

## Press release

### Uniting for HIV Prevention – quotes from partners

#### **Anbunmani Romdass, Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare**

“India is poised to build on the lessons learned internally, to scale up its national response. The state of Tamilnadu has shown us the way the epidemic can be reversed with sustained interplay of programmatic and focused behaviour change interventions.”

“We have engaged our entire governance system, especially the village and district councils to offer a coordinated decentralized response to the epidemic at the community level to make our communities HIV resilient. We are committed to strengthening the capacities of our healthcare systems and social outreach platforms, to be fully attuned to the demands of halting and reversing the epidemic. The National Council on AIDS, chaired by our Honorable Prime Minister is spearheading this multi-ministerial and multi-sectoral national response.”

#### **Sipho Mthathi, General Secretary, Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa**

“We want to get fewer people infected with HIV so that we can get more numbers of people on treatment. HIV prevention, treatment, care and support are all the mainstays of the AIDS response. We need to focus on them all.”

#### **Richard Burzynski, Chief Executive, ICASO Global Headquarters**

“After 25 years in the struggle to contain the pandemic, it should be clear to all of us that successful HIV prevention advocacy requires strong partnerships, alliances and coalitions, among all sectors - government, community and the private sector.”

“It is clear to ICASO that there needs to be a greater focus on the rights-based approaches to prevention, including the right to access evidence-based, accurate information, using effective methods, tools and commodities. We need to address the major barriers to accessing these, including the need to commit adequate resources, to protect human rights, to invest in health workers and health care systems, to remove harmful trade policies, and ultimately to base prevention interventions on the evidence of what is effective.”

#### **Dr. Jeffrey L. Sturchio , Vice President, External Affairs, Europe, Middle East & Africa/Canada, Merck & Co., Inc.**

“AIDS is everybody’s business – and business has a critical role to play in scaling-up HIV prevention. Whether a small company in the developing world, or a multinational enterprise active in dozens of countries, businesses can use their skills and resources to introduce prevention policies and programs in the workplace, to promote public awareness, and to partner with stakeholders in their communities to intensify HIV prevention efforts.”

#### **Lennarth Hjelmaker, Sweden Special Ambassador on HIV/AIDS**

“HIV and AIDS is about sexuality, gender, drug use, violence, men who have sex with men, sexual orientation, trafficking in human being and many other matters. It is about the full respect for human rights. To move forward on HIV prevention, we must be prepared and dare to address all these matters, with open eyes and open minds, realizing that the fight against HIV will never be won through easy slogans and acronyms.”

**Mari Simonen, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund**

"Steady, Ready, Go shows what has been proven to work for young people in country after country," says Mari Simonen, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA. "It will be instrumental in helping allocate resources in prevention methods that would ensure an HIV-free generation."