MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on
23rd day of July, 2014

Between

Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications & Information Technology

&

Department of AIDS Control
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Government of India

INTRODUCTION

India has one of the largest numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. Given the prevalence rate of 0.27, 21 lakh people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in the country[1]. HIV is driven by a number of socio-economic factors; therefore, health interventions alone are not sufficient to address the causes and consequences of the epidemic. It requires a multi-sectoral response. Mainstreaming approaches to HIV have increasingly gained ground with the realization that the non-health sector can play an important and meaningful role in reducing vulnerability to HIV and mitigating its impact on those infected and affected.

Department of AIDS Control (DAC) and Department of Telecommunications are hereinafter referred to together as "the parties"

Article 1

1 DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL

1.1   Department of AIDS Control is the nodal agency for coordinating response with respect to Human Immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in India. Department of AIDS Control has initiated several measures towards mainstreaming and partnership with various Ministries.

1.2   The National AIDS Control Programme is implemented through 38 State AIDS Control Societies (SACS)/Municipal AIDS Control Societies. NACP places utmost importance on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS for a) enhancing coverage and reach of information on HIV/STI prevention and services, b) integrating HIV/AIDS/STI related services through existing health infrastructure available in Ministries/Departments and PSUs, c) facilitating schemes on Social protection of people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

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[1] HSS NACO, 2011

Article 2

2   DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

2.1   Department of Telecommunications under the aegis of Ministry of Communications & Information Technology is responsible for policy formulation, licensing, wireless spectrum management, administrative monitoring of PSUs, research and development, standardization/validation of equipment etc. The department is also responsible for grant of license for various telecom services like Unified Access Service Internet and VSAT service. The department is also responsible for frequency management in the field of radio communication in close coordination with the internal bodies. It also enforces wireless regulatory measures by monitoring wireless transmission of all users in the country.

2.2   The Indian Telecom market is one of the fastest growing markets in the world. With nearly billion telephone connections, India has become the second largest network in the world. It is also the second largest wireless network in the world. Department of Telecommunications is divided into several units (i) Controller of Communication Accounts (ii) National Institute of Communication Finance (iii) Wireless planning and Coordination wing (iv) Telecom Engineering centre (v) National Telecommunications (vi) Vigilance Telecom Monitoring cell Institute for Policy Research (vi) Centre for Development of Telematics – (C-DOT). Department of Telecom has 4 PSU. They are (i) BSNL – Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, (ii) MTNL – Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, (iii) ITI - Indian Telephone Industries Limited, and (iv) TCIL - Telecommunications Consultants India Limited

Article 3

3   RATIONALE FOR MAINSTREAMING HIV

3.1   The total number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) in India is estimated at 21 lakh in 2011. Despite the reduction in the overall prevalence, there are emerging vulnerabilities which need to be addressed. The epidemic in the country is changing according to emerging vulnerability factors related to poverty, migration, marginalization and gender. As per HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS) 2011 report,

86% of those infected are in the age group of 15 to 49 years, which is one of the most productive segment of the society irrespective of the sectors, in which, they have engaged. The halt & reverse of the epidemic, which is the goal of National AIDS Control Programme, is only possible with active and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders.

3.2 Department of Telecommunications is one of the world's largest telephone and wireless networks with large workforce and health infrastructure at PSU level. It is one of the biggest service providers to millions of people in the country. Considering the reach of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Wireless mobile services, it is proposed that Information on HIV prevention and services can be provided to its customers regularly and also during special occasions. The collaboration of Department of Telecom and Department of AIDS Control will support the national efforts of HIV prevention and care to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Article 4

4 SCOPE FOR MAINSTREAMING HIV

Department of Telecommunications will support the objectives of the Department of AIDS Control by a) enhancing coverage and reach by information on STI/HIV prevention and services b) integrating STI/HIV related services through existing health infrastructure available at hospitals of ITI Ltd., a PSU under Department of Telecommunications and c) facilitating Social protection for people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the foregoing rationale and scope, the parties Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology and Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have mutually agreed to cooperate and collaborate in the overall goal of halting and reversing of the epidemic.

5 OBJECTIVE OF MOU

5.1 Reaching out to large number of Telecom employees under different units and PSUs with information on STI/ HIV prevention and care services through sensitization program.

5.2 Integration of STI/HIV in existing health infrastructure of ITI Ltd. under Department of Telecom as per the guidelines of NACP.

5.3 Adoption of National Policy on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work in all the units and PSUs of Department of Telecommunications.

Article 6

6 KEY DELIVERABLES

6.1 Issuing directives for adoption of National Policy on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work in all the units and PSUs of Department of Telecommunications

6.2 Displaying one line HIV awareness message with Red Ribbon on Telephone bills.

6.3 Integration of STI/HIV related services in all health facilities under hospitals of ITI Ltd. as per National protocols and guidelines.

6.4 Inclusion of HIV/AIDS topic in the induction/training program of telecom employees

6.5 Imparting information on STI/ HIV prevention, counseling, care & support and treatment to all its employees including contractual and informal workers in all the units and PSU.

6.6 Sharing of Information with Department of AIDS Control and State AIDS Control Societies.

Article 7

7. ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

7.1.1 Directives

- Declaration of Department of Telecommunications' commitment on HIV/AIDS prevention in all units and PSUs.

- Issuance of directives from Department of Telecommunications for supporting HIV/AIDS programme to all units and PSUs.

- Deputing a nodal officer in the Department of Telecommunications for HIV activities and coordination with Department of AIDS Control.

7.1.2 Information Education and Communication

- Awareness generation through display of IEC materials like display panels, hoardings etc. at strategic locations in the PSU premises/offices especially BSNL offices, which has a reach up to village level, and also insertion of HIV/AIDS messages in the promotional material for general awareness. The necessary display material be provided by the Department of AIDS Control.

- Printing of one line HIV awareness message along with Red Ribbon on telephone bills.

- Observation of World AIDS Day, National Blood Donation Day, World Blood Donors Day to strengthen national response against HIV/AIDS.

7.1.3 Trainings

- Capacity building of master trainers & peer educators identified from among the PSU employees to further disseminate information on HIV/AIDS issues to strengthen intervention initiated by Department of Telecommunications. Master trainers and peer educators will be identified from all PSU.

- Inclusion of HIV/AIDS in the induction/training program of telecom employees.

- Training of medical officers and paramedical staff of ITI Ltd. health units on STI/HIV related counseling, testing and treatment.

7.1.4 Integration of Services

- Integration of STI/HIV counseling, testing and treatment services in all hospitals of ITI Ltd. and establishing referral linkages.

7.1.5 Sharing of Information

- Sharing of information on HIV/AIDS activities with DAC and State AIDS Control Societies at States on a quarterly basis.

- Reflection of activities on HIV/AIDS carried out by Department of Telecommunications in the annual report and departmental website.

- Provision of sharing of web links of Department of Telecommunications in DAC portal for sharing of information and vice-versa.

7.2 ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL

7.2.1 Share nationally approved treatment protocols, guidelines and standards pertaining to STI/HIV/AIDS/ART

7.2.2 Provide technical support for implementation of IEC activities for awareness generation. Sharing of prototype of IEC materials and message content for replication by Department of Telecommunications.

7.2.3 Representation of DAC/SACS in the meeting of Department of Telecommunications and PSUs as and when required.

7.2.4 Provide technical support and necessary assistance to Department of Telecommunications as well as other units and PSUs through State AIDS Control Societies for capacity building, action plan and other key activities on HIV/AIDS prevention.

7.2.5 Technical support and assistance to build capacity of health personnel to facilitate integration of HIV/AIDS in the Health Services.

7.2.6 Provision of sharing of web links of Department of Telecommunications in DAC portal for sharing of information and vice-versa.
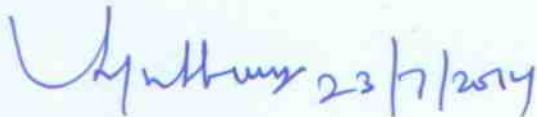
8. EXECUTION OF MOU

8.1 Parties will set up a joint working group for drawing up an action plan for Department of Telecommunications.

8.2 Parties will decide the modalities for execution of the proposal contained in the MOU based on the recommendations of the Joint Working group

8.3 Parties agree to collaborate and work closely for fulfillment of objectives set in the MOU

8.4 Both the parties will hold consultations on planning and implementation of activities and jointly review the progress of implementation of the activities to achieve the objectives of this MOU bi-annually.

8.5 This MOU will be operative with effect from 23rd July, 2014 and any alteration / modifications can be carried out with the consent of both parties.

The parties herein have appended their respective signatures the day and the year stated above.

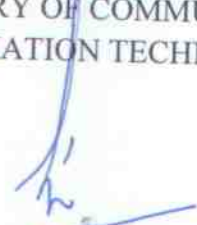|	
SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL, MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE,	SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(signature) 23/7/2014	*(signature)*
DR. V.K. SUBBURAJ SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL, MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE,	SHRI RAKESH GARG SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,
(signature)	*(signature)*
DR. HARSH VARDHAN, MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

List of Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
BSNL	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
C-DOT	Centre for Development of Telematics
CSC	Common Service Centres
DAC	Department of AIDS Control
DoT	Department of Telecommunications
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRG	High Risk Group
HSS	HIV Sentinel Surveillance
ICTCs	Integrated Counselling & Testing Centres
IDUs	Injecting Drug Users
IEC	Information Education & Communication
ITI	Indian Telephone Industries Limited
MARPs	Most At-Risk Populations
MoHFW	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
MTNL	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NBDD	National Blood Donation Day
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PPTCT	Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission
PSU	Public Sector Undertaking
SACS	State AIDS Control Societies
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TCIL	Telecommunications Consultants India Limited
TI	Targeted Intervention
ToT	Training of Trainers
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WAD	World AIDS Day
WBBD	World Blood Donors Day