



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

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STATEMENT

BY

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

PRESENTED

AT THE

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT ON HIV/AIDS AND THE  
POLITICAL DECLARATIONS ON HIV/AIDS**

June 8, 2015  
United Nations, New York

**Chairperson,**

Thank you for giving me the floor to address today's meeting of the plenary to consider the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS. We thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report highlighting the progress made, the status of the epidemic and the task ahead to achieving the end of the public health threat posed by the AIDS epidemic.

We align our statement to the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Rwanda on behalf of the African Group.

**Chairperson,**

Our consideration of this all important issue comes at a watershed moment in the evolution of the international development agenda. Key milestones have already been achieved in the process of the elaboration of the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Notably, the sustainable development goals, whose goal 3 recognizes the importance of ensuring healthy lives and promotion of well being and include the critical target to end epidemics, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis by 2030, is indeed instructive to our deliberations today.

Almost fifteen years ago, at the turn of the millennium, the adoption of the Political Declaration represented a recognition that the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, through its devastating scale and impact, constituted a global emergency. Further, it recognized HIV/AIDS as a most formidable challenge to human life and dignity, which undermines social and economic development throughout the world and affects all levels of society – national, community, family and individual. Subsequent declarations and resolutions of this assembly have underlined this fact and made a raft of decisions and recommendations to address this epidemic. The continuing

ravages of the AIDS epidemic are a poignant reminder of the much touted unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goal.

### **Chairperson**

We welcome the report of the Secretary General and note that, while highlighting the extraordinary gains made toward a halting and reversal of the course of the epidemic, it reminds us that the task is far from over. Of great concern is the slow progress and sliding backwards in some countries and regions even as the majority of countries report good progress toward the targets of the Political Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

In the process of elaborating the Post 2015 Development Agenda, we all recognize that there is unfinished business in achieving the MDGs and that it behooves us to craft a new development agenda that takes care of this as well as goes beyond to secure our collective ambitious aspirations for our common future development and well-being. The Onus is upon us, the international community, with the impending dawn of a new development paradigm, to make the achievement of the end of HIV/AIDS a reality.

This will call for intensifying our efforts, increasing our investments and emphasize accelerated action. In this regard, we welcome UNAIDS development and implementation of ambitious "fast track" targets for 2020.

### **Chairperson,**

Kenya is committed and remains steadfast in efforts to stem the tide of this deadly scourge both nationally and as part of a dynamic African region experiencing economic growth having been recently categorized as a low middle income country. The Constitution of Kenya reflects this changing context and places health as a priority, cognizant of the fact that development is particularly essential to building a skilled and competitive workforce and lifting people's living standards.

Progress has been made with HIV prevalence dropping from a high of about 14% in the 1990s, and stabilizing at a current rate of 6.0% among adults. In the last five years, there has been a decline of 2 percentage points and new infections among children have almost been halved. HIV however, continues to contribute the highest mortality rates, burdening households and straining national health systems. The number of new HIV infections among adults still remains unacceptably high. There is marked gender, age and geographical disparities with HIV prevalence largely amongst women, at 6.9% compared to that of men at 4.3%. Sexual transmission remains the highest mode of transmission of HIV accounting for 85% of all new infections. It is regrettable that every day 15 mothers and over 290 children below five die from preventable diseases, pregnancy, birth complications and HIV and AIDS. This number is still too high and countries will continue to need international cooperation and support to fund their IDS response.

### **Chairperson,**

The Kenya AIDS Strategic Framework 2014/15-2018/19 exemplifies the firm commitment by key stakeholders to support National and County governments to deliver better health for all with a focus on cost effective and socially inclusive interventions to prevent and manage HIV/AIDS.

Kenya's new and progressive Constitution, asserts the duty of the Government to meet the needs of vulnerable groups within society through the provision of safety net programmes such as nutrition and feeding programmes. Kenya has also enacted the HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act which seeks to promote supportive care and protective and preventive measures against HIV/AIDS

The Government's strategic direction emphasizes an equitable HIV response that ensures no one is left behind. This is a priority for Kenya to achieve her goals. and focuses on effective evidence-based investments, which target priority populations while ensuring that all Kenyans are

reached and stigma and discrimination are reduced for improved health outcomes.

**Chairperson,**

In line with the call of the Secretary General's report for increased investments and leadership, Kenya's HIV strategic Framework underscores the need to increase domestic and sustainable financing for HIV as a priority. It outlines an innovative leverage funding approach based in implementation of the HIV Fund that will increase resources, increase access to universal healthcare for those living with HIV and ultimately subsidize Kenya's future liability for HIV prevention and treatment.

At the launch of the All-in new global initiative in Nairobi to end the AIDS epidemic among adolescents, President Uhuru Kenyatta announced Kenya's commitment to lead by example by increasing domestic resources for the AIDS response and improving HIV prevention, treatment, essential health care and counselling services for adolescents. The Ministry of Education has been mandated with the duty to re-examine the national curriculum to better engage with young people living with HIV and to eliminate stigma and discrimination in schools.

The Government has launched the first National Gender Action Plan to facilitate mobilization of stakeholders in the design and implementation of actions and targets. The action plan, which has been disseminated in all 47 counties of Kenya will guide stakeholders on how to mainstream gender in the national response to HIV/ AIDS. In 2011, Kenya was among countries that endorsed the Global Plan which aims at eliminating new HIV infections among children by 2015 and keeping their Mothers Alive.

**Chairperson,**

The recent global focus on evidence-informed HIV prevention programming has introduced a paradigm shift allowing Kenya to examine innovative ways to improve our investments in preventing new HIV infections. In this regard the Government's strategic plan has reduced the number of new infections by at least 50%, reduced AIDS-related mortality by 25%, a marked decrease in HIV-related morbidity due to availability of ART and reduced the socio-economic impact of HIV/ AIDS at household and community levels.

The Government's collaborative efforts with national and external partners have also led to the formulation of the comprehensive Prevention of Mother to Child transmission strategy, referred to as 'PMTCT Plus' which It targets expectant mothers and their spouses and provides voluntary counseling and testing as well as ART for the mother and child. As a consequence of this campaign new infections among children have been brought down from an estimated 100 HIV infections per day to 36. Primary prevention among women of reproductive age, Family planning for all HIV positive women and those who want to delay their next birth, ARV prophylaxis during pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding and Care and treatment are all services which the government continues to provide.

### **Chairperson,**

Kenya's First Lady, H.E. Margaret Kenyatta launched the "beyond zero campaign" that aims to promote HIV control and to strengthen maternal and neonatal health services to secure Kenya's future towards a HIV free generation. She has spearheaded this effort by running in Marathons to raise awareness and funds for the purchase of mobile clinics to deliver healthcare services all over Kenya. The campaign is guided by the country's development priorities as outlined in Kenya Vision 2030, Kenya National AIDS Strategic Plan and the Kenya Health Sector Strategic Plan 2012-2017.

### **Chairperson,**

In conclusion, and in line with Kenya's priorities, I would like to reiterate our call to the international community to scale up resource mobilization, ensure adequate resource allocation and secure political commitment and leadership in the fight against HIV and AIDS especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and other less privileged regions of the world. The end of the devastating Aids epidemic, which is set to be a truly historical global achievement for humanity, is within reach in our generation,

I thank you.

