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STATEMENT

BY

**HON. DR. RICHARD NCHABI KAMWI, MD
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**ON BEHALF OF THE
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
(SADC)**

**AT THE
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**

NEW YORK: 08 JUNE 2011

Mr President

**Your Excellencies, Heads of States and Governments
Honorable Ministers,
Your Excellency, President of the General Assembly
His Excellency; UN Secretary- General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). SADC aligns itself with the statement made by Senegal on behalf of the African Group.

Mr President,

The SADC Group wishes to assure you of its full support and cooperation towards a successful conclusion of this crucial gathering. This is a pivotal time, when the whole world has come together to take stock of progress made in the global response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic and craft a way forward. We will be judged not on looking back, but rather on the quality and success of the plans we forge, for the future global response on the epidemic over the coming decade.

Mr President

When I speak for SADC, I also speak for the estimated 11 million people living with HIV in our region. A reality that can be expressed in dry figures, and through the suffering of people, communities, and nations in our region, who have been devastatingly impacted by the world's largest ever epidemic.

I declare on behalf of the leaders of SADC that, as leaders, we will continue to lead and will forge the regional response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, guided by our "Maseru Declaration" on HIV and AIDS. Once we reach elimination of new infections - and the level of commitment that I see here today, gives me a great confidence that we will; the whole world is not just getting together to launch yet another plan or declaration on how to tackle this persisting challenge, but it is celebrating the unwavering commitment of our Governments, partners, donors, international community, NGOs, community-based associations and communities; for making a tremendous difference in the lives of our people.

Mr President

For the benefit of all those who have been affected with the epidemic, the ending of this epidemic is uppermost in our minds. We therefore request continued, increased, predictable and sustainable financial assistance, through international mechanisms such as the Global Fund, through PEPFAR and other sources of funding.

We call for full replenishment of the Global Fund, and appropriate reforms in its governance to improve accountability. We ask for technical support for our local capacities to develop to generate the data that tell us where to spend our resources to make the biggest impact, and how to improve on measuring our success- We continue to call for the invigoration of research, towards finding a cure to HIV and AIDS.

Mr President

Let me end by reiterating a fundamental fact which is of great concern to our region. If the AIDS epidemic is not controlled and sustainably well resourced in Southern Africa, global targets under MDG 6 and the other related MDGs, will not be met.

I thank the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his stewardship of the UN Secretariat. I also thank the Executive Director of UNAIDS, Dr. Michel Sidibé and all other key relevant stakeholders here present. Your leadership on this global response is needed to improve the lives of the people of the world. We, the SADC Member States, are committed to play our part to the best of our abilities.

Thank you.