

26 November 2002

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Jan Kavan,  
President of the 57th Session of the General Assembly,  
on World AIDS Day**

Madam Deputy Secretary General  
Excellencies, Distinguished Participants  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour to welcome you all to this Town Hall Meeting, to observe the World Aids Day, with the recognition to the theme of " Live and let live, Stigma and Discrimination."

The deep personal commitment of the Secretary General, and the United Nations General Assembly in engaging the world leaders and society at the Special Session on HIV/AIDS last year, has focused the World's attention to HIV/AIDS and generated a global resolve to effectively fight this epidemic. Many countries that were previously in denial that this epidemic existed in their territories, have now openly acknowledged the problem and are joining the world community to arrest its spread.

There are over 42 mil