

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE AFRICA GROUP ON THE UNAIDS TRANSITION PROCESS

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings to you all,

The Africa Group has taken note of the United Nations Secretary-General's Progress Report on the UN2.0/UN80 initiative, issued on 18 September 2025. While we acknowledge the importance of reforming the United Nations system to ensure greater efficiency, coherence, and impact, we wish to express our concern regarding the references to UNAIDS contained in the report.

In particular, the report includes a proposal to sunset UNAIDS by 2026. This suggestion represents a significant departure from the transition timeline that was formally agreed upon by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) and subsequently endorsed by ECOSOC. The proposal, as currently framed, risks creating confusion, misinterpretation, and undermines the decisions and authority of the intergovernmental bodies charged with oversight of UNAIDS.

The Africa Group wishes to emphatically reaffirm that any structural or programmatic changes concerning UNAIDS fall under the sole purview of ECOSOC and the PCB, as

established by their respective mandates. The reference in the Secretary-General's report does not reflect the established and ongoing Member State-led process to guide the transformation of UNAIDS. Furthermore, it appears to disregard the conclusions reached through the inclusive and consultative high-level panel process, which informed the PCB's decisions.

The Africa Group expresses its strong and unwavering support for the process adopted by the PCB and reiterates the importance of preserving the integrity of its decisions. We reaffirm the Board's approval of a 2026 Transition Budget, which was designed to provide the necessary flexibility to respond to the evolving global context, including changes within the UN system and developments in the HIV response.

It is important to recall that the HIV response is already under immense strain, largely due to severe reductions in global funding — both to UNAIDS and to bilateral support mechanisms. Any attempt to accelerate the transition timeline without due consideration risks further disrupting an already fragile response, particularly in regions where the epidemic remains most acute.

The African continent continues to bear the heaviest burden of the HIV pandemic. While Africa comprises only 19% of the global population, it accounts for:

- 65% (26.5 million) of the 40.8 million people currently living with HIV;

- 4.7 million of the 9.2 million people globally who still lack access to antiretroviral treatment (representing over 51%); and
- 670,000 of the 1.3 million new HIV infections recorded globally in 2024 (over 51%).

These figures are a stark reminder of the critical importance of UNAIDS' continued leadership, coordination, and technical support. UNAIDS plays an indispensable role in ensuring a multisectoral, inclusive, rights-based, and accountable HIV response, both globally and at country level. No other entity within the UN system is mandated or equipped to fulfil this unique role.

In light of the above, the Africa Group calls on all stakeholders to:

- Respect the authority and mandate of the PCB and ECOSOC regarding the future of UNAIDS;
- Uphold the governance principles of transparency, accountability, and Member State ownership; and
- Ensure that any transition process is deliberate, evidence-informed, and responsive to the needs of countries and communities most affected.

In conclusion, the Africa Group reiterates its strong collective support for UNAIDS, its Executive Director, its ongoing transformation process as guided by the PCB, and the centrality of UNAIDS to the global HIV response. We urge all partners to resist any premature actions that could jeopardize

decades of progress and to work collaboratively toward a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future for the AIDS response.

I thank you.

Déclaration de l'Algérie sur le point 2 relatif au
« Modèle opérationnel révisé de l'ONUSIDA et UN80 »
Session spéciale du CCP/ONUSIDA

Merci Madame la Présidente.

Madame la Directrice Exécutive ;
Excellences ;
Mesdames et Messieurs ;

L'Algérie s'associe à la déclaration faite par le Zimbabwe au nom de la Région africaine.

L'Algérie soutient fermement l'initiative UN80, un effort collectif visant à réformer l'Organisation des Nations Unies afin d'en renforcer l'efficacité, d'alléger les charges administratives et de favoriser l'innovation.

Nous soulignant que ces réformes doivent être impulsées par les États membres, fondées sur le consensus et ancrées dans la Charte des Nations Unies afin de garantir l'équité, l'inclusion et la légitimité de ce processus transformateur.

Dans le cadre de cette initiative UN80, l'ONUSIDA s'est déjà engagée dans un processus de transformation en deux phases, tel approuvé par ses organes directeurs et mentionné par Mme la Directrice Exécutive.

Madame la Présidente,

Le contexte mondial demeure sombre et préoccupant. La persistance du VIH/sida continue de représenter un défi majeur de santé publique, en particulier pour le continent africain qui en supporte le fardeau le plus lourd. Le rôle de l'ONUSIDA reste donc essentiel pour accompagner les pays, notamment ceux du Sud, dans la mise en œuvre de réponses nationales efficaces, inclusives et durables face à cette épidémie.

L'Algérie réaffirme son soutien à une réforme de l'ONUSIDA transparente, inclusive et responsable, pleinement alignée sur les objectifs de transformation du système onusien dans le cadre de l'initiative UN80.

Nous insistons sur la nécessité d'une transition graduelle et non précipitée. Afin de préserver l'efficacité et la continuité des actions menées sur le terrain.

Notre délégation réaffirme, également, son engagement à préserver les acquis de la lutte mondial contre le VIH/sida et à soutenir l'objectif commun de mettre fin au Sida comme menace pour la santé publique d'ici 2030.

Je vous remercie.



**REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**PCB/UNAIDS SPECIAL SESSION
STATEMENT PRESENTED BY ANGOLA**

Madam President;

Angola endorses the African Region's declaration and reaffirms its commitment to the HIV response in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Angola has made progress in accessing prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services, reducing new infections, and improving the quality of life of people living with HIV. These advances reflect the commitment of the Angolan Executive, in collaboration with national and international partners, to protecting vulnerable people.

Angola took note of the United Nations Secretary-General's Progress Report on the UN2.0/UN80 initiative and recognizes the importance of reforming the United Nations system, which aims to make it more effective and adapted to the new global reality. However, it is essential that these transformations ensure the continuity of technical and financial support to least developed countries.

The African continent continues to bear the greatest burden of the HIV pandemic, and Angola expresses its deep concern regarding the references to UNAIDS, particularly the proposal to end the program by 2026. This proposal contradicts the transition timetable approved by the PCB and subsequently ratified by ECOSOC.

The global response to HIV is facing pressures by reduced international funding. Any acceleration of the transition process could compromise the effectiveness of the response in the regions most affected by the epidemic.

Excellencies,

Angola reaffirms its strong and collective support for UNAIDS, its Executive Director, and the PCB-led transformation process, emphasizing the relevance of UNAIDS in the global and multisectoral response to HIV.

Muito Obrigado.



SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

8 OCTOBER 2025

Draft: Statement by the Republic of South Africa On the UNAIDS Operating Model and the UN80 Initiative submitted to the Programme Coordinating Board.

PCB Members

Excellencies and fellow Permanent Representatives

Executive Director of UNAIDS

Distinguished guests

Good afternoon

1. South Africa aligns to the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Zimbabwe on behalf of Member States of the Africa Region.
2. South Africa appreciates the opportunity to submit this written statement on the revised operating model of UNAIDS and the reference to the Joint Programme in the context of the UN80 initiative.

UNAIDS Operating Model and the UN80 Reform Process

3. On 18 September 2025, the United Nations Secretary-General released a progress report on the UN80 initiative. The report outlines a series of proposed reforms to enhance the functioning and impact of the United Nations system. While many of these proposals fall within the Secretary-General's administrative authority, others will require careful consideration and approval by Member

States.

4. Of particular concern is the inclusion in the report of a proposal to phase out UNAIDS by 2026. This recommendation represents a significant departure from the transformation timeline that was formally approved by the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) and endorsed by ECOSOC.
5. South Africa recalls that decisions regarding the structure, mandate, and operational direction of UNAIDS lie within the purview of the PCB and ECOSOC. Any fundamental changes to the Joint Programme must be the outcome of inclusive, intergovernmental processes and not implemented unilaterally.

Status of the UNAIDS Transformation Process

6. The transformation of UNAIDS is already well underway, following a roadmap endorsed by the PCB. This process is taking place in two phases:
 - Phase One, adopted in June/July 2025, includes a 55% reduction in Secretariat staff, the consolidation of field presence to 54 countries with regional support hubs, and a significant downsizing of headquarters operations in Geneva.
 - Phase Two will be presented to the PCB in July 2027 and is expected to build on lessons learned and further align UNAIDS with broader UN reform objectives.
7. This phased and pragmatic approach reflects both financial realities and the continued need for UNAIDS' leadership in the global AIDS response.

Clarification on the UN80 Report's Reference to UNAIDS

8. The mention of UNAIDS in the Secretary-General's report caused considerable confusion and concern among Member States, stakeholders, and partners. It does not reflect the formal guidance or resolutions adopted by ECOSOC or the PCB.
9. This unexpected reference risks undermining a well-established intergovernmental process and overlooks the urgent need for strong multilateral coordination in the face of an HIV response under increasing strain. UNAIDS continues to play a vital role in advancing a multisectoral and inclusive response that no other UN entity is currently positioned to lead.
10. The UNAIDS Secretariat responded swiftly by developing a strategic communication plan, engaging directly with donors and stakeholders, and providing clarification through formal and informal channels.

Engagement with the PCB Bureau

11. The PCB Bureau met earlier this week and expressed strong support for UNAIDS and for the transformation process endorsed by its governing bodies. The Bureau agreed to:
 - i. Send a letter to the Secretary-General reaffirming the decisions taken by the PCB and ECOSOC on UNAIDS' transformation;
 - ii. Include an agenda item on "UNAIDS and the UN80 initiative" at the upcoming Special Session of the PCB on 8 October
 - iii. Circulate a background document to assist Board members in navigating these discussions
 - iv. Issue a public statement clarifying its position, now available on the UNAIDS website
12. South Africa commends the Bureau for its decisive leadership and for defending the integrity of the multilateral process.

Dialogue with Donors and Partners

13. We also note with appreciation the engagement of donor countries through the Group of Friends. During a dedicated meeting held last week, donors expressed strong and continued support for the Joint Programme. A broad consensus is emerging on the 2026 transitional workplan and budget.
14. We particularly acknowledge the leadership of partners such as the Netherlands in advocating for a thoughtful, measured approach to transformation, recognizing the need for flexibility in a complex transitional year. At the same time, we caution against attempts to introduce excessive operational oversight or micromanagement, which risks undermining the Secretariat's ability to carry out its mandate effectively.

In conclusion,

15. South Africa reaffirms its full support for UNAIDS, its Secretariat, and the broader Joint Programme. We remain committed to a transformation process that is Member State-led, evidence-based, and aligned with the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and sustainability.
16. We call on all partners to work together in preserving UNAIDS' critical leadership in the global HIV response, while ensuring that any reform process respects the authority of the PCB and the values of multilateral governance.

I Thank you.



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

**DR VINCENT BAGAMBE, DIRECTOR PLANNING AND
STRATEGIC INFORMATION-UGANDA AIDS COMMISSION**

AT

**THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNAIDS PROGRAMME
COORDINATING BOARD**

WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2025

GENEVA

[Please check against delivery]

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Uganda aligns itself with the statement delivered by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group.

We recognize the importance of the UN80 reforms in building a more coherent and impactful UN system.

However, the proposal to sunset UNAIDS by the end of 2026 represents a serious deviation from the transition pathway unanimously endorsed by Member States through the PCB and ECOSOC.

This is not a procedural matter — it is about safeguarding the governance framework that underpins the global HIV response.

Uganda reaffirms that any structural or programmatic changes to UNAIDS must remain under the authority of the PCB and ECOSOC, and be implemented through the two-phase transition endorsed in June 2025.

This approach is deliberate, inclusive and designed to ensure sustainability, continuity, and ownership at country level.

Our national experience demonstrates why UNAIDS remains indispensable.

1. **Strategic information:** Uganda depends on UNAIDS-supported Spectrum and Naomi models to produce annual HIV estimates. UNAIDS experts work with national teams to analyze, validate and peer-review data, generating reliable evidence to guide policy and resource allocation.
2. **Sustainability:** UNAIDS has supported Uganda to develop its Transformational Plan, a roadmap for transitioning from donor reliance to country-led programming. It also backs the NASA process, which tracks HIV spending and informs financing strategies.
3. **Technical assistance:** UNAIDS has enabled the production of critical studies and analytical work — including on prevention, PMTCT quality, and key population size

estimates — that no other UN entity currently delivers with the same depth.

These functions are not abstract; they are foundational to our response. Disrupting them prematurely would have tangible, harmful consequences.

Between 2010 and 2024, Uganda reduced new infections by 61%, AIDS-related deaths by 63%, and expanded ART coverage to 85, yet challenges persist:

Uganda's 95-90-86 status reveals gaps among adolescents, men and children, and vertical transmission remains a concern. A rushed transition could erode these fragile gains, undermining progress toward the 2030 goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat.

Uganda urges the PCB and all partners to uphold agreed timelines, ensure orderly and evidence-based reforms, and preserve the vital support UNAIDS provides.

This is about more than institutional restructuring — it is about protecting lives, sustaining systems, and honoring shared commitments.

I thank you.