



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

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STATEMENT BY

**THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA,
HONOURABLE EDWARD LOWASSA, (PM),**

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

AT

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 02, 2006

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2ND JUNE, 2006, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. President, five years ago during the Special Session on HIV/AIDS, we committed ourselves to take action against HIV and AIDS. As has been stated in the Secretary General's report A/60/736 the global AIDS response now stands at a crossroads. This review has thus come at an opportune time for us not only to review the progress we have made but more importantly to recommit ourselves to further action that will consolidate the gains we have made and move us towards achieving the goals we had set for ourselves, including those in the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit outcome document.

Mr. President, we are deeply concerned that despite much efforts and resources that have been availed; the threat of HIV and AIDS has not abated especially in developing countries and among women and the youth. Of particular concern is the inter-relationship between HIV/AIDS, poverty and inequality. As we chart the way forward we need to tackle the multifaceted threats posed by this pandemic. In this regard the recommendations provided in the Secretary General's report A/60/737 warrant our serious consideration.

Mr. President, The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is committed to the implementation of the 'Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS' and is making all efforts to fulfil her obligations.

Tanzania has observed the 'three ones' principle; first in 2001 the government formed the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) as the coordinating body in the Country;

secondly the National AIDS Policy; A National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS (2003 – 2007) with targets that are consistent with those in the Declaration of Commitment has been promulgated; thirdly one Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that is guiding all HIV/AIDS implementers in the country has been developed.

Consistently with our priorities outlined in the National Policies, our main focus and emphasis is on prevention. Several preventive measures are being undertaken; these include education programmes targeting various groups such as workers, armed forces and refugees, voluntary counselling and testing. The prevention of mother to child transmission and management of

sexually transmitted infections, distribution and social marketing of male and female condoms, issues related to human rights, stigma reduction and gender are also addressed in the policies and strategic frameworks.

As a result, awareness has increased considerably especially through peer groups counselling. A major limitation in testing is the high purchase cost of equipment and the training needed to operate it. Additional Legislation is under consideration to further ensure fundamental freedom and legal protection of people living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children.

Mr. President, care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS and in particular that of orphans and children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS pose a growing challenge to the government and especially as the capacities of the traditional social safety nets are diminishing. Thus strengthening the capacity of communities economically and socially is necessary if we are to provide the care and support and encouragement. People and communities ought to be economically empowered to be able to afford the required nutrition which goes with medical treatment.

In this regard the collaboration with the civil society and the private sector need to be strengthened.

Mr. President, in implementing the global target of "3 by 5" the Government in collaboration with some of our development partners developed HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Plan in 2003. This plan aims at providing antiretroviral drugs free of charge to about 440,000 by 2007 people living with HIV/AIDS. Currently about 30,000 have been enrolled and are being monitored. I wish to extend sincere thanks to all our bilateral and multilateral development partners for their support.

Mr. President, financing HIV/AIDS control programmes is a big challenge to the already overburdened national budgets. As the multi-sectoral response evolves, more predictable and sustainable funding will be required. In order to ensure sustained response, the government has included HIV/AIDS in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) as well as mainstreamed it in the National Strategy on Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) popularly known as MKUKUTA a successor of the Poverty Reduction Strategies and aligned to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We believe that direct budget support and longer-term financial commitment should be the way forward for the control of HIV/AIDS.

The Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and Malaria was established with much enthusiasm and commitment and brought very high expectations in developing countries. The enthusiasm and commitment that was generated five years ago and the encouraging track record of the fund so far need to increase and sustain.

I thus appeal to the international community to increase its political and financial support to the Global Fund to spearhead the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Mr. President, as we continue to grapple with HIV/AIDS and strive to scale up, new challenges are emerging. These include among others:-

- (a) Serious shortage of trained human resources, equipment and health infrastructure in the health sector;
- (b) Sustaining care and treatment plans;
- (c) Supporting increasing need for nutritional support to AIDS patients on ARVs;
- (d) Sustainable support to increasing number of orphans;
- (e) The emerging resistance against some of the drugs for AIDS and malaria and
- (f) Increase incidence of tuberculosis and inadequate innovations in its treatment.

Mr. President, in conclusion, we urge for increased concerted and coordinated efforts to fight this pandemic. We know what to do, we know how to do it and we know it can be done. As leaders gathered here today let us provide the leadership and the political will, let's fulfill our commitments, it can be done. Let's do our part!

I thank you for your attention.