

**Remarks by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
Executive Board of UNICEF
First Regular Session
7 February 2024**

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Thank you Mr President for this opportunity to address the UNICEF Executive Board.

We would firstly like to commend UNICEF for its valuable and impactful contribution to the Joint Programme and the Global AIDS response. We would like to recognize the continued commitment of ED Catherine Russel and of the HIV team at UNICEF.

UNICEF has supported countries to make remarkable gains against the global AIDS pandemic. New HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths have been reduced markedly, including among children, adolescents and young people.

UNAIDS recognizes the important role that UNICEF plays on elimination of vertical transmission, closing the treatment gap and preventing new infections in adolescent girls and young women.

We are pleased to note that UNICEF is also building on lessons learned from the HIV response. That includes support to community-led organizations that helped to increase the reach and quality of HIV and other health services, identify deficiencies in programmes, strengthen accountability and pioneer new approaches for protecting people's health.

The impact of the Joint Programme in the global HIV response is clear and powerful - incredible progress and results for people affected by HIV and impacts that go far beyond HIV. We must preserve, protect and accelerate this.

We thank this board for instituting debates on the decisions of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board. This ensures governance coherence across UN bodies.

The PCB's **multistakeholder nature and having the most affected people as members gives it great credibility** in its policy setting role **and its** strength has been that members consistently focus on evidence behind what is required in the HIV response and have managed to achieve important consensus decisions, including on areas that elsewhere often become politicized.

This has contributed to why SDG 3.3 continues to drive progress on the broader SDG 3 and be one of the few areas of the SDG where progress can be noted.

A worrying trend of decreasing resources available for multilateral work is also impacting UBRAF. This has led to significantly lower funding than budgeted for the Joint Programme's contribution to achieve the 2025 targets – and it is hurting the cosponsors' HIV work – as well as that of the Secretariat. As presented to the PCB in December, the Joint Programme is in real dollars operating at less than half of the available core resources of 2015.

The Joint Programme will shortly launch a new value proposition to clearly set out the difference the Joint Programme will deliver over the next two years, before the new Global AIDS Strategy will come into place. With your collective support and commitment to fund the Joint Programme, we can get closer to reaching the 2025 targets.

To achieve the targets agreed to by member states in the 2021 Political Declaration, the Global AIDS Strategy and the UBRAF we would encourage this Executive Board to continue to guide and support the engagement of UNICEF with countries and affected communities to meet the targets.

Mr President

Collectively we can end AIDS by 2030 – The Joint Programme offers us a platform to do exactly that.

Thank you.