

AIDS Champions' Statement
26 August 2011, Busan, Republic of Korea

The AIDS Champions from Asia and the Pacific region, having met during the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in Busan, Republic of Korea on 26 August 2011 and in our ardent commitment to address the ongoing challenges posed by HIV and AIDS in Asia and the Pacific:

- Welcome the June 2011 UN *Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying our Efforts to Eliminate HIV/AIDS*;
- Welcome the notable actions and responses already undertaken by countries in Asia and the Pacific, including the Republic of Korea, to effectively implement strategies to face the daunting challenges presented by HIV epidemic in the region;
- Commend the valuable contribution made to date by people engaged in a range of sectors including governments, private sector and civil society, who have lead to substantial progress in responding to HIV and AIDS in Asia and the Pacific region;
- Note the importance of young and emerging leaders and their critical role and significant contribution in containing the epidemic;
- Recognise that current approaches to certain aspects of HIV prevention and control, when fully implemented in an integrated manner, have proven to be highly effective. They have had impact on the epidemic and have contributed positively to ongoing efforts toward achievement of Millennium Development Goal 6 and other health-related MDGs;
- Recognise also the importance of continuing efforts to innovate in order to strengthen and diversify methods of outreach and effectiveness of the response, with particular attention to prevention, in order to halt and reverse the epidemic;
- Recognise that increased global and national investments in prevention, care, support and treatment related to HIV and AIDS have yielded meaningful results leading to reductions in new infections as well as increased access to Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) resulting in declines in AIDS-related mortality;
- Acknowledge the pace of prevention and treatment programmes can be accelerated and maintained only with sufficient investment of financial and technical resources from both national and international sources;
- Uphold the rights and advance the principles of non-discrimination towards key affected populations, including sex workers, people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, high risk men and transgender people as well as other vulnerable populations who are increasingly being affected in our region and acknowledge that access to comprehensive services remains low mainly due to deep rooted stigma and discrimination of these populations stemming from criminalisation of their behaviours in the national laws of many of the countries in this region;
- Acknowledge that civil society movements across Asia and the Pacific need technical assistance, support and coordination in order to maximise their impact. We encourage more South-to-South collaboration to ensure greater sharing of knowledge and best practice between nations- including exchanges between civil society groups in developed and less developed countries- to promote a vibrant and effective community-led response;
- Firmly encourage governments and civil society sectors to fight against gender based violence, especially against women and deprivation of their rights of inheritance and property, in order to empower them to take effective control over their lives and that of their children; and
- Uphold the firm view that women and children suffer most in situations of conflict and deserve special attention in the HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health context and appeal to governments to implement Security Council Resolution 1983 of 7 June 2011.

The AIDS Champions call on all States, donor organisations and partners to:

- Implement the June 2011 UN *Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying our Efforts to Eliminate HIV/AIDS*;
- Draw on existing experience to inform and advance the development of strategic and operational plans towards achieving and maintaining universal access and coverage for key affected populations and other vulnerable people as well as people living with HIV (PLHIV) with prevention and treatment services wherever they are;
- Create enabling policies and programmes with particular attention to the challenge of achieving more equitable access to information, services and supplies for those who are underserved;
- Recognise the dominant role of men in determining the direction of the epidemic and increase substantially outreach and effectiveness of work with boys and men, particularly the large mobile workforce across the region, both to reduce morbidity and mortality among the men as well as among their sex partners;
- Work together to fight violence against women and girls, to uphold their social and economic rights and to empower them to become equal partners in our united fight against the pandemic;
- Keep HIV high on the political agenda, to advocate strongly for consistent protection of the rights of people living with HIV and those vulnerable to infection through the repeal of outdated laws and policies and adoption and implementation of non-discriminatory policies, laws and regulations;
- Increase exchange of information and experience in responding to HIV and AIDS, as well as collaborative efforts to find innovative solutions to persistent challenges;
- Work for steady increases in domestic funding and supplemented by adequate and predictable global funding so that the HIV control efforts can be sustained to achieve health related Millennium Development Goals by 2015
- Increase participation of community based organisations at policy making level of national and international bodies including the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) in order to effectively put the policy proposals into operations;
- Support the efforts to utilise the flexibilities outlined in the WTO TRIPs agreement to promote public health and access to affordable medicines for AIDS patients
- Prioritise sexual health education and access to services for young people especially those who are most at risk, lower the age of consent for access to services and promote their inclusion in policy and programme development and planning;
- Promote programmes which deal with the co-infection of HIV with TB and hepatitis C; and
- Appeal to governments to progressively mainstream HIV/AIDS programmes into sexual and reproductive health services by selective integration wherever applicable.