



**XV International AIDS Conference**  
**National AIDS Control Programme Managers**  
**Leadership Statement**  
*13 July 2004*

We, the undersigned national AIDS control programme managers, having together reviewed and compared the national responses in our respective countries;

Acknowledging that many countries are facing difficulties to implement an effective AIDS response due to economic and social inequalities, fragile health service structures, insufficient financial resources and limited human capacity;

Expressing the deep concern that increasing deaths from AIDS, increasing number of infections, feminization of the epidemic, lack of political commitment by the leaders in many countries;

Welcoming the articulation of the “Three Ones” principles (One Framework, One authority and One monitoring and evaluation system) recently agreed by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, donor and developing countries;

Wish to underscore five areas of action for ourselves and our partners in order that we can collectively and successfully confront the AIDS epidemic:

**I. Mobilize expanding political and social leadership in the fight against AIDS**

Highlighting that the AIDS epidemic is a major constraint to global development, and acknowledging that we share considerable responsibility to ensure that our countries are fully prepared to contain it, we:

1. Pledge to manage nationally owned, multisectoral, inclusive, gender-balanced and evidence-based AIDS responses that adhere to nationally determined priorities;
2. Call on heads of state and other government figures of all countries including ministers, members of parliament, first ladies and heads of district to ensure their countries meet the targets set by the United Nations Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and to develop regional mechanisms that address regional AIDS issues;
3. Call on the leaders of civil society, the private sector, religious groups and youth organizations, as well as public figures and celebrities, to mobilize their networks and supporters to contribute to the nationally defined priorities in the fight against AIDS, support the distribution of affordable medicines, and ensure workplace programmes; and

4. Pledge to increase our own advocacy efforts to ensure that stated policy is endorsed by the highest authorities, legally recognized, financed, enacted and reported publicly.

## **II. Develop, implement and enforce effective government policies**

Recognizing that an effective response requires a multisectoral and inclusive approach based on priorities, and encouraged by the establishment of effective policies in many countries, we:

1. Request all partners to act in conformity with the “3 Ones” principles, in particular by aligning activities with those priorities established by national AIDS authorities and agreeing to coordinate their activities to avoid overlap, duplication and inefficiency;
2. Pledge to promote the inclusion within national AIDS coordinating bodies of all major development sectors of government, and the development of sectoral plans;
3. Pledge to promote the development and maintenance of national partnership forums that provide all major stakeholders, including people living with HIV, a role in the prioritizing, planning, implementing and monitoring the national AIDS response;
4. Call on members of parliament and other legislative figures to ensure the passage and adherence of laws that protect the human rights of people infected and affected by HIV, promote a multisectoral response, and ensure adequate funding for AIDS.

## **III. Scale-up coverage of HIV prevention, treatment, care and impact alleviation programmes**

Recognizing the successes achieved by national AIDS programmes in an increasing number of countries, expressing our commitment to replicating those successes in all of our countries, and noting the need to ensure radically increased coverage of prevention and treatment services, we:

1. Underscore the necessity of having functional public health systems, including adequate staff supported with good procurement systems and affordable drugs and consumables, and requested partners to assist with the strengthening of those systems in order to achieve the 3 by 5 target;
2. Recognize the continuing need for targeted, culturally and socially friendly prevention programmes, undertaken simultaneously to bringing treatment programmes to scale in order to increase national coverage of prevention and treatment.
3. Recognize the linkages between prevention and treatment, notably that improved prevention reduces the need for treatment, and that scaled-up treatment activities can help break the silence surrounding AIDS;
4. Urge all partners – national and international – to take measures, including national production and importation of generic drugs, benefiting from the flexibilities in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and other

agreements, in order to expand access to affordable HIV medicines, which will be necessary if large-scale treatment is to become a reality.

#### **IV. Increase financial and human resources available for essential HIV/AIDS programmes**

Recognizing the key role that both financial and human resources play in national responses to the AIDS epidemic, applauding the increase in international resources now available to assist countries with those responses, and acknowledging the necessity of mobilizing domestic resources to form the sustainable core of the response, we:

1. Pledge to advocate for simplified government procedures to manage funds at central and district levels, with transparent decision-making and disbursement mechanisms;
2. Underscore the additional management burden which different donor systems may impose on countries receiving assistance from multiple partners, and request such donors to harmonize their systems and to apply the “Three Ones” principles;
3. Pledge to continue to advocate for the allocation of an increasing percentage of national resources to fight AIDS, including the mobilization of financial resources within different ministries and from non-governmental sources, to ensure the sustainability of the national AIDS response and demonstrate national political commitment; and
5. Call on the leaders of international community, multilateral and bilateral partners as well as the business sector to increase their contribution to international AIDS funds and mainstream HIV/AIDS in their cooperation programmes.

#### **V. Enhance the accountability of leaders and programmes in mounting an effective response**

Acknowledging the increased resources available, the increased political commitment, and the availability of success models, and therefore concluding that efforts now must focus on programme implementation and the holding of leaders to account to deliver, we:

1. Underline that accountability rests with leaders at all levels of society, from the highest political levels to district and community and traditional leaders, religious and civic leaders, business and union leaders, and pledge to establish mechanisms for increased accountability including monitoring and evaluation system, review of national response, efficient reporting system;
2. Highlight the critical role of civil society in ensuring accountability of programmes and resources, in particular the role of individuals and organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS, through the articulation of the needs of communities, the implementation of programmes in their communities, and the mobilization of public opinion;
3. Request political and financial support to empower national multisectoral AIDS authorities to facilitate policy making, monitor public and private activities, promote transparency, seek and disseminate Best Practices, advocate for and monitor action of government ministries beyond health, and negotiate for additional resources to support the AIDS response; and

4. Pledge to clarify the role of different institutions involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS in order to ensure the sustainability, foster coordination and implementation and avoid conflict.

#### **VI. Global NACP Managers Platform: a pledge of mutual assistance**

1. Pledge to form an informal network, globally and regionally, to be available to the call for assistance from and to another, and to join forces and advocate for policies in our collective interest.
2. Request that our partners hold us to account to make progress against our pledges and hold one another to account in those areas where we have requested assistance.
3. Agree to reconvene this Forum in two years time at the next international AIDS conference.