



Ministry of Health of Brazil

**High Level Meeting on Ending AIDS
New York, June 8 to 10, 2016**

Panel 1

AIDS within the Sustainable Development Goals: leveraging the end of AIDS for social transformation and sustainable development

INTERVENTION

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

Brazil would like to reiterate its commitment to the elimination of AIDS epidemic levels by the year 2030 and to the intermediate goals set by countries together with UNAIDS to have reached, by the year of 2020, 90% of people knowing their HIV status; 90 % of those treated; and 90% of people in treatment with suppressed viral load. And these are fundamental targets that integrate with the 2030 Agenda, which is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

For this, however, it will be necessary to accelerate the pace and continue to seek innovative and increasingly ambitious responses. It is not enough to do more of the same. And it is essential that the response to HIV/AIDS at the national level is inserted into strong and comprehensive health systems, incorporated into all levels of care - especially primary care -, that takes into account the specificities of each

country's epidemic, with the engagement of several actors, in order to provide universal access to comprehensive care that addresses prevention, diagnosis and treatment. As well as issues related to the rights of people living with, at risk of and most affected by HIV, relevant to effective control of the epidemic.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Brazil implemented the WHO recommendation indicating antiretroviral treatment to all people living with HIV, at any CD4 cell count since 2013. As of April 2016, about 475,000 people are on antiretroviral therapy in Brazil (an increase of 80% comparing 2012 to 2015). Only in 2015, almost 80 thousand new treatments have started.

Brazil is proud not only to have directly participated in the 90-90-90 goals elaboration, but also to continue to reaffirm its commitment. Positive results confirm that the country is going in the right direction: Brazil reached the goal of suppressed viral load in 2015, when 90% of people living with HIV in antiretroviral treatment had suppressed viral load.

The Brazilian response is fully financed by domestic resources and it constitutes a challenge in this new context of "treatment for all" and expanding access to diagnosis, combination prevention, among other strategies essential to control the epidemic.

In order to address this issue, Brazil has implemented innovative initiatives, such as: investment in local production - currently the country produces half of antiretroviral drugs consumed internally; enhanced conditions for obtaining technology transfers; research and development innovative mechanisms related to diseases that affect developing countries; incentives to use generic drugs; among others.

It is the firm intention of Brazil to strongly support the Political Declaration today and its implementation in the years to come. We understand that the response to the epidemic needs to adopt a comprehensive approach for health care, with policies specific to key populations. In Brazil the groups that are key to our epidemic are people who use drugs - particularly crack and other stimulants drugs, sex workers, transgender people, gay men and other men who have sex with men and in these groups, especially the younger and prisoners. We are working hard to have them included in public health policies that meet their needs, as a demonstration of our respect and concern.

Finally, we emphasize the importance of all countries to engage in this global effort towards the end of the AIDS epidemic by the year 2030, with a view to contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. Brazil is aware of how bold the goals to eliminate AIDS by 2030 are. To this end, it is necessary to continue to raise the political level of the discussion and strengthen the role of the HIV/AIDS topic at the center of the international health agenda. ----- Thank you!