



Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) appreciates the opportunity to address the special theme of the 45th session of the Commission on Adolescents and Youth, to

focus on issues related to HIV and young people

Mr Chairman,

Let me start with some good news: Young people (aged 15–24 years) are leading the HIV prevention revolution by taking action to protect themselves from infection. As a result, HIV prevalence among young people has declined in 21 out of 24 countries with national prevalence of 1% or higher¹, and new HIV infections among young people are also falling worldwide, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. These declines are attributed to delay of sexual debut

There must be a focus on young people who are at higher risk of HIV exposure, such as young people who inject drugs, young sex workers, and young men who have sex with men. According

when young people are meaningfully engaged in the response as leaders enhancing a movement by and for young people, including in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of HIV programmes.

UNAIDS welcomes the commitment made by Member States in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS “to encourage and support the active involvement and leadership of young

global levels, and agree to work with these new leaders to help to develop specific measures to engage young people about HIV, including in communities, families, schools, tertiary institutions, recreation centres and workplaces.” We also fully support the call in the Secretary-General’s Five-Year Action Agenda to work with and for women and young people, to address the needs of the largest generation of young people by creating more youth focused