

## UNAIDS 52nd Programme Coordinating Board Meeting

*Mamadi Yilla, Acting Principal Deputy U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, PEPFAR*

We thank you Madam Executive Director for your report. We also thank you for your support for the Reauthorization of PEPFAR this year. It is through the PEPFAR law that we provide UNAIDS and the joint program with core funding, and predictable funding. This reauthorization also is how we provide the funds to the Global Fund for HIV, TB, and malaria.

- Before I begin, our constituency acknowledges the vulnerable and marginalized communities living and affected by HIV we serve through this forum and the Global HIV response, whose lives, and the lifesaving services they depend on, have been destroyed by war in Ukraine. In other places, it is by the criminalization of their lives and livelihoods.
- NGO del we applaud you for being here.
- We applaud civil society, communities, humanitarian organizations, and the Government of Ukraine for working tirelessly and under dangerous conditions to bring ARVs and many other life-saving services to those whose lives depend on those services. The United States will continue to stand with Ukraine and its people in this crisis.
- The world discovered HIV and studying it over 40 years ago. Intensive efforts to understand the virus and control the pandemic yielded a clear path to ending HIV/AIDS as a global pandemic by 2030. So much progress has been made. The collective has achieved progress in HIV treatment and prevention through following the science and measuring the outcomes. We have goals and we have the know-how to get there based on decades of experience - both positive and negative.
- We are concerned today because those important lessons learned are increasingly ignored. We know the populations most at risk for HIV - persistent inequities plague the lives of children, girls and young women, LGBTQI+ people, and people who use drugs and sex workers. We know the importance, and effectiveness of bringing services TO key and vulnerable populations versus expecting them to come and seek services in clinics themselves. It has been the effective innovation of the HIV response because we created responses by doing as affected communities asked. We know that stigma and discrimination stand in the way and lead to negative outcomes. We must eliminate the stubborn remaining pediatric HIV

infections in some countries. We are concerned about the outbreak of HIV amongst children in Pakistan.

- Despite this collective knowledge and our shared commitment to ending AIDS by 2030, we are seeing laws enacted and policies retained that are institutionalizing stigma and discrimination in unimaginable ways.
- We fear our hard-won progress is at risk and with it, our ability to meet the 2030 goals. As members of this Board, it is incumbent upon each of us to support evidence-based, comprehensive policies whose impact is lasting. It is equally incumbent upon us to speak out against actions and policies that undermine our collective efforts.