

## Message

### Message from the UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot to staff on the death of former Senior Advisor, Julia Cleves



Julia Cleves with UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot

**Geneva, 7 September 2007** – UNAIDS mourns the death of former colleague Julia Cleves who lost her battle against cancer on Wednesday 5 September.

Since starting in UNAIDS in October 1999, Julia worked with many of the staff in Geneva and others around the world. We were all inspired by her enthusiasm, her vision and her will to find solutions to the complex challenges in the AIDS response.

As Head of the Executive Office Julia played a key role in giving new strategic direction to our work. She was instrumental in so much of what we do, including three initiatives which have made a direct contribution to where we are now: first, the UNGASS of 2001, which gave us a strong political mandate; second, the Accelerating Access Initiative which spearheaded the right to treatment; and third, the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa which sought to mobilize commitment and strengthen the AIDS response.

Julia was an amazing woman, humane and full of humour and love of life. She fought her illness for several years and bravely withstood the challenges that this brought. Her departure is a huge loss and I will miss her very much.

We send our heartfelt condolences to her partner and to her close family and friends.