

Closing remarks

Prof. Sheila Tlou, Co-Chair of Global HIV Prevention Coalition

Let me thank you your Excellencies, Colleagues and Partners for the great and inspiring messages that will give us the energy to move ahead and implement the precision prevention targets, the new ones. Indeed, no prevention no end. We are together in this quest for zero new HIV infections and I have heard about six things in our leadership that can turn this epidemic. These include, first, showing political will and commitment for HIV prevention translated into funding and adequately resourcing HIV prevention programmes, addressing and removing the legal and structural and policy obstacles that hold back more rapid progress, and investing in national stewardship and coordination support so that the prevention programmes do not fragment into piecemeal projects that we sometimes see in countries.

Second, ensuring prioritization of HIV and COVID-19 services for priority populations amid the COVID-19 lock downs and restrictions. With the COVID-19 crisis requiring new resources, renewed energy, and strong leadership, it is essential to make sure that resources for HIV prevention are not reduced as this threatens the very gains that we have made thus far.

Third, strengthening national capacity to manage and coordinate effective and sustainable HIV prevention programs, recognizing that such fit for purpose programs involve multisystem capacities within universal primary healthcare systems and community health care systems. Yes, community health care systems are important because as we always say health is made in the community, hospitals are for repairs.

Fourth, ensuring that countries are able to generate and use appropriate and up to date data, so as to focus high-impact interventions on locations and populations with the highest risk of HIV infection and to monitor the coverage and outcomes of those programmes.

Fifth, is harnessing the strengths of community-led organizations and networks to deliver people-centered services at scale, including through social contracting, through enhanced community-based data collection, and through monitoring of prevention interventions.

Lastly, strengthening the links with other health and social development programs such as sexual and reproductive health, comprehensive sexuality education, prevention of gender-based violence, antenatal care, COVID-19, tuberculosis, malaria and viral hepatitis.

At UNAIDS and specifically at the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, we feel very energized and we look forward to supporting and working with countries and leaders at all levels in reaching those agreed precision prevention targets.

I thank you and I am pleased to close this great meeting.