



Statement under agenda item 21.1

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

- UNAIDS commends WHO for the report on the implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Public Health, which elements we have been working upon with great interest since its adoption by the WHA in 2008.
- For over twenty-five years, UNAIDS has been working to maximize the policy options for governments that ensure access to affordable and quality-assured medicines and other health technologies to address the health needs of people at risk of and living with HIV, as part of a growing demand for universal health coverage and the commitments to fulfil human rights obligations and to achieve the HIV-related SDG targets.
- Despite achievements in the HIV response in this area to accelerate progress towards ending AIDS as public health threat by 2030, persisting challenges are hampering successes. For example, there are persisting regulatory barriers that continue to obstruct market competition for innovative products, leading to high prices and to shortages and stockouts.
- These barriers also undermine the introduction and use of public health adapted formulations, like fixed dose combinations and more tolerable products. Moreover, child-friendly formulations of ARVs are still not being developed to keep pace with adult formulations, or they are not being registered in a timely manner.
- Therefore, there is a constant need to intensify collective efforts to promote access to innovative, affordable, and effective health technologies to address not only HIV, but its co-infections and co-morbidities and redouble the efforts to develop HIV vaccines and a functional cure.
- The elements of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Public Health, and the subsequent WHA resolutions on the Road Map for Access to Medicines, Vaccines and other Health Products and Transparency of Markets for Medicines, Vaccines and other Health Products constitute the core of the access to health technologies components of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026, which was adopted in March last year by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), and reaffirmed by Member States during the High-Level Meeting in June 2021.
- UNAIDS thus supports the extension of the timeframe of the plan of action beyond 2022, as it will provide the UNAIDS Joint Programme the strategic guidance and further policy coherence to achieve the access to health technologies objectives within the Global AIDS Strategy.

Thank you