



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

866 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017 Phone: (212) 223-4300 · www.un.int/japan/

**Translation
(Check against Delivery)**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori
Former Prime Minister of Japan
Chairman of the Delegation**

Sixtieth United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on HIV/AIDS

2 June 2006

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Mr. Secretary-General, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I dream of a world free of HIV/AIDS. I believe this dream is shared by all the world leaders assembled here today. At this moment, many people all over the world are struggling to live with HIV/AIDS, and many doctors, nurses, health and aid workers are devoting themselves to relieving the physical suffering and mental agony of victims of HIV/AIDS. Together with all of you in this General Assembly Hall, I want to pay heartfelt tribute to the courage of those who live with HIV/AIDS and the dedication of those who stand behind them.

I feel honored to have been in a position to promote international cooperation on HIV/AIDS issues. The Kyushu-Okinawa summit of 2000, which I presided over, took up the issue of infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, as one of the main topics on its agenda for the first time in the history of G8 Summits. The G8 leaders gathered there set numerical targets and agreed to mount a global response to the scourge of infectious disease. This has driven the international community to new heights in its campaign against HIV/AIDS. Indeed, I recall with deep emotion that the Millennium Development Goals set an important target in the fight against HIV/AIDS, followed by the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Global Fund and other agencies played a central role in raising awareness of the need for a truly worldwide endeavor and strategy against HIV/AIDS. This has

been translated into a number of concrete actions. It is widely recognised that, for these actions to be truly effective, it is vital for all stakeholders to cooperate across national borders – not only governments, but also people living with HIV/AIDS, NGOs, private enterprises, private foundations, health-workers, mass media and those who shape public opinion.

In 2004, leaders in the private sector in Japan established the “Friends of the Global Fund, Japan,” which I serve as president. This association aims to enhance national support for the Global Fund. It also encourages and promotes cooperation among countries in East Asia.

The problem of HIV/AIDS is closely linked to such issues as poverty, development, peace and order, social prejudice, and governance, all of which require a long-term approach. I believe that it is essential to achieve greater access to prevention, care, support, and particularly treatment, to which access should be universal by 2010. We must win the fight against HIV/AIDS by setting such mid-term goals, implementing and reviewing them periodically in the United Nations.

As part of its efforts in this area, the Japanese government pledged last June that it would increase its contributions to the Global Fund and would donate half a billion dollars in the coming years. Since its inception, we have contributed 480 million dollars. Our government’s commitment to the Global Fund remains firm.

The fight against HIV/AIDS is an embodiment of the idea of human security, which stresses the importance of protecting human lives and preserving human dignity.

In rugby, a sport I love, the player’s motto is “One for All, All for One.” Let us make a joint team effort, one working for all and all working for one, so that when we see each other next time, we will be able to agree that we have scored many “tries” against HIV/AIDS.