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To the attention of
All Permanent Missions
to the United Nations Office
in Geneva

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva and has the honour to refer to the theme of this year's World AIDS Day (1st December 2020).

In 2020, the world's attention has been focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and how pandemics affect lives and livelihoods. COVID-19, like HIV, is showing how health is interlinked with other critical issues, such as reducing inequality, human rights, gender equality, social protection and economic growth. With this in mind, this year, the theme of World AIDS Day is "Global solidarity, shared responsibility".

COVID-19 has demonstrated that, during a pandemic, no one is safe until everyone is safe. We cannot leave anyone behind. Eliminating stigma and discrimination, putting people at the centre and grounding our responses in human rights and gender-responsive approaches are key to ending the colliding pandemics of HIV and COVID-19.

Global solidarity and shared responsibility require us to view global health responses, including the AIDS response, in a new way. Now is the moment for bold leadership for equal societies, the right to health for all and a robust and equitable global recovery. This World AIDS Day join us in calling on countries to stepping up their efforts to achieve healthier societies. This World AIDS Day let us demand global solidarity and shared responsibility.

UNAIDS would be grateful if this information could be conveyed to the relevant national authorities and wishes to assure you that UNAIDS Regional Support Teams and Country Offices stand ready to support.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 9 October 2020

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PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

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