



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
**JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement by the Honourable Horace Dalley  
Minister of Health of Jamaica**

**To the**

**High-level Meeting and Comprehensive Review of the  
Progress Achieved in Realizing the Targets Set out in  
the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS**

**United Nations Headquarters  
New York  
2 June 2006**

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Mr. President

Jamaica fully supports the statement delivered this morning by His Excellency Dr. the Hon. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, on behalf of CARICOM and the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP).

Five years ago, when we the international community adopted the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, we acknowledged the reality of HIV/AIDS as an emergency. Through the wide-ranging efforts of individual countries and the international community we can say that much has been achieved. I thank the United Nations and its Agencies, in particular WHO/PAHO, UNAIDS and ILO, the Global Fund and other bilateral and international agencies for the support they have provided in realizing the progress made thus far. However, considerably more effort must be made by countries, and the international community, if we are to move meaningfully towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care.

For the Governments and people of the Caribbean, the pandemic is of serious concern as we record the second highest HIV prevalence rate in the world. Jamaica has developed a comprehensive response to the epidemic involving all sectors of the society. With the support of the Global Fund we have been able to place 50% of persons with AIDS on anti-retroviral treatment and expand our prevention programs among vulnerable populations.

We have committed significant domestic resources to our HIV program, however, we will continue to need international funding support. It is therefore of concern to us in Jamaica and the Caribbean that the Global Fund be adequately financed and that middle income countries, like ours, be supported through this mechanism.

Although we are a middle income country, significant sectors of our population are socially vulnerable to behaviour patterns that put them at risk of HIV infection. We continue to face significant challenges in reducing the strong stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. While awareness of HIV and how to prevent it is high among the population, we have the challenge of how best to effectively educate and empower the youth to take responsible decisions with respect to sex and to abstain or use a condom.

Our national response has been facilitated by a unified Regional approach through CARICOM and the Pan-Caribbean Partnership against AIDS (PANCAP) and supported greatly by the international community.

Mr. President, there is widespread recognition that the AIDS response cannot end in 2010 with the final milestone of the Declaration of Commitment or in 2015, when the Millennium Development Goals expire. Rather, exceptional global mobilization will need to continue for at least the next generation and beyond. Today we will adopt a political declaration indicating the way forward. However, at the end of the day without leadership commitment little will be achieved.

All our Governments must work together, along with the international agencies, to make a difference and turn the tide of the HIV epidemic. The Government of Jamaica is fully committed to doing its part. We simply have no choice.

Thank you Mr. President.