



Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) Focus Country Ministerial Meeting

Wednesday 18 November 2020, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Closing remarks by Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA

I would like to offer sincere thanks and gratitude to the Vice President of Zimbabwe, to all the honorable Ministers, the national AIDS directors and the participants today for the very important reflections and most of all for your contributions and your commitment to HIV prevention.

It's been exciting to hear the roster of what is going on, to tell us that we can look at the future with confidence. We have to stay alert and the leadership of ministers is so crucial in the next few steps of what we know that we must do: accelerating the scale-up of combination prevention to shift the needle of the HIV pandemic.

The shadow reports, I believe, have been a powerful accountability tool and the communities must be supported. They have been taking the reins and they should be supported to lead during the next 5 years and onward to 2030.

HIV prevention must be prominent in the next Global AIDS Strategy. And the Global Prevention Coalition is poised to be an avid champion for that.

HIV prevention shows us what's possible, yet AIDS remains a global crisis. It's fueled by the inequalities that we have already heard stand behind each new infection. We shouldn't let the gap widen. We must fight to close it, breaking down barriers that keep people from accessing the best that science can offer.

The HIV pandemic was one of the reasons that we were aware during this new COVID pandemic about the importance of prevention. It spells out yet again that prevention requires the whole of government; it requires the whole of society to protect all people everywhere.

And we've heard today that policy instruments and legal instruments have to keep pace, this is also a discussion about dignity and human rights so central for our efforts to leave no one behind.

So, as we leave this Ministerial meeting, I hope that we will look towards the future with the confidence that together we can indeed protect key populations, adolescent girls, women and their newborns, men, and in fact everyone, from HIV.

And I would like to thank you for your participation, for your support. Speaking on behalf of UNFPA, but joining hand in hand with UNAIDS and the whole UN system, we will stand side by side with you in this journey.

I thank you.