

Thank you, your Excellency Ambassador Thapa, Vice President of the ECOSOC,

Thank you, Brazil and the Netherlands, the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board,

Excellencies, delegates,

Today, I will outline:

1. Updated global HIV data
2. Country responses to the financing crisis
3. UNAIDS' transformation

First, the latest data from July's Global AIDS Update

- In 2024, there were 1.3 million new HIV infections and 630,000 AIDS-related deaths, down 61% and 70% from peak levels.
- New efficiencies and technologies could reduce the cost of ending AIDS by around US\$ 7 billion.
- Yet, more countries now criminalise key populations—for the first time since data collection began.

- In January, the largest contributor to the global HIV response suddenly paused its support, worsening the decline in Official Development Assistance.

PEPFAR funding for 2025 has now thankfully been protected, but the overall retreat from ODA from many countries risks all we have gained.

Without PEPFAR, we could see an additional 6 million HIV infections and 4 million AIDS-related deaths by 2029.

Second, country responses.

Despite hardship, governments and communities are striving to maintain HIV services.

Low- and middle-income countries already provide 59% of HIV funding to their own responses. 25 countries are stepping up - working with UNAIDS to increase domestic HIV funding for 2026.

But it isn't nearly enough to replace lost aid. A new financing approach is essential.

We welcome steps taken at the Seville Financing for Development Conference to address Global South debt and aggressive tax avoidance; essential to unlocking fiscal space for health.

Third, how UNAIDS is responding.

As a fully voluntarily funded programme, we have been significantly impacted by the financial shock.

However, we are adapting, guided by the epidemic's realities, the UN80 initiative, and a High-Level Panel's review.

Our mission remains: to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Our priorities in this next phase are:

- Supporting inclusive, multisectoral and sustainable national HIV responses— led by communities and governments, and funded increasingly from domestic sources;
- Accelerating HIV prevention, leveraging innovations like the twice-yearly PrEP shot lenacapavir; and
- Addressing structural inequalities that hinder access to HIV services and protecting rights.

Operating within tighter constraints, our secretariat staffing will drop by 55%. Country presence will fall from 85 to 54, with a multi-country office model and a proposed integration into 21 UN Resident Coordinator offices.

A further review and transformation will take place in 2027 to gradually transfer functions to communities, governments, regional actors, and other UN entities as we approach 2030.

In closing, I urge ECOSOC to continue to:

- Yes, sound the alarm about how the funding crisis threatens all we have gained.
- But also, recognise the work of the communities and governments rising to meet this moment.
- And commit to a gradual, planned transition towards a more sustainable HIV financing system – led by communities and governments, but underpinned by global solidarity.

Thank you.

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