

HIV/AIDS Side Event- WHA71

Statement on Prevention Coalition

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Mr Chair

Dr Tedros

Distinguished Colleagues

It is a great pleasure for me to address this important side event on HIV Prevention and Universal Health Coverage.

Attaining the goal of ending AIDS, requires primary prevention, which plays a crucial role in our HIV policies. Global experience has proven that the epidemics always return upon the halt of primary prevention programme.

Iran has developed a comprehensive targeted Combination Prevention package which not only covers the five pillars but also addresses issues such as positive prevention and PMTCT. 26% of our national HIV programme budget is spent specifically for primary prevention activities.

As you know, I.R. Iran is one of the countries with a noteworthy AIDS response with harm reduction central to prevention efforts. The program started 17 years ago as a joint program with Prison Organization, which is now expanded across the country in both at large and in closed settings. Since then, our harm reduction program has contributed to a significant decrease in HIV incidence. Implementation of harm reduction also promoted inter-sectoral collaboration in other fields.

In addition to general awareness raising and testing campaigns for the youth, we have implemented special programs to address prevention needs of at risk populations. The 'at risk populations centers' and mobile clinics provide comprehensive services including counselling, testing, reproductive health, harm reduction and social support. PreP is included in our HIV programs for sero-discordant couples.

In order to decline new HIV infection, we envisage for strengthening primary prevention in HIV programs in conjunction with ARV coverage of newly diagnosed cases in the frame of positive prevention.

We also warmly welcome and support the experience exchange and knowledge sharing among countries in this 'prevention coalition'.

Thank you!