

UN Women Statement

Consultation on Human Rights in the HIV response - Promoting human rights in HIV response: *Regional and subregional strategies and best practices*

Geneva, 12- 13 February 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Chair,

HIV-related stigma and discrimination can manifest across individual, interpersonal, community, organizational and policy and legislation levels. The repercussions are particularly severe for women and girls, many face rejection, prejudice, economic insecurity, rights violations and violence from partners, family members, communities and institutions.

Women and girls are also more likely to experience multiple forms of discrimination, with structural gender inequalities intersecting with HIV status as well as other factors, such as age, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, disability, indigenous, migratory status and others.

To achieve the UNAIDS target of *zero discrimination*, we must ensure the rights of women and girls are guaranteed so they can access health services without discrimination and live healthy and fulfilling lives without stigma.

Eliminating gender-based stigma and discrimination is an accelerator for ending AIDS and making the Agenda 2030 pledge of *leaving no one behind* a lived reality.

UN Women responds by empowering women and guaranteeing their rights so that they can protect themselves from infection, overcome stigma, and gain greater access to treatment, care and support free of discrimination and biases.

Last December, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, the Global Network of People Living with HIV and the NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board launched the Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate All Forms of HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination.

As a co-convenor of the Global Partnership, UN Women will support country action and monitoring of progress towards ending gender-based stigma and discrimination and realizing women's human rights – critical elements of ending AIDS and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Thank you for your attention.