



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
75TH SESSION
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON HIV/AIDS**

ADDRESS BY

**H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORT**

Mr. President,

It is an honor to speak before the General Assembly on the HIV/AIDS response - a true success story of multilateralism and international solidarity, spearheaded by the United Nations. Since the first special session twenty years ago, we have scaled up collective action, with quite remarkable results: AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 60 per cent since the peak in 2004. And the annual number of new HIV infections has declined by more than one-third since 2001. But these figures also make it clear that far too many people still die preventable deaths and get infected.

HIV/AIDS continues to have wide-ranging health and socio-economic effects and comes with stigma and discrimination of those affected and those at risk. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation. A “pandemic of inequalities”, in the words of the Secretary General, HIV/AIDS affects certain regions and key populations disproportionately. Gender inequality and gender-based violence make women and adolescent girls particularly vulnerable to HIV. And children living with HIV are less likely to receive treatment than adults, which is deeply disturbing.

Inequalities are obstructing progress in fighting HIV/AIDS. We must do more to address them if we want to win this fight. The 2030 Agenda provides all the tools to holistically achieve good health and well-being, and to leave no one behind. We must accelerate its implementation. And we must treat the Sustainable Development Goals not in silos but implement them in an interconnected way. Especially SDG 16 for effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels remains a cornerstone in effectively responding to pandemics, but also in preventing them from occurring in the first place. And the rule of law is a proven prerequisite to achieve healthy lives and well-being as reflected in SDG 3.

The guidance and leadership by UNAIDS has been pivotal for our collective action, as has the work by the Global Fund against HIV/AIDS and relevant civil society organizations. Since 2007, Liechtenstein has contributed a total of CHF 335'000 Swiss Francs to UNAIDS, and we aim at continuing our support. The fight against HIV/AIDS is not only about our health and well-being, but also about respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and setting the stage for more peaceful, just, inclusive and prosperous societies.

I thank you.