



***President of Ukraine***

**STATEMENT**

**to the UN General Assembly**

***Mr. Chairman,***

***Mr. Secretary-General,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Ukraine is of the countries that initiated the historic United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2001. Since then there have been significant achievements in response to the epidemic at the global, regional and national levels.

We are grateful to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank, the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, including the Joint United Nations Programme for HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization and UNICEF, for their significant support and reliable partnership to overcome the epidemic.

Ukraine's National Report on Implementation of the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS for 2006-2007 is the most detailed document ever prepared on this issue. It demonstrates the significant progress made in Ukraine over the past two years.

Prevention services are being widely implemented among most at risk populations, including substitution therapy among injection drug users, which are essential to respond the epidemic. Significant results are observed in the area of treatment - nearly 9 thousand people with HIV/AIDS have access to antiretroviral

therapy, thanks to the support of the Global Fund. This year, 6 thousand of them are being transferred to support from the Ukraine's system for medical support.

At the same time, we are well aware of the danger that HIV/AIDS represents, and recognize of the complexity and enormity of the tasks that lie ahead of us. Deep concern is caused by the rate at which the epidemic develops, which has already reached 1.63 per cent of the adult population of Ukraine.

Recently we established the Coordination Council on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Drug Use, which, under the personal supervision of the President of Ukraine, will monitor the processes of national response to the epidemic. I note that in this fight, a significant contribution is made by the Ukrainian public, particularly people living with HIV/AIDS. Their networks and organizations are fully represented in the Coordination and National Councils.

HIV/AIDS remains one of the gravest challenges of our time. Victory in this fight can only be achieved through intensive work in prevention, universal access to treatment, care and support, for all those who have the immunodeficiency virus. This task requires an increase in funding from the Government of Ukraine, as well as consistent support from our foreign partners.

Ukraine reaffirms its commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS and expresses its readiness to the close international cooperation in this vital field for humanity.

**Victor YUSHCHENKO**