



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

### Joint AIDS delegation urges Indonesia to accelerate action on AIDS

1 December 2005, Jakarta - Representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the UK Department for International Development (DfID), the Australian Government development department (AusAID) and the World Bank met with HE Yusuf Kalla, the Vice President of Indonesia today to discuss the current AIDS in Indonesia. The meeting took place ahead of World AIDS day commemoration event at the Vice President's Palace in Jakarta.

The joint AIDS delegation commended the Vice President for his strong leadership in the national AIDS response and noted progresses in several areas including increase in resources available for AIDS and improved access to HIV treatment for an estimated 4,000 people living with HIV up from 600 people in 2003.

However, the joint delegation urged that more needs to be done in Indonesia. The delegation underlined the urgent need to accelerate the comprehensive AIDS response in priority areas in the country to ensure that high risk population have access to both prevention and care programmes.

#### About the Joint AIDS Mission to Indonesia

Responding to the increased commitment from donors to support a coordinated, national response to AIDS in Indonesia, UNAIDS Executive Director is returning to the archipelago in a joint AIDS mission with Suma Chakrabarti, the Permanent Secretary of DfID (UK), Bruce Davis, the Director General of AusAID, and Andrew Steer, Country Director, the World Bank.

The purpose of the joint mission to Indonesia is to discuss the current AIDS situation with the government of Indonesia and to develop a collective understanding about the challenges of coordination and harmonization of programmes as well as practical implementation issues impending nation-wide scale-up of HIV prevention and care programmes.

The Australian government through AusAID has been providing support to the Indonesian national AIDS response since 1995. Since 1995 Australia has committed a total of AUD 61 million to support Indonesia's response to AIDS that includes AUD \$27 million through the HIV/AIDS and STD Prevention and Care Project (1995-2002). This support is being continued with the AUD \$34 million Indonesia HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Program (IHPCP) (2002-07). Early in 2005, the UK Government through the Department for International Development (DfID) pledged a total of £25 million to the Indonesian Partnership Fund for AIDS.

#### World AIDS Day in Indonesia

The Vice President of Indonesia, HE Yusuf Kalla hosted an official World AIDS Day ceremony today at the Vice President's Palace and invited heads of 100 HIV/AIDS priority districts in Indonesia. In his official speech he urged the district heads to scale-up the AIDS response in these areas.

The Indonesian National AIDS Commission identifies there are at least 100 municipalities/regencies across 21 provinces in Indonesia that urgently need an accelerated comprehensive AIDS response.

Prior to the ceremony, Vice President HE Yusuf Kalla met privately with Dr Peter Piot, UNAIDS Executive Director, Suma Chakrabarti, Permanent Secretary to DfID and Bruce Davies, General Director of AusAID, who came together to Indonesia in an official joint AIDS mission. At the end of the private meeting, the Vice President and the joint AIDS delegations also met with 10 representatives of people living with HIV.

“Leadership & HIV/AIDS Response” is the theme of the national AIDS campaign in Indonesia. It is derived from the theme of global World AIDS Campaign 2005: “Keep the Promise”, a theme that has been chosen to ensure that governments and policymakers around the world meet the targets they have agreed to in the fight against HIV and AIDS in UNGASS declaration of Commitments in 2001. The government of Indonesia believes that increasing leadership on AIDS is the most important target that the government of Indonesia must ensure in order to respond effectively to the AIDS epidemic in Indonesia.

In addition to the Vice President HE Yusuf Kalla, five cabinet Ministers attended the World AIDS Day event at the Vice President Palace - the Coordinating Minister for People’s Welfare as the Chair of the National AIDS Commission, the Minister of Home Affairs as the chair of the national AIDS campaign 2005 in Indonesia and Minister of Health.

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**World AIDS Day** is commemorated around the world on 1 December. This year’s theme is “Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise”. For more information, visit [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org).