

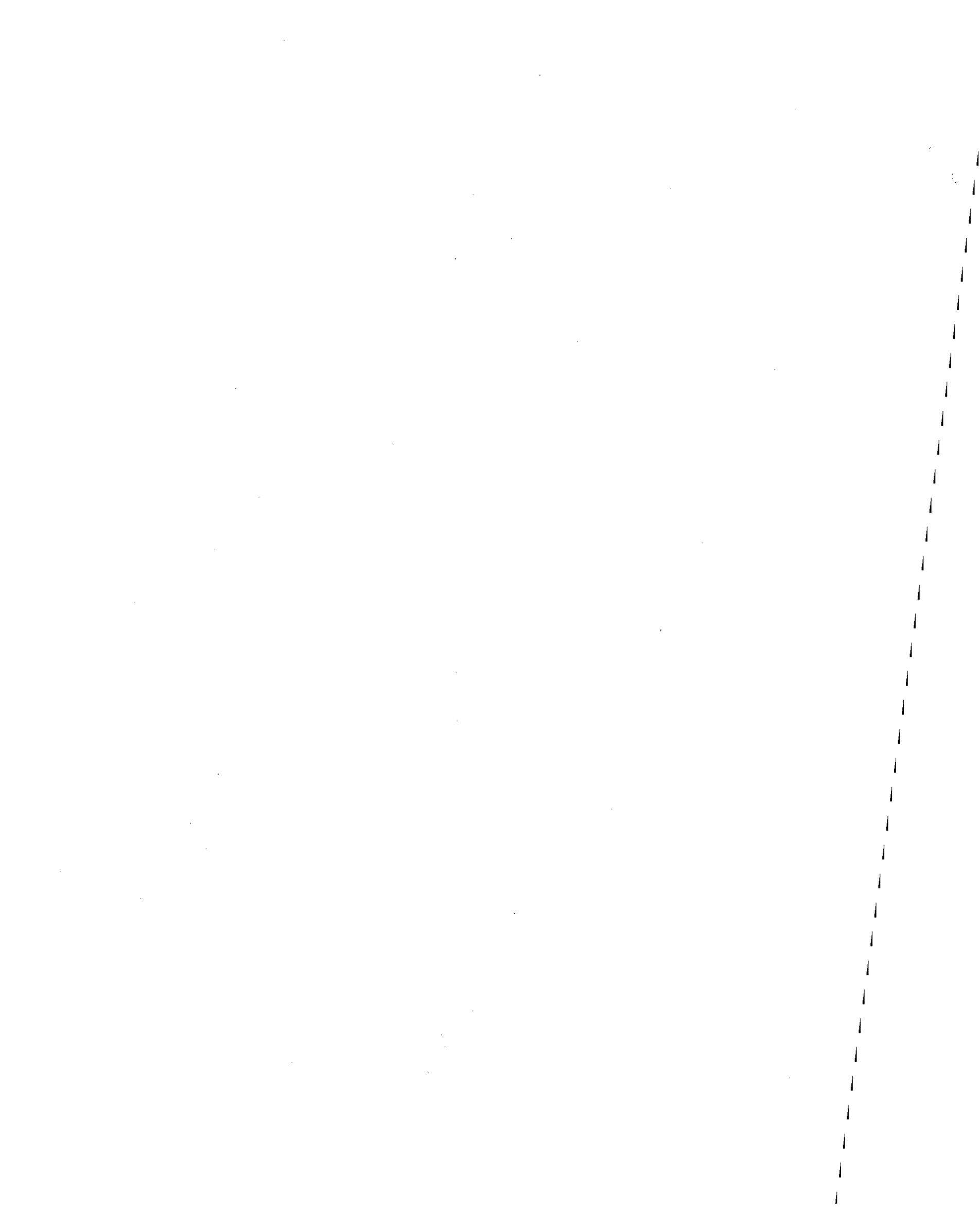


THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

***NATIONAL DECLARATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
DR. ALEXIS GUILARTE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH PROGRAMS OF THE
MINISTRY OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER FOR HEALTH***

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HIV/AIDS
FROM JUNE 8-10, 2011
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

NEW York, June 9, 2011



Mr. President, Distinguished Heads of State and Government, Ministers and representatives of Member States of the United Nations, representatives of UNAIDS and civil society.

My delegation fully endorses the statement made by the Deputy Minister of Paraguay, on behalf of UNASUR.

Mr. President,

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela avails itself of this opportunity to reaffirm its irrevocable commitment to building an inclusive and humane society, to eradicate poverty, overcome inequalities and promote social justice.

Our National Constitution serves as the philosophical foundation of the political project that advances the Bolivarian government, which is faithfully committed to the full enjoyment of liberty, justice, equality and solidarity.

In Venezuela, the right to health is in the constitution and it is governed by the principles of gratuity, universality, comprehensiveness, equity, social integration, multiethnic and multicultural relevance.

Public policies advanced by the Bolivarian government have drastically increased with a focus on rights, which have demanded the creation of consistent public institutions to ensure the full enjoyment of public rights.

Mr. President,

The current action plan to date, based on a qualified and concentrated epidemic, with an estimated prevalence of 0.33% in the general population, establishes as a general objective to strengthen prevention and comprehensive care of HIV / AIDS and

other STIs at the national level and in concordance organizes a national response in 3 strategic areas: prevention, care and epidemiological surveillance.

Today we can show the following general results:

- a. The HIV disease in Venezuela is estimated at 161,510 people, 11,000 new cases reported annually, of which approximately 70% are over 15 years of age.
- b. In Venezuela in 2008 HIV-related mortalities ranked 14th, and during that year 1,632 people died with HIV-related diagnosis as the underlying cause.

The trend in mortality since 1982 has been upward, but observing the periods related to universal access to treatment, tends to stabilize at an average rate of 5.84 per 100,000 of the population.

- c. Operationally in Venezuela universal access is a reality and the treatment program to date includes 37,827 people, who receive free treatment and monitoring.
- d. In 2010, of 35,893 people treated, 28% were women, 73% men and 2.4% were children under age 15.

All pregnant women living with HIV have access to antiretroviral drugs to prevent vertical transmission of the virus, by 2010, 265 received treatments and from 2001 to 2010, 2,233 people were attended.

- e. The treatment scheme in Venezuela has 30 pharmaceutical forms for 21 antiretroviral drugs.

- f. Although Venezuela is a country that benefits from economic lines prices, the Bolivarian government investment in antiretroviral by 2010 was approximately 64,000,000 dollars, representing 2% of the annual budget of the Ministry of the People's Power for Health, a trend that has increased by 200%. Investment in diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of people living with HIV is estimated at approximately \$96,200,000 annually.
- g. The participation of community-based organizations, agencies of the United Nations system and representatives of institutions and scientific and technical networks, has been a constant in the development of Venezuela's response to HIV/AIDS.
- h. The issue of resistance is an aspect of HIV care in the national program that is carefully addressed to ensure end-to-date scientific evidence about the stage of resistance to antiretroviral drugs in Venezuela (estimated to be very low less than 5 %). To this end, we are developing a research project.

Mr. President,

The Ministry of the People's Power for Health has maintained its commitment to achieve management objectives and internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, the goal of halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The strategy for addressing HIV in Venezuela has been advanced with broad national consultation and participation activities for people living with HIV, represented by community-based organizations and ensuring its consistency and coherence with the best practices, strategies and developments of international organizations involved.

My delegation wishes to underline that national policies and plans have been drawn from an inclusive perspective, aimed at eliminating the social stigma and discrimination towards vulnerable groups.

Mr. President,

Based on scientific data and experiences at the national and global level, the Bolivarian Government has initiated the development of the Action Plan 2011-2015, adapted to our reality, thus strengthening the monitoring and evaluation activities at the local and regional level.

Also being strengthened, with a cross-sectoral and intra-industry emphasis, is the quality of treatment, care and support services for people living with HIV, the response to tuberculosis, sexual and reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, maternal, neonatal and infant health and improving the response at all levels of focused attention to the goals of 2015. All of these actions, are consistent with the proposal outlined in the Final Declaration of the Meeting.

Mr. President,

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a strong appeal to the international community to support national plans and strategies, ensuring universal access and low costs of drugs related to HIV/AIDS.

It is a condition *sine qua non* to reverse radically the mercantilist perception of health, promoting technology and capacity transfer required by developing countries compatible with their needs and realities.

To conclude, Mr. President, under the bicentennial year of our great country, the Bolivarian government hopes for a more inclusive world that guarantees the right to development, with a view to achieving the greatest happiness possible.

Thank you very much.

