



Geneva, 26 November 2019

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr President,

As we prepare to commemorate World AIDS Day on 1 December, with the theme "Communities make a difference", we are inviting you to join us to show solidarity with people living with HIV, key populations and particularly adolescent girls and young women who are at high risk of HIV infection.

In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a *Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030*, setting intermediary targets to be achieved by 2020: 90 per cent of people living with HIV know their status; 90 per cent of people who know their status are receiving treatment; and 90 per cent of people on treatment have a suppressed viral load.

However, global trends suggest that the world is not on track to meet these commitments. Progress in ending new HIV infections and reducing AIDS-related deaths is uneven and unequal. More than half of all new HIV infections are now occurring among key populations and vulnerable populations. Every week, 6000 girls and young women (aged 15-24 years) are infected with HIV. At the same time, the gap between resource need and resource availability is widening, threatening the sustainability of the global HIV response.

Peer educators, networks of people living with or affected by HIV, counsellors, community health workers, door-to-door service providers, civil society organizations and grass-roots activists have played and continue to play an essential role in the AIDS response. They make THE difference by providing support to people left behind in the AIDS response and by championing their rights and needs. On World AIDS Day, we would like to pay tribute to communities around the world for their immense and instrumental role and contributions towards ending AIDS as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We therefore invite parliaments to commemorate World AIDS Day on 1 December and would greatly appreciate receiving information on your initiatives to mark this important day.

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Ending AIDS will require sustained commitment and efforts. Parliaments can make a difference by using their representative, leadership, legislative, resource-mobilizing and oversight roles to act in the interests of people and communities to help achieve the promise of better health outcomes, reduce inequalities and realize the right to health.

We invite parliaments to engage with communities and learn more about their efforts within the AIDS response. The attached brochures provide useful information in this regard.

We also encourage parliaments to review existing legislation and to remove or amend laws and policies that are negatively impacting communities around the world and shutting them out of HIV and health services.

UNAIDS and the IPU would like to stress the importance of the parliamentary role in ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, and we stand ready to support parliaments in ensuring that enabling legal environments, adequate domestic financial resources and good policies are in place to support people living with HIV and prevent new HIV infections.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Chungong
Inter-Parliamentary Union
Secretary General



Winnie Byanyima
Executive Director
Joint United Nations Programme
on HIV/AIDS