

**2006 High Level Meeting on AIDS:
High Level Meeting Part I
United Nations
June 2, 2006**

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

[START RECORDING]

JAN KAVAN: Could we try to lower the level of decibels in the room? It reminds me of the CERT Committee, but it's also a sign of the very lively dialog we have on this absolutely crucial subject that we are dealing with. The 86th plenary meeting is resumed. The General Assembly in accordance with the decision 85th plenary meeting. We'll now begin Segment A of the High-Level Meeting of General Assembly HIV and AIDS. I will start the meeting, but I have a pressing appointment on a matter which is of importance for this meeting, therefore I am very happy that my excellent vice president, [inaudible] representative of Paraguay will continue to chair the meeting until lunch.

On the list of speakers I have as number one the honorable Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Health, who speaks on behalf of the Rio Group. We offer you the podium here in front of us, and thank you for coming.

H.E. THE HONOURABLE LESLIE RAMSAMMY, MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you very much, Mr. President. The members of the Rio Group, on whose behalf it is my honor to speak, welcome the opportunity of this High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS to renew our commitment to the global struggle against this pandemic. We are fully committed to universal

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. Progress has been made since 2001. Advances have been noted in financing for HIV programs in some developing countries. The establishment of the Global Fund for HIV, TB and Malaria is contributing positively to global efforts. Access to antiretroviral therapy has increased, and successes are being increasingly recorded in the area of prevention. What is clear, however, is that the progress made thus far has not been enough to turn the tide of the disease.

As the report of the secretary general points out, in 2005, there were more new infections and there were more AIDS deaths than ever before. The Rio Group shares his conclusion that unless the HIV/AIDS response becomes substantially stronger, more strategic, and better coordinated, the world will not achieve the 2010 targets of the Declaration of Commitment. We, therefore, call for an urgent scale-up of the global response to a level commensurate with the challenge posed by this scourge. Mr. President, the Rio Group countries are making substantial efforts to counter the spread of HIV/AIDS, despite limited access to external resources for this purpose. However, the experience with HIV/AIDS is not uniform among our countries. Several have developed significant capacities in combating the pandemic; some have been successful in containing, if not reversing it.

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Some continue to struggle with prevalence rates about 1-percent. Still, several of our countries were included among the 18 countries that met the Three by Five targets. Out of our experiences underground, Rio Group countries are drawing important lessons in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Many engage in active programs of South-South Cooperation, both within the region and further afield.

On behalf of the Rio Group, allow me to outline some of our concerns in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Rio Group countries have concerns about funding arrangements for countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, while the Global Fund for HIV, TB and Malaria is intended to support the efforts of low- and middle-income countries to deal with the pandemic, we worry that its doors remain closed to the majority of countries from the region. The countries of the Rio Group call for solidarity, not exclusion. We are concerned that after more than 35 years, most of the developed countries have not met the goal of 0.7-percent of the GNP target towards official development of systems.

Mr. President, we support the [inaudible] initiative, but we have concerns that international partners do not always promote national stewardship of the fight against HIV/AIDS by working under a national HIV/AIDS framework.

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Poverty remains a major obstacle in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Debt relief is necessary for many of our countries if we are to reduce poverty, but the process remains slow and preconditions impede rapid progress. Universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support is stymied by the lack of access to affordable drugs, medical and other supplies. While first-line drugs have become affordable, second-line drugs, laboratory agents and other supplies remain unaffordable. We support initiatives to ensure quality products, but such initiatives must not serve as a guise for restricting access to affordable commodities and protection. In this regard, we commend those countries that have played a pioneering role in promoting accessibility to affordable antiretroviral drugs.

The Rio Group calls for global efforts to remove barriers such as pricing policies, tariff arrangements and regulatory policies that essentially make trips meaningless. The Rio Group reaffirms its firm commitment to the [inaudible] Declaration on TRIPS and public health. Several of our countries, including my own country of Guyana, have the capacity to produce quality generic drugs; such capacities should be promoted, not discouraged. Many of our countries are constrained by human resource difficulties. Migration of health personnel including nurses to developed

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

countries is impeding effective response to HIV/AIDS at the national level. A global effort to mitigate this constraint is needed now. Similarly, efforts need to be intensified to facilitate transfer of the requisite technology and to support the development of the health infrastructure to strengthen national HIV/AIDS response.

While acknowledging development of technologies in the past 25 years, we are concerned about the slow progress in the development of a vaccine and a microbicide and urge heightened efforts in this regard. The Rio Group remains firmly committed to the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and consider this to be an essential element in the global response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, including the area of the prevention, treatment, care and support. We are concerned about the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS on women, young girls and children. We call for a stronger commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, full respect for the rights of women, young girls and children and their protection from all forms of violence.

Addressing stigma and discrimination is fundamental to the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic; however, even as the world proclaims its commitment to fight against stigma and discrimination, some countries require HIV/AIDS testing as

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

a condition for entry, breaching the right to free movement. Our group remains concerned about the high HIV prevalence rates in certain vulnerable groups within our societies, and we are committed to addressing this situation, including through ensuring full access to all HIV/AIDS services and the protection of the rights of individuals in these groups.

Mr. President, to be successful in the battle against HIV/AIDS, the world needs a comprehensive approach involving all stakeholders and addressing all dimensions of this challenge. From the Rio Group perspective, such an approach would be incomplete if it fails to fully address the concerns to which I have alluded. Mr. President, the Rio Group countries negotiated the commitment that we are about to make later as a group, and we add our support to the proposed commitment. Thank you very much. [Applause]

JAN KEVAN: We thank the Minister of Health for his statement. May I respectfully request delegations to honor the three time limit to which we have agreed earlier? I now have the honor of giving the floor to His Excellency Mr. Muhamed-Cheikh Biadillah, Minister of Health of Morocco.

H.E. MUHAMED-CHEIKH BIADILLAH, MINISTER OF HEALTH

(INTERPRETED): Thank you, Mr. President, ladies and

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

gentleman, delegate. Allow me at the outset to pay tribute to all those who endeavor to translate our fight against the AIDS pandemic into a form of global commitment, including the Secretary General, as well as into a collective and collaborative action under the offices and guidance of our prestigious organization. I would like to express my appreciation for this work and to mention the expansion of financial resources and the expansion of efforts towards prevention and support and despite all of this, the number of HIV/AIDS infections increases yearly, and the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS, and also the number of all deaths. We need to note that poverty, misery and exclusion remain considerable obstacles to universal access to these services. It's thus vital to revitalize the tools for cooperation and partnership available presently in order to remove these obstacles and thus meet the minimum threshold of 0.7-percent of public AIDS development, cancel the debt for the poor countries, facilitate access to international markets for products, to reduce the costs for imported laboratory equipment and antiretroviral therapy and also revitalize South-South Corporation for training, acquisition of know-how and especially that of the African continent, which has to pay heavy costs for this scourge.

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Mr. President, these are a few of the measures which can help fight this awesome pandemic, but also to seek innovative financing remains vital and the conversion of the debt for countries with a high incidence of AIDS. This turns into investments for the fight against AIDS. In this context, we should welcome the French Initiative, supported by many countries already. The Kingdom of Morocco has seen extraordinary mobilization following the Declared Commitment in 2001, encouraged by King Mohammed VI, as well as a national strategy to fight AIDS, which met with broad with broad consensus among government, NGOs and our international partners, all of which have been set up. We have a voluntary system with anonymous detection and we have free detection. We have campaigns of awareness through the media, action undertaken on the part of those [inaudible], especially through the NGOs, and young women and girls are given great importance within the strategy.

What about main strategies? No doubt, it is the implementation of the National Initiative for Human Development launched by his Majesty, which is an integrated strategy aiming to fight against the vulnerability, poverty and exclusion and also to empower women and make them independent. This is a strong strategy to fight AIDS and opens up the doors of hope, especially for the quality in

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

treatment access. I thank you, Mr. President. [Applause]
[Interposing]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): I would like to thank you.
I will give the floor to the excellent Dr. Tabitta Botros
Shokai, Minister of Health of Sudan.

**HER EXCELLENCY DR. TABITTA BOTROS SHOKAI, MINISTER OF
HEALTH (INTERPRETED):** Mr. Chairman, [inaudible], delegations
[inaudible] has followed with interest the efforts you've
undertaken, which you continue to undertake, which you're
undertaking by the presence of the General Assembly, and all
the efforts that are being made by members of delegations
during the 60th Session of the General Assembly. This
session has been distinguished by several—in fact, especially
in the context of UN form, which the fathers of this
organization agreed to 60 years ago. We wish to congratulate
you for these achievements and also wish to congratulate Mr.
Eliasson for having been nominated to the post of Minister of
Foreign Affairs of Sweden, a post which you certainly
deserve. Our delegation fully endorses a statement made by
His Excellency. [Inaudible] of the Republic of Congo and the
President of the African Union, thus reflecting with great
transparency and frankness a situation prevailing today on

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

the African continent. Mr. Chairman, Sudan has been a victim of the AIDS scourge for several years and this for several years, among which there are the extremely long geographical borders including internal armed conflict, border troubles, as well as climatic changes and other problems which exacerbate the problem of poverty. These problems contribute to the continuing problem of poverty, and the poor become disarmed victims in the face of this destructive scourge.

Sudan suffers from unilateral measures which have harmed its economic growth and which have put a stop to its economic development cycle. The people have not been able to obtain adequate financial, technical or medical support, including essential medications, as well as prevention and treatment. This has had a negative affect on our fight against AIDS.

In spite of the negative elements that I've mentioned, the government has established a priority of achieving peace and stability through peaceful solutions to domestic problems. The goal to obtain peace and the support of the international community has allowed us to reach a global peace agreement, which put an end to a war that has lasted for more than 20 years. Among the results of that have been the constitution of the current government which, with the assistance of the African Union and the

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

international community, has been able to reach the [inaudible] peace accord, which was signed by the armed factions in addition to the signatures of civilian [inaudible] leaders of other factions and other parties concerned.

We call upon all the parties concerned to give authority to the consensus and peace in order to obtain stability. We're going to try to concentrate our efforts on development and construction, and we're going to try to fight against all destructive diseases, including AIDS. The fight against AIDS is one of the most important priorities of government of national unity. This is reflected in the political commitment to implementation of the AIDS Declaration and this was led the President of the public and the Vice President and the President of the government of the South. We have established a single national policy that has taken into account all those efforts being carried out to combat this scourge. We have a national strategy, which is going to extend to the year 2009, which will take into account all sectors concerning education and women, young people, students, various political parties and the treatment services, the services providing care, and medication so that we can guarantee these services to all individuals and all peoples. We're also going to try to adopt the necessary laws

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

to remove ourselves from any form of discrimination in order to obtain total integration.

On behalf of the government of the Sudanese, the government of national unity, I wish to express to you our appreciation of the United Nation and all its agencies, especially the world [inaudible] to fight AIDS and malaria, and we wish to thank you for all the technical and financial assistance that you have provided our country, and we are awaiting more aid so that we can confront this scourge and reach peace in our region. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): Now I will give the floor the Excellent Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Mr. Celso Amorim. I thank Dr. Shokai for her statement.

H.E. MR. CELSO AMORIM, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:
Mr. President, first of all, let me express my support to the statement of the Minister of Guyana on behalf of the Rio Group. Actually, he has expressed all of the main points that we defend.

The 2001 Declaration of Commitment was a turning point in the fights against HIV/AIDS. The international community realized then that an effective strategy to confront the pandemic had to include access the treatment,

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

along with prevention and support. It was also clear that the cost of treatment should not be an impediment to the access of poor people, particularly in developing countries, to life-saving drugs. Ever since the first antiretroviral drugs, Brazil has adopted the policy of universal treatment; drugs have been provided for free for all those who need them. The World Bank had estimated that 1.2 million people would have been infected in Brazil by the year 2000. The adoption of a policy based on free and universal treatment led to the reduction of those estimates by half. The number of AIDS-related deaths was also reduced by 50-percent. Since 2001, the response to the pandemic worldwide has become more consistent. The momentum created by the Three by Five Initiative has also guided us to a more ambitious goal, universal access to treatment, prevention, care and support by 2010. We need to encourage production of antiretroviral drugs and active ingredients in developing countries. We should take advantage of the flexibilities provided in the [inaudible] Ministerial Declaration and subsequent agreements on TRIPS and health. The issue of affordability is crucial. We recognize the important of intellectual property rights, but no right of a commercial nature can be upheld to the detriment of the right to life. [Applause] Enormity of sources also have role to play. Together with France, Chile,

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Norway and a group of other interested countries, Brazil has been engaged in an initiative to create an international drug for trades facility. This initiative has been conceived as a pilot project under the Action Against Hunger and Poverty launched by President Lula in September of 2004. We call on all interested countries to join this endeavor.

Prevention is a key element of an integrated strategy. The use of condoms remains a scientifically accepted means of avoiding sexual transmission. Prevention must reach vulnerable groups, which are often subject to stigma and discrimination. HIV/AIDS prevention must be a part of sexual and reproductive health services. Special attention must be given to women. Actually, the incidence of HIV/AIDS in women has been on the increase recently.

Finance remains central; the amount of resources available must be increased. Africa is the region that has been most affected and should continue to deserve priority attention. Additional resources will allow the international community to turn to other regions, including poor countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Brazil has been implementing projects in more than 25 countries in Latin America and Africa.

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

We share a common responsibility. The lives of millions of people depend upon the decisions and commitments we make today. Thank you. [Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): I thank His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Mr. Celso Amorim. [Applause] I give the Floor to His Excellency Dr. Francisco Duque III, Minister of Health of the Philippines.

H.E. DR. FRANCISCO DUQUE III, MINISTER OF HEALTH:
Your excellencies, Mr. President, distinguished guests, friends, ladies and gentleman, the Philippines is pleased to be part of this global assembly to review the progress achieved in realizing the targets set out in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment of HIV/AIDS and to ensure the continuing engagement of world leaders in a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS. Despite a low prevalence rate in the Philippines, an increasing threat of a full-blown epidemic prevails. Our presence here today affirms our steadfast commitment to secure the gains of 22 years of HIV/AIDS response in the Philippines and to address critical challenges.

Mr. President, since we have foreign support for the [inaudible] Declaration of Commitment, the country is scaling

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

up prevention targeting the most at-risk groups like sex workers, men having sex with men, and injecting drug users through the Global Fund Project. We are also expanding the program targeting migrant workers through, among others, inter-country collaboration with our Asian partners. Further, we are establishing a national monitoring and evaluation system on HIV and AIDS following the Three Ones Principle promoted by UNAIDS and implementing the second generation surveillance system on HIV and AIDS.

Recently, we have included ARVs in the national drug formulary, as well as set up a mechanism for the importation of affordable antiretroviral drugs. Under the present leadership, \$400,000 US have been allocated for the procurement of drugs and reagents for HIV and AIDS on top of a catastrophic package that is provided by the National Health Insurance Program for inpatient care of HIV/AIDS patient members.

It is also worth noting that the Philippines Congress created the House Special Committee on the MDGs, which initiated the review in aid of legislation the Philippines AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998.

Finally, we would like to inform this assembly that the business sector in our country has rallied behind the

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

achievement of the MDGs and has committed full support to the country's effort to combat HIV and AIDS.

Mr. President, the effective response to AIDS in the Philippines will require the implementation of 2005 to 2010 AIDS Plan, which follows the principles of the Universal Access Initiative. This will entail an efficient and rationalized response to the AIDS epidemic anchored on the four pillars of the Philippines Health Sector Reform Initiative, also known as the Formula One. These are good governants, a strong regulatory mechanism, sustainable healthcare financing, and responsive health delivery system.

Mr. President, we are concerned about the worsening global HIV situation where 5 million adults and children are reported to be infected each year. There are greater numbers of women and children being ravaged by this epidemic. Greater mobility and migration throughout the world requires innovative approaches to enhance HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for those affected by the disease. Moreover, the response to these issues is being hampered still by the inaccessibility to affordable drugs and reagents, particularly in developing and least developed countries. In this regard, my delegation hopes that this high-level meeting will master the political wheel to implement measures and strengthen partnerships at national,

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

regional, and international levels to overcome all barriers to universal access to treatment, taking into consideration respect for our fundamental human rights and dignity.

Further, we advocate for a paradigm shift to focus prevention strategies from mere risk reduction, to a combination of risk, vulnerability and impact reduction.

Mr. President, on behalf of the Philippine government, I reiterate our unfaltering commitment to global action, not only to stem the tide of this epidemic, but to provide treatment, care and support to people infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS. We remain eager to work with partners and all stakeholders to achieve our targets and sustain our response over the long term. Thank you, once again, for the opportunity, Mr. President. [Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): Thank you, His Excellency Dr. Francisco Duque III, Minister of Health of the Philippines. I now give the floor to His Excellency Dr. Gines Gonzalez Garcia, Minister of Health and the Environment of the Argentine Republic.

H.E. DR. GINES GONZALEZ GARCIA, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT (INTERPRETED): Mr. Chairman, friends, I would like to start by saying that we agree entirely by what

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

was said by the Minister of Guyana on behalf of the Rio Group. The government and Civil Society have provided some responses to the subject of HIV/AIDS, but efforts must be increased. In order for policy to be effective, all sectors must be included, even those who prefer not to talk about this subject. Actions must focus on an agreement by all levels of government that all levels of government work together for the making of international agencies and the community.

In Argentina, despite the fact that quite a few people resist, there is a strong commitment for this mission. This is reflected in the coordination with Civil Society and the active and highly visible participation of all social actors, especially representative of the vulnerable sections of the population that have programs of facilitators who include, in particular, young people and women.

It is necessary to go into universal access for the promotion, prevention and treatment by the year 2010 in all countries in memory of Dr. Lee who had struggled so much with this. In spite of the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region that has the least access to international resources, important efforts are being made and this region may be the first to reach the goal of universal access for treatment. In Latin America, there are already countries who provide 100-percent coverage, among them

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Argentina. This is why we express request support so that this region not be discriminated against for the resources of the Global Fund or for the level of prices for products and medication. No country of Latin America and the Caribbean should be excluded, since this is an epidemic that needs constant care at the highest level.

Our challenge is to continue with price negotiation strategies. Thanks to this, our region has achieved very significant discounts that allow extended coverage for treatment by antiretroviral medication. For the most, we have made important progress, together with Brazil, regarding the research project regarding the development and production of tools, medication and [inaudible] resources. This is a cause which we have committed ourselves to better condition the access for all countries of the region, primarily for tests and for antiretroviral treatment.

Regarding prevention, it is necessary to continue with a focused and massive campaign and extend efforts so that our brothers all over the world know what to do and how to avoid infection. We favor the access to prevention such as condom use and damage reduction kits for drugs users. We must create awareness of the HIV/AIDS problem to sectors which today do not require [inaudible] facilitating changes in the conduct of high-risk people and favoring universal

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

access for HIV/AIDS testing. Special attention must be given to the prevention of transmission from mother to child and to children who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Argentina is on the verge of eradicating vertical transmission and it is fully implementing the national law on sexual and reproductive health.

The full promotion of human rights must be guaranteed to all those living in vulnerable situations like gays, lesbians, transgender people, gay sex workers, drug users and those living under the line of poverty [applause] including women, young girls, boys and adolescents.

All responses to this epidemic must be circulated among countries [inaudible], that's why access to treatment must be guaranteed. To achieve this, it is necessary for the United Nations to give [inaudible] support to recover the flexibility of the TRIP agreement and the framework of the [inaudible] Declaration.

As the countries of South America, we agree to a common position to the intellectual property, health and innovation and WHO. We agreed in a joint declaration, which was presented last week at the World Health Organization. Some of the international organizations and some of the most powerful countries in the world defend the ultimate right to intellectual property. This position strongly limits the

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

availability and access to medication and vaccines. No matter how much they want to hide it, the result is an increased number of deaths which could be avoided. It is our mission to prevent that. Thank you. [Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): I thank the Minister of Health and the Environment of Argentina Gines Gonzalez Garcia. I will give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Hong Sun Huot, Senior Minister and Minister of Health and Chairman of the National AIDS Authority of Cambodia.

H.E. MR. HONG SUN HUOT, SENIOR MINISTER AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL AIDS AUTHORITY OF CAMBODIA: Mr. President, excellencies, ladies and gentleman, on behalf of the Royal [inaudible] of Cambodia and myself, I am very delighted to have the privilege to participate in the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS.

In 1997, Cambodia was confronted with a serious epidemic with 3-percent of the older population living with HIV/AIDS. Since then, HIV/AIDS prevalence has steadily declined to 1.9-percent in 2003. The HIV infection among most average people has been consistently declining, and the mortality due to AIDS has stabilized. Cambodia has been

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

known as one of the few countries in the world that are on track to meet medium [inaudible] goal for HIV/AIDS.

Last year, the royal [inaudible] of Cambodia launched the national [inaudible] 2006 to 2010. The achievement of the national strategy plan one to respond to HIV/AIDS has been done with the mutual coordination and cooperation of the development partner and civilian society and the people living with HIV/AIDS in the context of the Cambodia nation building and development challenges. For example, first the Cambodian political leadership has created an environment for individual communities and civilian society to own and drive the response. So again, the technical leadership has ensured sound evidence-based work and wise investments in the national capacity development.

The close collaboration between and within sector has worked towards common target. This includes the strengthening of health system and partnership between HIV, tuberculosis and [inaudible] program in the country. The partnership between government and non-government organization has established the need of the communities and specifically those of the people living with HIV as the center of the Cambodian response to HIV. The good governance has produced and implemented an HIV law and code of conduct.

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

The silence and denial surrounding HIV has been confronted to reduce the stigma and discrimination. Finally, there has to be consistent commitment by the development partners to resource the priorities established by the Royal government of Cambodia and the civilian society.

For Cambodia, to enable us to reach our universal access target, it will be important that the [inaudible] development partnership is sustained over the long term. Our message for today is that where there is a political will and reason, as well as a focus of coordinated resources and action, universal access can be a reality, not merely a slogan.

Mr. President, in the next five years we are confident that the solution for response to HIV/AIDS can be found from the dynamic involvement of people in breaking the silence within families and the active participation in the public discourse, policy planning, and program implementation. We have replaced the UN effort being effectively coordinated through the [inaudible] UN support program of 2006 to 2010.

Finally, Mr. President, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to take the opportunity to convey my sincere gratitude to all members of state, development partners, and civilian society for continued

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

cooperation and support in the response to global HIV/AIDS including Cambodia. Thank you very much. [Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): I thank His Excellency Mr. Hong Sun Huot, Senior Minister and Minister of Health and Chairman of the National AIDS Authority of Cambodia. I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Elena Salgado, Minister of Health and Consumer Affairs of Spain.

HER EXCELLENCY MS. ELENA SALGADO, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS: Thank you. Good morning everybody. Twenty-five years after the appearance of the first infections of HIV/AIDS, AIDS isn't only a health problem; it's also a social problem that requires new policies and new commitments. Therefore, I would like to start by expressing my support to the words pronounced by the President of the European Union representing member states. I should also like to express the support of my government to the Political Declaration, which we will adopt today.

I wish to highlight two issues, which we think are particularly important to Spain. First, prevention and broadening this in the world would avoid more than half of infections in the next decade. Therefore, we think it is necessary to avoid the economic or ideologic barriers that

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

prevent or limit access to prevention measures that have been demonstrated to be effective, in particular, the use of condoms and strategies to reduce damage associated with intravenous drug consumption.

Spain is a country of Western Europe where the epidemic had the greatest magnitude. The disease has already caused 46,000 deaths; 3 out of 1,000 have HIV or have developed AIDS. These figures could have been much more dramatic if we had not undertaken a very broad program of intervention, which included opiate substitutes and the provision of sterile injection materials among the drug consumers. Thus, we have been able to reduce mortality, more so though, reduce the number of people that inject drugs, reduce the number of effect of HIV, and also reduce the risk of infection.

The second point, which I'd like to refer to, is human rights. These constitute the framework for the response to HIV infections, avoiding the stigma and discrimination that are living with HIV/AIDS. In particular, the most vulnerable groups of the population such as injecting drug users, men who have sexual relations with men, people undertaking prostitution, prisoners, immigrants, and transsexuals. [Applause] We also believe that these people, these groups of people, must participate in the design,

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

implementation and evaluation of preventive intervention. Women are also vulnerable, but their vulnerability is determined by social, cultural and economic factors. That is why if we work on these factors, we will be fighting against the spread of the epidemic.

AIDS has brought with it deaths and suffering, and it is a threat to human development. But also the epidemic has awakened greater solidarity, greater tolerance, greater equality, and more international cooperation. That is why the Spanish government has increased by 42-percent its contribution to the Global Fund, which this year is approximately 50 million Euros. So Spain has already appropriated 180 million Euros for the fund.

The international effort has been very important over last few years; UNAIDS has increased its [inaudible] technical and political activity. A special session of the General Assembly, which we recall, generated changes in the political agenda of many countries, but the number of people having access to prevention and treatment is not a total success, but it is great progress. Progress achieved due to a great extent to the efforts and the voice of the non-government organization of Civil Society.

Here we are present today with Civil Society and [inaudible] authorities, we must recognize that a great deal

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

needs to be done, but as the Secretary General of the United Nations stated on 24th of March this year, we already have a solid basis to formulate a broad-scale, integral response. You may be assured, Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, representatives of Civil Society that Spain, like the rest of the European Union, will be greatly involved in this global response. Thank you. [Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): Thank you, Ms. Elena Selgado, Minister of Health of Spain. I give the floor now to Her Excellency Dr. Sheika Ghalia Mohamed bi Hamad Al-Thani, Minister and President of the Administrative Board of Health of Qatar.

HER EXCELLENCY DR. SHEIKA GHALIA MOHAMED BIN HAMAD AL-THANI, MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF NATIONAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentleman, it is an honor and a privilege for me to be here today to address what I consider to be one of the most paramount issues facing our world today, namely the HIV/AIDS heavy burden afflicted upon the world, particularly upon the developing and the least developed countries.

At the outset, allow me on behalf of the government and the people of the state of Qatar to express our deep

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

appreciation to the United Nations system and to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS for the lead and critical role they have played to reinforce and support and expanded response to HIV/AIDS. The state of Qatar wholeheartedly supports their commendable efforts and mandates.

As you all know, to-date more than 65 million people have been infected with HIV. Every minute, every hour and every day more and more are infected. More than one child is dying every minute of AIDS.

Despite the world-combined efforts, the global AIDS problem is getting worse, not better. This single, fatal virus is touching everyone unlike any other disease. It destroys families and intrudes on the most intimate relations on people. It spreads silently; it kills; it tears the fabric of society. AIDS threatens the security and stability of nations. It shrinks economies and threatens people in their most productive years. It is not just a public health matter; it is an education, economical, political, and human rights issue above all. Hence, we need to work together under the auspice of the United Nations in a vigorous and accelerated effort to address this challenge, as it is the most critical socioeconomic development issue of our time.

By reaffirming their commitment to implement fully the UN Declaration on HIV/AIDS Global Crisis, Global Action

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

adopted by the UN General Assembly, heads of states and governments represented in this review are more convinced than before that greater action should be undertaken. This is a shared concern that necessitates a shared vision, collective engagements and partnerships, bold actions and a comprehensive response.

We are in great need to reevaluate, and perhaps even redesign, our strategy on AIDS. The international community should increase the flow of funds to the affected countries, which in turn should give you concern to the issue of prevention and act forcefully and without any further delay. Hence, we need to work together in a vigorous and accelerated effort to address this challenge.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentleman, despite the fact that the number of HIV/AIDS patients in Qatar is relatively small, we have been fully aware and cautious of this fatal disease. HIV is well-established and is considered endemic in my country. The total number of cases diagnosed is 212 up to the end of 2005. The number of Qataris [ph] who died with HIV/AIDS is 48; 28 males and 20 females.

In collaboration with WHO, an in-depth study on this situation at the national level has been conducted. Significant support has been provided by both the public and private sectors. Consultants from WHO and UNDP, as well as

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

health planners, discussed the matter and suggested a national frame of action. The universal precautions in healthcare settings have been strictly applied to prevent transmission of HIV infection and to protect healthcare providers. Information and education activities have been performed to create public awareness on this epidemic. Social workers, teachers, religious people and students have been involved in these campaigns of workshops, lectures, newspaper articles and pamphlets, in addition to TV and radio programs have been utilized. A national AIDS committee is being set up at the moment to develop a national strategy, coordinate action and give counsel and advice to the concerned bodies, as well as implementing the national frame of action.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentleman, in closing we might feel frustrated because of the worsening statistics that emerge year after year, as it is a testimony to the fact that we are talking about the problem and now doing very little about the solution. However, the challenge is huge and the issue requires effective world partnerships capable of building a united front against the epidemic. Let us commit to this declaration. We certainly know what needs to be done; we must act now. We must move ahead, as we have no time to waste. Thank you.

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): Thank you Dr. Sheika Ghalia Mohamed bi Hamad Al-Thani, Minister and President of the Administrative Board of Health of Qatar. I give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Norayr Davidyan, Minister of Health of Armenia.

H.E. MR. NORAYR DAVIDYAN, MINISTER OF HEALTH

(INTERPRETED): Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentleman, it is a great honor for me to speak at this high-level meeting on behalf of the government of the Republic of Armenia to express our hope that this meeting will result in a qualitatively new level of universal cooperation with the auspices of the UN, in order to curb the heavy legacy of the last century HIV/AIDS. Following the adoption of Declaration 2001, Armenia has intensified its political commitment to fighting AIDS and its deep understanding of the responsibility of the government and non-governmental sectors for the fate and the future of our population. Last election, the first national program was inaugurated on AIDS and [inaudible] financing this program were adopted, as well as the coordination of measures aimed to combat the AIDS epidemic on a national level. During the course of the implementation of the national program, indicators were

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

monitored, including those key indicators adopted in the Declaration of 2001. In the context of the implementation of the Three Ones, in Armenia we have a framework of action to combat AIDS, providing the basis for the coordination of the work of all partners and national coordination organs with broad intersectoral authority, carrying out a systematic monitoring and evaluation at a country level.

The obligations adopted by the government have considerably changed the conceptual approach to prevention during the course of the last five years. There has been a gradual introduction of educational programs, to promote safer behavior, in schools and other educational institutions. Programs have been introduced to reduce risk and harm, which allows us to reduce the level of spread of HIV among those vulnerable social groups, and to increase the amount of information made available. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is providing tremendous support for the implementation of the national program. Today it is hard to even imagine our work without the possibility of working with the Global Fund; at the same time, we realize that the national potential in combating this epidemic needs to become stronger every day. The key result of the Three by Five Initiative was a commitment to

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

universal access to treatment by 2010. A special achievement was the providing of antiretroviral treatment.

I wish to note satisfaction that a group of scientists in Armenia have succeeded in preparing a new, innovative and original medication within a [inaudible] antiviral substance. This medication is considerably improving the quality of life for patients, restoring their capacity to work and allowing them to return to their active lives.

Armenia has worked out national recommendations for the expansion of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support. Currently, this program is being prepared with the support of UNAIDS. Thus, the implementation of the national program is [inaudible] for the achievement in Armenia of universal access to prevention and care.

In conclusion, I wish to express our certainty that the adoption of the Draft Political Declaration will become a strong basis for the attainable, universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for HIV/AIDS throughout the world. I thank you for your attention.

[Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): I thank His Excellency Mr. Norayr Davidyan, Minister of Health of Armenia. I now give

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

the floor to Her Excellency Mrs. Agnes Van Ardenne-Van Der Hoeven, Minister for Development Corporation from the Netherlands.

**HER EXCELLENCY MRS. AGNES VAN ARDENNE-VAN DER HOEVEN,
MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:** Thank you very much. Mr. President, one, two three, four; ladies and gentleman, I'm counting four dollar bills in my hand. That is all it costs to prevent transmission of HIV during childbirth. That is all it costs to prevent newborn babies getting a death sentence. Unlike five years ago, we now have the money to do it. That makes our failure all the more tragic. To prevent mother-to-child transmission, world leaders promised to treat 80-percent of infected mothers. No more than 9-percent have been treated. There is no diplomatic way of putting it; this is outright neglect. We have few reasons to celebrate, and many reasons to be embarrassed. Our efforts did not prevent 4 million new infections and 3 million deaths last year.

Africa is at the center of the storm. Nearly 1 in 20 children there, members of the next generation, have been orphaned by AIDS. It is now clear that we can't solve the AIDS crisis simply by throwing money at it. The task at hand is to make that money work for people by building strong, in-country capacity and capacity of individuals, communities and

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

institutions to fight HIV/AIDS themselves. This includes the capacity to conduct research into new preventive technologies and to set up health insurance schemes, which the Netherlands is now pioneering in Africa. But above all, it means strengthening national health systems, the backbone of any successful AIDS response. Ultimately, national health systems can only be built on a solid foundation of national political will.

Capacity for fighting HIV/AIDS should top not only the agenda of policy dialogs with donors, but also and in particular the domestic political agenda. Taking their cue from national governments, all actors have the responsibility to take simplification and harmonization seriously. If all they do is carry on as before, we will risk sending the entire AIDS response in a thousand different directions, draining the little national capacity that does exist in Africa and elsewhere. That is why we should apply the principle of the Three Ones at country level; one action framework, one national coordinating authority, and one monitoring and evaluation system.

Mr. President, when building up capacity to fight AIDS, the focus should be on prevention. If we do, half of all new infections could be prevented in the next few decades, and \$24 billion in treatment costs could be saved.

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

But attempts to step up prevention will only be effective if based on reproductive and sexual health and rights and if grounded in evidence-based strategies such as harm reduction, the use of microbicides, male and female condoms and sexual education to the youth. This is all very successful in the Netherlands. To be truly effective, the fight must also be fueled by a common humanity and respect for human dignity, regardless of color, culture or creed. This means providing people who are vulnerable with the special attention that they need, such as women and girls who are now, more than anyone else, at risk of infection.

Mr. President, the Secretary General is right; we are standing at a crossroads. With all the money in the world, we cannot buy MDG6. The only way to stop the biggest humanitarian disaster of our time is by combining commitment and cooperation with crucial capacity. Let's all look in the mirror and ask ourselves the following daily question, "What do we want to pass on to the next generation?" Thank you very much. [Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): Thank you very much, Mrs. Agnes Van Ardenne-Van Der Hoeven, Minister for Development Corporation from the Netherlands. I give the floor to Her

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Excellency Mrs. Abator Thomas, Minister of Health and Sanitation of Sierra Leone.

HER EXCELLENCY MRS. ABATOR THOMAS, MINISTER OF HEALTH

AND SANITATION: Mr. President, distinguished delegates, I wish on behalf of the government and the people of Sierra Leone to thank and commend the co-chairs for their immense contributions to facilitating the process that has culminated in the Draft Political Declaration, which we hope will be adopted today. I also wish to commend the Secretary General for his report of the progress made thus far in this global AIDS [inaudible] since the 2001 Declaration of Commitment.

To tackle the scourge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, African governments clearly manifested their political will by adopting the [inaudible] Commitment on scaling up towards universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support in Africa by 2010. My government remains firmly committed to implementing this declaration.

Mr. President, even though the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Sierra Leone currently stands at 1.5-percent, my government fully recognizes that the pandemic constitutes a formidable challenge to human life and dignity and has, therefore, intensified its efforts to address the threat by adopting the following measures: establish a ministry

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

responsible for social welfare, gender and children's affairs; to promote women's rights and protect women and girls from all forms of discrimination; set up a national HIV/AIDS council in the office of the President, chaired by the President himself, to formulate and oversee national policy on the pandemic; develop a multisectoral HIV/AIDS response project, known as the Sierra Leone HIV/AIDS Response Project (SHARP) with support from the World Bank and other partners; establish a national HIV/AIDS [inaudible] to coordinate a national response effort; embark on massive awareness, counseling and other social programs, especially in the school settings, about the disease and its effects, as well as the issues of stigmatization; organize national consultations and workshops on the status of the national HIV/AIDS response, discussing the process and the concrete targets for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, which the country hopes to reach within the stipulated timeframe of 2010; significantly increase the involvement of the Civil Society in national response efforts partnered with the UN team; approve the [inaudible] tariff and sales tax on all drugs and equipment for treatment of HIV/AIDS; increase the number of treatment centers throughout the country; provide antiretroviral drugs all HIV-positive pregnant women.

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Mr. President, although we are still grappling with the aftermath of the civil conflict, we are satisfied that we have made appreciable progress in our HIV/AIDS response against the background of other competing priorities, including malaria, tuberculosis, weak health infrastructure and delivery systems, as well as shortage of trained and experienced health personnel. In light of the above, I would like to remind our development partners to make good on their commitment to enable us to tackle the [inaudible] challenges of adopting and operationalizing the Three Ones Principles; mobilize and allocate additional financial resources for all program areas; strengthen capacity-building for all levels of staff; integrate STIs and HIV/AIDS into the curriculum of schools, colleges and other training institutions; strengthen care and support of organizations to provide integrated services for people living with AIDS; provide special care for those children orphaned by AIDS; reform and support laws to protect the human rights of women, people living with AIDS, orphaned and vulnerable children and other vulnerable groups; make [inaudible] process an integral part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Program.

To achieve the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, my government has set the following immediate targets, which we believe would

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

create the enabling environment in our national HIV/AIDS response effort: Expose the most vulnerable population to appropriate information on HIV/AIDS; provide effective multisectoral programs for prevention, treatment, care and support to all individuals, families and communities in need of support; continue to provide regular [inaudible] support and advocacy; strengthen the healthcare and social systems; intensify staff training; take legislative measures which will protect the human rights of individuals against discrimination, especially to the empowerment of women; adopt the Three Ones Principles by instituting a well-managed, multisectoral and multidisciplinary framework to implement, coordinate and evaluate programs.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to thank the World Bank and the Global Fund for their support. I also wish, once again, on behalf of my government to assure this assembly of our commitment to this global fight against HIV/AIDS as reflected in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment and the Draft Political Declaration we are about to adopt. I thank you all so very much for your attention. [Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): Thank you very much Mrs. Abator Thomas, Minister of Health and Sanitation of Sierra

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Leone. I give the floor to Her Excellency Dr. Maria Soledad Barria, Minister of Health of Chile.

HER EXCELLENCY DR. MARIA SOLEDAD BARRIA, MINISTER OF HEALTH: Gentleman, distinguished heads of state, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to say that need to work, as the minister of Guyana said, on behalf of the Rio Group. On behalf of the delegation of Chile, of both the government [inaudible], persons living with HIV/AIDS, social and non-government organizations and scientific [interposing], I commend the efforts made by the member states of this organization to refocus on the important topic of HIV/AIDS as a commitment of mankind.

Five years ago in the City Hall, member states heeded the appeal from the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, and entered into a covenant [interposing] to reverse this pandemic that is still afflicting millions of people around the world today. As we meet here to review these commitments, we find that substantial progress has been made with regard to many of them, but they have not been sufficient to contain the pandemic. It is in this [interposing] that we recognize many of the inequities and inequalities present in our world today, especially those linked to poverty, hunger and discrimination of gender and

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

others. This affects the poorest countries most and in all countries the young population, women, men having sex with men, migrants, sexual workers and refugees are the most vulnerable. This epidemic affects the most vulnerable population in the poorest of the countries where it is harder to obtain access to effective prevention and treatment, or where these don't exist. Despite the [interposing] processes in which differing values, interests, and social and economic [interposing], this is [interposing] to hold the HIV/AIDS epidemic and commercial rights and wishes to improve the quality of life of our people. There is a need for more [interposing] involvement of relevant social stakeholders. To achieve these goals, we must [interposing] and expand corporations in governments and civil society. This must be made a [interposing] in the various government sectors, and the private sector must make a greater commitment. We will [interposing] strategic analysis for achieving progress towards the solutions of the problems affecting our society. [Interposing] with regard to inequities and discrimination and general policies related to health. For the epidemiological [interposing] of the various countries, there is a need for national and international policies for the promotion of human development and solidarity, recognizing diversity as a cultural asset. For our government and

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

traditional [interposing] for the human rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS and the most vulnerable populations, it is not only the duty of the state, but those [interposing] for progress in controlling the epidemic and fulfilling the requirements of an increasingly democratic society. We must create legal and political commitments to protect [interposing] promotion of human rights of those populations that are particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and [interposing] for sexual and reproductive rights. My government welcomes the creation of collective forums and initiatives based in solidarity, and we're joining in efforts and resources which considerably [interposing] action to reduce the huge economic and [interposing] in responding to HIV, the differences between the industrialized world and the countries with fewer resources.

We, therefore, very much appreciate the [interposing] here for the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. In conjunction with national efforts [interposing] responds to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It is necessary to protect this further not to discriminate against medium-income countries. [Interposing] number of collaborative efforts directed toward more accessible treatment, for example, regarding the price of the medications, finding enough financing and, thus, benefiting

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

the poorest countries and population. We also take note of the commitment of the Rio Group of the [interposing] of Latin America and the Caribbean on HIV/AIDS [interposing] and the [interposing] agencies like the WHO, [interposing], UNAIDS, [interposing] and targets to achieve universal access to prevention, treatment and care [interposing] of more decisive interventions to tackle this problem. [Interposing] the Chilean government will continue working to halt the spread of AIDS in our country and cooperate on the international and regional level and thus to promote [interposing] and targets agreed on at this important assembly.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, [interposing] my efforts to obtain more effective response. Many children, women and men have their gaze fixed on us. We cannot and must not let them down. Thank you. [Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): Thank you Dr. Maria Soledad Barria, the Minister of Health of Chile. I now give the floor to His Excellency [inaudible] of Cuba who will address us on behalf of his Minister of Health who was unable to attend this plenary.

MALE SPEAKER (INTERPRETED): Mr. Chairman, today I must read the statements that should have been pronounced by

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

my colleague Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera, Minister of Public Health of the Republic of Cuba. He is not here among us because he did not receive the necessarily visa from the government of the United States of America. Once more, the authorities of the host country have failed to comply with its obligations to facilitate participation of a minister of a member state of the United Nations. Just [interposing] any discrimination imposed on it and demands full respect of the sovereign rights acquired by its people in its hard struggle against the imperialist domination of the US government. Silence is the eloquent effort of Cuba is the struggle against HIV/AIDS, despite this genocidal blockade imposed on it by the United States who does also remain silent with regard to the cooperation of Cuba in its struggle against this serious scourge. We cannot achieve this.

Now I will read the statement made by Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera, Minister of Health of Cuba. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, five years ago during a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the subject of HIV/AIDS, the head of the delegation of Cuba began by stating the following, "'No [interposing]. A few privileged and wealthy have been able to reduce the mortality with medicines at high and irrational prices. Many of us, the unfortunate and poor, are witnessing a huge reduction of

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

the life expectancy of the people and a demographic decrease, which could lead to their extinction.' " Today, despite the progress of certain countries in the battle against this scourge, the picture has changed very little. Humanity is faced with a world where there is an increase of poverty, which creates huge inequalities, and which condition the greatest vulnerability of the poorest to HIV/AIDS. Cuba has been able to face the effects of this pandemic, despite the fierce economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States of America, which impedes access to most of the new medicines produced by the US companies or their subsidiaries who, because of the laws of this genocidal blockade, cannot obtain economic and commercial relations with my country.

The Cuban program for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, implemented since 1986, includes components of education, prevention, diagnosis, epidemiological monitoring, care and research, which has been made possible because of the political commitment and the priority that the state gives to the health of the population and also because of the existence of the healthcare system, which is characterized by its universality and the fact that it is free and accessible, as well as social and community participation. At the end of the year 2005 in our country, there were 5,532 persons with

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

HIV/AIDS, of which 1,450 are sick; 1,338 have died to date. After 20 years of the epidemic, the prevalence in the population from 15 to 49 years is 0.09-percent. In the year 2001, antiretroviral treatment was provided universally and completely free. The mortality for this has been reduced and, as of 2003, there has been a decrease in the number of people suffering from AIDS.

In the context of the international confrontation to the epidemic of HIV/AIDS, Cuba has offered cooperation to developing countries with regard to the training, Cuban resources and medical care. Presently, we have 29,223 doctors and health workers in 70 countries participating in the fight against AIDS in communities in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, 17,495 people with scholarships are studying in Cuba from 17 countries, and the Cuban medical brigades abroad are contributing to train 536 young people in their own countries.

The figure of \$22.1 billion necessary to confront this epidemic by the year 2008 should not be considered exaggerated if we bear in mind that we must educate the population on prevention and the promotion of living patterns which are healthy, guaranteeing the [interposing] of free antiretroviral treatment and create a whole infrastructure to

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

carry out this action, increase research to achieve more effective medicine and vaccinations.

I will conclude my statement by recalling what we said five years ago. "The only possible cure is that we place infinite resources available in the world in the service of mankind without mean, commercial, interest or national selfishness. To achieve this is our responsibility." Thank you.

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): Thank you [inaudible] who has addressed the statement of a Minister of Public Health. I give the floor to Her Serene Highness Princess Stephanie of Monaco.

HER SERENE HIGHNESS PRINCESS STEPHANIE OF MONACO (INTERPRETED): Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I can here today to declare my solidarity with all those who are fighting against AIDS, a disease in which there are no people and which still presents a terrible threat to all populations. All men, women and children cannot fight on equal footing against this disease. Unfortunately, that means prevention, screening and treatment remains impossible to many. I'm aware of the [interposing] of all the commitments made in this prestigious venu, Prince Rainier III of Monaco, my beloved late father, and my brother the

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Sovereign Prince Albert II, have wished as early as 1997 that Monaco be associated with the [interposing] AIDS. The [interposing] also contributes to Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and, since last year, has taken part in the Accelerated Funds of the Joint United Nation Program on HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, my country commits itself to the joint campaign UNICEF and UNAIDS [interposing] for children to unite against AIDS. But it is joined a [interposing], a financing program in favor of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

I already commit myself personally through my association, Fight AIDS Monaco, to provide more comprehensive and accessible information for all and for the establishment of an effective prevention. We intervene in schools and universities to help people whose lives are affected by the virus and support research. We fight on a daily basis to [interposing] HIV-positive person protected, because any discrimination is intolerable. This is even more so when stigmatization worsens the physical pain caused by the disease. I also commit myself in this very moment [interposing] cause, of which the fight against AIDS is an integral part.

As for the principality of Monaco, it is committed to supporting the outstanding work of UNAIDS partners that,

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

thanks to the leadership of its executive director,
contribute relentlessly to [interposing] efforts to overcome
[interposing] and fight back with determination.

I think that it is my [interposing] as a woman and a
mother to continue to fight with all my strength against this
pandemic. I thank you. [Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): Thank you Her Serene
Highness Princess Stephanie of Monaco. I now give the floor
to Her Excellency Mrs. Christine Nobout Adjobi, Minister in
Charge of HIV/AIDS of Cote D'Ivoire.

**HER EXCELLENCY MRS. CHRISTINE NOBOUT ADJOBI, MINISTER
IN CHARGE OF HIV/AIDS (INTERPRETED):** Distinguished
delegates, ladies and gentleman, I wish on behalf of the
President of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire and the people of
Cote D'Ivoire, as well as on my own behalf, I wish to express
my gratitude to for the opportunity to [inaudible] for this
assembly.

My delegation joins with the statement made by
President [inaudible] on behalf the African Group. I take
this opportunity to thank the United Nations, the Secretary-
General and the entire international community for their
assistance to my country, which has been suffering the

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

torment of war for so long, a country with so many millions of inhabitants with a 7-percent incidence of AIDS, one of the highest in Africa. The obstacles of obtaining the objectives is a turn in the strategies which will allow us to speed up the attainment of the declaration goals. It is the firm will of Cote D'Ivoire to fight this pandemic through the creation of a special ministry to fight AIDS and has maintained its eagerness to fight against the spread of this scourge and its commitment to reverse and stop the HIV/AIDS epidemic by the year 2015.

From 2003 to 2005, the state has committed roughly \$40 million to fight AIDS. With the support of partners, the few following indicators were obtained on the national level: 65-percent of major businesses have established special programs to fight AIDS. A hundred-percent of the blood transfusion banks are—80-percent of the people from 15 to 25 have the special knowledge about how to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS; 70-percent of people from 15 to 24 state that they use a contraceptive when having sexual relations with an occasional partner. However, it needs to be pointed out that considerable obstacles aren't counted during this crisis period. These recommendations are vital, therefore, in order to obtain the established objectives. Thus, to support the process for the country [inaudible] for

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

the recovery of the health systems throughout the national territory, to intensify HIV/AIDS prevention to eradicate the effects of bad behavior, and to increase the financial resources for Cote D'Ivoire through the implementation of the MAP Project, a project for which the entire preparatory phase will be completed by 2007, and also to look to the effective function of organs established by the government with respect to the national plan of action with partners.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, while the spread of the epidemic continues in the above-mentioned conflicts, with all the uncontrollable factors, it's urgent that with the support of the international community, we should confront the obstacles that preventing the implementation of national policies to fight AIDS, which would allow for better precision of the follow of the declaration.

To all the donors, President Bush, the UNH [inaudible] through UNAIDS and its executive director, Cote D'Ivoire wishes to be able to continue to count not only upon itself, but also upon international solidarity and the sincere cooperation of partners in order to deal with this political crisis, which needs a national response. Thank you.

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): I thank you Mrs. Christine Nobout Adjobi, Minister in Charge of HIV/AIDS of Cote D'Ivoire. I now give the floor to Mr. Julio Vega Pasquier, Minister of Interior of Nicaragua.

MR. JULIO VEGA PASQUIER, MINISTER OF INTERIOR: Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Nicaragua is attending this important forum at the United Nations with determination and enthusiasm to reaffirm its political commitment to a threat that knows no borders and which directly affects the [inaudible] and development of our Central American Region, a treat which is not only a problem in public health for us, but has become a problem of public security. Nicaragua is a young country and one of the poorest in Latin America, where the [inaudible] and young people represent more than half of our population, which is threatened by HIV/AIDS. We could easily conclude that if we did not act in time, our immediate future would seriously be effective. We our pleased that our wealth as a country is quantifiable; one of the examples is the Campaign of Communication, Education and Information on HIV/AIDS, which is carried out at a national level within the armed forces and the police, as well as with well citizens who fight for their freedom. This initiative is a joint effort between the government and civil society.

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Friends, it is no use to have a commitment to the struggle against AIDS if it is not supported by solid financial support. In Nicaragua, the budget is considerably greater than in previous years; however, that has not been sufficient. Our government, after having demonstrated a solid macroeconomic discipline, has called upon international financial institutions with which we are committed, in particular the IMF. With the economical agreements between Nicaragua, we'll have a significant increase in our budget and we can fiercely fight against the pandemic of HIV/AIDS. This is a question of life or death and not just economic indicators. Nicaragua feels that all countries in the world should join in our efforts to achieve accessible prices for the retroviral medicine and does cover universal, integral coverage of those living with HIV/AIDS. This, too, is a question of life or death. Prevention is also a question of life or death and cannot be disregarded because of stigmas or discrimination.

In this struggle, we have not been alone. Beyond our borders, the international community has provided us with solidarity, in particular through the Global Fund and the technical aid of UNAIDS, which we're grateful for; however, we wish to point out to this assembly that up to a level of coordination and mutual understanding, we have been able to

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

achieve as a government, with organizations of Nicaragua and civil society who are commissioned to fight against AIDS. We would like to mention, in particular, those contributions of men and women who live with AIDS. We are a country with a lowest level of prevalence, but with the greatest vulnerability. We wish to request from the United Nations that we be considered a priority country so that we can dedicate major efforts to achieve universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support. Thank you.

[Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): Thank you, Mr. Julio Vegas Pasquier, Minister of Interior of Nicaragua. I give the floor to Dr. Chua Soi Lek, Minister of Health of Malaysia.

HIS EXCELLENCY DATUK DR. CHUA SOI LEK, MINISTER OF HEALTH: Mr. President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in Malaysia we are conscious of the devastation that the unchecked spread of HIV can cause to our people. In the year 2005 alone, 6,120 cases were detected HIV positive, giving rise to a rate of 70 new infections per day. Although injecting drug use remained the major mode of spread, recent trend would indicate that heterosexual transmission is increasing the number of women becoming infected. The

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Malaysian government acknowledges the urgent need to address the HIV epidemic and is fully committed to the Declaration of Commitment of HIV/AIDS of the 26th United Nations General Assembly Special Session in the year 2001. However, the reality is that we continue to face numerous challenges from human resource constraints, technical expertise, effective interventions that meet the needs of the vulnerable groups, and most of all, the stigma and discrimination.

In order to address these challenges, a new national strategic plan for HIV/AIDS for 2006 to 2010 was formulated to show political commitment at the highest level with the establishment of a cabinet committee on AIDS, checked by the Deputy Prime Minister and guided by the Three Ones Principle. The national strategic plan centers upon the following strategies: 1) strengthening leadership and advocacy; 2) training and capacity advancement; 3) reducing HIV vulnerability among injecting drug users and their partners; 4) reducing HIV vulnerability among women, young people and children; 5) reducing HIV vulnerability among marginalized and vulnerable groups; 6) improving access to treatment, care and support.

We have demonstrated our commitment and leadership in the areas of prevention and treatment. Notably, in order to make treatment more accessible and affordable, steps were

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

taken to import cheaper, generic medication through compulsory licensing. With that, the Malaysian government has been able to triple the number of people on antiretroviral therapy over the last three years. A prevention of mother-to-child program was introduced nationwide in 1998, which included provision of retreatment to HIV-infected mothers and their newborn.

Secondly, recognizing that injecting drug use is the main driver for the epidemic, the government has recently taken a bold step to address this problem. Led by the Ministry of Health, in partnership with our leading NGO, the Malaysian AIDS Council, harm reduction programs, including opiate substitution therapy and needle and syringe exchange programs, were implemented in October 2005. Rapid scale-up to reach the large numbers of injecting drug users in the country is one of the prevention priorities for the upcoming years.

To implement a newly developed, national strategic plan for HIV and AIDS in 2006 to 2010, the Malaysian government has doubled its budgetary allocation for HIV and AIDS from \$55 million US to \$135 million for the next five years. Additionally, specific targets and timelines have been set to achieve universal access on treatment, prevention, care and support. The declaration from this

¹ kaisernetwork.org makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

High-Level Meeting which we, as members of states, will commit to will be an added impetus for us to take action and with this declaration, we'll achieve another milestone in our fight against AIDS. But this is not a time to rest and talk, for action is what is urgently required. Thank you, Mr. President. [Applause]

MODERATOR (INTERPRETED): I thank Dr. Chua Soi Lek, Minister of Health of Malaysia. We have heard the last speaker of this morning's meeting. We will continue our meeting this afternoon as of 3 p.m. Kindly be punctual because we have a long list of speakers and great interest in this subject. We will meet again at 3 p.m. The meeting is adjourned.

[END RECORDING]