Moscow Declaration
on “Urgent Response to the HIV/AIDs epidemics in the Commonwealth of Independent States”

1. Representatives of Governments of Member States from the Commonwealth of Independent States met with the Heads of Agencies of the Cosponsoring Organizations of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in Moscow from 31 March to 1 April 2005, for the Ministerial Meeting “Urgent Response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemics in the Commonwealth of Independent States” and made the following declaration:


4. Greatly alarmed by the continuing escalation of the HIV and AIDS situation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, affecting the Commonwealth of Independent States, with an estimated 48 per cent increase from 2002 to 2004 resulting in 1.4 million people living with HIV and the numbers swiftly expanding;

5. Concerned about the high vulnerability of young people to HIV infection and the increasing HIV infection rates among young women;

6. Also concerned about the dramatic spread of blood-borne diseases, from HIV/AIDS to hepatitis C, among injecting drug users and prisoners;

7. Recognizing the need for our urgent action as well as for high-level political commitment, to thwart the imminent demographic, socio-economic and security threat of the emerging epidemics, and to make optimal use of the current opportunities to scale up country responses to HIV and AIDS;

8. Welcoming the statement of the International Narcotics Control Board in its 2003 report that “. . . governments need to adopt measures that may decrease the sharing of needles among injecting drug users in order to limit the spread of HIV/AIDS. At the same time . . . prophylactic measures should not promote and/or facilitate drug abuse.”

9. Noting the Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 46/2 of April 2003 calling upon “. . . all States to strengthen efforts to reduce the demand for illicit drugs, taking into account . . . the drug-related spread of HIV infection.”

10. Acknowledging opportunities for effective prevention of HIV through the integration of HIV/AIDS and reproductive health policies and programmes;

11. Recognizing the importance of strengthening programmes and partnerships to mobilize the required resources for prevention of HIV infection, and ensuring the provision of reproductive health commodities including male and female condoms as well as ensuring the availability of clean needles and syringes for injecting drug users;

12. We, Representatives of Governments from the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow, have agreed on the following actions to accelerate the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS:

13. By the end of 2005, we will take actions to strengthen national ownership and leadership of country responses to HIV/AIDs by promoting, adapting and applying the principles of
the “Three Ones” for concerted HIV/AIDS action at the country level, including one agreed HIV/AIDS action framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all participants; one national HIV/AIDS coordinating authority, including organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS, with a broad based multisectoral mandate; and one agreed country level monitoring and evaluation system as based on the international agreed indicators.

14. By the end of 2005, through a critical review of existing legislation, policies and programmes, we will intensify efforts to achieve all the targets of the Programme of Urgent Response of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and:

14.1. Ensure a maximum attainable scientifically-founded national standard of prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, including prevention and treatment of AIDS-related diseases and effective use of antiretroviral therapy and drug dependence treatment that enable drug users’ participation in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment schemes, with the target of achieving universal access to treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS and reduction of the rates of HIV/AIDS spread by the end of 2005.

14.2. Continue development of legislative bases for cooperation among ministries and departments, and governmental, public and private sectors, taking measures to ensure the full involvement of all parties concerned, especially the most vulnerable populations, including people living with HIV/AIDS, in the implementation of strategies to respond to the epidemics.

14.3. Provide evidence-based, effective, equitable and affordable, universal and non-discriminatory access to prevention and care services for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, by focusing on providing information to our populations, particularly to young people, in the area of developing the necessary skills to protect themselves from infection, promoting behaviours that reduce the risk of infection, providing the necessary tools and means to vulnerable populations to protect themselves in accordance with international conventions.

14.4. Facilitate the adoption of effective prevention practices.

14.5. Develop and adopt relevant legislation, regulations and financial frameworks ensuring multisectoral implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programmes among the most vulnerable populations, including: injecting drug users and their sexual partners, prisoners, sex workers and men who have sex with men; and migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees.

14.6. Introduce in all educational institutions differential curricula for developing among young people healthy lifestyles, and training them in methods of prevention against HIV infection and drug use.

14.7. Provide appropriate and necessary legislation ensuring non-discrimination of all people on the basis of real or perceived HIV/AIDS status including those affected by and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, to develop mechanisms for its implementation, to ensure its universal application and that the right to confidentiality is safeguarded.

14.8. Strengthen cooperation with the international organizations in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention and control in the CIS Member States, and

14.9 Cooperate with non-governmental and faith-based organizations in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention and control, including organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS.

15. By end of 2005, we will develop and start implementation of plans to scale up and build local capacity for implementation of large scale responses to HIV/AIDS through a critical assessment of the existing technical resources and capacities, intensification of cross-
border, sub-regional and regional technical collaboration and sharing of best practices, and supporting the establishment of structures, such as regional knowledge hubs and a technical resource facility, to ensure better access to technical resources.

16. By the end of 2005, Member States of the CIS will review the implementation of the Dublin Declaration on Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia and the implementation of the Programme of Urgent Response of Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the HIV/AIDS Epidemics adopted by the Heads of Governments on 30 May 2002 and will develop new proposals to the Programme of Urgent Response of Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the HIV/AIDS Epidemics for 2006-2010.

17. We call upon the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners to reinforce joint action at global, regional and local levels in support of country-led responses to HIV/AIDS in the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, through:

- Strengthened policy and legislative dialogue.
- Capacity building and technical assistance.
- Resource mobilization and partnership building.

18. We commit ourselves to review in early 2006 progress made in reaching these goals.

1 April 2005