

CCO STATEMENT ON THE CIS MINISTERIAL MEETING

Moscow, 2 April 2005 – The Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) met in Moscow on 2 April 2005 and discussed the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting "Urgent Response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemics in the Commonwealth of Independent States" which was held in Moscow, 31 March to 1 April 2005.

The CCO recognized the progress made and challenges remaining to be addressed in the CIS Region since the adoption of the Dublin Declaration in 2004. In doing so, the CCO recognized the continued efforts of countries in the Region to respond to HIV/AIDS in line with the Dublin Declaration. The CCO reaffirmed its commitment to a comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS covering the specific needs of all affected populations, including drug substitution therapy, as specified in the Dublin Declaration and the WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS position paper on Substitution Maintenance Therapy.

The CCO reconfirmed its strong conviction that civil society organizations must play a central role at all levels, especially at the country level, in decision-making when designing, implementing and evaluating the response to HIV and AIDS. The CCO pointed to the fact that NGOs, including people living with HIV and AIDS, are members of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, and in that capacity participate fully in the governance and decision-making of UNAIDS.

On behalf of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

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