

Statement by
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**United Nations General Assembly
High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS**

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5 years have passed since the first ever UN General Assembly on the fight against HIV/AIDS. The 2001 meeting was a landmark event that brought the fight against HIV/AIDS up among the key themes for our development efforts. It gave us the Declaration of Commitment, which still forms the basis for our struggle towards an AIDS free generation.

Since 2001 the international community has shown commitment to making this fight strong in many ways. But as it is evident from the report prepared by the Secretary General for this meeting there is no room for complacency. The figures tell us the story of "not good enough". They tell us how complicated the disease is. How it is affecting families, households, villages and countries in so many ways. How poverty and inequality fuels the epidemic onwards.

There has been progress since 2001. Most notably financing for HIV/AIDS has increased substantially. But we are still far from the target of 22 billion that is the estimated need by 2008.

Denmark's national efforts in development financing are well known. For years Denmark has provided more than the UN 0.7 % target prescribes, and my Government has made a pledge that Danish ODA shall not fall below 0.8 %. We are in an exclusive club of only five countries living up to this thirty year old promise. We would welcome others to join us.

Last year I presented a new strategy for Denmark's support to the international fight against HIV/AIDS. As follow-up I recently decided to double our funding for HIV/AIDS activities.

With this increased support we will continue our long-term and consistent support to strengthening the capacity of national health systems. Because an effective and sustainable response to the HIV/AIDS crisis – including efforts to treat more people – relies on strong, well-functioning national health systems.

Furthermore Denmark will increase its assistance to reach more women and young girls with preventive services, to strengthen our cooperation with the civil society and to help more orphans and vulnerable children.

But we not only need to do more – we also need to do better. Denmark is strongly committed to aligning its support to national strategies and plans. We will continue to give strong support to national leadership and coordination to ensure a stronger, more coherent and more effective response to HIV/AIDS.

During the World Summit in September last year we jointly committed ourselves to increase our efforts to combat the epidemic. We agreed that the goal set out at the International Conference on Population and Development of achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015 should be integrated with strategies to combat HIV/AIDS. We also decided that the Millennium Goals, including the goal of combating HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, should form the basis for national poverty reduction strategies. Taking the fight against HIV/AIDS forward we should base ourselves on these commitments.

Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and reaching the goal of universal access to prevention, treatment and care will require a massive effort of us all. Denmark is ready to do its part to reach this goal.

Thank You.