**PANEL 2 – Financing the end of AIDS**

**Co-Chairs’ Summary**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It is my great pleasure to present the Co-Chairs’ summary of Panel 2 “*Financing the end of AIDS: the window of opportunity”* which was held on 9 June 2016 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**I had the honour to co-chair this panel with H.E. Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso.**

**The key messages emerging from this panel were as follows:**

**The global commitment to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 cannot be met without increased funding, more efficiency and improved programme effectiveness.**

**Greater investment in the AIDS response needs to be front-loaded in the next five years to reach US$ 26.2 billion by 2020 in low- and middle-income countries. Governments and development partners must increase their investments to close the nearly US$ 7 billion gap between the resources available in 2014 for HIV and the 2020 peak to avoid a looming funding crisis.**

**This additional investment will allow the world to meet the 2020 interim targets on the road to ending the AIDS epidemic as a global public health threat by 2030.**

**The AIDS response must invest existing and new funding wisely by rapidly scaling up treatment and prevention services with more efficient and effective programmes and services. It is not only where the money comes from that is important but also where it is being spent.**

**The panel discussed the rational use of existing resources and put an emphasis on how development partners and low-and middle-income countries can front-load resources to reach the ultimate goal, including innovative financing mechanisms.**

**Countries which *can* pay should do so in order for the international community to support other countries which have the *will* but not the financial capacity.**

**Other critical factors for the sustainability of the response were highlighted, including local production of anti-retroviral medications in Africa, improvement in the procurement of commodities through price negotiations and the access and affordability of modern pharmaceuticals in all countries.**

**There was a strong call for a different approach to facilitating the transition of countries moving into higher income brackets – including supporting community-based programmes in the process. Often community-based programmes suffer the most during transition as they are largely funded by international resources.**

**There were also calls for fully funding the needs of men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, sex workers, transgender people and prisoners, particularly young people among them, with a special focus on young women and adolescent girls; investing in communities; and scaling up public–private partnerships.**

**The panel stressed forcefully that the cost of inaction for individuals, communities, countries and regions was simply too high and that the world could not afford to miss this window of opportunity to make funding sustainable and reinvigorate the AIDS response over the next five years. Finally, as one of the panellists stated: “*This is not so hard. This is a matter of money – and just a little bit*”.**