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PRESS STATEMENT

Sustaining UNAIDS' regional and country presence in Asia and the Pacific

The Seven Alliance writes to express its strong support for UNAIDS to remain operationally present and adequately resourced in Asia and the Pacific, at both regional and country levels. As a regional consortium committed to community leadership, human rights, gender equality and meaningful community engagement in health responses, Seven Alliance has seen first-hand the vital role that UNAIDS plays in bringing together communities, governments, United Nations, development partners and the Global Fund.

At country level, UNAIDS country offices play a particularly important role in ensuring that community organizations, including networks of people living with HIV, key populations, women, young people and other affected communities, can meaningfully participate in the decisions that shape their lives. UNAIDS helps convene dialogue between communities and different stakeholders. In many settings, this neutral convening role is indispensable, particularly where communities have limited access to formal decision-making spaces or face stigma, discrimination, criminalization and shrinking civic space.

At regional level, UNAIDS delivers its core functions by providing leadership and political advocacy; convening different stakeholders; strengthening accountability through shared data and evidence; and ensuring meaningful community engagement. It connects country realities with global commitments, including the Global AIDS Strategy and the 2026 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Regional and country functions are mutually reinforcing: country offices bring national evidence and community perspectives into regional discussions, while regional support enables countries to access shared knowledge, technical expertise, South–South learning and advocacy opportunities.

Asia and the Pacific continues to face complex HIV epidemics, with persistent inequalities in access to prevention, treatment and protection from discrimination. At a time of shrinking civic space, constrained resources and increasing pressure on community-led responses, reducing UNAIDS' capacity or presence would create a serious gap. It would weaken coordination, limit the ability of communities to engage



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with decision-makers, undermine efforts to sustain community-led services and risk leaving behind those most affected by HIV.

To conclude, we call on UNAIDS PCB Member States to fully consider the consequences of the transition, and to ensure that UNAIDS' future model preserves and strengthens community leadership and community-led responses in Asia and the Pacific.

The Seven Alliance