

Closing Session

Patricia Perez, chair of the International Steering Committee of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDs. [Applause]

PATRICIA PEREZ: [Speaking in a foreign language]

FEMALE SPEAKER 2: Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to thank the presence of everyone here. I know that these past few days have been complex and difficult. And from the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS would like to share some reflections, make some comments.

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This conference has highlighted advances in connection with microbicides and the relevance of treatment as prevention. Likewise, it has diagnosed failures that were already identified in previous conferences. Throughout this week in beautiful Vienna, the lack of resources allocated to the AIDS sector has been evidenced.

The global crisis has increasingly reduced the budgets for health. On this same stage during the opening session, we heard the voices of social leaders demanding urgent responses to fund this sector. So, where can we find money to stop the epidemic? From ICW, we want to share ideas.

Let's look for money to stop the epidemic among the resources that nations allocate to buying weapons. [Applause] For instance, \$60 billion will be wasted, wrongly spent, in armaments in Latin America by the end of the year according to what Óscar Arias, former president of Costa Rica, told us when we asked him to join our global campaign, More Peace Less AIDS.

If governments did not mobilize their troops for war training, they would save about 1.4 percent of their budgets. These are two of the many examples that we can provide if we want to broaden our outlook and contribute to a more efficient global social response. This is what our global campaign More Peace Less AIDS aims at.

But what do we mean when we refer to peace in the AIDS sector? We need peace in our homes to prevent domestic

violence. We need peace in our communities to prevent stigmatization and discrimination in our neighborhoods.

We need peace in the world to prevent occupying armies from raping our women, girls and teenagers as it has happened in Asia and Africa. [Applause] Therefore, we believe that the more peace there is, the greater the opportunity, the more effective it would be to stop AIDS.

Finally, besides thanking the IAS for its effort and for more populations to be present, we encourage everyone to join us and for the next conference we hope that we are able to improve alternatives for the participation of sexual diverse populations, better alternatives for women with disabilities for migrating women, indigenous women, drug users, sexual workers, women in prison [Applause] and to add the participation of girls, teenagers and young women living with HIV so that they can accompany us with ICW global [inaudible] nothing for us without us. Thank you. [Applause]