

## **WOMEN, THE GIRL CHILD AND HIV AND AIDS**

**PP1 Reaffirming** the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of its reviews; the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the outcome documents of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the key actions for its further implementation and outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women; the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS; the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

**PP2 Noting** with deep concern that the global HIV epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls and acknowledging the progress achieved in the realisation of Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs), halting and reversing the spread of HIV where the global response to HIV has averted millions of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths since 2000, when the MDGs were set;

**PP3 Recognizing** the need to intensify efforts to end the AIDS epidemic through fast tracking the HIV response across the prevention and treatment continuum, including in the context of the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets and acknowledging the specific vulnerabilities of adolescent and young girls and women due to, inter alia, unequal power relations in society between women and men, boys and girls;

**PP4 Acknowledging** that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive multisectoral gender responsive approach to end the AIDS epidemic;

**PP5 Noting with concern** that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit legitimate trade of generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low-and middle-income countries, and recognizing that improvements can be made, inter alia through national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, and noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to affordable and good quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine and treatment commodities for HIV, including opportunistic infections and co-infections;

**PP6 Stressing** that gender equality and the political, civil, social, economic and cultural empowerment of women and girls as well as the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights

and fundamental freedoms are fundamental in the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development;

**PP7 - Also stressing** that the lack of protection and promotion of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and insufficient access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, aggravates the impact of the epidemic especially amongst women and girls, increasing their vulnerability and endangering the survival of present and future generations;

**PP8 Recognizing** that children and adolescents are more likely to be lost from care and that those on antiretroviral medication are less likely than adults to reach viral load suppression and that there are many challenges in diagnosing and treating infants, children, and adolescents;

**PP9 Stressing** the value and importance of social protection for the most vulnerable for achieving universal health coverage (UHC) that comprises universal and equitable access to quality health services and ensures affordable and quality service delivery to people living with HIV including women and children and making sure that UHC also promotes HIV/AIDS responses;

**PP10 Recognizing** that over 13.3 million children have lost one or two parents to HIV and AIDS and that these children have complex needs pertaining to protection, care and support and that they may be at increased risk of infection as well as at increased risk of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence;

**PP11 Noting with appreciation** the efforts of Member States and the UN system to end all forms of violence against women and children, in particular the girl-child including the Secretary General's Campaign "UNite to end violence against women", and the HeForShe Campaign;

**PP12 Deeply concerned** that all forms of violence against women and girls, discrimination and harmful practices are key contributing factors to the spread of HIV amongst women and girls;

**PP13 Deeply concerned** by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender based violence, discrimination, and violations of their rights;

**PP14 Noting with concern** that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters, internally displaced persons, refugees and in particular, women and children especially girls, are at increased risk of HIV infection;

**PP15 Recognizing** that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection, and that they bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including the care of and support for those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this negatively affects the enjoyment of their human rights including the right to health;

**PP16 Recognizing** that access to quality education and information and the retention of girls in school is a critical element in the prevention of HIV infection amongst women and girls;

**PP17 Acknowledging** the leadership of governments, in cooperation with the Joint UN programme on HIV and AIDS and other UN specialised agencies and the international donor community and financing mechanisms including of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria (GFATM) in increasing domestic and international resources to support programmes that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to address HIV and AIDS;

**PP18 Welcoming** the leadership and commitment shown in all aspects of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, including in the HIV and AIDS response by governments, non-governmental organizations, CSOs and people living with HIV, including through the African Union Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa;

**OP1 Calls upon** governments, international partners and civil society to give full attention to the high levels of new HIV infections amongst young women and adolescent girls and its root causes, bearing in mind that women and girls are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV, especially at an earlier age, than men and boys, and that this is increased by discrimination and all forms of violence against women, girls and adolescents, including sexual exploitation and harmful practices;

**OP2 Calls upon** Member States to intensify efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life, recognizing that structural gender inequalities, discrimination, violence against women and girls, and harmful masculinities undermine effective HIV responses and the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls;

**OP3 Calls upon** all governments to enact and intensify the implementation of laws, policies and strategies to eliminate all forms of gender based violence, and discrimination against women and girls in the public and private spheres, and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and female genital mutilation (FGM), and trafficking in persons, and ensure the full engagement of men and boys in order to reduce women and girls' vulnerability to HIV;

**OP4 Calls upon** all governments to intensify efforts to reduce the particularly high levels of HIV infection among women and girls that epidemiological evidence shows are at higher risk by reducing barriers to their participation in HIV prevention and care where possible, as well as removing barriers to their full participation in society, and by addressing practices such as trafficking in persons that contribute to HIV risk and social marginalization of women and girls;

**OP5 Calls upon** all governments to ensure a just and equitable world for women and girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

**OP6 Calls upon** all governments to promote universal health coverage, as part of a comprehensive social protection package, which implies that all people have equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to nationally determined sets of quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services needed and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, especially through the promotion of primary health care, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on women, children and the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

**OP7 Urges** Member States to adopt and implement measures that promote access to, the retention and completion of education by girls including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, or caring for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, and adapt social protection measures as protective strategies to reducing new HIV infections amongst young women and girls;

**OP8 Calls on** Member States to address gender based HIV related stigma and discrimination against and amongst women and girls, so as to ensure the dignity, rights and privacy of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, including in education, training and informal education and the workplace;

**OP9 Pledge to** eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence, increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and services, including, inter alia, sexual and reproductive health, as well as full access to comprehensive information and education, ensure that women can exercise their right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection, and take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and to strengthen their economic independence, and, in this context, reiterate the importance of the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;

**OP10 Further calls** on Member States to recognize women's contribution to the economy and their active participation in caring for people living with HIV and AIDS, and recognize, redistribute and value women's unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, the promotion of equal sharing of responsibilities with men and boys, and social protection targeted at women and girls who are vulnerable;

**OP11 Calls upon** governments to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention; gender equality and women's empowerment; human rights; physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem, informed decision making, communication and risk reduction skills and develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, care givers, educators and health-care providers, in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

**OP12 Calls on** governments to take concrete long term measures to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, programmes, treatment, care and support to all women and girls and to remove all barriers to achieve universal health coverage and improve access to integrated sexual reproductive health care services, information, voluntary counseling and testing and commodities while building the capacity of adolescent girls and boys, young women and men to protect themselves from HIV infection and enabling their use of available commodities including female and male condoms, Post Exposure Prophylaxis and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, while seeking to avoid risk-taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour;

**OP13 Commits to** remove before 2030, obstacles that limit the capacity of low and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics, medicines and commodities and other pharmaceutical products, as well as treatment for opportunistic infections and co-infections, and to reduce costs associated with life-long chronic care, including by amending national laws and regulations, so as to optimize:

(a) The use, to the full, of existing flexibilities under the Agreement on Trade- Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines, and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual

property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine these existing flexibilities, as confirmed in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, and call for early acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;

(b) Addressing barriers, regulations, policies and practices that prevent access to affordable HIV treatment by promoting generic competition in order to help to reduce costs associated with life-long chronic care and by encouraging all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines, and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

(c) Encouraging the voluntary use, where appropriate, of new mechanisms such as partnerships, tiered pricing, open-source sharing of patents and patent pools benefiting all developing countries, including through entities such as the Medicines Patent Pool, to help to reduce treatment costs and encourage development of new HIV treatment formulations, including HIV medicines and point-of-care diagnostics, in particular for children;

**OP14 Calls on** governments and stakeholders to uphold commitments to eliminate mother-to-child transmission and keep mothers alive including through integrating HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including confidential voluntary counseling and testing and elimination of mother-to-child/vertical transmission, with other primary health-care services especially sexual and reproductive health-care services and through means to prevent new infections among women and adolescent girls of reproductive age and the provision of sexual and reproductive health-care services and life-long anti-retrovirals for women and girls living with HIV;

**OP15 Calls upon** governments and stakeholders to intensify combination prevention initiatives for women and girls for the prevention of new infections and reverse the spread of HIV and maternal mortality;

**OP16 Urges** governments and stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by older women, and women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

**OP17 Stresses** the importance of governments, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes developing and implementing strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at point of care, significantly increasing and improving access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for

opportunistic infections and promoting a smooth transition from pediatric to adult treatment and related support and services, while taking into account the need to put in place programmes focused on delivering services to HIV-negative children born to women living with HIV, as they are still at high risk of morbidity and mortality and to develop actions to limit post delivery transmissions through breast-feeding through the provision of information and education;

**OP18 Calls upon** governments and stakeholders to prioritize gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in all policies and programmes related to populations destabilized by armed conflict including refugees, internally displaced persons and in particular, women and children who are at increased risk of HIV infection;

**OP19 Urges** governments to increase political commitment and domestic financing to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through national HIV and AIDS responses targeting women and girls, that respect, promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls, including in the context of the HIV epidemic and promote equal economic opportunities and decent work for women and girls;

**OP20 Further urges** governments to promote active and meaningful participation, contribution and leadership of women and girls living with HIV, civil society actors, private sector, youth and young men and women's organisations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender responsive approach to the national response;

**OP21 Requests** governments, the private sector, the international donor community, funds and programmes of the UN agencies to intensify financial and technical support to national efforts to end AIDS and achieve gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls, focused on women and girls affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic and to also intensify financial and technical support to mainstreaming gender and human rights perspectives in policies, planning, programmes, monitoring and evaluation;

**OP22 Requests** governments to make available comprehensive disaggregated data on age, sex and other characteristics relevant in national context to inform targeted responses on gender dimensions of HIV and AIDS;

**OP23 Stresses** the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

**OP24 Encourages** the international community and research institutions to support action-oriented research on gender and HIV and AIDS including on female controlled prevention commodities;

**OP25 Requests** the United Nations Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Sixty-second Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.