

PRESS STATEMENT

UNAIDS welcomes continued leadership and commitment of the United States to the AIDS response

WASHINGTON D.C./GENEVA, 8 November 2011—The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) commends the United States Government on its continued leadership in the AIDS response following the call by the US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton for global solidarity to “change the course of the epidemic and usher in an AIDS-free generation”.

“Leadership from the United States has been vital to the AIDS response to date and will be key to seizing this historic opportunity,” said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. “Secretary Clinton has reaffirmed the United States’ Government’s strong commitment to this effort and has described a vision that should inspire us all. I hope that her call will galvanize leadership from around the globe to accelerate efforts to end the AIDS epidemic.”

In her speech, the US Secretary of State outlined the far-reaching impact of scaling up scientifically proven prevention strategies in combination with new and emerging developments in HIV science and research. These strategies include: elimination of new HIV infections among children, increased voluntary medical male circumcision, and expanded access to treatment.

Earlier this year UNAIDS highlighted the significance of the recent research demonstrating that people who access treatment early can reduce their likelihood of transmitting HIV to a partner by 96%. The potential impact of treatment for prevention will change attitudes, connect communities and motivate millions of people find out their HIV status and to talk openly with their partners about HIV.

To achieve an AIDS-free generation, the US Secretary of State reiterated UNAIDS’ call for greater engagement and investment in the global AIDS response by both donor and recipient countries.

UNAIDS underlines the importance of shared responsibility in the AIDS response. Shared responsibility is one of the central pillars of UNAIDS’ strategy to reach zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths by 2015.

UNAIDS is already working closely with PEPFAR and other partners around the world to achieve the ambitious goals UN member states committed to in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Achieving these goals will bring the world one step closer to an AIDS-free generation.

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UNAIDS

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, is an innovative United Nations partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Learn more at unaids.org.