Statement by the NGO Delegation on agenda item 8 USSA Statement

Thank you Chair, I speak on behalf of the NGO delegation.

We would like to express our deep appreciation and solidarity with the UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association. The staff have stood by communities through every challenge, every crisis, and every turning point in this response. Their dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to human rights and public health have shaped UNAIDS into what it is today.

The staff are the blood and soul of this organization.

We recognize that these are difficult times. The uncertainty and changes faced by staff have real human impacts. Behind every programme and policy are people who have given their passion, their dedication, and their lives to this work. Many of them have walked alongside our communities, supported us in our advocacy, and fought with us to ensure that no one is left behind.

We want the staff to know that their concerns matter to us. Their well-being is not separate from our mission. It is central to it. We are grateful for all that you do. We value your voice. And we stand with you.

We urge UNAIDS leadership and management to take the staff’s recommendations to heart and ensure they are meaningfully implemented. A strong, supported, and respected workforce is the foundation of an effective Joint Programme.

We hear you. We see you. And we are here with you.

To end, I would like to use my remaining time to express our appreciation to all the UNAIDS and Joint Programme staff — both those who are staying and those who are leaving — for your service, by calling everyone in the room to give them a big round of applause.

Thank you everyone. Thank you Chair.