

10 June 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss,
President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Closing of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on
HIV/AIDS**

Madam Deputy Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This has been a very important week in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The world has watched as we forged a new Declaration that will shape the endgame of the AIDS epidemic. In this declaration, Member states have committed to clear targets to:

Ensure that by 2015 no children are anymore born with HIV;

Close the global resource gap for AIDS and work towards increasing funding to between US\$22 and US\$24 billion by 2015;

Increase universal access to antiretroviral therapy to get 15 million people onto life saving treatment by 2015;

Reduce TB deaths in people living with HIV by 50%; and

Reduce transmission of HIV among people who inject drugs by 50%

These bold new targets set by world leaders will accelerate our push to reduce the transmission of HIV.

I have been heartened by the resolve shown by Heads of State and Government this week. Heads of State gathered to share ideas on owning their own response and securing sustainable and innovative sources of support. Mothers and their future children will benefit immeasurably from the new “Global Plan towards eliminating new HIV infections among children by 2015 and keeping their mothers alive”, launched yesterday.

The Security Council on Tuesday adopted an important resolution on HIV/AIDS in Peacekeeping which addressed the issue of sexual violence and the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.

The challenge that now remains is to implement these commitments and here leadership and mutual accountability are crucial.

Let me take this opportunity to thank once again the facilitators who have led the negotiations towards this declaration, His Excellency Mr. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia, and His Excellency Mr. Charles Ntwaagae, Permanent Representative of Botswana, for their dedicated effort. Let me also thank the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and all their co-sponsors for their support throughout this process.

As I said at the opening of this high-level meeting: We must succeed. We must win our battle against AIDS.