



CHILE

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**INTERVENCIÓN DEL SR. JORGE DÍAZ
SUBSECRETARIO DE SALUD**

**Reunión de Alto Nivel para una revisión comprehensiva sobre los progresos
alcanzados en la aplicación de la Declaración de Compromisos en la Lucha
contra el VIH/SIDA y la Declaración Política sobre VIH/SIDA**

**Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, Nueva York
8 al 10 de junio de 2011**

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**STATEMENT BY MR. JORGE DÍAZ
VICEMINISTER OF HEALTH**

**High-Level Meeting on the comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing
the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS
and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS**

**United Nations General Assembly, New York
8 - 10 June 2011**

Mr. President, distinguished Heads of State and Government, Mr. Secretary-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of Chile, composed of representatives of the Government, of persons living with HIV and of social and non-governmental organizations, I welcome this effort by the Member States of this Organization to refocus the global discussion on the important topic of HIV/AIDS as a commitment of mankind.

Since the Secretary-General of the United Nations appealed here for Member States to make the commitments which we are reviewing today, our country has participated, responding to the appeal and working to face these challenges.

We have great achievements to report, including:

1. Coverage of antiretroviral treatment for all those who need it. This is guaranteed by law. Controls have increased survival rates of persons affected.
2. Guaranteed access to HIV testing for all pregnant women and a protocol for prevention of vertical transmission, resulting in a sharp decline in the number of children born with HIV.
3. As regards prevention, important progress is being made through an annual prevention campaign with a stable budget established by law. Now there are new generations of adolescents and young people in Chile who are better informed about HIV/AIDS, which is an essential prerequisite for the implementation of measures of prevention and self-care in sexual health.

We also have legislation banning discrimination, which prohibits making job recruitment, retention and access to education dependent on persons' serostatus and which ensures that HIV testing is free, voluntary and confidential.

Our country is currently engaged in removing all barriers preventing access to diagnosis, since control of the epidemic requires that the most affected population should know its diagnosis and have early access to monitoring and treatment, and achieves the desired effect of antiretroviral therapy on health and individual quality of life but also on collective health, and so secondary prevention is a central strategy of the Policy of Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Care. This is one of the most important accesses of the Health Goals of Chile in the decade 2011-2020, demonstrating our commitment to the issue.

Since the initial appeal, we undoubtedly see very important progress in the world, particularly in the area of care and access to antiretroviral treatment, but we also see that there are still major challenges and gaps, particularly as regards access to preventive services. The epidemic continues to spread, showing that the efforts made have not sufficed to contain it.

In this important area of public health, many of the inequities and inequalities existing in the world today are reflected in people's vulnerabilities, significantly affecting the poorest, young people, women, men who have sex with men, refugees, migrants, and persons deprived of liberty, among others. Hence the need to strengthening the focus on social factors in order to deal with HIV/AIDS prevention, addressing socio-structural causes and inequities to find long-lasting solutions.

Individual, social, cultural and regional realities must be taken into account in order to find a more effective response to the epidemic, recognizing diversity as a cultural asset. This necessitates information to reflect the different realities and ongoing evaluation of activities.

We need to develop strategic alliances in order to advance towards a solution of the problems affecting our societies and then to formulate health policies suited to the epidemiological, social and cultural realities of the different countries.

There must be much stronger involvement of stakeholders in order to attain the goals, greater mainstreaming of the topic in society, and more shared responsibility with the participation of social stakeholders, various public sectors, the private sector and grassroots organizations.

For our Government, total respect for the human rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS and of the most vulnerable population is not only a duty of the State but also a requirement for progress in controlling the epidemic. The legal and political conditions must be created to protect and promote the human rights of the population, particularly those most vulnerable to HIV infection.

My country reiterates, once more, its willingness to contribute, in all instances, to a positive relationship in globalization issues, specially our support to the renewed discussion on Global Public Goods.

Chile welcomes the creation of collective forums and initiatives of solidarity to combine efforts and resources, as a substantive advance in efforts to narrow the huge economic gap in responding to HIV which exists between the industrialized world and the countries with fewer resources.

We reiterate our participation in the UNITAIDS initiative, on which we are one of the founder partners. It represents our commitment to move forward in our efforts for developing new ways of international cooperation, in order to attend the needs of the affected population, especially of those least protected.

In this sense, my country is participating in a series of collaborative initiatives to improve prevention strategies, access to medicines and programs to combat stigma and discrimination, thus benefiting the least protected population groups.

We also highlight the initiative of Universal Access to HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment and we support the WHO HIV Strategy for 2011-2015 and UNAIDS work strategy 2011-2015, both reflect the sensitive and vital need for more decisive intervention and action to deal with this problem.

Lastly, I should also like to state that Chile reaffirms its commitment to continue working to halt the AIDS epidemic in our country, to cooperate at the international and regional levels and thus to promote the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and of the targets agreed in this important Assembly.

Thank you.