



ENGAGING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Statement of Partnership and Commitment

Against the background of the global emergency of the HIV/AIDS epidemic with 40 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS, we express profound concern of the impact of the epidemic may have on young men and women in the uniformed services.

In respect of the concern of the **Security Council** regarding the impact of HIV/AIDS on international peacekeeping stated in **Resolution 1308** and we recall and reaffirm our previous commitments made on HIV/AIDS made through the **Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS** agreed by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS on 25-27 June 2001;

We recognize the need to strengthen leadership for an effective response to HIV/AIDS at country level, and recognize that working with uniformed services will contribute greatly to moving ahead the national response to HIV/AIDS;

We agree that we must act collectively to tackle HIV/AIDS among the uniformed services through a deepening of coordination, cooperation and partnership;

We confirm that the respect, protection and promotion of human rights is fundamental to preventing transmission of HIV, reducing vulnerability to infection and dealing with the impact of HIV/AIDS on the uniformed services;

We emphasize that while young people within the uniformed services are vulnerable, they themselves are key actors and agents of change in the fight against HIV/AIDS and are a major resource for the response at national and regional levels, as a valuable resource as agents of change among their peer group;

In signing this Declaration of Partnership, UNAIDS and the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Public Health from Thailand agree to work together towards achieving the following goals to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS among our young men and women in the uniformed services and establish HIV free new generation;

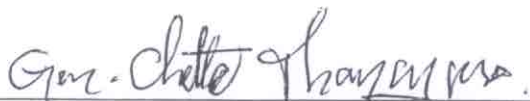
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1. Ensure that prevention of HIV infection is the mainstay of our response to the epidemic, through mainstreaming HIV/AIDS prevention education in the curricula of institutions which train uniformed services;
2. Strong and accountable leadership at the level of our Heads of Government to protect our people in the uniformed services from this threat to their future, and tackle stigma and ensure access to services for all those in need;
3. Ensure sustainability of our response through strengthened coordination, cooperation and partnership, in order to scale up local capacity to fight the epidemic in within the uniformed services;
4. Build health system capacity to provide effective care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS within the uniformed services and thereby ensuring that new and additional resources to fight the disease have maximum impact;
5. Promote multi-sectoral cooperation in which uniformed services sector plays a leading role both in prevention and care as well as supports.

We commit ourselves to closely monitor and support the activities outlined in the attached project document, which represents a step forward in achieving the goals outlined above.

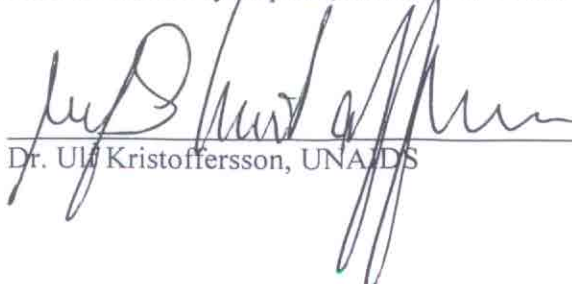
Date: 12 July 2004



Gen. Chetta Thanajaro, Minister of Defense



(for) Mrs. Sudarat Keyuraphan, Minister of Public Health



Dr. Ulf Kristoffersson, UNAIDS