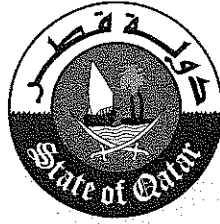


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



STATEMENT  
OF  
**THE STATE OF QATAR**

DELIVERED BY  
**His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Bin Khalid Al-Kahtani**  
**Minister of Public Health**

BEFORE  
**The United Nations High-Level meeting**

ON  
**The Comprehensive Review of the progress achieved in  
realizing the Declaration on HIV/AIDS**

NEW YORK  
8-10 June 2011

Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations – New York  
809 U.N. Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10017. Tel: (212) 486-9335. Fax: (212) 758-4952

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased at the outset to convey to you regards from His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and his wishes for the success of the work for this high-level and important meeting, which aims to evaluate what has been achieved until the present day with regard to the response of the international community to HIV/AIDS, re-emphasize the need for full and effective implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly in 2001, and the Declaration on AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006, reaffirm its support for the relevant resolutions, as well as to develop future plans to tackle the spread of the virus. This conference comes at an important time because of the recent developments, which may constitute a historic turning point in how to deal with the epidemic and improve the chances to eliminate it. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations entities concerned with the reduction of the spread of AIDS for the pivotal role they play in strengthening the response of the international community to HIV and raising global awareness of the danger posed by this epidemic on public health and sustainable development in many countries of the world and its negative impact on economic growth in these countries.

I would also like to underline the commitment of the State of Qatar to support all efforts to reduce the spread of the epidemic and to support ways that would reduce its negative impact on people living with the virus.

**Mr. President,**

We have less than four years to achieve in 2015 the desired goal to halt the spread of HIV and begin to reverse it. and we can only point out here that the achievement of that goal remains elusive unless the international community intensifies its efforts, works on expeditiously implementing all the commitments it made in the past years to address this epidemic, as well as takes new and creative measures to achieve the goal, and makes more efforts in prevention programs, treatment, care, support and protection of the rights of people living with the virus, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them, as well as broad provision of anti-retroviral medicines, which is possible to achieve today more than ever before.

The new and ambitious strategy of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS for the next phase, from 2011 to 2015, which came ten years after the Declaration of Commitment and 30 years after the emergence of HIV, constitutes a real opportunity for the world to get rid of the epidemic, particularly since it

coincided with evidence suggesting a 25% decline in HIV and with significant expansion of access to anti-retroviral drugs in many of the most affected countries. Add to that the infrastructure and the vast experience that have been achieved in the fight against HIV over the past ten years by working toward the implementation of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment.

This new strategy comes concurrently with the early announcement of the impressive results of Study No. 52, which proved conclusively that the use of antiviral drugs for prevention limits its spread by as much as 96% and is therefore one of the best known prevention methods and should be an option available to all people living with the virus even if their health status does not warrant taking the drug. Should all States provide voluntary early detection on a broad basis and without stigma or discrimination, and provide preventive treatment for all people living with HIV, it is possible to get rid of the virus in a relatively short time even without the availability of vaccination against it. If the international community is serious in achieving this goal, it must combine efforts to provide medicine for all people living with HIV, whose number may exceed 33 million. Although this means allocating more financial resources, that would be investment for future generations and is likely to be of great economic feasibility for the international community.

**Mr. President,**

One can not deny the positive impact of international efforts aimed at reducing the spread of HIV and alleviating the suffering of people affected by it and those most vulnerable to contracting it.

We in Qatar have been keen to be bound by previous relevant decisions, among the most important of which is the provision of comprehensive care for people living with HIV/AIDS and the provision of care and support for them and their families. We have worked to reduce the spread of the disease in society through the programs of the National Committee on HIV/AIDS, although the rate of infection remains low in our country. The Gulf Cooperation Council Member States renewed its commitment to HIV-positive people at their meeting in Saudi Arabia on 16 April 2011, where a recommendation was made to provide comprehensive services including education, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and integrated care.

The State of Qatar has welcomed the AIDS strategy 2011-2015, which was adopted at the sixty-fourth meeting of the General Assembly of the World Health Organization held in Geneva this year, and we hope that this strategy will be able to achieve its ambitious goals.

**Mr. President,**

The leaders of the Group of Eight developed countries agreed in 2005 to provide additional aid in order to combat this epidemic valued at 50 billion U.S. dollars, of which 25 billion goes to Africa, by the year 2010. They identified new targets for universal access to antiretroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS, universal primary education, and basic health care free of charge.

Again in 2007, the leaders of the G8 reaffirmed their commitment to increase development aid and announced an additional \$60 billion to fight AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Although the number of people living with HIV who receive antiretroviral medication has exceeded five million, there are more than ten million others who need immediate treatment. Add to that the rest of the people living with HIV in the world if the principle of treatment for the prevention of the spread of the virus were to be adopted.

In this sense, we reiterate our call to the international community to intensify its efforts to help these countries to deal effectively with the epidemic. However, this can only be achieved as desired if the major countries fulfill their financial pledges, considering that no matter how much efforts are made by developing and least developed countries to fight the HIV, their efforts may not be effective in the absence of international support.

In this regard, we should renew the commitments we made and to accelerate their fulfillment through strengthening the existing funding mechanism and ensuring the continuation of the required support for low-and middle-income countries to enable them to give the required support to the issues of awareness, diagnosis and treatment.

**Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation.**