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**Statement of Mr. Oleksandr Fedko,
Head of the State Service of Ukraine for countering HIV/AIDS and other socially
dangerous diseases, Head of the Delegation of Ukraine, to 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, June 9, 2011

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

HIV/AIDS is one of the biggest challenges for development, progress and stability of States and it demands an exceptional and comprehensive response at the national, regional and global levels. However, it should be noted that this challenge has received an unprecedented response from the United Nations system, UN Member States, private sector and NGOs.

When it comes to Ukraine, many international experts believe that our country can be a role model of effective cooperation, in particular between Government and various non-governmental organizations. It is not by chance that it is representative of our country Ms. Tatiana Afanasiadi who participated in the Opening Ceremony of this High-level meeting.

Substantial progress has been achieved recently in creating the conditions needed for an adequate response to the spread of HIV/AIDS. At the beginning of this year Ukraine has joined a number of countries that have repealed their respective HIV-based travel restrictions for people living with HIV.

We share the optimism expressed by Michel Sidibe, UNAIDS Executive Director, on ability of achieving full control over the epidemic, its tackling and reverse. The reason for such an optimism in our state is understanding by the leadership of Ukraine of the urgency of taking effective measures to combat the spread of HIV.

Establishment by the Decree of President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich last year of the new State Service of Ukraine for Countering HIV/AIDS and Other Socially Dangerous Diseases as dedicated central executive authority institution to coordinate efforts of all partners in combating spread of HIV/AIDS, is the best evidence of attention and commitment of Ukraine's Government and personally by President of Ukraine to combating HIV/AIDS threat in Ukraine.

Official Address of the President of Ukraine to the General Assembly High Level Meeting also demonstrates his personal devotion to countering this epidemic. I have the honor to deliver this Address to your attention. I quote:

"Mr. President,
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Mr. Secretary-General,

Ukraine was among the States that initiated the convening of the historic Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2001. Over the past ten years invaluable

experience has been gained as well as significant achievements have been made in combating HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Ukraine adopted the National Strategy on HIV/AIDS as part of its national legislation. This Strategy applies both to the society as a whole and every citizen in particular.

Reinforcement of preventive measures of HIV/AIDS spread, providing treatment for patients with HIV/AIDS, respect of rights of HIV-positive people and promotion of tolerant treatment of them by the society are priority measures in overcoming HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ukraine. Therefore, the Law of Ukraine "On Overcoming the Spread of Diseases Caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Legal and Social Protection of People Living with HIV" was adopted and came into force in January, 2011.

The contribution of civil society in combating HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ukraine can not be overestimated. We are proud that non-governmental organizations and, most important, HIV-positive people are the major partners of the Government of Ukraine in fulfilling its response to HIV/AIDS threat.

Success of Ukraine in combating HIV/AIDS are, to a large extent, due to the donors, their commitment and carrying out of obligations to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. One has to acknowledge that the Fund has become unprecedentedly effective instrument of sustainable help, focused on achievement of high results.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express sincere gratitude to all donors who provide us with assistance and remain reliable partners of Ukraine in the response to HIV/AIDS.

Ukraine has already achieved the first encouraging positive results in combating HIV/AIDS epidemic. Compared to the first place among other Eastern European countries with the highest level of the spread of HIV infection five years ago, nowadays our country came down to the fourth position in the region.

Significant success has been made in prevention of HIV mother-to-child transmission. This sphere is recognized as a priority of the national response to AIDS.

However, the situation with the spread of the disease remains alarming and difficult. The tendency of increase in the number of HIV/AIDS infected individuals still exists.

We believe that to successfully fight the spread of HIV infection in Ukraine, further consolidation of efforts of the Government and the whole society as well as an effective partnership with the United Nations, bilateral donors and other organizations is needed.

Ukraine reiterates its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and confirms its obligations and solidarity in the global fight against AIDS.

It is an ambitious task that requires unprecedented leadership and efforts of Ukraine. That is the reason why we support the new "Getting to zero" UNAIDS Strategy up to the year 2015, "Countdown to zero" Global Plan up to the year 2015 aimed at prevention of new cases of HIV infection among children and saving mothers' lives, as well as the new Political Declaration of the High-level meeting.

President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich".

I thank you, Mr. President.