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Local Co-Chair AIDS 2012

Closing Session Speech

Friday, 27 July, 2012

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Welcome to the closing session! Thanks to all of you, this conference, this week has been one of the most memorable gatherings in the entire history of the AIDS epidemic. We did it! And it was extraordinary! I would like to thank Elly, my co-organizers, the IAS secretariat, my dear colleague Chris Beyrer, the Friends Group, the NIH, PEPFAR, and the city of Washington DC for their hospitality.

I would like to thank all the members of my program at SFGH and UCSF– for their dedication, passion and compassion. And finally, I would like to thank my entire family - especially Art, Becky, Danny, Andy, Jackie, and my mom - for their love and support over the years. My daughter Becky is here experiencing this wonderful event.

I would like to thank all of [you](#) for making this meeting successful, and one of so many firsts— the first time we have been united around the one goal to end AIDS, the first time we had serious dialogue on how to achieve this and how treatment as treatment, treatment as Prevention, and PREP fit together – as allies. The first time that we have highlighted HIV and aging, and the first time in many years data has emerged on new drugs for TB. We applaud and need continued scientific advancement in these areas.

This is the first time the scientists and the community held joint sessions in the global village. We welcomed the faith-based community as partners. And, it is not the first time, but it was wonderful to see such vibrant representation from and focus on key affected populations. These collaborations are vital to ending AIDS.

Now, let's talk money: this is the first time the finances seem achievable— we call this the global investment framework. If we have an investment surge now, the cost will go down in 10 years. This is the first time the International AIDS Conference has held a session on leadership from rising economies. Countries like Brazil, India, China, and South Africa are taking increasing leadership roles not only in their own country but in the global response. This is real evidence of shared responsibility, and the right step forward.

This is the first meeting we have talked about a cure for HIV, and we have seen renewed enthusiasm for a vaccine. But ending AIDS starts today with children -- this is the first time we all agree that ending mother to child transmission is within our reach globally – it is not single dose nevirapine. We know the best plan is called B+, and it should be called A+, because it keeps the mother and the child healthy.

In the face of all of this optimism, I am humbled by the job ahead of us, but this meeting has inspired me to return to my program, my city and my global community to write the next sentence, the next page in the story to end AIDS.

And speaking about individuals who have already written many of the pages in the story of AIDS, it is my pleasure to introduce the next speaker, United States House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. Hailing from my home city of San Francisco, California, she has been an outspoken leader in the AIDS movement from her first day in office and 25 years since. In 2008, under President Bush's leadership, Leader Pelosi led the House of Representatives in boosting our global AIDS initiatives by passing the bipartisan PEPFAR reauthorization that authorized \$48 billion for HIV, TB and malaria. These initiatives have saved the lives of millions and provided support to some of the most vulnerable men, women, and children around the world. A warm welcome to Leader Pelosi.