



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

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Permanent Secretary

of the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand

at the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS

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*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is time yet again for us, the nations of the world, to unite for universal access. For Thailand, this goal and principle is the foundation of our national HIV/AIDS response. We have struggled hard to reach this goal. Now we are committed to moving *beyond* it: to zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Since the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2006, Thailand has made substantial progress in the prevention of HIV infection among the general population and PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission). Current coverage includes nearly 97% of women in need. Access to HIV treatment, care and support is now a reality for nearly 80% of all in need. In addition, some services have been expanded to non-nationals and people in remote areas, which include migrant workers and ethnic minorities. Government and civil society enjoy a close and effective partnership on both prevention and care, while the private sector continues to play an active part. Meanwhile, we are striving in a comprehensive manner to eliminate stigma and discrimination.

Mr. President,

In Thailand, we project that for the next 5 years, certain key affected populations will account for more than 90% of new infections. These include MSM (men having sex with men), sex workers, IDU (injecting drug users), and partners in a relationship in which one of them is unknowingly or knowingly HIV positive. In our course to the “3 zeroes”, we are working not only to optimize and consolidate what Thailand has done well. We must also emphasize innovation and change in focusing on prevention. We must also address the legal, social and environmental factors that hinder access to prevention and care services, as well as the factors that fuel stigma and discrimination.

In order to achieve zero new infections, we will focus on where most of them will occur in terms of specific groups and geographic areas. For Thailand, a rights-based and gender-sensitive approach is integral to providing high quality prevention services to all key populations.

In order to rapidly scale up our prevention response, we have decided to pilot innovative financing models, including a “**country prevention fund**”. We also aim to strengthen local ownership, leadership and capacity to manage HIV/AIDS response. This, we hope, will be key to our success in getting to zero.

Mr. President,

Thailand recognizes that HIV is more than a health challenge. That is why it is necessary to maximize synergies from government and non-government services in an integrated and cohesive manner. We also see the need to continue to improve coordination and cooperation beyond our borders. Thailand is currently providing HIV prevention, treatment and care for migrant workers from our neighbouring countries with a substantial contribution from the Global Fund. We must now work harder and more closely with our fellow ASEAN member countries to prepare for the ASEAN community that will emerge by 2015.

Last but certainly not least, Thailand has aggressively scaled up treatment programmes which rely mostly on domestic funding and very little on international sources. In this respect, TRIPs flexibilities have been, and will continue to be, an essential and vital contributing factor in our efforts to achieve universal access. From our experience, it has become clear that the TRIPs flexibilities help to ensure that people living with HIV around the world have access to care and treatment. This is a crucial understanding for the international community to have in order for us to achieve fully the goals of zero AIDS-related deaths and zero new infections. As the Executive Director of UNAIDS as well as our Political Declaration spells out, the international community must reach, together, the global target of 15 million people living with HIV on ART (Anti-retroviral Treatment) by 2015 if we are to be successful in our global response to HIV and AIDS.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Thailand reaffirms its continuing commitment to working closely with all nations to end the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Our long struggle has taught us many lessons that we would be pleased to share with others. Having set our sights on the three zeroes, we are now ready to walk the path ahead together with you, to achieve the targets we have set not only for ourselves but for all people, no matter who or where they are.

Thank you, Mr. President.