

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

Declaration of Partnership

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 at the impact that 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, 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 strengthening 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 well as among their peer group;

In signing this Declaration of Partnership, UNAIDS and the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, 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;

Contd...2/-

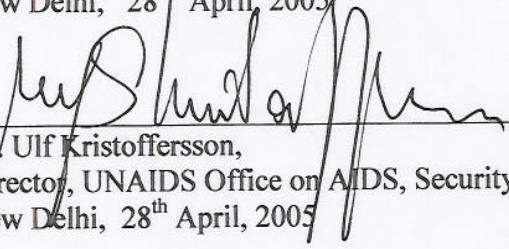
**ENGAGING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS**

Declaration of Partnership

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. Support strong and accountable leadership to protect people in the uniformed services from this threat to their future, and tackle stigma and ensure access to health 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 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;



Shri Ranjan Chatterjee
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
New Delhi, 28th April, 2005



Dr. Ulf Kristoffersson,
Director, UNAIDS Office on AIDS, Security and Humanitarian Response
New Delhi, 28th April, 2005

In the presence of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Defence Minister, Ministry of Defence,
Government of India.

New Delhi, 28th April, 2005