

2026 UN High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS National Statement (Japan)

Madam President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished Guests,

Since AIDS was first reported in 1981, remarkable progress has been made over the past 45 years. Innovative advancements in medicine have led to a dramatic decrease in AIDS-related deaths and new infections.

However, progress has been uneven, and the fight to end AIDS continues to this day. We must accelerate our efforts.

In particular, it is fundamental in HIV response to identify key populations based on epidemiological data in each country, and to subsequently foster community-led efforts.

Madam President,

For many years, Japan has positioned global health as one of the main pillars of its diplomacy to protect the life and dignity of each individual through the Human Security approach, and has promoted efforts toward universal health coverage.

In AIDS response, it is crucial to respect fundamental human rights, eliminate all forms of stigma and discrimination, and ensure equitable access to essential health services.

Within Japan, we are working to deepen public understanding of HIV/AIDS and encourage individual behavioral change in order to dismantle the invisible barriers of stigma and discrimination that can undermine effective AIDS response. We are also promoting community-led responses, by empowering people living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV.

In its fight against HIV/AIDS, Japan has strengthened its policies and healthcare system through sustained dialogue and collaboration with patient organizations and civil society. This experience underscores the importance of ensuring that the voices of people affected by HIV are meaningfully reflected in decision-making, and it continues to serve as the foundation of our commitment to community-led responses.

Japan is dedicated to contributing to the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Through continuous contributions to the Global Fund, Japan promotes the integration of infectious disease responses into universal health coverage, and supports the strengthening of sustainable and resilient health systems.

Furthermore, Japan has established the UHC Knowledge Hub, launched in Tokyo last year in close collaboration with the WHO and the World Bank. Through this initiative, Japan provides capacity building for finance and health authorities of low- and middle-income countries to strengthen health financing towards achieving universal health coverage.

Madam President,

As the global health landscape rapidly evolves, it is essential that we build bridges of common understanding and foster strong unity and collaboration among all nations.

Japan takes this opportunity to reiterate its determination to continue to prioritize and contribute to global health.

Thank you.

(385 words)