

**Statement to the World Health Assembly by the International AIDS Society:**

The International AIDS Society (IAS) - the world's independent membership association of 14,000 HIV professionals working in 190 countries makes the following statement to the 63<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly.

The IAS commends the Assembly for its focus on monitoring achievements towards the health related Millennium Development Goals. 2010 is a watershed year for global health and development. In 2005, G8 leaders – followed swiftly by all UN Member States – pledged to get as close as possible to **universal access to HIV treatment, care and support for all those in need by 2010.**

There has been significant scale up of AIDS services. HIV treatment has reached over 4 million people worldwide, with remarkable results. There is substantial evidence that HIV treatment, care and prevention services have reduced TB and other infectious diseases and strengthened health systems in the poorest countries. Maternal, infant and child morbidity and mortality are inextricably linked to progress in addressing HIV. There is now compelling evidence that scaling up AIDS treatment and prevention reduces maternal and child mortality. We must not allow these to be seen as competing issues

We applaud the many member states which have made significant progress towards achieving these goals. Yet universal access targets will not be reached in 2010. And 10 million people in need of AIDS treatment are still waiting with no access – these numbers are based on the new guidelines has set for optimal treatment and care.

The IAS is now gravely concerned that the substantial momentum and finance to scale up HIV services is now slowing. Without renewed political and financial commitment the goal of Universal Access will never be met. This is why IAS members launched the advocacy campaign, Universal Access Now, with our allies. **We call on all member states to ensure that:**

- **The October 2010 Global Fund Replenishment meeting results in a fully-funded Global Fund for 2011-2013.**
- **The G8 Summit holds countries accountable for their past commitments and makes new financial and political commitments to Universal Access in 2010.**
- **Health, AIDS and development are on the agenda of the G20 Summit and G20 countries make political and financial commitments to advance the goal of universal access**

We applaud Zambia for their forthright statement urging support for the Global Fund replenishment process. And we urge all Member States present to play their part in delivering these 3 targets: a fully funded Global Fund, accountability at the G8 and forward commitments at the G20.

The WHA has a unique opportunity to ensure that the UN's commitments on Universal Access are central to the global health agenda. Effective planning is essential to address the HIV challenge beyond 2010, and to meet the MDGs by 2015. In 2010 the current WHO HIV/AIDS Universal Access Plan expires. We urge adoption of the resolution presented by the delegation of Brazil (with strong amendments from Thailand). **The IAS calls on the WHA to request that, as a matter of priority, WHO develop a new AIDS Strategy to set a bold course to respond to the current HIV landscape and secure optimal health services.**

WHO must continue to play a central role in the global response. The IAS congratulates WHO for its efforts to date. rapid release of the revised HIV treatment guidelines. **We call on Member States to now adopt these new guidelines as a matter of urgency to ensure that all in need are able to access the best possible care**, and to prevent the untimely death of millions of women, men and children. The IAS commits ourselves to ongoing support for the WHO and Member States present to reinvigorate momentum for scaling up AIDS services to deliver an effective global response.