

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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REMARKS AT INAUGURATION OF NEW UNAIDS/WHO BUILDING**Geneva, 20 November 2006**

- Let me start by paying tribute to the memory of Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, who as Director-General of the World Health Organization was a champion in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and who would have been proud to be here today. Let me also extend my best wishes to his successor, Dr. Margaret Chan, and wish her courage as she prepares to carry on WHO's vital mission.
- It is deeply moving for me to open this building. Over the 10 years that I have served as Secretary-General, WHO, UNAIDS and I have worked closely together, and it is wonderful to see you now literally in the same house. Let me thank the Swiss Government for the generous loan which has allowed the two entities to come together under one roof.
- This house will not only bring UNAIDS and WHO closer together. It will also be a meeting place for ideas, a centre for dialogue, a forum bringing together people and organizations, in the UN and beyond, to strengthen the global response against AIDS, TB and malaria. In this way, the building will be a nerve centre in our mission to reach the Millennium Development Goals and build better lives for people in the 21st century.
- And it will save the UN family a great deal of money in rent -- which means we can spend more on programmes that directly support those in need.
- It is fitting that the move happens in this 25th anniversary year of the first reported case of AIDS.
- In a short quarter of a century, AIDS has drastically changed our world. At least 25 million people have died of it; almost 40 million live with HIV today.
- AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria make up the deadliest triad the world has known.
- TB killed 1.7 million last year. An astounding one third of the world's population carries the TB bacillus. In Africa especially, the TB epidemic is getting worse. It is the disease most people with AIDS actually die of -- and now the appearance of new drug-resistant strains threatens us with a new pandemic.
- As for malaria, it kills at least one million people a year -- most of them children in the world's poorest countries.

- Between them, these three diseases deepen and perpetuate poverty in the countries that can least afford it. In some countries, they have pushed human development into reverse.
- But at the same time, there is more than ever reason for hope.
- We can see how much things have changed, how the world is joining forces, just by looking at all those gathered here today -- Governments and donors, civil society organizations, staff of UNAIDS and WHO, members of the UN Positive staff group.
- Over the past 10 years, we have seen advances in treatment like never before, political commitment like never before, and new resources like never before.
- The creation of UNAIDS a decade ago, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UN family, was a milestone in transforming the way the world responds to pandemics.
- WHO has been in the vanguard in strengthening the health sector response. It has led the dramatic scale-up of TB control, and new responses to the huge threats of HIV-associated and drug-resistant TB. It hosts the Stop TB Partnership, which has become a model of consensus-building, innovation and collaboration. And it has played a key role in developing and implementing strategies to control malaria globally.
- Five years ago, when I made HIV/AIDS a personal priority, I called for the creation of a “war chest” of an additional seven to ten billion dollars a year. Today, I am deeply proud to be Patron of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, which has channelled more than 2.8 billion dollars to programmes across the globe.
- We have recently seen significant additional funding from bilateral donors, national treasuries, civil society and other sources. Available annual funding for the response to AIDS in low-and middle-income countries now stands at more than eight billion dollars. Of course, much more is needed. By 2010 total needs for a comprehensive HIV/AIDS response will exceed 20 billion dollars a year.
- But we have at least made a start on getting the resources and strategies in place to combat what amounts to the greatest challenge of our generation.
- Those who will work in this building have a deeply demanding mission ahead of them, but also a highly exciting one. May your new headquarters inspire you.
- I am grateful to every one of you for your support during my time as Secretary-General, and wish you success in the years ahead.
Thank you very much.