



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

GABINETE DO PRIMEIRO MINISTRO

Statement

by

**H.E. Aires Bonifácio Baptista Ali,
Prime Minister of the Republic of
Mozambique
and President of the National AIDS
Council**

**at the Plenary 2
of the
High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS
*“Unprecedented Rapid Scaling up of
Comprehensive AIDS Response in
Mozambique”***

New York, 8 June 2011

**Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations,
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Representatives of Civil Society,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, allow us to join the previous speakers in congratulating the United Nations for having organized this important event. This high level meeting constitutes a historic opportunity for us as nations and multilateral institutions to reaffirm our role and commitment in addressing the threat posed by HIV and AIDS to our development agenda as we strive to achieve the agreed targets for 2015.

We are optimistic by the results contained in the report of the Secretary General before us as it indicates that our efforts to address the scourge of the HIV pandemic at global, regional and national level have bear encouraging results.

Nevertheless, the challenges before us are still overwhelming and we are confident that this meeting will come up with a commitment that based on the valuable knowledge that we have gathered in the past three decades, will deliver the much expected results of the Universal Access.

Mr. President,

The UNGASS Declaration remains our guide in the national AIDS response implementing the "Three Ones" principles. Mozambique is now implementing its third National Strategic Plan on HIV (2010-2014) within a decentralized framework, highlighting the reduction of new infections.

The Presidential Initiative on HIV and AIDS launched in February 2006, accelerated and continues to give impetus to the national efforts carried out in a coordinated way by all sectors: public, private, civil society, and the media.

As a result of a consistent national strategy and strong support from our bilateral and multilateral partners, Mozambique has been able to reach historic levels of service delivery and outreach, namely in an increasing access to ARV treatment, including children under 15 years of age as well as in prevention of mother-to-child-transmission services. The promotion of supports and services to protect orphans and vulnerable children through

the families and community-based organizations also deserved special attention.

Mr. President

Our first ever national HIV survey, done in 2009, points to the fact that women, and in particular young girls, are the most vulnerable to HIV infection. Hence, over recent years, **reduction of vulnerability and risks**, including ways of dealing with stigma, gender inequality, and gender based violence, has received increased attention in national efforts.

Mozambique is strongly committed to **the elimination of Mother To Child Transmission by 2015**. In this regard a robust national plan of action will be implemented. Mozambique will certainly achieve the virtual elimination of MTCT as recommended by the AU summit in Kampala in July 2010.

The Integration of HIV and AIDS and other health services have proven beneficial to both in terms of highly improved access to HIV related treatment and care, TB and other health services.

The importance of many sectors, including social affairs, education, youth, and agriculture is highly visible in both prevention of HIV and in **mitigation of the negative impact of AIDS**. More involvement of youth is part of our national strategy.

Mr. President,

To conclude we would like to emphasize that our national efforts must be driven by the evidences which indicate that prevention will continue to be at the forefront priority in our fight against HIV and AIDS.

The low levels of condom use and HIV testing remain urgent challenges and the feasibility of general promotion of male circumcision will need further assessment.

The health system strengthening should also put emphasis on the maternal and child health both from the clinical point of view as well as from community participation and social services backing.

We call for continued and increased national and international commitment and solidarity in facing the very real threat that AIDS poses to our Nations.

Thank you very much!