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**International Women's Summit:  
Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS  
Closing  
World YWCA Council  
July 7, 2007**

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[START RECORDING]

[MUSIC AND SINGING]

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Good afternoon. Good afternoon, everyone. Before we hear the last song from the wonderful choir, I'd just like to invite those of you who have not got headsets to please do so. And also, we hope that everyone has received an evaluation form today. If you have not, you can get one from the ushers at the entrance of the room, and a little incentive to please fill in your forms, we will have a little draw at the end of today's session, at the close. So we encourage you to fill in the evaluation and return them to an usher at the back of the room so we can put your name in for the draw. And then we will begin after this song. Thank you.

**MALE SPEAKER:** Good afternoon, ladies, good afternoon. Now, I am sure you had a very good lunch. Now, we want to sing one song by the title of "Moongo Uwema, God is Good." And because God is good to all of us, I invite all of us to stand and just dance, and enjoy ourselves so that as the food settles down, we'll be able not to sleep in the afternoon, but be able to hear everything that is said. God is good so please, all of us, if you can just rise up so that we sing together.

[SINGING]

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**MONICA ZETSCHE:** Good to start that first song. Lovely dancing. *Jambo. Habari.* Good afternoon. *Buenos tardes. Maswa. Botardi.* That's all, and enough.

So formally, good afternoon, everybody. We are now gathered here for the closing session of the International Women's Summit. The past three days have indeed been very intense for everybody. We have been engaged physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Physically, as moving from one session to the next, from the big tents to the plenary home, to the workshop room, town halls and [inaudible] require a lot of physical energy. Mentally, as our minds and intellect have been provoked to reflect, to analyze, to strategize, and sometimes to change old patterns of thinking and behaving. Emotionally, because we have been moved by the stories shared to us, in both formal and informal sessions. Our passions have been aroused as we have heard about suffering, discrimination, and the seemingly inadequate response to the plight of women and pure communities.

But we have also been inspired by women and children who have surmounted to farthest odds and we have heard a lot of those during the past three days. And spiritually, because we have been enriched by everything we have heard and witnessed, and at every fold, I'm sure our lives have been changed in many, many different ways.

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**NATALIE FISHER-SPALTON:** Good afternoon. My name is Natalie Fisher-Spalton and I'm the deputy general secretary of the World YWCA. We've now almost reached the end of our journey as far as the International Women's Summit on Women's Leadership in HIV and AIDS is concerned. But we know that we're nowhere near the end of the road. Now, it's time to think about the next steps of what we will do when we reach home, back in our communities and in our home countries.

This afternoon we'd like to present to you a Call to Action, and a pledge of commitment, as a beginning of how we make the transition from these last three amazing days to our journeys back home. And I'd like to call upon the World YWCA General Secretary, Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, who will share with us what the Call to Action is all about, and how it came to be, which is also itself, a journey to share with you. Thanks.

**DR. MUSIMBI KANYORO:** Thank you, thank you. *Jambo.* Wow, *habari.* If you could leave Nairobi with two words in your vocabulary, which you can be able to share with everybody in your country, that will be just marvelous, and the words are *jambo* and *habari mazuri sana.* Those are greetings.

I'm delighted on behalf of all the partners, to World YWCA, and all the partners with whom we have worked to present to you the process by which we work to come to the Call to Action. And I would like to find out whether all of you do

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have a Call to Action. Just check so that you have a Call to Action, and if you don't have it, have your hand out and ushers will come and bring a Call to Action to you.

The Call to Action is a document of commitment. It's a document of commitment which has been facilitated by the World YWCA, but drafted by many partners. When we were designing this conference, we took into account that there are many conferences that have been taking place on HIV and AIDS and have produced various documents, many of them holding governments to accountability, holding pharmaceuticals to accountability, holding our own communities, religious communities to accountability, et cetera. We also are quite aware that this is the first-ever interaction conference on women's leadership on HIV and AIDS. None has taken place before and we were quite cautious of the fact that it's taking place on the continent where we've had the greatest impact of the pandemic, and yet at the same time the pandemic is sufficiently globalized so that there is no place in the world where the pandemic has not touched.

So we were aware of that, and we were aware that we are also working within the framework of so many other women, men and people of from different backgrounds working on HIV and AIDS. So we asked ourselves, together with our partners, what will be different from Nairobi 2007? And the working groups

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that were convened in various regions said that what we needed to do is come out with a document that holds us to accountability, that holds, first and foremost, the people who come to this consultation to accountability. That none of us would have the privilege of coming from wherever we have come from and go away from this place and put our databank another conference that we attended. But rather, we would leave Nairobi with a passion inside us, with a vision from within us that is telling us with a hunger with the past, with something that is calling us to guilt conscience if we don't do something. But guilt doesn't get us anywhere. But something that is really calling us to leadership, the leadership of women making a difference in the HIV pandemic.

We came from the framework of being part of the global coalition on women, HIV and AIDS, and we decided that we were not going to reinvent the wheel but build on what has happened.

So the first thing that we did was to affirm those declarations that we've been part of. There are many, but I would like to just to mention some, which includes the International Community of Women Living With HIV and AIDS. Twelve Statements made in 1992, to which we endorsed and many partners who have been working on this and us as well. The Barcelona Bill of Rights of 2002, the NGO point of context developed through the Red Cross and other partners. The

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Canadian Blueprint document of 2006, which came out of Toronto. The Johannesburg Position on HIV and AIDS. Women and Girls Rights in Africa, February 2006. The Compact developed by the Global Health Coalition, and to which many of the partners have signed. And also the various UN meetings that have taken place, including Ungass twice. That has taken place, the UN General Assembly on HIV and AIDS. We have found these and many others that exist in our regions, in our nations, in our villages and towns and cities.

And this document, that's not in any way dishonor them, but what is different? Which is our only niche, this document calls you to personal commitment. The way it was developed was, after consultation with so many people, a drafting committee made up of two people from the YWCA, one board member and one staff. The board member was Arthia Nathaniel from Pakistan and the staff member was Sophie Dilmitis, the HIV/AIDS coordinator. And then we had representation on the drafting committee from Mary Wandiel [misspelled?] of Action AIDS and they're currently in Lambrat of the wide of the sea off Australia. And they had a larger advice of the group that gave them advice, and then they had their consultation group that even went wider. So the result of this consultation process is the Call to Action, which will go on the Web site of the World YWCA, and we ask many of you also, as you commit yourselves to

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it, to put it on your Web site and be free to use it and ask others to Call to Action as well.

This, a shorter version of the Call to Action which in one page, a talking document that anyone of you can take and use all the time. And today we will be helped to sign a pledge of action. A pledge of action that commits us as individuals to take this Call to Action forward. So this is the process which we used. It was sufficiently inclusive. It was chaired by Alice Welbourn, who I will be welcoming, who will come to us later and go on and tell us about commit us to calling it. And Alice Welbourn comes from the International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS, which was our partner organization in convening this ICW. So that's your Call to Action. Thank you.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Musimbi. We will now hear responses to the Call to Action and I would like to invite a starting message with a detail from Naomi Watts, the Ambassador of UN AIDS.

**NAOMI WATTS:** Good Morning.

[INAUDIBLE FROM 25:54-30:34, NO MIC]

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let me share, maybe you realize that she was not able to be with us because she's expecting a baby.

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**FEMALE SPEAKER:** We'd now like to call on Dorothy Onyango, newly elected Co-chair of The International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS. Dorothy.

**DOROTHY ONYANGO:** Thank you, and *jambo* and *kari bu* Kenya. Rich ladies, men and women of goodwill, from near and far, east and west, north and south, with due humility I have the pleasure to salute you all. Standing before you this afternoon, which is a great day to all of us women, I feel it is my duty to extend my gratitude to all for their thoughtful contributions, suggestions, and even criticisms that have formed the basis of the summit for the last couple of days that we have been here.

I also have the pleasure to thank members of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, who have this time around, elected me as vice chair. I believe this honor will give me additional strength and strength to champion the cause of women living with HIV internationally. I want to assure you of my utmost commitment to this cause. Thank you.

As vice chairperson of ICW, one of my major priorities will be to ensure that rights of women lead us and their participation in HIV/AIDS issues across the globe, its value recognized and pursued. I will work with recognition that ICW and YWCA stay in partnership with the most viable strategy to achieving wider goals of women's meaningful participation in

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the work affairs, especially in stamping out stigma and discrimination, methods against women living with HIV/AIDS in this world. And not forgetting the issue of commercial sex workers who will address the challenges, the stigma shared by HIV-positive women, and sex workers and the world. And I repeat world, that will reach to world's violence against women, especially HIV-positive women including sex workers, without putting distance between them.

We will protest against police abuse and social discrimination of sex workers. And we will ensure that we demand that this utilization of sex workers, and the protection of sex work, and the protection of sex worker's human rights, and worker's rights.

As a woman living with HIV/AIDS, allow me to express the opinion that not many women living with HIV/AIDS have been involved in decision-making processes of our nation. I want to state that it is time women living with HIV/AIDS started to aggressively lobby for influential positions in the social, economic and political affairs of our respective countries. It is undisputable that the needs to promote gender expertise, aimed at enhancing advancement of women and girl's rights is more ideal today than it was yesterday. This, to me, is accepting what women and girls greatly require.

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This summit has tried to deliberate on the issues of whether or not women living with HIV could bear children. As healthy as the discussion has been, I must share with you the fact that this question is inevitable, the sole responsibility of that woman herself. Any decision made will be independent and questionable. The role of the society is to ensure women living with HIV/AIDS have equal and indiscriminate access to medical care, information and to ensure quality of life. To this extent, I call on YWCA and ICW to work towards raising the possibility for positive women, and strengthening the solidarity of non-positive women of all nations, which will eventually translate into emergences of young positive women leadership.

We must recognize, however, that part of the obstacle positive women have continued to face in their quest to obtain equity, is the lack on involvement of men in our campaign. I recognize that positive involvement of men will perhaps trigger better responses and results in the end. My challenge therefore, is to wise up this fear, and ourselves as I see that view, to create further less [misspelled?] facilities for men, for their meetings, and get together ceremonies that we reduce the current burden of testing and positive living for women.

Finally, I want to recognize the invaluable support that we have received from Dr. Chao, the WHO secretary general.

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Without her, this summit would not have been as successful. On the other hand, the conspicuous absence of WHO's HIV/AIDS department raises great doubts on the widespread policy-making body commitment to the cause of women. I challenge all of us to team up and quest these absurdities.

I must also recognize the great contribution made by Sophie, our tess [misspelled?] sister, who has had close working relationships with World YWCA towards the realization of this summit. I believe this is the first step in the grand collaboration between ICW and YWCA.

Please take up these challenges. To all of you, I thank you for your patient audience and honest deliberation. May we live to see great accomplishment that are ways up ahead. We know women will manage. We have managed and we shall continue to manage. *Asanti sana*. Thank you very much. *Merci beaucoup*. *Gracia ber di* [misspelled?]

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Dorothy, and now we would like to invite response from the floor and we will start with Shorai Chitango to speak on behalf higher commission. Is she here?

**SHORAI CHITANGO:** Good afternoon. My name is Shorai Chitango from Huairou Commission. A convenient vest [misspelled?] and necklace for women to wrap up with domestic

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balance. It's also an option from Gerti Vanfritz in Baba [misspelled?].

I stand before you today representing tens of thousands of gracious women from over 30 organizations, in 15 African countries, India and Guatemala. We have come today, as never so good, even this now in the YO [misspelled?] commission. We would like to start by thanking the YWCA for opening space for gracious women leaders to effectively participate in this concern. We have taken this opportunity to seriously indebt us for places impressed with human information or [inaudible] prior to the family to share our practices and make action plans. We gracious women want best [inaudible] caregivers including women living positively are uniting communities, rebuilding social [inaudible] eroded by poverty entirely. And thank you Mark and Jeter [inaudible] we improved food security and baby [inaudible]. [inaudible] in sanitation and hold local governments accountable. Building bottom up, pro-poor that is what's democratic.

Although we are grounded in our communities, we are not working in isolation. From our self-help and support groups with the Gangly [misspelled?] our close workers and regions building bottom up, all the [inaudible] interests in taking our [inaudible] to care. In our [inaudible] we were good alliances for work [inaudible] caregivers in seven countries. We will

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continue to support the creation of niches of children and youth in poor communities to facilitate their [inaudible]. We will be counting and following our contributions to the global AIDS [inaudible]. We will also continue our advocating, local to global, to hold local and national governments accountable by monetary from the bottom up, managing other cases through the global fund for AIDS, the World Bank [inaudible] and others. We will do this through global advocacy and thoroughly to great [inaudible]. We may need to decision make people positions in communities through National Labor AIDS Councils.

We are working with a growing group of partners, including [inaudible], American Jewish Service, the Global Fund for Women, the Susan Lewis Foundation, the African Women's Development Fund and the New [inaudible] Foundation, persons who are permitted to directly investing in grassroots women's leadership.

We invite you to take [inaudible] action in recognizing work in grassroots women leadership in the response to HIV and AIDS by joining with us, in creating a fund for women's leadership on communities that's responsive to HIV and AIDS, and in creating standards there'd be much money driving [misspelled?] protocols, less working and coalition feuding to sustain in care of our wake. Let me tell you what you needed to mention, to also mention that we are definitely are

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[inaudible] out that people can thank on to. Thank you.

*Asanti sana.*

[Applause]

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you. I'd like to call on Louise Binder and Shari Margolese from the Blueprint for Action on Women and Girls and HIV.

**SHARI MARGOLESE:** *Jambo.* I'm Sherry. Louise is going to talk because if you saw me earlier I was screaming and shouting about women's rights being human rights, and I don't have a voice left.

**LOUISE BINDER:** Thank you. Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Call for Action. We HIV-positive women consider this to be an incredibly ambitious, comprehensive and creative document. And we HIV-positive women salute those in fault for their vision and courage in developing it. And we thank the drafters for, what I'm sure, was an incredibly difficult job. These 10 critical areas will go far to rebalancing the present power and balance, between men and women, that fuel this epidemic for women. It is wonderful that we have a partnership between the YWCA and ICW, and all of our other partners, to bring about this document to fruition. We are confident that we will also recruit progressive men to help us to develop the strategies for many essential and complimentary rules in seeing this Call for

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Action implemented. Of course, this will require country-level and regional strategies.

We need to think locally in implementation. We also require sustainable support and capacity building to implement and monitor these strategies and to keep the grassroots working while we get them in place. We all know that policies and strategies alone will not be enough. Stigma and discrimination - we are so glad to see that this is in the very first of the critical areas. It is key. HIV-based stigma, a discrimination in our view is often just a smokescreen for other types of stigma and discrimination that are even less politically correct, against women, against people of different cultures, religions and colors. It is time for us to rip the mask off this basic hypocrisy. We are so glad to see the recognition of HIV positive women and girls at the table.

But we must remember that is all women and girls, not to exclude sex trade workers, lesbians, bisexual women, transgendered women, women in prisons, intravenous drug-using women, just to name a few. [Applause] And so we say to all of you in this room, as HIV-positive women, please remember nothing about us without us. Thank you.

[Applause]

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Louise and Sherry. I'd now like to invite the Reverend Doctor Nyambura

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Ngoroge to give a brief response as a representative of the World Council of Churches.

**REV. NYAMBURA NGOROGE:** Good afternoon. *Abadi zanoon* [misspelled?]. *Asanti sana*. It has been wonderful to have this opportunity and this important speak, where women's voices have been heard and their leadership in fighting HIV and AIDS pandemic acknowledged. Especially from women who are living positively with the challenges of the virus and the disease in their own bodies and in their own lives.

Coming from the World Council of Churches, a global fellowship of more than 340 churches, and as the top 500 [inaudible] for coordinating the [inaudible] call of HIV and AIDS initiative in Africa, I want to assure you that the Nairobi 2007 Call to Action will not be lost among many other papers on my desk. [Applause] Together, let us break down the barriers that have been erected by our [inaudible] for society, to which faith communities contribute significantly. Let us push the boundaries of our knowledge and experience to be better stewards or body sources.

We are painfully aware of the inadequacies of our responses to make women and [inaudible] less vulnerable to violence and defeat, both at home and in the society, and in our churches, unfortunately. We will continue to critically look at our [inaudible], [inaudible], our ethical sentiment and

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interpretation so that we can truly reflect our compassionate and loving Creator.

At the personal level, and as a clergyperson, and as one who is bringing up an adolescent boy who has lost his mother and grandmother to HIV and AIDS and who himself is living with HIV, this has been a very important stay for me to learn from my sisters and my brothers.

I am a member of Anarega [misspelled?], the association that brings together religious leaders who live with HIV, or who have been affected, in this continent of Africa. I want to assure you that I'll continue to knock at the doors of religious leaders of this continent and beyond so that we can raise our voices to speak on our own behalf, but also on behalf of those who are being marginalized because they live with a virus and the disease. It is my belief that together, we can conquer this virus and the disease. May God bless each one of us.

[Applause]

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Before I call on our last speaker to come up from the floor, I'd like to ask the ushers to be ready with microphones so that we can also hear from you. So you can please be ready if you would like to say something from the floor. We'll have some time for that. And

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I'd like to call on the Honorable Sithembiso Nyoni, Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises. Please.

**SITHEMBISO NYONI:** Thank you very much. I'm Sithembiso Nyoni from Zimbabwe and the Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises. HIV and AIDS needs action, action, action, from all of us. And I want to thank the organizers of this conference and the organizers of this session, especially the Call for Action, as I think it is very, very important for us not to just talk, but also to act. The action needs to come not just from women, but from all sectors of our society. It needs to come from government. Governments need to be committed. Governments need to have policies that trigger everybody to action.

In Zimbabwe, I'm the Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises. In my ministry, we have taken action in that we have commissioned a study to see which area of our society, especially the wealthy, as a means of operating, where are the areas where HIV and AIDS is prevalent and therefore, what actions will be taken there? And these are the areas where we found HIV and AIDS were higher. One, wade [misspelled?] checkers, those men that travel in lorries across borders in Suddock, from Cotrana from South Africa, Zimbabwe across to Zambia, where they taught and maybe leave for some time. Those areas, especially where also say tourism areas, are very close

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to those areas. Those men go out and because they are away from family, they tend to either transmit or get infected.

Secondly, it is the informal sector, the informal trader. And thirdly, it is in the slums, and fourthly, it is the cross-border traders. The women that go across between our countries selling goods, and when they get to these foreign countries, usually they don't get anywhere decent to sleep, and anywhere decent to stay, and they end up being victims. In small minds, those [inaudible]. As a result of this identification were triggered a minimum of understanding between my ministry and they're never in the Government of Namibia, of Botswana, Zambia, South Africa, and Mozambique. So we have minimums of understanding so that we worked together to assist the borders for that traders.

The Inson government has at 23 we have an HIV and AIDS lately so that we have the funds where people can help access. We also assist the HIV and AIDS orphans in schools. The problems, though, are many, but a lot is being done to an extent that HIV in Zimbabwe the prevalence has decreased from 24-percent to 18.6-percent. [Applause] Our Minister of Health is very aggressive and they make sure that in every ministry, in every organization, there is a desk that deals with HIV and AIDS.

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I thank you very much, I've learned a lot from here and I'm going to take lessons home, and I hope also some got to learn from Zimbabwe. This is an area where we have done very well. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

[AUDIO GAP]

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Okay.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Present yourself and YWCA or an organization you belong to.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Okay, my name is Humotu [misspelled?]. I'm from South Africa, and we're doing youth programs. I just want to say that past few days have been very interesting and we got a lot of information, and I've really learned a lot. But I would like to throw a challenge to all of our [inaudible], especially when it comes to you. Looking at the people that are faced with [inaudible] between 15 and 24, that although there are economic factors, and there is abuse, and there is rape, et cetera, et cetera, we must also not be afraid to push the envelope and explore all those uncomfortable parts of the dialogue that we sometimes leave out. Especially when it comes to life skills and risky behavior. I would like to challenge us as sisters and mothers to – even with things that we're uncomfortable talking about, at least start it at home, because this is the way your initial entry point through

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conversations around reproductive health, emotional things, et cetera, start from. Thanks.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Yes, you have to come to the microphone. The microphone is here. There's one there. We have one there, one here.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Okay, I won't speak in my mother tongue because it's Dutch and no one would understand me, sorry. I think it's a very strong document and I think it will be a very good advocacy tool, and I also think that there a couple missed opportunities. It could have been a stronger document if it had perhaps included three more things.

One is that is we have sex education for young people, that we don't only talk about how to prevent HIV infection, but also talk about what do we need to consider if we would have a relationship with an HIV-positive person. A second part would be in emphasizing the principles of informed consent, confidentiality, counseling and access to care when we're talking about expanding voluntary counseling and testing. I think emphasizing that it must be based on human rights principles would be very important. And the last part that has not been addressed, I think, is reproductive choice. The document does talk about safe motherhood, which is extremely important, but I think it would stronger if it also talked

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about reproductive choice, a woman's option to have or not have children and her option to have children biologically or through adoption. Thank you.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** I'm Froanna Hasley from the YWCA of Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is the [misspelled?] former [inaudible] their war and the conflict situation. You'd know what happens when there's rebel war, our women have been abducted, raped and suffered a lot of sexual problems. We do have a bit of the ladies who have come forward, but they feel the issue of stigmatization and discrimination. Here in this room, HIV is demystified. But back home, we still have to work demystifying HIV and AIDS to bring our women out. We do have them, but they couldn't come out because they still feel ashamed to come in such a public arena. And the Call to Action is a good document which we are going to work with and continue to act upon to bring out what we need to do in the YWCA of Sierra Leone to demystify HIV and AIDS.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** My name Loita Sabonie [misspelled?] from the YWCA of Bezwada [misspelled?]. I would like to challenge the mothers, the aunties in this conference, particularly those from Africa, as custodians of culture, to go back into our communities and investigate the role played by older women, in influencing the spread of HIV/AIDS. You know very well that in our African culture, when you go to your aunt

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or your mother and tell them that my husband is doing this, my husband has multiple sex partners, they tell you that, my daughter, persevere. They urge to stay in this relationship because it will be something unacceptable for you to leave this husband because he has multiple sex partners. So I'm saying let's talk to our mothers, let's talk to our aunties and ask them to address this issue because it's one of the things that is causing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Thank you.

**Male Speaker:** [Spanish dialogue].

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** [Spanish dialogue].

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Hello, everyone. I'm Patricia William from the YWCA Labara. I also want to caution the parents, the mothers and fathers out there. From the society where I come from, nobody says anything when a girl tries. It's expected to bring money in the home to be a breadwinner for the family at 14 or at 15. That's viewed the father of early pregnancy and also through the factor of HIV and AIDS. The Call to Action is also good. But I would also like to caution that parents to not to look at the children as breadwinners. Thank you.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you. We'll allow for maybe one or two more. If it's okay, we could continue with this and thank you very much for all of your comments and input for Call for Action.

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**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you. I'd like to now call upon Miss Deborah Landey, deputy executive director of UNAIDS, to give a response on behalf of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. Debbie.

**DEBORAH LANDEY:** Friends, colleagues, *jambo. Habari.* Thank you. Let me start by saying how wonderful it has been to be back on the African continent and in Kenya. Let me thank the powerful speakers who just gave testimony from the floor today. I would also like to thank the World YWCA and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS who have moved mountains to make this summit the success that it has been. I would particularly like to recognize Musimbi Kanyoro, Monica Vetch, Marie Hovasquez and Sophie Dilmitis, and thank them for their leadership and their vision in bringing us together. Yes, you can bring the house down for them. Bring the house down for them. I know you gave my wonderful friend Musimbi a good sendoff last night, but let's give her another one. Musimbi, God bless you.

I am very honored to be here in the company of so many dedicated women and a few courageous gentlemen like the one we just heard from, from across the globe, who are determined to make the AIDS response real for women and girls. And it is an enormous privilege to have been invited to speak here today on behalf of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. The Global

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Coalition on Women and AIDS advocates for women's rights in the response to AIDS. It is an alliance of activists, civil society organizations, positive women's networks, UN organizations and the private sector. Our shared goal is to bring about concrete action to tackle gender inequality one of the major drivers of this epidemic. We want to ensure that AIDS strategies respond to the real needs of women and girls so that they do not get infected, and if infected, live healthy and productive lives. An AIDS response that does not have women at its core, including women living with HIV, is doomed to fail, as the response has failed women so far. But this summit has made it clear that we are all part of a grand coalition that aspires to one shared purpose an HIV response that works for women and girls.

Friends, I think you will agree with me that this has been a historic summit. Why has it been historic? Historic because the women of the world, most especially young women, and positive women have come together in greater numbers than ever before in the history of the AIDS movement, to give voice to the urgent and non-negotiable rights of women and girls in the context of HIV. Women, young women, positive women are on the move.

Historic, because we have heard so many examples of how women's leadership is making a real difference to individuals,

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to families and communities around the world. Whether we talk about human rights, advocacy, programming, policies or research, women's leadership is on the move.

Historic, because there is a growing understanding and acceptance of the leadership positive women bring and must bring to every table where decisions are made that affect their lives. The leadership of positive women is on the move. Nothing about us without us.

Historic, because the leadership of positive UN, United Nations staff resulted in the launch of a chapter of United Nations plus, UN plus here in Nairobi. Positive colleagues, you are on the move. And I want to pay special thanks and tribute to Kate Thompson, Batube Mongo, Niase Mason and Jane Sinia for making it happen.

Historic, because so many people confirmed that there is no such thing as a gender-neutral program, nor should there ever be one in national responses to HIV.

Historic, because it is the first time that so many women confronting AIDS have affirmed the critical importance of ending violence as a core strategy against the epidemic. Violence must be on the move out of the lives of women and girls, and the lives of the men who perpetrate it.

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Historic, because women are challenging the macro-economic policies that have impeded effective AIDS responses and sunk women deeper into poverty.

Historic, because we have here in our hands, thanks to the leadership of Alice and others with her, the Nairobi Call to Action, made real in our own lives by the personal pledges we will and have made.

On behalf of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, I fully endorse the Call to Action and pledge the efforts of the coalition to turn it into reality on the ground. In support of the Call to Action we will do everything in our power to promote the human rights of all women and girls, irrespective of their age, HIV status or lifestyle choices. We will strive for women's economic empowerment so that they're able to protect themselves from infection, put food on the table and keep their children in school. We will continue to advocate for more funding to reach women, especially in grassroots communities. And for this funding to be easily accessible to those who need it most. And we will advocate for sustained research into female initiated prevention tools and for massive rollout of prevention of parent-to-child transmission programs.

We will speak loudly that positive and other women's organizations need a seat at the table as equal partners where policies, programs and budgets which affect lives are decided.

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And we will carry the message that AIDS programs that do not work for women, especially positive women, do not work for nations.

In the past three days, I think we have all been amazed by the range of powerful experience gathered at this summit. I believe we leave Nairobi with renewed passion, compassion and energy. By forging this new global alliance, we can speak louder and with greater force. As we leave this meeting and travel back to the far corners of the world where we live and work, I urge us all to take this Call to Action and use it to transform principles and commitments into concrete steps on the ground. I urge us all to transform the very way we respond to HIV. I urge us all to move ourselves, and our sisters, towards full equality between women and men.

Keep up the good work, keep up the passion and the energy, and keep up the extraordinary commitment. Our collective power can change the world. We must, we can and we will change the course of this epidemic. [Foreign dialogue]  
*Asanti sana.*

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Deborah. Thank you for your aspiring words and really moving and encouraging us to keep on the action. Well, we have one comment left.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you. My name is Foseno Rosa [misspelled?] from Moshe, Tanzania. What I want to say is that

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as we know, women, as women we are facing discrimination, and when you have disability you are facing double discrimination. And what if you are HIV-positive, you are facing this triple discrimination. So what I to say today and to remind you is that we are your daughters, we are your sisters, we are your mothers, we are your mothers-in-law and your sisters-in-law, so if we really want to change life, change community. Disabled women should be involved. Thank you.

**MONICA ZETSCHE:** Thank you very much. You have with you a copy of the pledge to action as a statement of our commitment to continuing and helping to strengthen response to HIV and AIDS, and especially those that address the specifics situation of women. We are going to read this pledge. I would now like to call upon Mrs. Dr. Alice Welbourn to lead us on the reading of the pledge. Thank you, Alice.

**ALICE WELBOURN:** Thank you, Monica. Good afternoon everybody. [Foreign dialogue].

Wow, what an amazing experience this has been. I felt so privileged to play a small part of it in being asked to convene the fantastic team who have put these documents together. And I'd also say thank you so much to all the members of the consultation group who gave so many thoughtful responses to our questions, which have fed into this document. And also to the members of the advisory group, who so warmly

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and generously acted as a sounding board for it. The results of the consultation process will appear shortly, on the YWCA website, together with all of the other declarations which Musimbi referred to in her opening remarks. So that all of you, I hope all of you or at least many of you, might be able to access all these important documents, and that consultation process, together in one place, together with this Call to Action, both in the long form and in the short form. And also this pledge to action which is the one page which I hope you all have a copy of.

I'd just like share with you a number of the call principles which we decided to work on, to form the basis of these documents which we have produced together over the past few months.

Principle number one: We are all affected by HIV and AIDS. Whoever we are in the world, wherever we are in the world, there is nobody anymore who can consider themselves not to be affected by this pandemic.

Next: We believe firmly that change starts with me, with each and every one of us. We also believe that the personal is political.

Next: What we tried to do in these documents was to promote a positive vision of how we want the world to be. I know all of us in this room are passionate advocates of women's

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rights, and together we have such a strong vision of how we want the world to be. And we hope that through these documents we will become and be the change we want to see in the world.

The next principle is that in these documents, we wanted to ensure that each and every one of us learns for ourselves about what is happening in relation to women and HIV. And all of the many, many complex interrelated issues that we've all been talking about over these past few days, in relation to our own selves, our own families, our own friends, our own communities, workplaces, faith groups, leisure groups, countries. And what are we doing in our own lives about all of these issues? HIV, we all know this, but we need perhaps to go on reminding ourselves, I just as much as anyone else, that HIV isn't just about somewhere else, someone else. It's also about what's happening in my own community. And the great tragedy is that what we have learned in the west – where ARVs, the drugs for AIDS are more readily available – stigma goes on and on just as badly, and perhaps sometimes even worse, then it did before the drugs arrived. So it hones in on each and every one of us, not only to be working in other parts of the world, but also to be learning about and responding to, and acting upon what's going on in own communities.

And our last principle for these documents was that we wanted to focus on our own thoughts, our own words and our own

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actions in our collective response, as all of the delegates at this IWS, to this pandemic.

So what we are going to do now is we're going to read this one-page pledge of action together. Now unfortunately, we haven't yet got copies of this pledge of action available in French or in Spanish yet. So I'm sorry to those of you for whom English is not something that you're comfortable with. But they will very soon be available on the YWCA Web site, all of the documents in English, French and Spanish. So do please feel very free to download them and to share them with your friends. But what we would like to ask you now is for those of you who are able to, if you would kindly stand so that we could all read out this pledge together.

So if you'd all like to join together, and read together:

I pledge to do everything in my capacity to respond positively, proactively and practically to the unprecedented challenges presented by the global AIDS pandemic. In my own life I will continually challenge my beliefs, question my negative assumptions, and confront the seeds of discrimination, prejudice and stigma that perpetuate the spread of HIV. I will use thoughts and words which are inclusive and respectful of others, seeking to build on what unites us and not what divides us. I will reach out and make connections with those most

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disenfranchised and affected by HIV, always questioning motives for my actions and sharing empathy. In my home, workplace and friendships I will support others to overcome negative beliefs, attitudes and practices towards HIV and AIDS, and people living with the virus. I will increase my awareness and those of others about the presence and relevance of HIV and AIDS in all of our communities. I will uphold the human rights of all women and girls. I will challenge all forms of gender inequality, racism and other forms of social, economic, political and legal injustice. I will confront individual behaviors and institutional strategies that place women and girls at risk of violence and HIV infection. In my own country, I will create meaningful spaces for the issues and views of women and girls living with HIV and their caretakers to be heard and included. I will encourage service providers working on HIV and AIDS to prominently, openly and conscientiously promote a quality in all that they do.

I will commit my time and resources to organizations working toward a better future for women and girls, and especially those working to address the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls.

By signing this pledge, I commit myself to be an agent of the change I wish to see in the world through all I think, say and do.

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Thank you very much, everybody. Would you like to sit down again, please, before we move on to the next section?

I would just like to pay a very personal and a very, very special and huge tribute to the working group with whom I worked on this document. To Sophie Dilmitis of the World YWCA and ICW member also, to Mary – yes, please let's clap each one of them because they all made such incredible contribution to this document. To Mary Wandia of Action AID International here in Kenya, to Arthia Nathaniel of Pakistan who's on the World YWCA executive board, and to Caroline Lambert of the YWCA in Australia. Thank you so much to each and every one of you.

What for me was so special about working with a group of women from such a diverse range of countries, is that it confirmed yet again, the universal humanity of all of us. And the reality that so many of these issues effect all of us in all our lives, no matter who we are or where we live on this planet.

Next, I would like to ask the Honorable Minister Neoni from Zimbabwe, the Honorable Minister Clu from Botswana, Nara Klinemansini on behalf of Unifem, and Ali Summerfelt on behalf of the Ecumenical Donor Agencies, and she, in particular, is from Norwegian Church Aid, if you would be kind enough to come forward and lead us by signing this document. And then we can all follow and sign the document also.

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**FEMALE SPEAKER:** I'm very proud to be part of this, so here is my nice pen and here's my nice paper.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Before I sign, I would like to say as a woman that when I go back home I commit a specific budget through my ministry to respond to women with HIV and AIDS that are in small business. And I will do this through – and I would like the YWCA from Zimbabwe to coordinate this and call a meeting of all in jobs civil society that are working with all the women with HIV and AIDS in small businesses. And I'll commit a budget from my ministry towards their work. Thank you, I've signed my place.

**NYARADZAI GUMBONZVANDA:** I commit in my personal life to live the values of the pledge. I commit to taking the issues forward through the Rosaria Memorial Trust, which I established in honor of my late mother who died a caregiver, after I lost three siblings to HIV and AIDS. I commit to taking this document to the Unifem executive director Dr. Nolin Haser, and to follow up on her to make sure that she also does the pledge to the United Nations. And especially to Dr. Asha Rose, who is with us, and also my colleague Debbie, who is here from UNA. Lastly, I commit that in all my leadership roles in my professional life, I'll continue to be held by the values of this pledge. Thank you.

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**MALE SPEAKER:** Let me just share with you all, a thanksgiving to all of you, to having reminded a middle-aged male of the enormous potential of female leadership, specifically in the HIV/AIDS struggle, but also generally. And I also then thank you all for revitalizing a commitment to the struggle for gender sensitive and that appropriates as a response from organizations committed to change the resource flow in the world from south to north to north to south. Finally, I think also it has been very inspiring to be part of a discussion on how we can link the enormous work that it is done on the micro level with the macroeconomics of these works. Thank you, all of you.

**ALICE WELBOURN:** Thank you so much to the four of you for signing this document in public. Now it's our turn to sign it. I heard people got a pen ready. I don't know if you've but today's date is the 7<sup>th</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup>. It's a historical day and I think it's an appropriate date for such a historical event. So let me just finish by saying please, everybody, take this document home with you and stick it up somewhere prominent in your home, or in your workplace, or at your faith group, your legi-center, wherever you feel a lot of other people will be able to see it and read it. And please share it with everybody. The more people we can encourage to sign this pledge, the more we can all develop the change and be

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the change that we all want to see in the world. Thank you so much everyone.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Alice. And now Lucinda and myself want to pledge in front of all of you, to commit ourselves, the World YWCA around the world, and our next task in this common commitment.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** We commit that we will ensure that the staff and the leadership, the governors of the YWCA, will continue to make this pledge, an institutional document as well as personal document. And we will ensure this even with my departure that there will be no gap in supporting the commitments that we have all made. Thank you and now I will ask Musimbi to stay and to share with us your views. Thank you.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Just a little interception to say this International Women's Summit has been set in the context of the World YWCA council. And the World YWCA council continues after our president helps us to close the International Women's Summit. The council continues tomorrow with a day on the no Kenya, no Africa. In the morning we offer a wonderful program for the people who are staying. Those who would like to visit churches, or visit game parks, or check working tools, this has been arranged and I think at our information desk when we finish, this information will be

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available to you. And use your program to see what else is in store for you if you are staying.

In the afternoon ,we have a session which will take place a little outside here at a place called The Bomus [misspelled?] of Kenya, which will expose participants who are staying here to what Kenya is in times of the different cultures, ethnicities and food and everything. And buses will leave from here. Buses going to that place will leave from here at the Kenyatta Conference Center at 3:00. So if you go away, and would like to take part in this just wonderful program, which is being hosted by the Ministry of Social Services and Culture and Gender of the Government of Kenya, please come out here and buses will take us out for a trip. And bring us back when they have entertained us, fed us and given us a glance of the beauty of this country.

And the next is that when we finish the session, the group who are going to the United States Embassy, the invited guests, please, you will need to meet there at the time appointed. Again, outside here and buses will be able to take you to where you need to go. We are asking, the President is asking the whole World YWCA boat to stay behind and have a taste with her. Please do so after this meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity, also as someone that has been in communication with so many of you, to thank

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you in a very personal way. Because without the cooperation of everybody, both those that of who have helped us plan for this event, to come to this event, to contribute their ideas of this event, to work for this event, it would not be what it is. I could not manage to name all of you in your different capacities but please do accept our very sincere thanks for each part that you have played. And allow me to ask you to join me in thanking the most wonderful staff members that I have from the World YWCA. Every one of them has worked day in, day out.

And so we all have lead staff, and the lead staff for the International Women's Summit you haven't seen a lot of her because she's so busy making sure that everything goes well, was Clarissa Balam, working in partnership with Sophie Dilmitis. The two are our leaders who really directed in everything we want to do. And our lead staff in making sure that every document that we bring to you is well done have been Michelle Burk and Kabora Copia. With all the documentation and ICTs including Fiona with ICTs, and there are so many other lead staff, I just want to all of them to accept the acknowledgement. And then finally, please join us in thanking our host World YWCA, under the leadership of the board, the general secretary, the board, the president, the general secretary and the council coordinator, all of them.

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Again, we want you to join me in thanking for this part. There will be tons more for the council, but just for this part. And so many others. So with this, I just want to thank you and hope that if you have any questions of procedures or so, feel free to ask any staff nearby and if you didn't get an answer and people have dispersed, we have the office of World YWCA upstairs. And we'll be willing to help you so that the rest of the days here, for those staying, are very well spent. And for those leaving, if we make sure you have your tickets confirmed at the travel agent that we have. And if we don't see you when we get back together, we wish you Godspeed and we thank you for your commitment.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** And someone has to come and say thank you, Musimbi, for making this summit a reality, working behind everybody, pushing everybody to be here today. Thank you very much.

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** We have now reached to the end of our time together in this summit and Musimbi has thanked many of you. I want to thank everybody here, donors, the Government of Kenya, the World board, the staff, the people that have been working hard directly related with the summit of some working other aspects to make positive this summit a reality for everybody. You could check the program to see the name of the partners. You are too many to be named, but all your names are

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there and you could see who they are working with us. To all of you, we offer our heartfelt thanks and the hope that our actions in response to HIV and AIDS will be sustained and strengthened until the trend of AIDS/HIV infections is reversed, and women are empowered in their own communities and governments, in valued decision-making and policy-making values. *Asanti sana.*

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** I'd just like to add on what's been said to say how honored and privileged we have been to work with so many of you as our partners. We wouldn't have been able to pull off this summit without you. The workshops that have been offered these last days, there have been more than 60 organizations who have put together these amazing workshops that we've enjoyed. And nearly 100 partners, at all levels, international, regional and locally based who have put together these amazing town hall meetings that have been happening off-site, that have really enabled us to be able to connect with the people here in Nairobi. Again, thank you so much for your support and your contributions.

[END RECORDING]

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