

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

His Excellency António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

November 4, 2025

Dear Secretary-General Guterres,

As Members of the United States Congress and on behalf of the bipartisan Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus, we write to express our deep concern regarding the proposal to sunset the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) by the end of 2026.

This decision - announced without prior public notice or clear transition planning - threatens to undermine decades of global progress against HIV and AIDS at precisely the moment when sustained leadership, coordination, and accountability are most needed.

For over 25 years, UNAIDS has served as the world's coordinating body for HIV and AIDS response: aligning the efforts of eleven UN agencies, national governments, donors, and global clinics to prevent new infections and expand access to care.¹ UNAIDS has been instrumental in mobilizing multisector stakeholders and monitoring country progress to drive down AIDS-related deaths from 1.3 million in 2010 to approximately 630,000 in 2023, while expanding access to lifesaving antiretroviral treatment for over 30 million people.² Yet nearly one-quarter of people living with HIV still lack access to treatment; our fight is far from over.³

UNAIDS' mandate has been indispensable in ensuring that HIV responses are grounded in human rights, guided by data, and inclusive of the communities most affected by the epidemic. As countries increasingly assume greater ownership of their HIV programs, UNAIDS remains a vital partner in maintaining a global unified strategy and upholding countries' commitments to transparency, accountability, and equity.

UNAIDS also continues to serve as an essential advocate for key populations, such as LGBTQ+ people, adolescent girls and young women, pregnant women, people who use drugs, sex workers, and other marginalized groups, whose rights and safety are too often under threat.

¹ UNAIDS, *Who We Are*, 2025. <https://www.unaids.org/en/whoweare/about>

² UNAIDS, *The Urgency of Now: AIDS at a Crossroads*, 2024.
<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2024/global-aids-update-2024>

³ Ibid

We are alarmed by your proposal to close UNAIDS by 2026 and are concerned that this move would **undermine the ability to deliver the next global AIDS targets, strategy and global commitment set to occur in 2026 (U.N. High Level Meeting) and any chance at achieving the global goal of ending AIDS by 2030.**

Sudden dismantling of UNAIDS functions would risk creating dangerous gaps in surveillance, coordination, and advocacy - gaps that could lead to increased transmission and death across the globe. Over 1,000 international civil society organizations have voiced their “deepest alarm” over this proposal, reflecting a broad consensus that UNAIDS serves an essential function in maintaining global public health.⁴

While we recognize the importance of efficiency and reform within the United Nations system, these objectives should not come at the expense of one of the most successful and lifesaving global health partnerships in history.

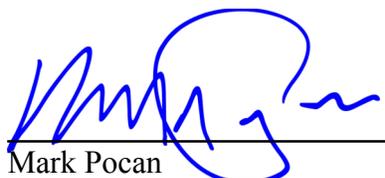
Any consideration of sunseting UNAIDS must be preceded by:

1. A transparent review process;
2. Full engagement with affected stakeholders, and;
3. A concrete transition plan to preserve UNAIDS’ core mandates - including reducing stigma, data accountability, and advocacy for communities most at risk.

We urge you to reconsider the proposed closure of UNAIDS and to follow the transition timeline approved by consensus by the UNAIDS board, which includes the United States. The board-established process ensures that the future transition of programmatic functions and sunseting of UNAIDS proceeds strategically, with great care, and over a longer course of time, as to not abruptly disrupt current response efforts to the epidemic in countries. Meaningful community involvement and engagement by populations affected by HIV/AIDS remains important and vital in any decision-making on the future of UNAIDS.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your commitment to global health, equity, and human rights.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

⁴ NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS PCB, *With the HIV Response in Crisis, UNAIDS Must Not Be Sunset in 2026*, 2025. <https://unaidspcbngo.org/news/with-the-hiv-response-in-crisis-unaids-must-not-be-sunset-in-2026/>



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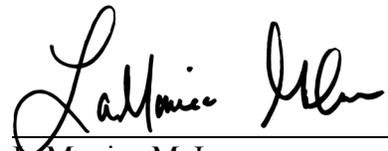
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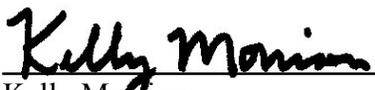
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cc: The Honorable Mike Waltz, U.S. Representative to the United Nations