

## U.S. Remarks at UNICEF First Regular Session 2023

### Agenda Item 5: Follow-up to UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board

- Partnership is a cornerstone of our efforts, and UNICEF as a founding Cosponsor of UNAIDS is a critical leader on pediatric and adolescent prevention, treatment, and care.
- We welcome UNICEF's commitment to advocate for coherence; institutional youth and community-led responses across prevention, treatment, and care; advancement of youth leadership; and engagement in policy, governance, accountability, and monitoring to meet the objectives of the new 2021-2026 Global AIDS Strategy.
- Through the United States' PEPFAR programs, we continue to collaborate with UNICEF, WHO, Global Fund, and the private sector, as well as regional and local stakeholders, including networks of people living with HIV, to ensure availability of optimal commodities, capacity building, advocacy, dissemination of best practices, support for mother-to-child transmission and pediatric/adolescent activities, and gradual transition of donor investments to partner countries.
- Research shows an effective HIV/AIDS response and curbing transmission requires, 1) acknowledging the centrality of comprehensive sexuality education and 2) recognizing sexual orientation and gender identity; and 3) intensifying prevention beyond antiretroviral treatment as prevention. HIV prevention and treatment programs that do not recognize the diversity of populations and their unique needs will not successfully curb the spread of HIV infection.
- To that end, PEPFAR is launching the next phase of its flagship DREAMS, a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention enabling adolescent girls and young women to be Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentored, and Safe through evidence-based approaches including scaling up pre-exposure prophylaxis (PeEP) and structural interventions. We look forward to collaboration with UNICEF in this important area.