

1999/36. Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1994/24 of 26 July 1994, 1995/2 of 3 July 1995, 1996/47 of 26 July 1996 and 1997/52 of 23 July 1997,

Noting with great concern the accelerating spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which has already infected millions of people worldwide, and the resulting increase in cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS),

Noting with great concern also that young people, especially adolescent girls, children and women are particularly vulnerable to the infection,

Recognizing that no country in the world has been spared by the AIDS epidemic, and that 90 per cent of the people living with HIV/AIDS live in the developing world, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, which has been very severely affected,

Mindful that the AIDS epidemic has become a development crisis in many countries, with devastating consequences for human, social and economic progress, which is already undermining the gains of many years of development efforts,

Recognizing that the needs in countries to address AIDS far outweigh both the human and the financial resources being made available and that high-level political commitment is critical to strengthen the response to the epidemic,

Recalling that a multisectoral approach is needed to reduce the transmission of HIV and to increase the quality and accessibility of treatment, care and support of people with HIV/AIDS,

Acknowledging in this regard that the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), co-sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank, has played a critical role in leading, strengthening and supporting an expanded multisectoral response to the epidemic and constitutes an important example of effective system-wide coordination in the context of the United Nations reform efforts,

Noting the end of the period of the first strategic plan, 1996–2000, and the development of a United Nations system strategic plan for HIV/AIDS for 2001–2005,

Recognizing the critical role of the United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS in enhancing the United Nations response to the epidemic at the field level,

Noting the increased commitment efforts of the Secretary-General to generate strengthened support to the joint United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS,

1. *Notes* the change in the name of the Programme from the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) to the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS), and welcomes the admission of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a co-sponsor of the Programme;

2. *Urges* Governments worldwide, with the assistance of the co-sponsoring organizations of the Programme, the Secretariat, other relevant United Nations programmes, funds and agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts in combating AIDS;

3. *Encourages* all countries and Governments, in particular those worst affected, to intensify their efforts to develop and implement multisectoral action aimed at reducing transmission and the vulnerability of individuals and communities, diminishing the stigma, denial and discrimination associated with AIDS, ensuring equitable access to care and mitigating the wider social impact of the epidemic;

4. *Recognizes* that such multisectoral action will require additional human and financial resources, and therefore urges Governments to foster strong national partnerships with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and people living with HIV/AIDS;

5. *Urges* multilateral and bilateral donors, the Programme and its co-sponsors and the wider United Nations system adequately to support and strengthen these national efforts, especially in the worst-affected countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa;

6. *Recognizes* that AIDS is a major obstacle to development which has already reversed many hard-won development gains, strongly endorses the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa, and urges Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the activities of the Programme and its co-sponsors aimed at achieving the goals and objectives of the Partnership;

7. *Reiterates* the importance of focusing AIDS-related activities on especially vulnerable people, and commends the efforts of the Programme and its co-sponsors and the larger United Nations community to address the special vulnerability of young people, especially adolescent girls, children and women;

8. *Urges* Governments, with the assistance of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and donors, to make efforts

towards ensuring access to HIV/AIDS information, education and services for all people, in particular males and females aged 15 to 24, and to ensure that by 2005 the prevalence of HIV in this particular age group is reduced globally;

9. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of coordination of activities, and therefore:

(a) Commends the Programme for the development of the unified budget and work plan, 2000–2001, distinguishing (i) activities to be implemented and funded jointly by two or more co-sponsors, (ii) activities to be funded by core budgets and implemented by the co-sponsoring organizations and (iii) coordination activities to be implemented by its secretariat;

(b) Urges the co-sponsors of the Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system to complete the development of their institutional strategies, as the tool to integrate AIDS-related activities into their operational activities for the implementation of the unified budget and work plan, 2000–2001, at the global, regional and country levels;

(c) Also urges the co-sponsors of the Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system to submit to their governing bodies their proposed contribution to the United Nations system strategic plan for HIV/AIDS for 2001–2005;

(d) Requests the United Nations programmes and funds, and invites the specialized agencies, to ensure that the United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS follow the principles under which administrative arrangements are provided within the United Nations resident coordinator system and the role of chairman rotates between co-sponsors, and complete as soon as possible their respective joint strategies at the country level, with the participation of the Government of the host country to respond effectively to its national strategies and priorities and to participate actively in their implementation;

10. *Welcomes* the recommendations on HIV/AIDS in the follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, and urges Governments and the United Nations system to enhance further their response in order to reach the goals articulated therein;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Programme, to set system-wide goals to mobilize further Member States and the international community in the fight against AIDS and in the mitigation of its effects;

12. *Urges* Governments, civil society and bilateral and multilateral donors to increase their funding efforts for AIDS-related activities in order to ensure a level of financial and other resources that is fully commensurate with the multisectoral challenges of the epidemic, and also to provide the required assistance for capacity-building;

13. *Requests* the Programme to transmit the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations and the Programme Coordinating Board to the Economic and Social Council and to the governing bodies of the co-sponsoring organizations;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Council at its substantive session of 2001 a comprehensive report prepared by the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS) in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, which should also include the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution in the response to the epidemic and its impact on reducing the transmission of HIV and increasing the quality and accessibility of treatment, care and support for people living with HIV or AIDS.

*44th plenary meeting
28 July 1999*