



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

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**Speech at the Tokyo International Conference on
African Development (TICAD III), Tokyo, Japan,
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by

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Your Excellencies, Distinguished participants,

I have one simple message: AIDS is undermining Africa's development. Therefore, any agenda for Africa's development must have AIDS at its core.

In the hardest-hit countries, AIDS has taken thirty years off life expectancy – the most basic indicator of human development. Half a century of progress in development and human security has been wiped out in only two decades.

AIDS threatens Africa's future – its young people. Already, there are 11 million African children orphaned by AIDS. We expect that to double by the end of the decade. The impact on social stability can only be guessed at.

AIDS was one of the determinants of last year's food crisis in southern Africa: not only by killing farmers, but also by stripping communities of their coping capacity.

The vicious cycle of AIDS, food insecurity and poor institutional capacity requires a new kind of response from the international community.

So all this illustrates that the challenge of AIDS is one that affects all aspects of development.

As Ms Ogata said yesterday, we need a new approach against AIDS in the most affected countries, combining long term development and emergency humanitarian approaches. Strategies and action which simultaneously provide the safety net of care and support for affected families and which strengthen prevention and education, focusing particularly on women, girls and orphans.

I come here from High Level session on AIDS of the UN General Assembly last week and from the International Conference on AIDS in Africa, held in Nairobi. It is clear that Africa's fight back against AIDS is changing gear. Resources have grown – nearly \$3 billion will be spent on AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa this year. However, this is still only half the \$6 billion needed to provide basic HIV prevention and treatment. While the world looks to developed nations for assistance, African

governments themselves, are also increasing their investment in AIDS, as was agreed upon in Abuja.

Perhaps, more importantly, as Mr Geingob and Dr Samba just said, resources have gone hand in hand with increased political commitment and growing evidence of success in a number of countries, and fighting AIDS is now an integral part of NEPAD.

The agendas of human security and capacity development, which Japan, particularly through TICAD, has done so much to promote, are at the core of sustainable and effective responses to AIDS in Africa. And equally, there can be no successful security and development strategies for Africa without taking account of AIDS.

UNAIDS – which comprises of eight UN system Cosponsors (and soon nine), each with their own strengths – is not only strengthening national capacities in key sectors such as education, agriculture, and health. We also support efforts from governments and civil society to make AIDS a priority across their entire development programming. And we provide essential programmatic support to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

African families and governments today know they have no choice but face up to the reality of AIDS. The obligation of the international community is to join Africa in a commitment to a World Without AIDS.

Thank you.