

UNAIDS MUST NOT BE SUNSET: A STATEMENT FROM Y+ GLOBAL

The Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+ Global) is a youth-led organisation with a clear mandate to continue to represent the voices of young people from across the globe. It is our strong belief that the world will not end the HIV epidemic without us. We recognise the shared commitment to creating a more integrated and coherent UN development system. However, we are concerned that the recommendation made in the United Nations' **UN80 Reform Report** to "sunset" UNAIDS by the end of 2026 risks undermining the progress made towards ending AIDS by 2030, particularly for adolescents and young people.

UNAIDS is the only UN agency dedicated exclusively to HIV/AIDS and the voices of communities. It has been more than just an agency; rather, a global convener, watchdog, and standard-bearer for equity and accountability in the HIV response. It plays a critical role in setting global norms, generating reliable data for advocacy, coordinating governments and donors, and ensuring civil society and communities, including young people, have a seat at the decision-making table. Since being operationalised in 1996, UNAIDS has inspired governments, the private sector, and civil society to work together in collaboration and partnership to leave no one behind. Without UNAIDS, leadership, accountability, and visibility for communities most affected would be severely weakened and neglected.

Y+ Global has worked closely with UNAIDS to advance meaningful youth leadership in the HIV response. Through initiatives such as **Youth Next Level**, we have partnered to effectively support the scale-up of youth-led HIV responses and accelerate the achievement of Result Area 7 of the Global AIDS Strategy and the 30–80–60 community leadership targets of the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

Additionally, under the UNITED! Movement, UNAIDS continues to provide technical assistance to youth-led networks, strengthening their capacity to engage in advocacy, drive community-led monitoring, and more effectively advance the global HIV mandate. These collaborations demonstrate how UNAIDS not only amplifies youth voices but also builds sustainable platforms for young people to lead.

The fight against AIDS is not over. Now is not the time to sunset UNAIDS. It is time to double the commitment to investments, partnerships and community leadership, and the political will to ensure that the gains made are not reserved and that future generations are not left behind. The proposal to reduce UNAIDS' country presence and ultimately sunset its Secretariat by 2026 is especially alarming in the face of rising HIV incidence among young people in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. At a time when funding for HIV is declining, stigma persists, and prevention innovations need to be scaled up, dismantling the one entity designed to ensure a coordinated global response is an enormous step back.

As young people, we urge Member States, the Secretary General, and stakeholders to carefully consider the long-term implications of the proposed transition. Strengthening, rather than diminishing, UNAIDS' mandate is critical to safeguarding the gains made and ensuring that the HIV response remains fit-for-purpose, inclusive, and sustainable. Ending AIDS by 2030 and sustaining the response beyond requires UNAIDS' continued leadership, coordination, and accountability.

We urge all community members and organisations to endorse the NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS PCB statement here:

ENDORSE SURVEY LINK