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.