



Brussels, June 9th 2022

RE: The European Union's engagement in the HIV/AIDS response

TO: EC President Ursula von der Leyen
Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen
Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides

Dear President
Dear Commissioners,

We, a collective of community and civil society organisations, and UN agencies, working in the HIV/AIDS response, call on the European Commission (EC) to reinvigorate its leadership in ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, as a decisive element of realising SDG3.

Over the last decades, tremendous progress has been made in HIV prevention and treatment. These advances were accomplished especially in those countries where the programmatic response was based on scientific evidence, respect for human rights, the meaningful participation of key populations and measures to overcome stigma and discrimination.

Such progress would not have been possible without the leadership of the European Commission, including its support for the creation of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, twenty years ago, and the adoption of strong and forward-looking policies.

However, COVID-19 has reversed hard won gains, and the inequalities plaguing the AIDS response have widened. Despite such setbacks, ending HIV/AIDS by 2030 can be achieved: we have the knowledge and tools to prevent new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths. The international community has recently re-committed to this goal, as expressed in the June 2021 UN General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. We now need stakeholders to act upon this commitment, show greater solidarity and leadership and scale-up investments in effective mechanisms and approaches. We commend the European Parliament May 2021 Resolution "Accelerating progress and tackling inequalities towards ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030" and call on the European Commission to step up its role in the HIV/AIDS response, by:

- 1** Renewing relevant policy frameworks
- 2** Ensuring that the pandemic preparedness and response agenda contributes to ending HIV/AIDS and integrates lessons from the HIV/AIDS response
- 3** Increasing investments in The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 4** Putting human rights at the center to end inequalities

- 1 Renewing relevant policy frameworks:** all EC sectoral policy on HIV/AIDS, as well as the EU Global Health Strategy, are outdated. We welcome the EC's announcement regarding the adoption of a new Global Health strategy, and stand ready to work with you to ensure that it contributes to ending HIV/AIDS by 2030. The EU Global Health Strategy should use as a compass both UNAIDS' Global AIDS strategy and the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030, and further the related European Parliament Resolution.
- 2 Ensuring that the pandemic preparedness and response agenda contributes to ending HIV/AIDS and integrates lessons from the HIV/AIDS response:** we urge you to support comprehensive approaches to tackling all pandemics, existing and future, which put human rights, community infrastructure and equitable access at the center.
- 3 Investing €715 million in the Global Fund:** as a founding member of the Global Fund, the EC has helped shape the Global Fund as a unique instrument in global health: an inclusive partnership based on strong core principles, such as focus on marginalised, criminalised and vulnerable populations, inclusion of civil society, comprehensively engaging affected communities and country ownership in a country-led funding model. The EC has steadily increased its financial support in the Global Fund and cannot turn its back on this investment. The Global Fund is critical to deliver in the HIV, TB and malaria response and to supporting countries' efforts to build more people-centered and integrated systems for health, better able to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease threats. A few months ago, the Global Fund launched its 7th Replenishment campaign, announcing that it seeks to raise at least US\$ 18 billion. Even if this target is met, there will be a US\$ 28 billion gap for the fight against HIV, TB, and malaria. We therefore urge donors to see this target as a bare minimum. As a champion of the Global Fund and all it stands for, we call on the European Commission to pledge at least €715 million to the Global Fund replenishment. Such a pledge would contribute to a successful replenishment campaign, which the U.S. administration has committed to by signaling its intention to pledge US\$ 6 billion.
- 4 Putting human rights at the center to end inequalities:** the latest data available show that key populations (gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender people and sex workers) and their sexual partners accounted for 93% of new HIV infections outside of sub-Saharan Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, six in seven new HIV infections among adolescents aged 15–19 years are among girls. This can change if the EU puts its policies and political weight behind addressing so-called "societal enablers" – ending stigma, discrimination, social exclusion, gender inequality and violence, and the criminalization of key populations – and commits to investing sustainably in community-led responses as communities are the best placed to deliver programmes that address the social barriers they are facing.

We are at a critical tipping point in the AIDS response. The risk of inaction is a reversal in progress, and a failure to achieve the targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals.

We know that the EU can continue act in solidarity as a role model and global health champion, demonstrate its leadership, compassion and commitment and substantially contribute to ending one of the deadliest pandemics in living memory, a pandemic that is closely linked to disadvantaged populations and inequalities, globally and within Europe. We ask you to do whatever it takes to do so.

Thank you for your attention.

List of signatories

United Nations

The Joint United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), including UNDP, UNHCR, UNODC, WFP, and the UNAIDS Secretariat.

Civil society and community-led organisations

AFRICAN REGION

1. African Network of Adolescents and Young Persons Development (ANAYD)
Nigeria
2. Approche Participative Développement et Santé de Proximité (APDSP)
Cameroon
3. Association Act For Welfare
Cameroon
4. Cameroonian Association for People Who Use drugs (Empower Cameroon)
Cameroon
5. Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations (EANNASO)
Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania (including Zanzibar), Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia and Southern Sudan
6. GALZ - An Association of LGBTI people in Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe
7. Good Health Community Programmes Kenya
Kenya
8. Impact Santé Afrique
Cameroon
9. Initiative Sankofa de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ISDAO)
West Africa
10. Kenya NGO Alliance Against Malaria (KeNAAM)
Kenya
11. Mouvement pour les Libertés Individuelles (MOLI)
Burundi
12. Network of Young Key Populations (NYKP)
Ghana
13. ONG Failatoul Hairan (Bienfaisance)
Niger
14. Pentecostal Advocate for Socio-Economic Development (PENASED)
Cameroon
15. Public Health International Consulting Center (PHICC)
Cameroon
16. Réseau Accès aux Médicaments Essentiels (RAME)
Burkina Faso
17. Sustainable Impact for Development in Africa (SIDAF)
Cameroon
18. Women, Law and Development (MULEIDE)
Mozambique

EUROPEAN REGION

19. Action against AIDS Germany
Germany
20. Action Santé Mondiale / Global Health Advocates
France / EU
21. AIDES
France
22. AIDS Action Europe (AAE)
420 NGOs, national networks and community-based groups in the WHO Europe Region
23. AIDS-Fondet
Denmark
24. Aidsfonds
The Netherlands
25. Alliance for Public Health (APH)
Ukraine
26. Charitable Fund "Hope and Trust"
Ukraine
27. Correlation - European Harm Reduction Network (C-EHRN)
58 organisational and 115 individual members from most EU Member States and other European countries
28. ECOM - Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity
Members of 20 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
29. European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG)
150 members across 45 countries of Europe
30. EU HIV/AIDS Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis Civil Society Forum (CSF)
Regional network
31. Fundación Salud por Derecho
Spain
32. Harm Reduction International (HRI)
United Kingdom
33. Sidaction
France
34. TB People
Regional Network in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
35. Ukrainian Network of People who Use Drugs (PUD.UA/VOLNA)
Ukraine
36. Ukrainian Network of Women who Use Drugs (UNWUD/VONA)
Ukraine

SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION AND WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

37. Africa Japan Forum
Japan
38. Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)
Regional network
39. Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM)
Regional Network
40. Asia Pacific Network of People living with HIV (APN+)
Regional network
41. Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)
India
42. Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
Australia
43. Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI)
Vietnam
44. Diversity and Solidarity Trust
Sri Lanka
45. Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific
Regional network
46. Gujarat State Network of PLHIV (GSNP+)
India
47. IGAT HOPE
Papua New Guinea
48. India HIV/AIDS Alliance
India
49. India Working Group for Health Advocacy
India
50. Jaringan Indonesia Positif (JIP/The Positive Indonesia Network)
Indonesia
51. Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance (KHANA)
Cambodia
52. Lakshya Trust
India

- 53. Myanmar Positive Group (MPG)
Myanmar
- 54. National Coalition of People Living with HIV in India (NCPI+)
India
- 55. Network of Asian People who Use Drugs (NAPUD)
Regional Network
- 56. Network Of Maharashtra by People Living With HIV/AIDS (NMP+)
India
- 57. Pinoy Plus
Philippines
- 58. Rekat Peduli Indonesia Foundation
Indonesia
- 59. Uttar Pradesh Network of PLHIV (UPNP+)
India
- 60. Uttarakhand Network of PLHIV (UKNP+)
India
- 61. Vietnam Platform to Supporting Vulnerable Communities (VCSPA)
Vietnam
- 62. Yayasan Spiritia
Indonesia
- 63. Youth for Health Center
Mongolia
- 64. Youth LEAD
Largest Network of Young Key Populations in Asia and the Pacific

REGION OF THE AMERICAS

- 65. AVAC
United States
- 66. Friends of the Global Fight
United States

GLOBAL

- 67. Civil Society For Malaria Elimination (CS4ME)
Global
- 68. Coalition PLUS
Global (active in 52 countries)
- 69. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA)
342 members from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- 70. Eurasian Key Populations Health Coalition (EKPC)
Members across Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- 71. Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN)
750+ members across 89 countries globally
- 72. Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+ Global)
- 73. International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD)
Regional networks of people who use drugs and the International Network of Women who Use Drugs
- 74. The Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+)