



Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance

Geneva, 25th April 2016

For the attention of
Dr Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, NY 10017

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), an ecumenical initiative of the World Council of Churches, is a global network of churches and related organizations committed to campaigning together on common concerns for justice and human dignity. The “Live the Promise” Campaign of the EAA seeks continued priority on the response to HIV and AIDS, the elimination of stigma, and a significant faith-based contribution to the vision of “getting to zero” – zero new infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths.

We are concerned about the projections that form the basis for UNAIDS’ funding requests which are included in the UN Secretary General’s report “On the Fast Track to End the AIDS Epidemic”. The data and assumptions behind these new projections are not presented. We hope that they reflect the real needs, but we fear they reflect an unwillingness to ask for the amount of funding that is really needed. We are particularly concerned that the projected funding of \$26bn will in fact lead to many needless new HIV infections and needless deaths. The report by the Secretary General talks about avoiding 17 million new infections and 11 million deaths, whereas the model used for the UNAIDS Lancet commission report indicates that a financial investment of \$32bn would be required to avoid 28 million new infections and save 21 million lives. We fear that the \$6bn reduction is effectively an admission that there is no hope for preventing the extra 11 million new infections and averting the extra 10 million deaths. If this is the case then UNAIDS should be more explicit about this being the case and the reasons for the revised figures.

There appears to be some confusion about the numbers of adults on treatment between the two documents. The SG’s Report encourages Member States, and all stakeholders to urgently reach the 90-90-90 testing and treatment target in all countries and in all populations – ensuring 28 million adults and 1.2 million children living with HIV are on treatment by 2020 (paragraph 75). In the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration the commitment is to have 29 million PLHIV accessing treatment (paragraph 58). The 29 million would be equivalent to reaching the 90-90-90 objectives for treatment, assuming UNAIDS projections’ are still working from the figure of 37 million people living with HIV. It is important to provide more information about the basis of these figures and to clarify which is the correct figure.

UNAIDS calculates that in 2014 2.6 million children were living with HIV. The Zero Draft anticipates that by 2020 only 1.2 million children will be on treatment, which, if based on 90% means that approximately 1.4 million children will be living with HIV. It is difficult to assume that this reduction is just due to fewer new infections and to significant numbers of children reaching adulthood. With 50% of children living with HIV dying before they reach 2 years of age and with the average age of treatment initiation being close to 4 years of age, the scandalous truth is that the figure of 1.2 million on treatment assumes that hundreds of thousands of children will die before 2020. If this is the case, it must be publicised and action must be taken immediately to stop this from happening. A clear annual timeline for 2016-2020, including assumptions, must be provided to clarify these figures.



We appreciate the remarkable progress we have made together, but we are still far from ending AIDS by 2030. The truth is that we cannot base our data simply on the hope that we will do better.

We look forward to receiving an analysis, including assumptions, with an annual timeline for 2015-2020 with figures showing the numbers of children and adults living with HIV, new infections and numbers on treatment, and numbers dying, together with the funding required to achieve the targets.

We thank you for the consideration you are giving to our concerns.

Sincerely,



STOPAIDS.

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, an ecumenical initiative of the World Council of Churches, is a global network of churches and related organizations committed to campaigning together on common concerns for justice and human dignity. Current campaign issues are HIV and AIDS and food security and sustainable agriculture.

