

**Working Lunch on living with HIV and Vulnerability
Hosted by the President of the General Assembly during
the 2006 High Level Meeting on AIDS
1 June 2006**

Key points expressed by participants*

1. The concept of vulnerability has changed; there is no single group or population that is not vulnerable to HIV.
2. Poverty, violence (particularly domestic violence) and stigma and discrimination against key populations at higher risk, inadequate education and many other factors contribute significantly to increased vulnerability.
3. HIV prevention is key to the reduction of vulnerability. Prevention efforts must reach every single person. Populations at higher risk of exposure should be involved at every level of the response to AIDS to make efforts more effective.
4. It is essential to meaningfully involve people living with HIV, civil society, faith-based organizations, and cultural leaders in efforts to address HIV and AIDS.
5. Young people are particularly vulnerable to HIV. HIV education and sex education must begin in school.
6. The growing feminization of AIDS requires that particular efforts be aimed at women. Special focus should be on girls and on positive women. Men should be involved in initiatives to decrease the vulnerability of women.
7. All available prevention techniques have to be used; particular attention has to be paid to the prevention needs of populations at higher risk of exposure (harm reduction, substitution therapy, programmes for sex workers, etc.).
8. All initiatives must be grounded in a human rights approach.
9. No effective response to AIDS is possible without political will and commitment to real action.
10. Treatment, care and support of people living with HIV are equally as crucial as prevention for reducing vulnerability.

* The 140 participants at the Working Lunch included the President of the General Assembly, people living with HIV, Heads of State and Government, First Ladies, Special Envoys, Heads of UN agencies and other dignitaries. After five brief presentations from people living with HIV on various aspects of vulnerability and HIV table discussions took place, moderated by people living with HIV. At the end of the lunch each of the 14 tables gave written feedback of the three main points covered in their discussions. These key points are a summary of the feedback received.