at this stage in our response

-Ultimately, we need systems that are resilient, equitable and inclusive and promote better health and wellbeing for all.