

Excellencies,

I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of the Executive Director of UNAIDS.

As global health stakeholders gather at this World Health Assembly and reflect on the future of the global health architecture, we should begin by recognising one important truth: global health has been one of the clearest successes of international cooperation in our time.

And in many countries, progress in global health was forged through the struggle against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria—diseases that have demanded solidarity, political leadership and persistence, and that still represent urgent unfinished business.

Even if we are not on track to reach all the health-related SDGs, we know what has helped the world move forward: multisectoral solidarity, science, and the determination to reach those left behind, powered by strong accountability systems and time-bound, global commitments that translate to results.

So as we shape a new era of global health, and reform its architecture, we should build from what has worked. The HIV response showed that progress comes when governments, communities, civil society and partners work together across sectors—and when action is grounded in data, in human rights and in shared responsibility.

AIDS has never been only a medical or health challenge. It has always been shaped—and too often driven—by inequality. And the HIV response has shown that when we tackle stigma and discrimination, when we address exclusion, and when we listen to communities and share power, we get results that are stronger and more sustainable.

That is part of what UNAIDS and the global HIV response can offer as global health is reformed: a model in which communities and civil society are not just consulted but are part of decision-making; a model that is more inclusive, accountable, more grounded in people's realities, and stronger because power is shared.

And what we should expect from the future architecture is renewal: countries leading strong responses, investing more of their own resources, building sustainable systems, and working across sectors; with international solidarity helping to enable national leadership, protect rights and sustain progress where needs are greatest. That is how health sovereignty and shared responsibility move forward together.

We know what works. We should have the courage to build on it.

Thank you.