



Statement by

**H.E. Ms. Siv Friðleifsdóttir**

Minister for Health and Social Security

at the

**High level meeting of the progress achieved in realizing the  
targets set out in the Declaration of  
Commitment on HIV/AIDS**

New York, 2 June 2006

Permanent Mission of Iceland  
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Mr. President, dear colleagues and other delegates.

I welcome the report of the Secretary General on the progress achieved in realizing the targets set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

I do acknowledge that important progress has been made since 2001 in the areas of funding, expanding access to prevention, treatment, care and in mitigating the impact of AIDS. However, I am deeply concerned by the overall expansion of the epidemic especially among women as well as the increasing number of children affected and orphaned by this disease.

To address this problem we must increase the possibilities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection. This needs to be done, not only through the provision of health care and reproductive health programmes. But also through prevention education and promotion of gender equality. And to accomplish this in my country we have engaged the civil society such as the people living with HIV / AIDS.

To assist us in bringing help to other parts of the world we have contributed to the Global Fund and the 3 by 5 initiative. We have also contributed to the Icelandic Red Cross together with the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

We have also adopted legislation on compulsory licensing to make it possible to assist those in need with affordable medicines.

And finally let me emphasise that we have to eliminate associated stigma and discrimination due to the disease through legislation, policies, education and public awareness campaigns. We have to protect and promote the HIV/AIDS related human rights of people living with this disease. We have to ensure that women and children and people in vulnerable groups are centrally involved in all aspects of HIV/AIDS responses.

We also have to increase our efforts in providing sustainable antiretroviral treatment coverage.

Mr. President, let me finally say that I truly believe we can turn the tide by a combined effort of all nations in this battle against HIV /AIDS with special emphasis on women, children and other vulnerable groups in our societies.

Thank you.