

# UNAIDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS







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## SUSTAINING THE GAINS OF THE GLOBAL HIV RESPONSE TO 2030 AND BEYOND

Good morning, Excellencies,  
Your Excellency Minister Edwin Dikoloti, online, from Botswana,  
Your Excellency President Michelle Bachelet, in Chile,  
Our sister Florence Anam, Co-Executive Director of GNP+,

I am very delighted to be with you here this morning. I am so glad that this thematic segment of the 54<sup>th</sup> PCB is focusing on sustainability.

The HIV response is at a cross-roads today and ensuring sustainability to and beyond 2030 is a must.

2030 as you know is a vital milestone, but as you also know it is not the end of the HIV response. Many millions of people, over 40 million people, will be living with HIV, and securing that they can live long and healthy lives way beyond 2030 is our collective duty.

Meeting the 2025 targets is our immediate next step on the path to 2030, and we can be confident that progress continues, but we also know that it remains uneven among countries and regions. The 2024 Global AIDS Update which we will launch next month in Munich will give us new insights on how the world is doing.

As I said on Tuesday, the current financial system is stacked against a sustainable AIDS response. Fiscal space for needed investments in health, in education, in social protection is tighter than ever before—due to low economic growth, low revenue collection, and especially for Africa because of high indebtedness. Half of sub-Saharan countries spend three times more on debt servicing than on health. For years, these nations have been shouldering interest rates four to eight times those of high-income countries. The international financial architecture is skewed against the weakest economies. Access to finance in international markets is not a level playing ground.

At UNAIDS we envision a holistic, integrated, and effective AIDS response that helps us to stop the virus, secure the wellbeing of people living with HIV, and that keeps AIDS at bay in a post 2030 world. This requires financial sustainability, as well as programmatic and political sustainability.

With governments in the lead, UNAIDS is working in close partnership with the Global Fund and PEPFAR, to support countries to develop AIDS response sustainability roadmaps. And these roadmaps have flexibility for being stand-alone or to be integrated exercises and they all have concrete measures and tools to monitor progress. The Secretary General has called for the development of these roadmaps as a critical tool for sustainability.

So we urge governments to advance dialogues, to do high level assessments and to draft synthesis roadmaps in the next 6 months, outlining the key transformations that are needed to advance their response so that these responses are robust and sustainable in the long term, beyond 2030.

The need to transform the response comes as a result of the evolution of the epidemic itself, and us getting closer to the existing targets. Transformations led by countries need to be identified. These will also help donors and other actors to make the necessary shifts in their operations contributing to the country's vision.

For the HIV response to be successful in the long term, we need strong national to global political leadership. Leadership that includes partnerships with all stakeholders and truly meaningful collaboration with people living with, and at risk of, and affected by HIV in every community.

We need increased domestic financing from the developing countries themselves, but also a continued commitment from the donors—with the Global Fund replenishment in 2025 as a critical milestone for us.

Programmatic and systems sustainability means that we must be effective, resource-efficient, and impactful, and advance in more integration of our responses.

Today we will hear from key institutions including our Cosponsors—we will hear from PEPFAR, the Global Fund, WHO, UNDP, the World Bank, communities and civil society, experts, leading private actors and Government representatives. We all need to contribute to sustainable responses.

We must deploy country-tailored financial solutions, including debt relief and new revenues and health tax efforts. Global solidarity must remain to meet diverse needs, knowing that the gains made in the response lead to sustainable gains across the health sector and for all people.

We must work together and focus on achieving equitable access to all aspects of the HIV response, breaking down the barriers that people face. If laws and policies need to change, then we must change them. We must uphold that global commitment to the right to health for all people!

Let me finish my saying that we at UNAIDS are committed to supporting communities and governments to get on the sustainability path—sustainable financially, programmatically, politically—through the development and implementation of these sustainability roadmaps. Together, let's lay out the steps that we will take to accelerate, transform and sustain HIV responses over time and deliver on the promise of ending AIDS.

Thank you.



