



Privileged to serve

Dear friends and colleagues,

In an era of interconnectedness and societies that are increasingly plural, international cooperation will become the new normal. The AIDS response has epitomized the principle of global solidarity and shared responsibility. **We have put people at the centre and valued inclusiveness.** These are the elements that will lead us to end epidemics and to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3. This is what I have been discussing with political and global health leaders at the Belt and Road High Level Meeting for Health Cooperation: Towards a Health Silk Road, being held in Beijing, China, this week.

“The world has committed to ending AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by 2030. I am committed to delivering on this pledge—working with countries, our partners and the people we serve.”

TO OUR PARTNERS—THANK YOU

The progress made in the AIDS response has been the collective effort of people living with HIV, communities, civil society, health workers, cities, local and national governments, donors, the private sector and multilateral organizations. UNAIDS is privileged to lead, shape and coordinate this people-centred response. Without the support of you, our partners, we could not have saved more than 13 million lives and averted millions of new HIV infections in the past 16 years.

MY 2020 COMMITMENT

Bill Gates said recently, “I see a chance for the eradication of malaria and HIV/AIDS, but that’s gonna take a lot of science and a lot of investment.”

I agree, we can end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by 2030. At UNAIDS we have a road map to end AIDS that includes reaching the Fast-Track Targets that United Nations Member States unanimously agreed to achieve by 2020.

I am committed to delivering on this pledge—working with countries, our partners and the people we serve. **I thank the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, for his trust and confidence** and for a two-year extension of my appointment.

The Fast-Track Targets—30 million people on HIV treatment, eliminating new HIV infections among children, reducing new HIV infections by 75%, reducing AIDS-related tuberculosis deaths by 75%, reaching 90% of key populations with HIV services and zero discrimination—are audacious, but attainable.

NOW OR NEVER

We cannot afford to miss the milestones of 2020.

There is a saying in French: maintenant ou jamais.

Never before have we been closer to our goal of controlling this epidemic. Never before has our progress been so precarious. And never again will we have this window of opportunity.

Since becoming Executive Director, working together we have made it possible for HIV treatment access to grow from 6.2 million people to 19.5 million people and to reduce new HIV infections among children by more than 55%. Investments in AIDS have risen from US\$ 10 billion to US\$ 19.7 billion. We have cut AIDS-related deaths by half. But I am very mindful of the gaps and the people left behind.

All my life I have chosen optimism, I have chosen hope. I know AIDS is not over, but with your continued support it can be.

Best wishes,

Michel Sidibé
Executive Director, UNAIDS

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