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Chemin du Pommier 5  
Case postale 330  
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva – Switzerland  
[www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)

## IPU Statement

Mr. Duarte Pacheco  
President of the IPU

Delivered by pre-recorded  
video

United Nations High-Level  
Meeting on HIV/AIDS

New York, 8 July 2021

Your Excellency, the Co-facilitator of the High-Level Meeting,  
Your Excellency, the Executive Director of UNAIDS,  
Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to welcome you to this important event on the role of parliaments to put an end to AIDS. I wish to thank our partners at UNAIDS for working together with the IPU to bring you all together today. I am pleased to see so many colleagues from the five continents. A special welcome to the members of the United States Congress – it is always a pleasure to have you work with the IPU.

Dear colleagues,

The High-Level Meeting starting tomorrow will be essential to make sure we get on track to end HIV and AIDS by 2030. It is not just a target of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is essential for the lives and well-being of millions of people around the world.

This cannot be achieved without parliaments. The IPU has adopted a statement on the occasion of the High-Level Meeting to call on parliaments to become leaders in the HIV response and realize this vision for millions and millions of people. You know that the role of parliaments is essential because we need to approve budgets for this war against the HIV pandemic, but also to create legislation that protects human beings and human rights and defends against all discrimination.

We know that nowadays we are living with another pandemic, COVID-19, that takes the attention of the world, the attention of the media and the attention of scientists. All resources are used to win this battle against COVID-19. So we need to put the HIV pandemic again on our agenda, in our societies, to ensure that we will achieve what we wish: a society that will eradicate this pandemic before 2030 and give all of us the same opportunities to be healthy, educated, and realize our full potential as human beings.

I call on all of you, dear colleagues, to continue working day after day to make it happen. At the IPU we look forward to continue working together with parliaments and UNAIDS to play a part in the AIDS response.

I wish you very productive discussions.