

CLOSING SUMMARY STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS TO BE SUPPORTED BY FIRST SPOUSES

First Spouses event on the elimination of new HIV infections in babies

United Nations High Level Meeting on AIDS, 8 June 2011

This special event in conjunction with the United Nations High Level Meeting on AIDS, has convened First Spouses from around the world to explore obstacles to fulfilling the global community's commitment to ensuring that zero babies are born with HIV and to define opportunities to accelerate progress.

Our aim has been to advance the PMTCT (prevention of mother to child transmission) agenda in support of the High Level Meeting and to provide a platform for a meaningful and active role for First Spouses on this vital issue.

The specific actions we have discussed today and are recommending are:

1. Increase domestic investment and spending dedicated to women's and children's health
2. Increase the number of facilities providing free maternal, newborn and child health services including PMTCT
3. Endorse the UNAIDS goal of eliminating new infections among children by 2015
4. Increase HIV treatment, care and support for women living with HIV as well as their children and families
5. Increase use of antenatal and postnatal care, and encourage women to deliver in health care facilities or with skilled birth attendants
6. Increase the use of modern contraception and family planning among all women, especially women living with HIV.
7. Strengthen sexual and reproductive health programs for adolescents living with HIV, including PMTCT.
8. Promote gender equity and increase male engagement in the health and well-being of families
9. Ensure meaningful engagement of people living with HIV and promote zero tolerance for stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV
10. Recognize communities and families as partners and strengthen actions that support their efforts against HIV.

There are many other actions we should support, but these ten are the most important. It is exciting that we can now see the beginning of the end of AIDS in our children. Together as mothers, fathers and as leaders, we commit to redoubling our efforts in eliminating new HIV infections among children in our countries.

We count on UNAIDS support and we ask UNAIDS to continue to mobilise all stakeholders towards our common goal. Together we can make it possible to achieve a generation of children free from AIDS, and in so doing, start to give our children the legacy they deserve.