

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)  
150<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND – VIRTUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 24-29, 2022

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**The global health sector strategies on  
HIV, hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections**

Agenda Item 8

**WRITTEN STATEMENT:**

- The United States thanks the Secretariat for its efforts in drafting the updated global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- We note the significant work on HIV and AIDS in the UN System: the Global AIDS Strategy was adopted by the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board, a 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS was adopted at the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting, and the Human Rights Council adopted the resolution on HIV and AIDS. The draft WHO global health sector strategies on HIV, hepatitis, and STIs for 2022-2030 is part and parcel of all these efforts, and the United States appreciates that these efforts clearly outline our common focus on the most vulnerable populations.
- The dual HIV and COVID-19 pandemics continue to reveal and exacerbate existing inequities and vulnerabilities. We must increase smart investments in HIV prevention that have demonstrated effectiveness in reaching at-risk populations during the COVID-19 crisis. Community involvement, leadership, and accessible program delivery must be prioritized. Building resilience requires us all to be partners, and we each bring a unique contribution.
- Through the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), we have saved more than 21 million lives, prevented millions of HIV infections, and supported at least 20 countries around the world to reach epidemic control of HIV or achieve their ambitious HIV treatment targets. This progress is built on the current UNAIDS Strategy, WHO guidance and the continuous use of HIV epidemiologic data that allows for service delivery to evolve and improve.

- The United States supports the strong emphasis in the 2022-2030 Strategy on data capture and use by sub-geographies and sub-populations. Only by doing this will we know when we are reaching those hardest to serve and addressing barriers to access. Detailed results must be realized in all populations; global and national level reporting hold little meaning if not.
- The focus on science and implementing evidence-based interventions is important. New HIV prevention interventions must be introduced quickly and at scale if HIV incidence is to be reduced. Outdated, inaccessible, and ineffective interventions must be replaced with those that effectively reach key populations, including adolescent girls and young women, children, persons with disabilities, and men. Effective approaches must promote equity and gender equality, and respect, protect and fulfill the human rights and dignity of all. We also fully support UNFPA's focus on strengthened HIV integration through comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights programming. The 2022-2030 Strategy provides the directive to do so.
- We commend the country governments, the United Nations family, the Global Fund, and communities on the tremendous progress made in reaching unprecedented high levels of HIV treatment and prevention coverage and reducing rates of HIV incidence. Driven by smart investments and critical policy changes, many countries are proving that HIV epidemics can be controlled, still without a vaccine and cure.

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