



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**AGENDA ITEM 11: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT ON HIV/AIDS
AND THE POLITICAL DECLARATIONS ON HIV/AIDS**

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. President

The fight against HIV/AIDS is as showcase for the impact the international community can have if we all join forces. We are encouraged by the shared commitment to the 95 – 95 – 95 testing, treatment and viral suppression targets as well as the most recent data in the Secretary General’s report on their implementation: Today, 84% of people living with HIV globally know their serostatus, of which 87% are accessing antiretroviral therapy, again of which 90% have suppressed viral loads. And the availability of pre-exposure prophylaxis for particularly vulnerable population has been scaled-up significantly over the last years.

Despite achievements in many parts of the world, the international response to HIV/AIDS is also a reminder how fragile progress can be if we fall back into complacency or lose sight. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to place a heavy strain on public health systems and disrupts HIV prevention, testing and treatment services across the globe. Our concerted efforts to end one pandemic should not come at the expense of our decades-long commitment to end another. Instead, to effectively address these and preventing future pandemics, we must strengthen public health systems in line with SDG 3 as well as promote effective, accountable and inclusive institutions in line with SDG 16. And we must remind ourselves that the fight against HIV/AIDS is

not only about our health and well-being, but also about human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr. President

One year ago, the General Assembly responded to this particularly challenging moment for the global fight against HIV/AIDS by adopting a Political Declaration on ending inequalities, including based on race and gender, which limit the progress towards an AIDS-free world by 2030. For our efforts to be successful, it is indeed crucial to remove societal barriers to services for those communities in greatest need. Discriminatory laws targeting LGBTIQ populations in many countries remain an obstacle to effectively address the pandemic. Economic and social marginalization of groups at higher risk of HIV infection, such as people who inject drugs, sex workers, prisoners, transgender people and men who have sex with men, often prevent them from fully enjoying their fundamental freedoms and human rights, above all the right to health. A suitable response to HIV/AIDS must necessarily address and fully recognize all fundamental elements of HIV risks and vulnerabilities. Women and girls are still disproportionately vulnerable to the pandemic, their particular situation must be considered and their special needs must be met. This also includes their social and economic empowerment, equal access to quality education, including comprehensive sexual education, as well as full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

Mr. President

We express our full support for the recommendations of the Secretary-General and commend his staff for the tireless work to translate the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS into reality. 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 made regular financial contributions to UNAIDS, and we aim at continuing our support. By investing into prevention, we have the best chance to create sustainable results in the long-term, and to eradicate HIV/AIDS once and for all.

I thank you.