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DRAFT DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT ON HIV/AIDS

We, Heads of State and Government and Representatives of States and Governments of the peoples of the world, assembled at the United Nations, from 25 to 27 June 2001, for the 26th special session of the General Assembly:

Mindful that the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, through its devastating scale and impact, constitutes one of the most formidable human security challenges, which undermines social and economic development throughout the world and affects all levels of society – national, community, family and individual;

Recalling our previous commitments on HIV/AIDS made through:

- **The United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000;**
- **The Political Declaration and Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development of 30 June 2000;**
- **The Political Declaration and Further Action and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 9 June 2000;**
- **Key Actions for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development of 2 July 1999;**
- (Various regional conferences)

Recognising that Africa is the worst affected region and that the dramatic situation on the continent needs an appropriate and urgent response;

Recognising also that countries in other regions are seriously affected and that the potential exists for a rapid expansion of the epidemic throughout the world;

Recognising that the epidemic affects all people, rich and poor, without distinction of age or gender, but that women, children and young adults are the most affected;

Noting with grave concern that poverty and conflicts exacerbate the spread of the epidemic and need to be addressed;

Noting further that stigma, silence, discrimination and denial increase the impact of the epidemic on communities and nations and must also be addressed;

Noting with concern that obstacles of all kinds – cultural, legal, economic, social, political and financial - are hampering awareness, education, prevention and care and support efforts;

Acknowledging that prevention of HIV infection must be the mainstay of the international and national community's response to the epidemic; that care and support for those infected and

affected by HIV/AIDS are inseparable elements of an effective response and must be integrated in a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic;

Noting the importance of strengthening the basic national social infrastructures that are required for the effective delivery of prevention and care services;

Recognising that effective prevention and care strategies will require increased availability of and access to international public goods including vaccines, condoms, microbicides and drugs;

Welcoming the progress made in some countries to contain the epidemic, particularly through effective use of available resources, effective prevention strategies and adoption of a rights-based approach and recognizing the importance of sharing and building on our collective and diverse experiences, including through south-south cooperation;

Recognising the fundamental importance of strengthening national capacities to address HIV/AIDS and that this will require increased human, financial and technical resources;

Affirming that strong partnerships involving Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, the business sector, community and faith-based organizations are important;

Acknowledging the particular role and contribution of civil society actors in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

Acknowledging the Global HIV/AIDS Strategy endorsed by Governments, the UN System and non-governmental organizations as a framework for the harmonization of HIV/AIDS strategies at global, national and community levels;

Solemnly declare our commitment to address the HIV/AIDS crisis by taking action as follows:

LEADERSHIP

Strong leadership at all levels of society and the creation of new forces of solidarity and advocacy are essential for an effective response to the epidemic

Leadership by Governments needs to be complemented by leadership by civil society and the private sector

At the national level

By 2003, ensure the development and implementation of multisectoral, national strategies and financing plans for combating HIV/AIDS that: address the epidemic in forthright terms by promoting and confronting stigma and denial; involve partnerships with civil society and the full participation of people living with HIV/AIDS; are resourced to the extent possible from national budgets; take full account of human rights and the integration of a gender perspective; and address risk, vulnerability, prevention, care and reduction of the impact of the epidemic;

At the regional level

Encourage regional organizations and partners to take a greater interest in the crisis, intensify regional cooperation, and develop regional strategies and responses in support of expanded country level efforts;

At the global level

Support greater action and coordination in the United Nations system, including full implementation of the United Nations System Strategic Plan 2001- 2005;

Foster stronger collaboration between the private and public sectors and by 2002, establish mechanisms that involve the private sector and new civil society partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

PREVENTION

Prevention must be the mainstay of our response

By 2003, identify time-bound national targets to achieve the internationally agreed global prevention goals on HIV/AIDS, including specific targets for those groups most vulnerable to HIV infection, such as young people, women and girls, men who have sex with men, sex workers, injecting drug users, refugees, internally displaced persons and people separated from their families due to work or conflict – and intensify efforts to achieve these targets, minimising the circumstances which disadvantage these groups with respect to HIV/AIDS and protecting those at greatest risk; and challenge gender stereotypes and attitudes, as well as gender inequalities in relation to HIV/AIDS, encouraging the active involvement of men and boys;

By 2004, ensure that a wide range of prevention interventions is available in all countries including: information, education and communication, in languages most understood by communities, aimed at reducing risk-taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour; provision of essential commodities including male and female condoms; expanded access to voluntary counseling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmitted infections;

By 2006, reduce by 20 per cent the number of children born HIV positive by providing access for HIV-infected women to effective treatment to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and, by 2011, reduce the number of these children by 50 per cent;

CARE AND SUPPORT

Care and support are inseparable elements of an effective response

By 2003, ensure that comprehensive care strategies are developed to strengthen health care systems; provide access to affordable medicines and drugs for those who need them; support individuals, households and communities affected by HIV/AIDS; and address factors affecting the provision of essential drugs, including technical and system capacity, prices, international trade rules and intellectual property rights;

By 2003, ensure that national strategies are developed in close collaboration with the international community and the private sector to increase substantially the availability of essential medicines for HIV, including antiretroviral therapy for people with symptomatic HIV infection;

HIV/AIDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Respect for human rights reduces vulnerability to HIV/AIDS

By 2003, complete policy reviews of existing non-discrimination legislation and protective laws in order to adopt new or strengthen existing legislation to ensure equal rights in education, employment and services for people living with HIV/AIDS;

By 2004, ensure that national legislative infrastructure is in place to promote, protect and respect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS to information, quality care, confidentiality and privacy;

By 2004, develop and implement national strategies that assist women to exercise control over, and make their own decisions relating to their sexuality in order to protect themselves from HIV infection;

By 2005, develop and begin to implement national strategies to promote women's full enjoyment of all human rights through the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse and rape, battering, and trafficking in women and girls;

REDUCING VULNERABILITY

The vulnerable must be given priority

By 2003, have in place in all countries programmes that identify and address those factors that make individuals or groups particularly vulnerable to HIV infection, including poverty, migration, social exclusion, discrimination, lack of information, skills and/or commodities for self-protection. These programmes

should address the gender dimension of the epidemic, specify the actions that will be taken to address vulnerability and set targets for their achievement;

By 2004, act to reduce the vulnerability of young people by promoting adolescents' access to primary and secondary education, information and services, and involve them in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes;

CHILDREN ORPHANED BY HIV/AIDS

Children orphaned by HIV/AIDS need special assistance

By 2004, have drawn up and initiated implementation of national strategies to ensure that orphans and children in families affected by HIV/AIDS have access to social services, particularly education and health services, on an equal basis with other children;

ALLEVIATING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

To address HIV/AIDS is to invest in productivity and economic growth

By 2003, review the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on all productive and service sectors, and develop strategies to address the impact at the individual, family, community and national levels;

By 2004, develop a legal and policy framework that protects the rights and dignity of working persons infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, in consultation with the representatives of employers, workers and governments;

By 2005, strengthen the response to HIV/AIDS in the world of work by ensuring that in all countries workplace prevention and care programmes are implemented in productive and service sectors;

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

With no cure for HIV/AIDS yet found, further research and development is crucial

Support and encourage increased investment in HIV/AIDS (including in social and behavioral research and in traditional medicine) and in the development of new preventive and therapeutic approaches and technologies, including in particular HIV/AIDS vaccines and microbicides;

HIV/AIDS IN CONFLICT AFFECTED REGIONS

Humanitarian crises are fertile ground for the spread of HIV/AIDS

By 2003, implement measures that incorporate HIV/AIDS prevention, care and awareness interventions in humanitarian assistance programmes to ensure that populations affected by conflict: refugees, internally displaced persons, and in particular, women and children are protected from HIV infection;

By 2003, have in place well-defined and applicable strategies to address the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS amongst national uniformed services in the most affected countries and use the uniformed services as a force for prevention and awareness;

RESOURCES

The HIV/AIDS challenge cannot be met without new and additional resources

Increase annual spending on HIV/AIDS activities to reach an overall target of USD 10 billion per annum by 2010;

Increase national budgetary allocations for HIV/AIDS programmes and ensure that adequate allocations are made by all relevant ministries;

Increase the level of official development assistance to help countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development and thereby strengthen their capacity to combat HIV/AIDS;

Integrate HIV/AIDS concerns in all development assistance programmes and poverty reduction strategies, and encourage more efficient and effective use of all resources allocated;

Accelerate debt relief and direct the additional freed resources to national HIV/AIDS programmes;

Establish a “Global AIDS Fund” to finance an urgent and expanded response to the epidemic and task the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to provide a plan for the management and governance of the fund;

Mobilize contributions to the Fund from public and private sources with a special appeal to foundations, the business community, the private sector and wealthy individuals;

Provide UNAIDS with the resources needed to support the implementation of the measures and initiatives in this Declaration;

FOLLOW UP

Maintaining momentum and monitoring progress are essential

At the national level

By conducting annual reviews on progress achieved in realizing these commitments and ensuring wide dissemination of the results of these reviews;

At the regional level

By including HIV/AIDS on the agenda of regional meetings at the ministerial and Head of State/Government level;

By tasking UNAIDS to facilitate annual reviews of progress in implementing regional strategies, and publicising results in addressing regional priorities;

At the global level

By encouraging and supporting initiatives to convene conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses to follow up issues raised in this Declaration;

By devoting one full day of the annual General Assembly Session to review and debate a report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in this Declaration;

By including HIV/AIDS as one of the areas of focus of the Global Compact;

By ensuring that HIV/AIDS issues are included on the agenda of all appropriate United Nations conferences and meetings;

We recognize and express our appreciation to those who have led the effort to raise awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to deal with its complex challenges;

We look forward to strong leadership of Governments, the United Nations and the entire multilateral system, civil society and the private sector;

And finally, we call on all countries to take the necessary steps to implement this Declaration, in strengthened partnership and cooperation with them, with other multilateral and bilateral partners and with civil society.