

Statement by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

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***"Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs for a
sustainable future for all"***

Mr President,

While many SDG targets are stalled or are in reverse, the global HIV response remains a rare beacon of progress. This progress is seen most clearly through leadership and impact where most people live and where it matters most: in cities.

Globally, cities are home to 60% of all people living with HIV. Cities are not just population centers; they are the crossroads of science, policy, funding, cutting-edge services, and the protection of human rights.

Since the [Paris Declaration in 2014](#), over 600 cities and municipalities have committed to fast-track their HIV responses. The new [UNAIDS Global Strategy \(2026–2031\)](#) highlights the role of cities at the forefront of the historic effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

But make no mistake: AIDS is not over. Severe funding cuts, the rollback of human rights, and underinvestment in HIV prevention threaten to erase decades of hard-won progress. We cannot let these challenges allow global momentum to be reversed.

Among workers in Nairobi, people who inject drugs in Amsterdam, and thousands of visitors in New York for the World Cup, cities around the world are showing that access to local health and social services can be a powerful entry point to effective HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and support.

In every city, treating every person with dignity and respect is a political choice, not a budget constraint.

With the recently adopted [2026 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS](#), the world has a new global roadmap to end AIDS.

We call on all stakeholders to accelerate efforts to end AIDS. We have no doubt that the world will get there by 2030, and we encourage more cities to be the first to cross the finish line.

Thank you.

