

## **UNAIDS STATEMENT**

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## WHO 150<sup>th</sup> EB, 24 January 2022

• Thank you Chair.

• Distinguished members, we would like to congratulate you and WHO for the progress made, in such short time, to help the world better respond to, and prepare for, pandemics.

• We also welcome the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Working group on pandemic preparedness and response and today I would like to share the values and practices learned from 25 years of AIDS response

• Colliding pandemics offer opportunities for efficiencies and shared efforts – they can also heighten risks, especially for the most vulnerable among us, including people at risk for, and living with HIV.

• We wish to highlight five core elements of the new Global AIDS Strategy, which are essential for the global pandemic prevention, preparedness and response architecture. They are:

- Putting human rights at the centre of pandemic responses,
- Communities at the centre,
- Ensuring equitable access to medicines, diagnostics, vaccines, and other essential health technologies,
- Building people-centred data systems capable of highlighting inequalities,
- Supporting workers on the pandemic front lines.

• By addressing, and ending, the inequalities that prevent all people from accessing information, systems and tools capable of protecting their health, we can end AIDS, end COVID and future-proof the world against emergent pandemics.