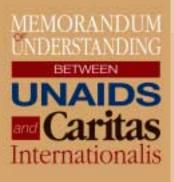
MEMORANDUM UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

UNAIDS and Caritas Internationalis





- 1 The magnitude of the response to HIV/AIDS requires vigorous leadership and action from all groups and at all levels. The UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS held in June 2001, in its Declaration of Commitment, recognised the need for strengthening the engagement of faith-based organisations.
- 2 The objectives and areas of cooperation defined in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be pursued by the Parties from their own perspectives.¹
- **3.** The UNAIDS Secretariat, on the one part, and Caritas Internationalis, on the other, with its worldwide network of member organisations, as well as its close working relationships with other Catholic entities, hereby agree to cooperate within their respective mandates in the mutual interest of:
- **3.1** promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and responsible behaviour, particularly among young people, in the work of prevention, and access to care and support of those affected;
- **3.2** promoting activities to mitigate the social and economic impact of the epidemic on individuals, families, communities and nations, keeping the human person at the centre of response;
- **3.3** promoting advocacy in line with the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment, each party doing this in light of its respective mandate and functional responsibilities;² and
- **3.4** working to eliminate all forms of discrimination and stigmatisation of persons most affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly people living with HIV/AIDS.
- **4** In fulfilling these objectives, the two parties will:
- **4.1** Exchange information and lessons learned at regular intervals (i) to enhance the understanding of the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic at community level and on such basis further develop initiatives

¹ For Caritas Internationalis, the Catholic Church's moral and social teaching will inform all its activities in the field of HIV/AIDS.

² Cl's advocacy programme will be based on the spiritual, moral, and social teaching of the Catholic Church.

HIV/AIDS

- promoting responsible behaviour in the work of prevention, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS; and (ii) on ways and means to further the awareness of HIV and AIDS, counting on the active involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS;
- **4.2** Hold seminars, workshops and related activities with Catholic organisations to further deepen knowledge about the epidemic and best practices in response;
- **4.3** Collaborate in the holding of consultations on HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination with theologians and other pastoral and social associates working within faith-based organisations;
- **4.4** Prepare, publish and ensure wide dissemination of information and statements of mutual interest:
- **4.5** Co-operate at country level, with UNAIDS facilitating contacts with UN Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS, and Caritas Internationalis, with faith-based organisations;
- **4.6** Promote the involvement of Catholic organisations and programmes among a wider faith-based organisation representation in multi-sectoral consultative processes at country level and internationally, with particular consideration of the role of the Country Coordinating Mechanisms for the Global Fund on AIDS, TB, and Malaria in resourcing the response to HIV/AIDS.
- **4.7** Promote programme responses from Catholic organisations that are collaborative and complementary within a wider multi-sectoral response.
- **4.8** Maintain regular contact through, as contact points, the UNAIDS Department of Social Mobilisation and Strategic Information Partnership Unit, as the focal point for the UNAIDS Secretariat, and the General Secretariat of Caritas Internationalis;
- **4.9** Meet once a year to monitor this Memorandum of Understanding and to strengthen ongoing consultations, the venue to be decided by mutual agreement.

This Memorandum of Understanding does not include any financial contribution on the part of either the UNAIDS Secretariat or Caritas Internationalis to each other's activities.

This Memorandum of Understanding will take effect on the date of its signature and remain in force until terminated by either party with three months' notification. It shall be subject to annual reviews, at which time the parties will agree on any modifications that may be called for.

Duncan MacLaren
Secretary General
Caritas Internationalis

Peter Piot
Executive Director
UNAIDS