

# The Multi-Stakeholder Hearing as part of the preparatory process for the 2026 High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS

## Panel 4: Community Leadership, Accountability and Inclusive Governance in a Changing HIV Response in the context of reduced funding and increased reliance on community systems to sustain the response

The International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research and the FDI World Dental Federation welcome the focus on community leadership and country ownership in sustaining the HIV response.

Oral diseases are common, visible, and often early indicators of HIV infection. Community-based oral health services provide a practical entry point and can support early detection, referral, and sustained engagement in HIV care, particularly for populations facing barriers to formal health systems.

The World Workshops on Oral Health in HIV and AIDS highlight the role of oral health professionals working alongside communities to expand access, build trust, and support prevention and education. Consistent with the WHO Global Oral Health Action Plan, strengthening community systems requires investments in inclusive governance, enhanced workforce capacity, and community-led data systems that drive accountability and responsive policies.

Within the Political Declaration, and on local and regional levels, we call on Member States to:

- Integrate oral health and related indicators into community-led HIV and primary health care programs
- Engage oral health professionals including, researchers in national HIV services planning, implementation and governance mechanisms

- Ensure policies that protect against discrimination and enable inclusive access
  - Invest in sustainable, data-driven, community-based delivery models.
- IADR and FDI stand ready to support community-led, accountable HIV responses through research, capacity building, and global collaboration.

Thank you.

**Duration: 1 min 45 secs.**  
**200 words**