

DECLARATION**ACCELERATING COUNTRY AND REGIONAL ACTION
ON HIV/AIDS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA****UN REGIONAL DIRECTORS' MEETING****Wednesday, 9 July 2003****Maputo, Mozambique**

We, the UNAIDS Executive Director, Regional Directors, Heads of Delegations of the UN agencies, meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, on 9 July 2003, are greatly concerned by the combined devastation caused by the continuing HIV/AIDS epidemic and the food crisis in Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa.

- We commit ourselves to a major intensification of UN support for national HIV/AIDS responses in the region, as well as firmly and explicitly centering HIV/AIDS within the humanitarian and development work of the UN system in Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa.
- We commit ourselves to ensuring the UN system role is strategic, that it directly responds to the national priorities in countries, and that it addresses the capacity constraints critical to their successful implementation. In particular, we commit to developing country-level, joint UN Implementation Support Plans to support national efforts, and we commit to providing annual reports by UN Theme Groups on achievements against these plans.
- We commit ourselves to working with governments and regional bodies, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa (CHGA), and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), to develop more effective short-, medium- and long-term strategies to respond to the HIV/AIDS crisis and to support the findings of the High-Level Committee on Programme (HLCP) on the nexus of HIV/AIDS, Governance, and Food Security.
- In this respect, we commit ourselves to reinforcing the UN System and to investing the necessary financial and human resources to strengthen our overall capacity to confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region.

We agree to the following key deliverables to intensified and unified UN action:

We commit ourselves to defining a limited number of objectives and measurable "UN system deliverables" needed to focus leadership attention and support, to catalyse further action, and to respond to partner expectations and demands of the UN system as a whole in each country in the region.

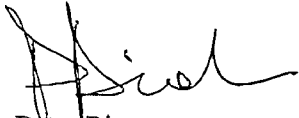
We commit ourselves to improving the monitoring and evaluation of UN country-level performance, including the development of an accountability mechanism for UN Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS.

We propose the following actions for achievement by the UN system (in collaboration with governments and partners) in Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa region by the end of 2004:


- We commit to support **country-led, broad-based participatory review of National Strategic Plans** in order to assist governments in identifying and addressing implementation obstacles, capacity strengthening requirements and resource availability and mobilization needs to address short-term and long-term development and humanitarian challenges.
- We commit to **developing Joint UN Implementation Support Plans** to assist national efforts through joint UN programming, pooling UN technical and financial resources, and using Common Country Assessments (CCAs), the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other development instruments, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).
- We commit to assist the development of **national systems for monitoring the epidemic and tracking resource flow and utilization** to fully leverage and operationalise larger funding commitments from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the World Bank's Multi-country AIDS Program (MAP), and others, as well as **evaluating the impact of programmes**.
- We commit to assist the development of **national HIV/AIDS partnership fora** to ensure broad-based participation of public and private actors and effective coordination of the response.
- We commit to assist UN Country Teams in developing **informed advocacy plans** to utilize strategic information for ongoing advocacy on key national issues surrounding HIV/AIDS (such as access to treatment, women's issues, HIV prevention centering on young people, and orphans and vulnerable children issues).
- We commit to assisting the establishment of **integrated "safety net" programmes**—as highlighted in the UN Special Envoy for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa's Next Steps paper—to ensure sustainable provision of humanitarian assistance to highly vulnerable groups, households, and communities with continuing needs.
- We commit to the full implementation of **UN HIV/AIDS workplace programmes**, meeting the International Labour Office (ILO) minimum standards described in its *ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work*.

Support and Oversight Mechanism

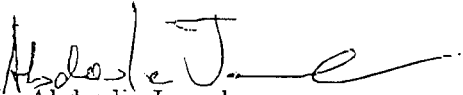
- We agree to ensure that oversight and support mechanisms, and management systems are put in place to achieve the key deliverables.
- We commit ourselves as **The Regional Directors' Group on HIV/AIDS in Africa** as the oversight body, with the authority already vested in us as UN Regional Directors to holding at least annual meetings to review progress toward meeting key deliverables, identifying the gaps and opportunities in implementation, and to refine or adjust guidance as needed.
- We agree to the decision by the UNAIDS Secretariat to jointly locate its UNAIDS Inter-Country Team in Eastern and Southern Africa with the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination and Support Office (RIACSO) in Johannesburg, and to work as an inter-agency resource on HIV/AIDS in the region.



Dr. Peter Piot
UNAIDS Executive Director



Dr. Ebrahima Samba
WHO-AFRO Regional Director



Mr. Abdoulie Janneh
UNDP Regional Director for Africa.



Ms. Fama Hane-Ba
UNFPA Director for Africa Division



Ms. Regina Amadi-Njoku
ILO Regional Director for Africa

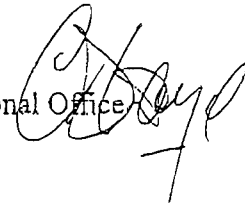
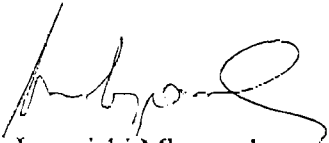


Mr. Ayalew Abai
UNICEF Acting Regional Director
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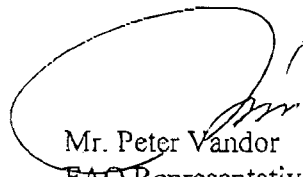


Mr. Mike Sackett
WFP Regional Director and
Regional Coordinator for the Special Envoy

Mr. Chris Kaye
Head, OCHA Regional Office
for Southern Africa

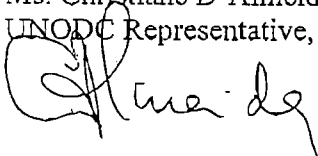



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Mr. Peter Vandor
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