

## **A WORLD WITHOUT AIDS**

### **PARLIAMENTARIANS' COMMITMENT TOWARDS A WORLD WITHOUT AIDS**

May 11-12,2002

The HIV/AIDS epidemic constitutes a global health emergency of unprecedented magnitude that impacts economic and social development worldwide and in particular the developing world. To combat this global tragedy, a comprehensive strategy is needed to focus on issues including health care, prevention, support, and treatment, within a legal framework designed to protect human rights. With 15,000 new HIV infections daily, there is no time to delay.

We, the undersigned, pledge to provide leadership and take concrete action to address the complexities and challenges presented by the epidemic, building on the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS' and other international, regional, and national agreements.

We pledge to actively involve affected communities, including organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS in policy formulation and implementation.

We pledge to inform, educate, communicate and develop strategies, working closely with affected communities, to promote effective AIDS prevention initiatives.

We pledge to identify and begin to address those factors that make individuals particularly vulnerable to HIV infection, including underdevelopment, poverty, illiteracy, lack of empowerment of women, and all types of sexual exploitation.

We pledge to promote social acceptance and respect for the dignity and rights of all people affected by HIV/AIDS and to oppose all forms of stigma and discrimination.

We pledge to increase awareness and upgrade knowledge in societies inhibited by ignorance and deep seated cultural and social prejudices.

We pledge to make every effort to provide progressively and in a sustainable manner, the highest attainable standard of treatment and care to people living with HIV/AIDS.

We pledge to support research and development of AIDS vaccines and other prevention technologies, keeping in mind the pressing needs of the developing world.

We pledge to support the acceleration of scientific progress, adhering to the highest ethical standards in the research, development, delivery, and use of prevention technologies.

We pledge to work to build infrastructure and take other measures to ensure access to and effective use of affordable, life-saving AIDS treatment and future AIDS vaccines when they become available.

We pledge to create an enabling environment and build capacity among policymakers in our respective countries, and in particular, seek to strengthen legislation and regulatory systems and procedures.

We pledge, as members of a global community, to strive for equitable distribution of essential resources needed to control the AIDS epidemic and to enhance the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS.

We pledge to mobilize political commitment with peoples' representatives to propel a comprehensive response at notional, regional, and global levels.

We pledge to promote collaborative efforts among governments, peoples' representatives, private industry, international agencies and nongovernmental organizations to move forward the commitments made in this Declaration.

We pledge to put in place ongoing mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring, and review of the Delhi Declaration.

***(This Declaration was issued at the International Policymakers Conference on HIV/AIDS, May 2002 in New Delhi.)***