

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED  
IN REALIZING THE DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT ON HIV/AIDS AND THE  
POLITICAL DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

For more than 25 years HIV/AIDS has caused immense suffering in countries and communities throughout the world and has had devastating consequences on development. In adopting the Declaration of Commitment in 2001, we equipped ourselves with an effective tool to combat the AIDS pandemic, both nationally and in our multilateral efforts. The greatest asset of the Declaration is its comprehensive approach: We recognized at the time that HIV/AIDS is a complex phenomenon and that we need to address all its aspects in order to be successful. Seven years after its adoption and two years after its first review, it is clear that the Declaration has had a galvanizing effect and shaped the international response to HIV/AIDS. This is one of the areas where UN action has proven most effective and indeed indispensable. Our success in coping with the pandemic will have a strong impact on our progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular MDG 6. The accomplishments made in containing the pandemic are encouraging. At the same time, the rate of progress in expanding access to essential services does not keep pace with the expansion of the pandemic itself. We must therefore not relent in our efforts and place even stronger emphasis on the area of prevention.

Mr. President

One of the central tenets of the Declaration is the focus on **leadership**. The experience gained over the past seven years makes it clear that leadership is indeed an indispensable element of our response. We will need more leadership, at all levels, in the area of **universal access** to prevention, treatment, care and support in particular. Furthermore, an effective response to HIV/AIDS must be driven by strong and sustainable **financing mechanisms**. Liechtenstein has taken this responsibility very seriously and has over the last years continuously increased the resources invested for this purpose, both domestically and at the international level. Within the UN family, we are currently contributing to programs run by UNICEF and UNAIDS, in addition to our participation in the financing of the Global Fund. We also made special efforts to increase aid-effectiveness, including through the pooling

of funds with other small States.. We are committed to continuing our financial contribution in the future.

Mr. President

Our strategies for fighting HIV/AIDS need to go far beyond the launching of informational campaigns and providing antiretroviral drugs. Most importantly, our response must be rights-based. This is true in particular with respect to discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and to gender inequalities that exacerbate the risk of new infections. The Declaration addresses the special needs of women, including through their empowerment, but the increasing feminization of the pandemic illustrates the need for stronger implementation at the national level. The empowerment of women, as well as the promotion of **human rights** of key populations such as sex workers, men who have sex with men and people who use drugs, are key elements in our further efforts in achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010.

Mr. President

Children and young people are still among the most vulnerable groups affected by the pandemic. Inadequate access to education, in particular to information on sexual and reproductive health, continues to fuel the transmission of HIV and escalates its impact. HIV **prevention** in both low-income and high-income countries will only be successful if we improve the knowledge of children and young people about HIV/AIDS and the risk of infection. Innovative communication strategies that capture the attention of young people should be explored. The ultimate goal must be to spread life-saving information faster and wider than any virus ever could.

Mr. President

The fact that 147 Member States have reported on their national progress in response to HIV/AIDS, coupled with the extraordinary level of attendance at this review meeting demonstrates the global concern as well as our determination to cooperate in tackling the pandemic. Let us seize this critical opportunity to fulfill our commitment from 2001 and continue to develop more innovative ways of working together.

I thank you.