



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission
of The Republic of San Marino
To The United Nations in New York



“WITH Africa, IN Africa: Ensuring Access to Life-Saving HIV/AIDS Treatment”

Co-Sponsors:

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Djibouti, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi, Permanent Mission of the Republic of San Marino, Office of the Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta

Date, Time and Location: 23rd June 2026, 13:15 -14:45 EDT, UNHQ Conference Room 3

Background

Despite significant global progress in HIV prevention and treatment, access to life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART) remains uneven, particularly in parts of Africa and other highly affected regions. Fragile health systems, funding constraints, conflict, stigma, and disruptions to treatment delivery continue to prevent many people living with HIV from receiving consistent care. Recent challenges affecting international HIV/AIDS assistance programmes have further underscored the need to safeguard treatment access and strengthen the resilience of health systems.

In this context, the organizers are convening this side event to highlight the urgent importance of ensuring continuous and equitable access to HIV treatment. The discussion will focus on maintaining treatment pathways, strengthening health-system resilience, and promoting sustainable partnerships that support long-term care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Guided by the principle of “With Africa, In Africa,” the event will emphasize local leadership, partnership, and solidarity, recognizing that effective and sustainable responses must be shaped by the needs, expertise, and priorities of affected communities and countries.

Key Themes for Panel Discussion

- The current state of the global HIV/AIDS response, including recent developments, challenges, and priorities for sustaining progress.
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission and the importance of ensuring comprehensive treatment and care for women, children, and families.
- Access to and continuity of HIV treatment, particularly in small states and resource-constrained settings, and strategies to strengthen health-system resilience.
- The role of the Global Fund and international partnerships in supporting sustainable HIV programmes and broader health-system strengthening.
- The importance of political leadership and international cooperation in maintaining HIV/AIDS as a global health and development priority.

Agenda

1. **Introductory Remarks:** H.E. Ambassador Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, *Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations*
2. **Panel Discussion**
 - **Moderator: Ms. Sandra Thurman,** *Former Director of the U.S. Office of National AIDS Policy*
 - **Dr. Angeli Achrekar:** *Deputy Executive Director and Global Practice Lead, UNAIDS*
The Global HIV/AIDS Landscape: Progress, Challenges, and Emerging Priorities
 - **Father Gerhard Lagleder:** *President, Order of Malta Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard*
Community-Based HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment: The Experience of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in South Africa
 - **Mr. Washington Ozituosauka:** *Chief Disease Control Officer, Ministry of Health and Sanitation of the Republic of Malawi*
Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission: Advancing Access to Treatment and Maternal Health Services
 - **Dr. George Siberry:** *Former Chief Medical Officer in USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS*
Technical briefing on mother-to-child treatment
 - **The Honourable Mduduzi Matsebula:** *Minister of Health of the Kingdom of Eswatini*
Ensuring Equitable Access to HIV/AIDS Treatment in Rural and Underserved Communities
 - **Dr. Georg Kippels:** *Vice-Minister, Federal Ministry of Health of the Republic of Germany*
Strengthening Resilient Health Systems through Global Fund Investments and International Partnerships
3. **Question and Answer Segment**
4. **Wrap Up**

Moderator

- **Ms. Sandra Thurman, Former Director of the United States Office of National AIDS Policy under President Bill Clinton**, later serving in senior global HIV leadership roles at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of State supporting U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief implementation and global health diplomacy.

Panelists

- **Dr. Angeli Achrekar, Deputy Executive Director and Global Practice Lead at Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**: Spent more than 20 years helping lead the U.S. government's largest global HIV/AIDS initiative, U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. She has advanced large-scale HIV prevention and treatment programs across 50 countries, championing person-centered care, stronger health systems, and multi-sector partnerships with a particular focus on women and girls.
- **Father Gerhard Lagleder, President of the Order of Malta Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in Mandeni, South Africa**, a premier non-profit community development and AIDS relief center operated by the Sovereign Order of Malta. Established to combat high regional HIV/AIDS rates (over 60% in some areas), it provides comprehensive care, including a hospice, antiretroviral treatment (HAART), and a children's home for orphans.
- **Mr. Washington Ozituosauka, Chief Disease Control Officer at the Ministry of Health and Sanitation of the Republic of Malawi**, is a public health professional who is currently responsible for coordinating the HIV programme, and has previously worked as the Programme Officer for Sexually Transmitted Infections.
- **Dr. George Siberry, former Chief Medical Officer in USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS**, has spent his career at the heart of the global fight against HIV. A paediatrician by training, Dr. Siberry began his journey translating for children with HIV in Baltimore and went on to help shape the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) approach to prevention, treatment, and care around the world.
- **The Honourable Mduduzi Matsebula, Minister of Health of the Kingdom of Eswatini**, has served in his role since November 2023. Prior to this, he represented Siphocosini Inkhundla as a Member of Parliament, having first been elected in 2018 and re-elected in 2023. Before entering politics, he spent more than 17 years in the customs sector, progressing through a range of operational and leadership roles within the country's customs administration.
- **Dr. Georg Kippels, Vice-Minister at the Federal Ministry of Health of Germany**: German lawyer and politician who has served as a Member of the German Bundestag since 2013. A long-standing member of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), he has held numerous leadership positions at the local and regional levels, including serving as Mayor of Bedburg-Mitte from 2000 to 2020. In parliament, he has been particularly active on health, global health, and development policy issues through his work on several key committees. Since May 2025, he has served as Vice-Minister to the Federal Minister of Health.