

**STATEMENT BY
HIS EXECELENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
KOBY A. KOOMSON
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I want to thank Ex-Im Bank for stepping up at this crucial time and recognizing the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. As a result of the recent conference in Durban, the whole world has been exposed to the devastation that this health crisis is causing on the continent.

The solutions to this problem are yet unknown, but we have to continue to work together to find creative answers. I appreciate Ex-Im Bank's effort to do its part by providing financing for HIV/AIDS-related goods and services.

Obviously the other crucial part of this effort is the cost of these pharmaceuticals. While we commend the companies in joining Ex-Im Bank in this noble beginning to make their products more affordable, an initiative which has never been available to sub-Saharan Africa before, it is my hope that the companies represented here will look at ways to make these products even more affordable to the people of Africa, as well as to partner with Africa in providing comprehensive programs aimed at total patient care and educational programs to help prevent the spread of this disease.

As a member to the sub-Saharan Africa Advisory Committee, I know how much work went into putting this program together. I look forward to assisting Ex-Im Bank as this program moves forward.