

A BLUEPRINT FOR AN AIDS-FREE GENERATION REGION

M. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS

29 November 2012

Washington, DC

**Launch of PEPFAR Blueprint: Creating
an AIDS-free Generation**

SPEECH

By: M. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS

Date: 29 November 2012

Place: Washington, DC

Occasion: Launch of PEPFAR Blueprint: Creating an AIDS-free Generation

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A Blueprint for an AIDS-free generation

Honourable friends, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for being here to mark this milestone of the AIDS response.

Madame Secretary, in the past 12 months, you have transformed the global dialogue on AIDS. You have challenged world leaders to change the course of the epidemic. You have inspired both skeptics and believers to reach an AIDS-free generation. And now, with this Blueprint, you are showing how the United States will specifically support countries to start the “end game” of this epidemic.

None of this would have been possible without your pivotal leadership, the solidarity of the American people and the dedication of my brother, Eric Goosby.

This Blueprint is timely, topical and catalytic. It is not just another plan. It is a clear, practical way to move the world towards the goals adopted at the UN High Level Meeting on AIDS. It shows how making smart investments is a priority for PEPFAR. Just by streamlining the approach to procurement and supply of HIV drugs, this Blueprint will save \$39 million over four years. This approach to getting more from every dollar spent will save more lives.

The presence of Madame Dlamini Zuma today is a strong expression of the African Union’s commitment to lead the AIDS response in Africa. Never in the history of AIDS have we been so aligned in our priorities, mutual respect and shared motivation for results.

This launch today is about what we will do with urgency tomorrow. In support of this Blueprint, UNAIDS is responding immediately, taking fast action.

We will work with countries, the African Union and NEPAD to advance the work on shared responsibility. We will empower country partners to assess and fill national capacity gaps so they can accelerate access to life-saving services. We will also work to optimize the returns from AIDS investments, particularly by ensuring greater efficiency, equity and equality. We will strengthen the links between HIV and human rights, violence against women and girls and community empowerment. This Blueprint gives us a new unity of direction with greater focus and determination.

.For me, one of the most important aspects of the Blueprint is its power to restore a sense of hope for people. The moving story told by Florence reminds us all that we will only get to zero if we restore the dignity of people.

Our latest report shows that we are making unprecedented progress, but this epidemic is not over. We need to mobilize our efforts in each corner, to make sure that we continue this momentum. Of course, we are breaking the trajectory of this epidemic. But we need to sustain. We need to make sure that people don't feel that it is over.

This time next year, we will meet to review how we have used this Blueprint to lay a solid foundation for countries to reach this ambitious goal.

Madame Secretary, my friend, we will always miss you. You will be remembered as someone who has helped to change the face of this world. Your daily commitment to people who have no voice—for women who have struggled for their dignity—will always inspire us. We know you will not drop the ball. You will continue, because we need you.

Thank you for your leadership. You have been the visionary architect of this Blueprint. We all count on you to continue this role, now and in the future. Your leadership, and the support of the American people, remain essential to helping us end this epidemic.

Thank you.

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UNAIDS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners to maximize results for the AIDS response. Learn more at unaids.org and connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.