



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
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STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AND COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF
PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN REALIZING THE
TARGETS SET OUT IN THE 2001 DECLARATION OF
COMMITMENT ON HIV AND AIDS**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SIXTIETH SESSION
2 JUNE 2006**

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Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

The South African delegation is honoured to be part of the Comprehensive Review and High-Level Meeting which has provided us with a great opportunity to reflect on the progress in the implementation of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS.

The report of the Secretary-General and the assessment of the universal access process have once again emphasized the role of prevention as the mainstay of the global response to HIV and AIDS.

Much progress has also been made in implementing prevention, care and treatment programmes that were found to be effective but with guarded success rates.

We realize that, if we are to scale up HIV and AIDS services, we have to make extra efforts to build better partnerships in a more multi-sectoral response. South Africa therefore appreciates the broad participation and diverse views and experience that have been shared in various sessions.

Mr President, this special session provides an opportunity for all of us to recommit to addressing the obstacles that hinder progress in scaling up our interventions. We need to strengthen our health systems and develop adequate human resource capacity to deliver good quality health services including those relating to HIV and AIDS.

South Africa cannot overemphasize the importance of promoting healthy lifestyle to maintain optimal health and prolong progression from HIV infection to development of AIDS-defining conditions.

It is critical that we continue with endeavours to reduce the prices of medicines and other essential commodities for an effective response to HIV and AIDS. We have to encourage innovation and research into additional tools for our response including vaccines and microbicide, traditional medicine and other forms of therapies.

Mr. President, South Africa fully supports the scaling up towards universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support.

We believe that ambitious and realistic targets are important for measuring progress in our endeavor to achieve universal access. These targets have to cover all the essential elements of a comprehensive response, including the social determinants of the spread of HIV and the impact of AIDS. These targets should also be coupled with indicators and tools for monitoring progress.

The discussions during the consultation on Universal Access and the WHO document on scaling up towards HIV and AIDS suggests that targets have to be set at country level, coordinated at regional level and aggregated at global level.

Mr. President, the epidemiology of HIV and AIDS depends on local socio-economic, cultural and other dynamics particularly the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment. The success of a response to HIV and AIDS therefore requires doubling of efforts in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. There is an urgent need for financial commitments made to be honoured and for alignment of aid to national priorities and systems.

We have to address the challenges of food insecurity and promote good nutrition amongst our populations. We need to focus in particular on the emancipation of women and the protection of the rights of children, particularly the girl children.

In conclusion Mr. President, South Africa once again expresses its full commitment to scaling up towards universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment by 2010.

Thank you