

GNP+ Remarks: Global AIDS Strategy Stakeholder Consultations 28th and 29th April 2025

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I greet you all:

I am honored to speak to you today on behalf of the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), and as a woman living with HIV, who started off volunteering as a young activist many years ago in my country- Zimbabwe, engaging in advocacy for access to treatment by young mothers like myself and for children, to secure treatment for all children living with HIV and ensure the vision of an HIV free generation.

Like many of the people on this call, I never imagined even for a moment, even in the wildest of my nightmares, that the HIV Response would be hit as hard as it has been since January 20th this year. I and many others continue to be in various forms of emotions currently, Shock, Panic, Anger and confusion. Many of us, particularly PLHIV facing the immediate threat to the reassurance of uninterrupted supply and access of life saving ARV's- The anxiety is very high!

This crisis has shown how people living with and affected by HIV are vulnerable to sudden disruptions from the impact of political decisions we have little control over. GNP+ 's response has been to motivate a rallying call for all PLHIV to come together strongly now and ensure sustainability of life saving treatment. The PLHIV Leadership summit held a couple of weeks ago in Nairobi, provided us with sobering realities to shift our mindset and brace ourselves for much needed evolution of our work, and services in preparation for the times ahead. A report is forthcoming, and share be available on our communication channels.

The GNP+ Co-Ed's eloquently ask us to be the PLHIV leaders of NOW. Signaling this is not a usual moment and requires a specific type of leadership. I believe this is true for all of us here and engaging in this process. As we meet today to consult about key plans in the Global AIDS Strategy 2031, I would like to reflect three things.

1. **This is about and for people:** We are here, different leaders. Making plans for many people who we all represent, or whose lives must be positively impacted by our plans and work. I urge us to remember this is about and for people. We are all leaders, tasked in these rather unusual times, to make strategic plans and keep the vision of Ending AIDS and reaching HIV epidemic control alive. Our plans must be bold towards ending AIDS deaths and Ending New HIV infections. We have come this far, we have tools to make this possible, with realistic plans for the How.

2. **Keep alive the ambitious spirit of the HIV response:** The leadership needed now, must shape the next Global AIDS Strategy taking in the reality of the current times we are in now, while keeping the spirit of the HIV Response Alive. Over the years in my experience, in these moments we have all collectively been ambitious in the targets we set and the goals we aim to achieve. Our work is not over, so our ambition must not waver. It would be remiss of me not to add this; A HIV free generation is possible, let's not forget children.

3. **Country realities and leadership must lead:** As Integration emerges as the plan for Sustainability of the HIV response, particularly now with limited resources, we must acknowledge the shift of where the leadership must reside. At GNP+ we know that even for us, we must facilitate the leadership of National Networks of PLHIV, to evolve, go beyond normal comforts and leverage on their unique engagement with national governments to adapt, re-imagine, re-shape national programs to deliver integrated services and make UHC plans that are HIV sensitive. Aspects that motivate domestic financing will now occur at the country level.

As I close, I would like to reiterate that GNP+ and the leadership of national PLHIV networks across the world remains committed to working with you all towards sustainability of the HIV response and to keeping people Alive.

Thank you.