

BACKGROUND BRIEF  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY  
World Scout Jamboree Model UN 2019



## What does the General Assembly Plenary do?

The General Assembly Plenary is commonly responsible for issues that are addressed more effectively in a comprehensive manner or that require coordinating work between many bodies of the United Nations. For instance, the 60th General Assembly established a Peacebuilding Commission that oversees the United Nations peacebuilding processes and coordinates the work of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General and Member States emerging from conflict situations. It is important to notice that if the Security Council, which is given the primary task of ensuring peace and security by the Charter, is discussing a particular issue, the General Assembly Plenary will cease its own deliberations and defer to the Security Council. Additionally, only the Fifth Committee is able to set or discuss the United Nations budget. No other bodies, including the Plenary, are able to do so. The Plenary committees, both concurrent and combined, have the widest latitude of the deliberative bodies to discuss and pass resolutions on a wide variety of topics.

## What is the goal of the General Assembly Plenary?

**The General Assembly is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, the only one in which all Member States have equal representation: one nation, one vote.**

All 193 Member States of the United Nations are represented in this unique forum to discuss and work together on a wide array of international issues covered by the UN Charter, such as development, peace and security, international law, etc. In September, all the Members meet in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session.

The General Assembly (GA) is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority. Each country has one vote. Some Member States in arrears of payment may be granted the right to vote. You can learn more about the General Assembly in these links:

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/plenary.shtml>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/content/plenary>

## What are the functions and powers of the General Assembly?

The Assembly is empowered to make recommendations to States on international issues within its competence. It has also initiated actions—political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal—which have affected the lives of millions of people throughout the world. The landmark *Millennium Declaration*, adopted in 2000, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, reflect the commitment of Member States:

- to reach specific goals to attain peace, security and disarmament along with development and poverty eradication;
- to safeguard human rights and promote the rule of law;
- to protect our common environment;
- to meet the special needs of Africa; and
- to strengthen the United Nations

You can read more about the functions and powers of this very important body of the United Nations in: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>

## TOPIC 1: WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT



Why should women be highly involved in development projects?

<https://youtu.be/0lqkeDIWAHM>



Do you want to learn about Sustainable Development 5? Click here: <https://youtu.be/J5ic-oOE4fw> (Hint: It addresses GENDER EQUALITY!)



**Zoom in** GOAL 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals. **GO TO:**  
<https://www.globalgoals.org/5-gender-equality>

***“If poverty had a face, it would be the face of a rural women”*** Watch this video to get an idea of how much rural women contribute to agriculture in the world <https://youtu.be/guvPylN1Lvk>

Now listen to the audio report included in this link:  
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2018-10/rural-women-world-day-un-rights-development-peace-empowerment.html>



Rural women make up 43% of agricultural work force in developing countries



<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>  
<https://womendeliver.org/deliver-for-good/infographics-3/>  
<https://womendeliver.org/publications/invest-girls-women-ripple-effect/>  
<https://www.unfpa.org/gender-equality>

## What Gender Inequality Looks Like In Latin America



[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/23/gender-inequality-latin-america\\_n\\_4653710.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/23/gender-inequality-latin-america_n_4653710.html)

## A 'Level Playing Field' for Women and Girls Key to Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

### Read about it:

<https://www.indepthnews.net/index.php/sustainability/gender-equality/2572-a-level-playing-field-for-women-and-girls-key-to-achieving-sustainable-development-goals>



Photo: Participants rejoice as the 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women adopts Agreed Conclusions, delivering a road map that ensures women's social protection, mobility, safety, and access to economic opportunities. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

[http://womendeliver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/D4G\\_Infographic\\_7.pdf](http://womendeliver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/D4G_Infographic_7.pdf)



Gender bias remains a significant obstacle to global progress. Photo: UNDP Peru

<http://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/blog1/2018/2/21/Boosting-women-s-roles-in-companies-is-good-for-businesses-and-for-economies.html>

**Did you read the previous article? Did you notice that according to the author: "Today only 5% of S&P 500 companies are led by women, according to Catalyst"?**

## TOPIC 2: MEETING THE FAST-TRACK COMMITMENTS TO ERADICATE HIV/AIDS



### What is the UNAIDS Fast-Track approach?

The UNAIDS Fast-Track approach seeks to frontload investments and reduce new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths to fewer than 500 000 globally, and to achieve the 90–90–90 testing, treatment and viral suppression targets and the zero AIDS-related discrimination targets by 2020. Attaining these targets would put the world on course to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.

Go to these links, check the infographics and articles to get ready to discuss topic 2 (and to include the goals of this approach in your work!):

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11788.doc.htm>

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/campaigns/World-AIDS-Day-Report-2014>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/12/qa-aids-epidemic-eradicated-2030-151201115359352.html>

<https://www.who.int/hiv/pub/arv/wad-2015-infographic/en/>

<https://www.avert.org/infographics/what-hiv>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11788.doc.htm>

The 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS contains a social protection target. The target encourages Member States to make stronger national social and child protection systems to ensure that by 2020, 75% of people living with, at risk of or affected by HIV benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection. This target is human rights-based. It feeds into and benefits from promoting, protecting and fulfilling all human rights and the dignity of all people living with, at risk of or affected by HIV.

Evidence of how social protection programs meet the multiple needs of people who are poor and excluded and benefit people living with, at risk of or affected by HIV is increasing. The question is not whether the AIDS response should increase attention to social protection, but how to use resources more effectively and to create stronger partnerships and movements to end poverty and inequality to work towards eradicating AIDS.

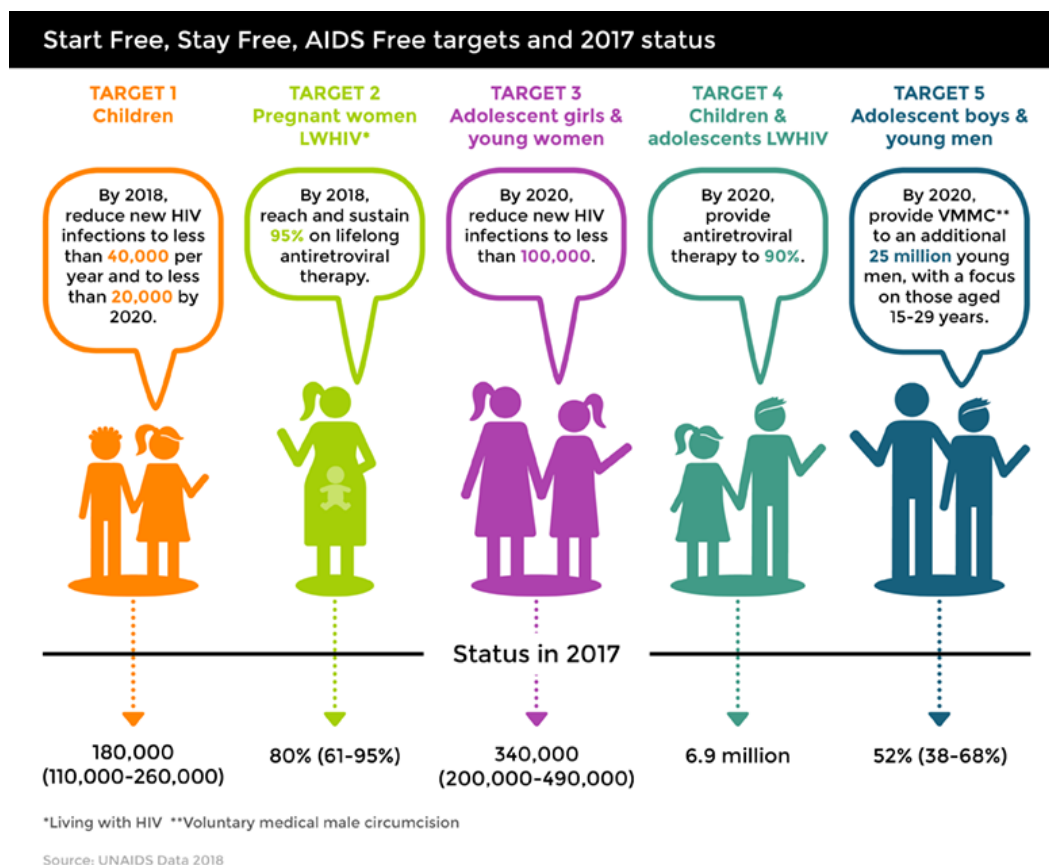
To Fast-Track social protection to help end the AIDS epidemic, it is mandatory and, highly needed that countries evaluate their social protection responses, including their HIV sensitivity.



This would help deepen and extend the coverage of social protection programs to people living with, at risk of or affected by HIV.

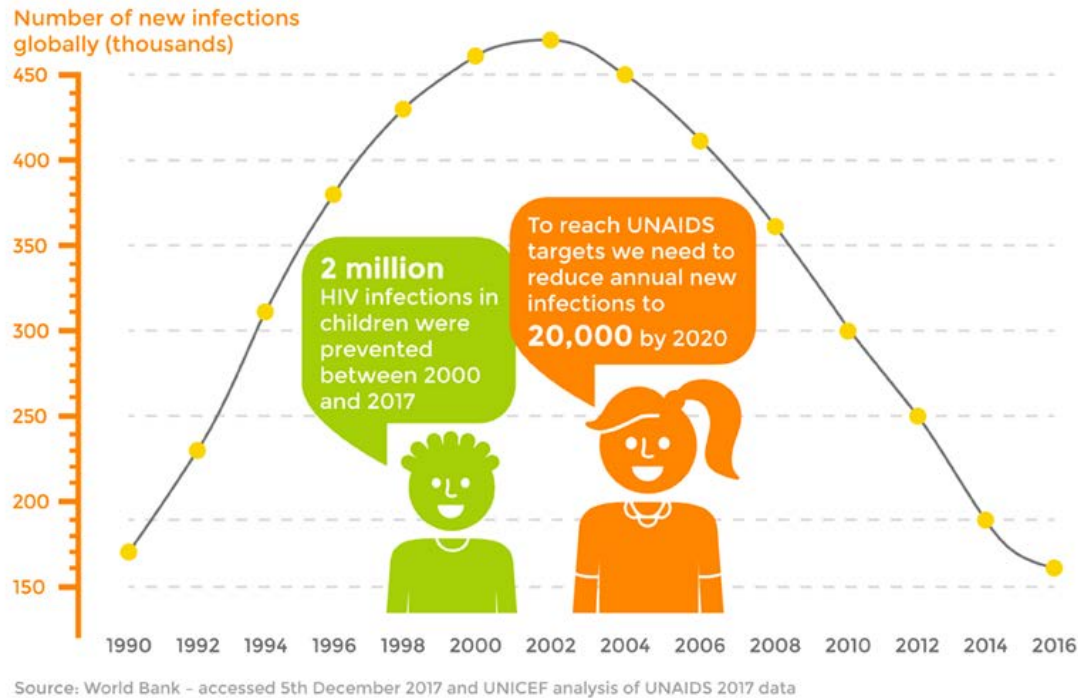
Working collaboratively with partners, stakeholders should Fast-Track HIV and social protection programs by intensifying actions on the following four pillars: □

**Pillar 1: scale up and progressively broaden sustainable social protection programmes.** These programmes should enhance care, support and treatment outcomes for people living with HIV, key populations, adolescent girls and young women, vulnerable families and caregivers.



**Pillar 2: invest in expanding access to primary, secondary and tertiary schooling and pathways to employment as an effective HIV prevention strategy in countries with high HIV incidence.** Predisposing factors that keep adolescents out of school or prevent them from remaining in school should be identified and addressed.

## New HIV infections in children aged 0-14 years old.



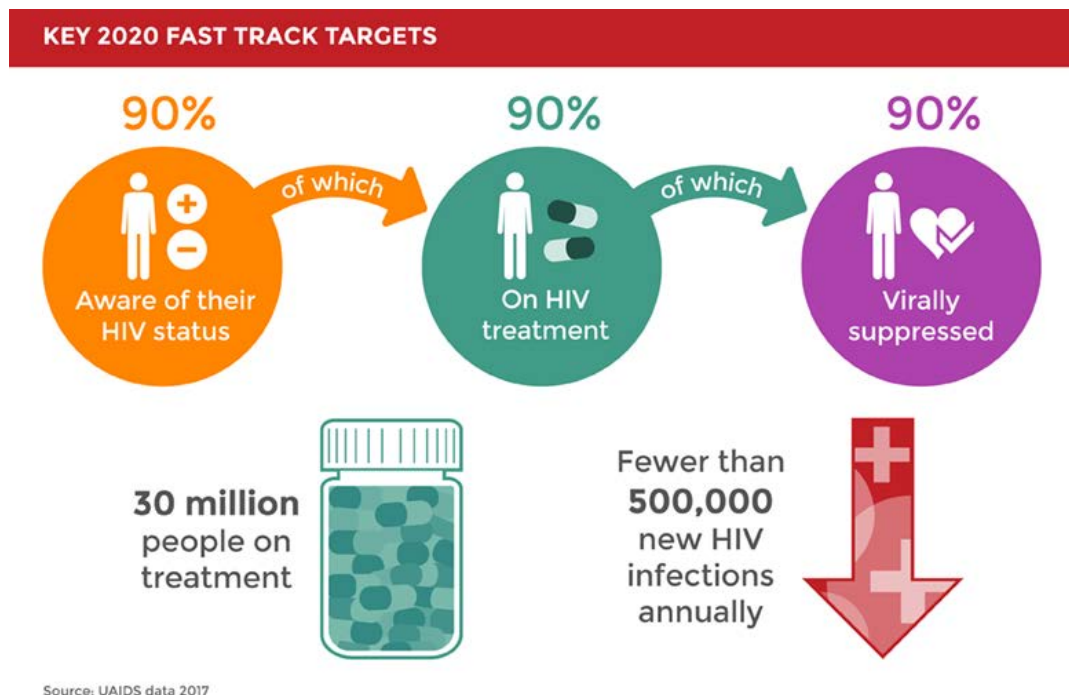
**Pillar 3: increase access to essential health services for people living with, at risk of or affected by HIV by addressing barriers that prevent them from accessing health services. . ?**

**Pillar 4: strengthen the active and meaningful engagement of civil society, in particular representatives of people living with, at risk of or affected by HIV, in the design and implementation of social protection to enable social protection programmes to meet the needs of such populations.** Individuals and communities need to be empowered to address and respond to **stigma** and **discrimination** and advocate for stronger laws and conditions to protect people from them.

The global HIV epidemic is defined not only by the virus and medical approaches to control it, but also by social, economic and political conditions and the systems put in place to deal with illness—"that is, by the social determinants or factors of health"

Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2016/2016-political-declaration-HIV-AIDS>



Do you know what the acronyms 90-90-90, PLHIV, ART or WHO stand for? These are just some examples of the key terms that should be aware of as you learn more about the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. The link provided here contains a **GLOSSARY** that will help you to interpret the infographics, statistics and written materials:

<http://www.fast-trackcities.org/about>

<https://www.avert.org/global-hiv-and-aids-statistics>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/gallery/2016/jul/18/durban-aids-conference-in-pictures>

[http://www.pedaids.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/20mw\\_infographic.jpg](http://www.pedaids.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/20mw_infographic.jpg)

### HIV Country Profiles

The following link provides HIV country profiles:

<https://www.who.int/hiv/data/en/>

### World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/hiv/mediacentre/news/hlm-2016-political-declaration-ending-AIDS/en/>

### Global HIV & AIDS Statistics — 2018 Fact Sheet

[w.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet](http://w.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet)

## **MORE INFOGRAPHICS AND STORIES**

### **Timeline of HIV and Tuberculosis**

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/infographics/timeline-of-hiv-and-tb>

[http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/infographics/women\\_girls\\_hiv\\_sub\\_saharan\\_africa](http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/infographics/women_girls_hiv_sub_saharan_africa)

### **HIV in a woman's life—challenges and opportunities**

[http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/infographics/hiv\\_in\\_a\\_woman\\_s\\_life](http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/infographics/hiv_in_a_woman_s_life)

<http://www.aidsinfoonline.org/kpatlas/#/home>

[http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2019/march/20190308\\_life-after-hiv](http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2019/march/20190308_life-after-hiv)

IT IS  
HEALTH  
THAT IS REAL  
WEALTH  
AND NOT  
PIECES OF GOLD  
AND SILVER

MAHATMA GANDHI

#GlobalGoals



