

Mr President

Distinguished Delegates

The Kingdom of Eswatini has turned the tide against the pandemic and changed the devastating impact of HIV and AIDS into one of success and survival. Ninety eight percent of people living with HIV and AIDS enrolled on Anti-retroviral treatment.

I want to commend the United Nations, supported by her partners including the Global fund, PEPFAR, the World Bank and others for providing strategic guidance to the HIV response and ensuring that clear and ambitious targets are set, shared and consistently monitored. This support has also included guiding countries in strategic planning to identify priority response actions that are evidence based and key to turning the tide against HIV.

The Investment Case of Eswatini identified key areas for investing including provision of ART, TB/HIV Co-infection and others.

The implementation of these prioritised programmes was guided by human rights and gender based considerations and ensuring that the public health approach to service delivery is promoted to all persons without discrimination.

Service delivery has ensured that “we leave no one behind” and all key populations are accessing services. The target being to reduce new HIV infections in the country.

The Kingdom of Eswatini has not only achieved the 95-95-95 global target but has surpassed these targets. We have managed to halve new HIV infections. While these results are impressive, they also create a new challenge of sustaining these gains to attain the global vision 2030.

Mr President, the successes of the Kingdom of Eswatini are rested on the firm support of bilateral and multilateral partners. The Kingdom is committed to financing the response and we do encourage donor partners to prioritise AIDS financing in order to sustain the gains we have made. The Kingdom is pleased to be signatory to the global declaration and I have no doubt that, with your support, the country will reach the 2030 UNAIDS goal of ending AIDS.

As I conclude, I note the rise in new epidemics particularly the COVID-19 epidemic which poses a threat not only to the Kingdom but the global community. I wish to express appreciation to our partners for swiftly mobilizing resources to assist countries to respond effectively and protect the gains made in HIV, TB and Malaria.

I thank you, Mr President.