**PANEL 4 – Leaving no one behind**

**Co-Chairs’ Summary**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It is my great pleasure to present the Co-Chairs’ summary of the salient points of Panel 4 “*Leaving no one behind: ending stigma and discrimination through social justice and inclusive societies”*, which was held on 9 June 2016 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

**H.E. Paul Biyoghe Mba, First Vice-Prime Minister of the Gabonese Republic had the honour to co-chair this panel with H.E. Faustin-Archange Touadéra, President of Central African Republic.**

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

**Many speakers recalled that the AIDS epidemic is more than a medical issue – it is one of human rights. It has revealed social and legal fractures and gaps between nations and within communities. In all countries, socially vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities, including women, adolescent girls, prisoners, migrants, sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender persons and people who use drugs, have been hard hit and continue to bear the highest burden of the epidemic.**

**It was noted that AIDS has deepened levels of stigma, prejudice, discrimination and even violence towards those living with HIV or vulnerable to infection. Forced sterilization and coerced abortion of women living with HIV have been documented in at least 14 countries, violating their sexual and reproductive health and rights. People living with and vulnerable to HIV have demanded protection and have called for justice, dignity, fairness, and access to health services for all, including comprehensive harm reduction services for people who use drugs.**

**There has been progress to measure stigma and discrimination, including through the People Living with HIV Stigma Index. Focused programmes are reducing stigma and discrimination in diverse settings, including health facilities, schools, workplaces and faith communities. Speakers shared important examples of how people living with HIV and those affected by the epidemic have successfully advocated for legal and policy reforms, including lifting HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence, and ending criminalization of HIV transmission.**

**While there has been some progress, speakers expressed grave concern that it is too slow and much more remains to be done to address the exclusion and marginalization that prevents key populations from being reached in efforts to end AIDS. There is need to increase investment in programmes to advance human rights and reduce stigma and discrimination, including the key human rights programmes highlighted in the 2011 Political Declaration and reiterated in the 2016 Political Declaration.**

**Data systems must include all affected populations, and governments need to make full use of those data to inform programming and drive progress. Speakers emphasized that the 90-90-90 goals should be a first step towards ensuring no one is left behind, otherwise there will always be 10% at the margins and the 2030 goals will not be achieved.**

**The response to AIDS has inspired broader efforts to address structural inequalities and vulnerabilities, and as such it is a pathfinder for inclusive societies in Agenda 2030. Speakers commended the ambitious plan set in the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy. It provides a roadmap to end AIDS by 2030, through ensuring healthy lives for all (SDG 3), fully committing to the principles of equality (SDGs 5 and 10) and inclusion (SDG 16) that are essential to leaving no one behind.**

**Future success requires equal opportunities for women, including protection against discrimination and domestic violence. Within these efforts, sustainable access to live-saving medicines will require addressing the intellectual property regimes that prevent millions of people from accessing HIV, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and other treatments. Several interventions underscored that this must remain a top social justice issue so that intellectual property rights do not take precedence over public health and over the right of all persons living with HIV to have access to life-saving medicines.**

**Leaving no one behind is a human rights imperative and a public health necessity. Civil society advocacy and programmes require increased support and investment, and mechanisms such as the Robert Carr Fund play important roles in directing resources. Active participation of all stakeholders is essential to success, creating ownership and effective, sustainable action. Faith communities and the private sector are vital partners.**

**Human rights efforts and programmes must be fast-tracked in order to overcome the legal and other barriers that hinder efforts to reach everyone, everywhere, with the services they need. The world will not end the AIDS epidemic without efforts to end discrimination, challenge exclusion and advance social justice.**