

Joint-Statement

General-Assembly Meeting on Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the political declarations on HIV/AIDS, Agenda item 10, June 1, 2017

Mister President,

I am pleased to deliver this Statement on behalf of Zambia and my own country Switzerland.

We thank the Secretary General for the comprehensive report.

We are very pleased to hear his acknowledgement of the vast and rich experiences gained with the AIDS response.

Innovation is crucial, but building on good practices is important, too. The AIDS response has produced significant experience in working across different sectors.

This is an indispensable requirement if the SDGs are to be achieved by 2030, and it is an experience that should inspire policy making and programming on other issues.

The UNAIDS joint programme has been working systematically across the UN system with the co-sponsoring organisations for more than 20 years.

We are convinced that it is a good example for a coherent and integrated system-wide response which needs to be taken into account in the context of the ongoing discussions on the reform of the UN System.

It will be equally important to put the recommendations set out in the report of the Global Review Panel on a revised and strengthened UNAIDS operating model in the context of the wider UN reform.

Switzerland was proud to co-facilitate the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS last year together with Zambia.

The document clearly laid out the strategic direction for the next years:

If the AIDS epidemic is to be eliminated as a public health threat by 2030, fast-track is the key.

That is also the strategic direction adopted by important technical and funding partners like UNAIDS and the Global Fund.

The strategies are clear. It is now a matter of keeping the promise. It is a matter of implementation.

We would like to underline six points which we consider particularly relevant:

- First, a balanced approach between prevention and treatment with a continued focus on primary prevention.
- Second, ensuring that human rights and gender equality are at the center of any action.
- Third, an evidence-based approach in order to focus on location and population where needs are highest while ensuring that no one is left behind.
- Fourth, the need to take AIDS out of isolation, whereby the AIDS response proactively contributes to strengthen health systems and achieve universal health coverage.

This means also to strategically and efficiently link funding for HIV/AIDS with broader health systems issues.

- Fifth, the importance to address determinants of HIV/AIDS, within and beyond the health sector.

- Last but not least, a multistakeholder approach which includes the UN, civil society, academia, private sector, and other important partners.

Thank you.