



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

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Statement

by

H.E. Prof. Dr. Suchai Chareonratanakul

Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

at the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS

of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly

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Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates

I would like to congratulate the United Nations for organizing this critical meeting to review the progress of our commitments to address HIV infection and AIDS.

Thailand is one of a growing number of countries that have reduced rates of HIV transmission through effective prevention programmes. Nevertheless, our work is far from over. More than 1 million Thais have been cumulatively infected by HIV. While up to half have already passed away, more than one-half million Thais are currently living with HIV infection.

Consequently, Thailand – as many other countries in this room – must decisively committed to work in the two simultaneous aspects of HIV and AIDS:

- Initially, we must ensure universal access to prevention services for high-risk and vulnerable populations. In response to the global Universal Access initiative being effectively spearheaded by the UN through the UNAIDS partnership, Thailand has proudly announced a commitment to reducing new HIV infections in half of projected figures by 2010.
- At the same time, we must guarantee universal access to treatment, care and support. Access to anti-retroviral treatment has been integrated into the national social and health security programs. All Thais are now guaranteed access to this treatment. Expanding social services will improve access for at least 80% of needed individuals and families, including vulnerable children, orphans and the elderly.

The effective mobilization of all sectors, as well as our international partners and friends, will be an essential pillar leading to success. Civil societies, who have contributed significantly to previous successes, will continue to have a critical role in close partnership with central, and local government implementing partners.

Another essential pillar is the availability of the human, material and financial resources. We therefore join our voices to those calling for support and commitment of additional resources through UNAIDS, the Global Fund, and other mechanisms to enable all of us to achieve the goal of Universal Access by 2010. These calls include the assurance to

affordable anti-retroviral treatment which will save millions of people lives.

Mr. President,

Thailand is pleased to stand hand-in-hand with all of you to renew the commitment we made five years ago. Thailand will continue to do all it can to protect our people and our world from HIV infection, and to provide treatment, care and support for people suffered by AIDS.

Thank you for your kind attention.