HIV still disproportionately affects adolescent girls and young women, married women, widows, female sex workers, women who use drugs and transgender women. We are however concerned that too many governments seem too content to deprioritize HIV responses. The evidence of the inaction can be clearly felt with the re-emergence of the epidemic among adolescent girls and young women in Sub-Saharan Africa. This shows the need for increased political and financial commitment to not only save lives but end AIDS as a public threat by 2030.

We call upon the High Level Meeting to ensure that the political declaration contains commitments by governments to increase financial resources to:

Invest in more detailed age and sex desegregated data to ensure policies and programs fully “follow the evidence”.

Have concrete budget lines and commitment in national plans for gender transformative policies and programs that challenge harmful gender norms such as the Female Gender Mutilation where they forcefully cut parts of our bodies.

Increase collective investments in resilient and sustainable systems of health to promote integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health, programs that address gender based violence and emerging concerns for women living with HIV like TB and cervical cancer co-infections.

Fully fund the Global Fund to scale up robust women and girl’s community responses that address barriers to services related to gender inequality, gender based violence and stigma and discrimination.
Investments should be made to achieve Universal Health Coverage as part of comprehensive social protection by reaching groups that have been historically left behind such as children and adolescents. Our children need increased access to diagnosis, better quality treatment and psychosocial support to achieve viral suppression. Governments should also commit to Invest in interventions such as retention of girls in schools as a critical component of HIV prevention.

Finally explore ways of expanding access to affordable and good quality HIV prevention, diagnostics and treatment through ensuring that intellectual property systems no longer present barriers and that Universal Health Coverage becomes a reality to all.