



UNAIDS statement, World Health Assembly 76th.

Agenda item: 3 _ General discussions following address WHO DG

Delivery: UNAIDS

- Chair, Excellencies, Ministers of Health, and delegates, thank you for your leadership in prioritizing global health and working in solidarity to face the challenges of the future with government leaders, scientists, and communities. This Assembly has been writing the history of health for 75 years.
- Since the 1980s, an essential part of this history has been our response to HIV. Despite no cure for AIDS nor a vaccine for HIV, we have achieved record-breaking declines in new HIV infections and in AIDS-related deaths. We have brought down the price of treatment and diagnostics, strengthened health infrastructure, and witnessed the rise of a unique cadre of community-led organizations.
- The contributions of the AIDS response, and the leadership of the HIV movement have also been critical in successful country and community-led responses to COVID-19 and Mpox, and will continue to be invaluable in efforts to prevent, prepare for and response to other existing – and future - pandemics.
- UNAIDS welcomes the first draft of the Pandemics convention/accord, and will continue engaging in the process, bringing critical perspectives from four decades of responding to AIDS:
 - Multisectoral and rights-based approaches,
 - Equitable access for all,
 - Sustainable financing, and that
 - Community-led organizations and community-led responses, including by key populations, women, and youth in all of their respective diversities' must be at the centre of a response to any pandemic.
- UNAIDS notes with grave concern that some of the evidence-informed progress, including on sexual and reproductive health and rights, the human rights of LGBTIQI people and women and girls in all their diversity, which have direct impacts on public health, is being challenged.
- The evidence is very clear from the AIDS response that limiting access to women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights leads to poorer health outcomes – and higher HIV incidence. We trust this Assembly will do what is right - be bold in ending inequalities, and place human rights at the centre of pandemic responses and protect the health of all, for all.
- Thank you.