

**U.S. Statements at UNICEF – Executive Board**  
**First Regular Session**  
**February 6-8, 2024**

U.S. STATEMENT ON ITEM 5:

As Delivered

February 7, 2024

Ms. Hareya Fassil

Supervisory Health Science Specialist on Multilateral Policy, USAID

- The United States appreciates this annual update on UNICEF actions in response to the recommendations of the 51st and 52nd UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board Meetings, and the Organization’s continued contributions in accelerating progress towards.
- The United States is committed to helping the world end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030. Partnership is a cornerstone of our efforts and UNICEF as a founding Cosponsor of UNAIDS is a critical leader on pediatric and adolescent prevention, treatment, and care which are all fundamental to meeting the 2025 targets of the global AIDS Strategy.
- We commend UNICEF for its contributions in supporting countries to integrate HIV services with maternal and child primary healthcare and expanding women’s access to HIV treatment and preventing infections among children.
- However, we are concerned by the significantly lower rates of diagnosis, treatment and survival among infants and children compared to adults, and the high risk of HIV infection among adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa.
- We also note the concerns raised regarding the Joint Program’s funding gaps and the challenges posed by insufficient funding. We encourage the resource mobilization efforts of UNICEF and other agencies and urge Member States to increase and sustain their support to the Joint Program.
- We have a couple of questions:
  - What accounts for the persistently high number of infants with HIV missing out on timely diagnosis, despite the progress made in integrating HIV services in primary health care?
  - The report highlights that in 2022, 1 in 3 pregnant women living with HIV “outside of sub-Saharan Africa” did not receive HIV treatment. Could you please clarify which regions or contexts outside of sub-Saharan Africa?
- The United States reiterates our recommendation:
  - We must adequately resource the response. Our shared goals must be advanced and sustained within country-led, functional, and resilient national systems. UNAIDS and its Co-Sponsors are a critical partner worldwide and provides necessary expertise to national and regional systems. UNAIDS must have the resources to perform. We hope that Member States will consider increasing

funding to the HIV/AIDS response including particularly through UNAIDS as well as co-sponsors.