



**Permanent Mission of Germany  
to the United Nations**

**Statement**

**by**

**the Minister for Health of the Federal Republic of Germany  
H. E. Ms. Ulla Schmidt**

**at the  
2006 High-level Meeting of HIV/AIDS**

**Friday, 2 June 2006**

**Check against Delivery**

Mr. President, Excellencies, delegates, members of civil society, ladies and gentlemen,

before I start let me point out that Germany fully aligns herself with the statement made by the representative of Austria on behalf of the European Union. The German Government would like to thank the Secretary-General so much for his initiative to fight together against HIV/AIDS and for his compassionate leadership in co-ordinating the forces of the world community and to develop these capacities further.

In the global fight against AIDS we need the knowledge, the experience and the commitment of people from various origins, professions and from different cultures in order to succeed.

The respect for human rights plays an pivotal role in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. I am staggered that the stigmatisation and discrimination are continuously obstructing people's access to prevention and treatment in many parts of the world.

Nobody – neither drug users nor men having sex with men nor female sex workers – must be ostracized. It should be in our own interest to stand up for the protection and the support of human rights. This is the only ground on which a successful AIDS policy will have sustainable growth.

We must no longer close our eyes and ignore sexual violence against women, their suppression, exploitation and violation of their fundamental human rights. The higher vulnerability of women and girls has to be met with improved opportunities for education, strengthening of their social, economic status and functioning health services.

Germany supports about 50 partner countries in their efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, partially with comprehensive programmes, to that aim at overcoming existing deficits within their health care systems.

Mr. President,

I welcome the fact that in our declaration of today we will declare our support for prevention once again. Prevention of new infections should remain a main stay in combating the pandemic in the long run.

We stand up for a consistent implementation of the so-called „Three Ones“ principle<sup>1</sup> for a more effective coordination of national and international activities in the fight against HIV/AIDS and for their integration into national health policies.

Today we know, that the rapid establishment of the Global Fund was a resounding success. Germany has contributed to this Fund and will continue to do so. We need both: financial resources and efficient concepts.

Mr. President,

We need to act with determination so that in all countries a young generation may rise to be healthy.

To ensure this, a clear language of education is indispensable, both social and culture obstacles have to be overcome. This is not easy, but we know it works. The best means in this regard is an effective co-operation between governments, NGO's and civil Society.

I'm deeply convinced that young people will handle their sexuality with a strong awareness of their personal responsibility if they have been given factual and comprehensive information.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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