

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS**

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***Remarks by HE Paul KAGAME, President of the Republic
of Rwanda***

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AND COMPREHENSIVE
REVIEW OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN REALISING THE
TARGETS SET OUT IN THE DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT
ON HIV/AIDS**

2 June 2006

New York

4. Mr. President;

- **Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation,**
- **Mr. Secretary-General,**
- **Distinguished Representatives of Civil Society Organisations,**

'46 Ladies and Gentlemen;

I congratulate you Mr. President and all delegations on the successful negotiation of the Political Declaration of the 2006 High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. Permit to express my Government's commitment to its implementation.

When we met here in 2001 we still lacked a truly global response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We have come a long way since then - both globally and in my country. I may summarize our accomplishments in Rwanda as follows:

First, we have adopted a multidisciplinary, decentralized and community-based approach to HIV/AIDS. Monitoring structures and systems are now in place under an effective coordination by the National AIDS Control Commission (CNLS).

Second, key policies are being implemented including those for OVC, ARV, HIV/AIDS in the workplace, and for condoms.

Third, a national policy incorporating various sub-policies was drafted in 2005, and is presently in the final stages in the legislative process for adoption.

Four, we have made good relationship with leading International partners; they have greater appreciation for the imperative of operating within a nationally designed and executed HIV/AIDS framework. We are most grateful for such partnerships. These Include President Bush Initiative, Global Fund, World Bank Map Project, Clinton Foundation, DFID, and Luxembourg bilateral support.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The noted efforts have begun to bear fruits in my country. The most recent findings on HIV/AIDS prevalence showed an adult prevalence of 3.0% nationally, with gender and geographic variations: - 2.3% male and 3.6% female; 7.3% urban against 2.2% rural. Published reports suggest a decline in adult HIV prevalence - which we are observing cautiously for verification.

Despite these achievements enormous challenges remain, particularly with regard to:

- 1. Securing long-term commitment from partners;**
- 2. Creation and retention of health sector professionals;**
- 3. Health Infrastructure.**

EXCELLENCIES;

Let us commit ourselves to taking the necessary action at the local, national and international level to reverse the tide of HIV/AIDS pandemic. We in Rwanda are determined to implement the "Political Declaration of the 2006 High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS" and related commitments.

I THANK YOU.