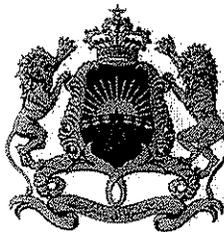


**KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**  
**Ministry of Health**



المملكة المغربية  
وزارة الصحة

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Yasmina BADDOU**  
**Minister of health**

**2011 General Assembly High-level Meeting on AIDS**

**New York, 8 - 10 June 2011**

**M. President,  
M. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Thirty years after the outbreak of AIDS, and a decade after the 26<sup>th</sup> extraordinary session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS), today's meeting is an important occasion for assessing the results of the global efforts to fight AIDS and to identify the current obstacles and difficulties met in this endeavor.

In this context, it should be noted that the Secretary General's report represents a fundamental basis and bears an innovative bold vision, namely: **zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related death.**

The Kingdom of Morocco fully endorses the Secretary General's approach and appreciates his efforts devoted to the fight against AIDS. Allow me also to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Michel Sidibé, the Executive Director of UNAIDS, who deserves full appreciation and support for his relentless efforts to achieve this vision.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The various reforms in Morocco, under the Leadership of *His Majesty the King Mohammed VI*, such as the family Code, the establishment of the National Council for Economic and Social Development as well as the National Council for Human Rights, aim at promoting a culture of human rights and respecting and ensuring gender equality in the access to social services, including those relating to health care. These initiatives have provided an appropriate

environment for strengthening prevention programs, ensuring an effective fight against the stigmatization and ensuring the adequate support for HIV infected persons, along the lines and in adequacy with the international vision to fight this epidemic.

During more than two decades, the Kingdom of Morocco has mobilized effectively and taken decisive steps to fight AIDS with the personal commitment of *His Majesty the King Mohammed VI* who has given a decisive impulse to the development of the national strategic plan and extended support for AIDS patients care. This commitment facilitated the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS of 2001 and the Political Declaration of 2006.

The participation of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Salma in this high-level meeting on HIV / AIDS proves the high level of commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco, in fighting this epidemic.

Despite the low HIV incidence in Morocco (less than 1,0%), the rate of infection among most-at-risk populations remains high. Between 1986 and 2010, the declared total cumulative cases of HIV / AIDS has reached the level of 5700 patients of whom we notice 3822 AIDS cases and 1878 HIV carriers. Apart from that, we note that the young people aged 25 to 44 years represent 71% of all cases.

In fact, the low prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Morocco is due to the constant vigilance and the development of joint actions by relevant stakeholders (government, civil society and international organizations). We take this opportunity to thank them for their coordinated and joint efforts in developing an effective national response in the fight of HIV/AIDS.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The National Strategic Plan, the overarching framework of action in the fight against HIV/AIDS, has enabled universal access to prevention, treatment and support for HIV infected persons. Its implementation achieved important results in terms of prevention, among high-risk groups, like youth and women, and facilitated free access to tritherapy to infected people. The overall result as it stands today is an effective containment of the disease.

The budget for the implementation of this Plan is estimated at about 47,762,000 dollars, 31% of this amount represents a contribution from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Moreover, it is worth mentioning that specific programs have been introduced among which the national campaign for social communication against the stigmatization and discrimination, the substitution program to reduce the risk of injecting drugs consumption, and the religious field role in the fight against AIDS for expanding the response scope, as well as the Program for preventing mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV.

We would like also to highlight a pioneering experiment carried out in some basic health care centers in targeted regions to prevent mother- to -child HIV transmission, through free diagnosis for pregnant women and dual care for infected women and their children. In this regard, the Ministry of Health has conducted an assessment of this experience to expand it gradually at the national level.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Morocco is committed to achieve the goals set in the new National Strategic Plan that extends from 2012 to 2016. This will undoubtedly be an additional tool allowing the Kingdom to reach the Millenium Development Goals and to use new strategy of UNAIDS as a baseline standard.

In fact, the role of the International Organizations remains key in the provision of the adequate support for the strengthening of national capacities. We would like to thank them for their assistance in enabling the Kingdom of Morocco to achieve concrete results in the fight against AIDS. Our thanks also extend to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Moreover, we stress our firm belief that the success of the Global fight against AIDS depends in large part on international solidarity, the exchange of experience among member states and the development of best practices. These elements of the global response should be decisive in meeting the goals set by 2015, **namely: zero new HIV infection, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related death.**

We hope that this meeting will adopt a strong political declaration strengthening the protection of public health and establishing clear and measurable objectives.

United and fully committed to the fulfillment of our common objectives, we will win the battle against this pandemic. Allow me to reaffirm Morocco's unwavering commitment to reach this goal.

**Thank you.**