



May 16, 2003

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister
Room 309-S, Centre Block
Langevin Building
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Re: The Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS TB and Malaria (GFATM)

Dear Prime Minister:

Tomorrow, 15,000 people will die - not from war, famine, or genocide, but from a lack of political will. Our government can help save the lives of the nearly 6 million people who will otherwise die this year from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. We have prevention strategies and treatments. The essential missing component is resources to deliver life-saving interventions.

As humanitarian, human rights, health, labour, faith based and development organizations actively engaged in the Canadian and international responses to global epidemics we wish to remind you that Canada made a very important commitment at the G8 summit in Genoa in 2001. Along with other world leaders, Canada took up the challenge set by UN Secretary General Kofi Anan to make additional resources available to mount a global fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Since then, the Global Fund has granted over US \$1.5 billion to projects which will provide treatment for 2 million people with TB, protect 30 million African families from malaria, and increase the number of Africans with access to and antiretrovirals by six-fold.

In calling for the Fund, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan requested US \$7 to \$10 billion a year to address the three diseases. One and a half years after its formal creation in January 2002, it faces a financial crisis. The US \$3 billion pledged by donor countries thus far has been sufficient to approve 160 proposals from 85 countries. A call for new proposals has been launched, but unless substantial new resources are pledged, the Fund will not have sufficient money to approve a new round, and the momentum for this innovative response will be lost.

Canada has contributed US \$25 million per year for 4 years. However, based on a calculation of equitable contributions according to our gross domestic product (GDP), Canada's contribution should be closer to US \$100 million per year. Many Canadian organizations called on Canada to increase its commitment to the Fund when Canada hosted the G8 leaders at Kananaskis last year. UN Special Envoy, Mr. Stephen Lewis, voiced the same challenge to Canadian leaders during his presentation to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade on April 1, 2003. So far the calls have gone unheeded.

Our government can and should adequately support the Global Fund. As a wealthy country, we can contribute an amount on par with the size of our economy. Action is needed now - the fate of hundreds of millions of lives rests in the hands of world leaders like yourself. We call on you to:

- Take leadership and promote the establishment of a dues based contribution system to ensure the Fund is fairly supported by all wealthy and medium income countries during the years to come.



- Demonstrate this leadership by committing an additional US \$75 million per year for the next 3 years. This would represent Canada's equitable share of the funding requirements estimated by GFATM. This money should be a special multi-year fund similar to the Canada Fund for Africa and not taken from the existing development assistance budget which is needed to address urgent development problems, including health care infrastructure and training.
- Champion a trade regulatory environment that ensures that everyone in the world has equitable access to health. This includes:
 - allowing for the effective use of compulsory licenses for producing quality generic medicines for export to developing countries in need of more affordable drugs.
 - leading an international review of the damaging impacts of the establishment of the global 20-year patent protection
 - promoting regional and local production of essential medicine through voluntary licensing and technology transfer

Thank you very much for your continued attention to this urgent matter.

Yours faithfully,

Michael O'Connor, Executive Director
Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development, Ottawa, ON

AIDS Bow Valley, Banff, AB
AIDS Committee of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
AIDS Jasper (HIV West Yellowhead), Jasper, AB
Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention, Toronto, ON
Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS, Vancouver, BC
Canadian AIDS Society, Ottawa, ON
Canadian Council for International Cooperation, Ottawa, ON
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Montreal, QC
Canadian Treatment Access Campaign, Toronto, ON
CARE Canada, Ottawa, ON
Christian Children's Fund of Canada, Toronto, ON
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Burlington, ON
Dignitas International, Toronto, ON
Global Network of People living with HIV/AIDS -North America, Washington, DC
International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care (IAPAC), Chicago, IL
Nine Circles Community Health Centre, Winnipeg, MB
Oxfam, Ottawa, ON
Results Canada, Victoria, BC
Rwanda Hope Society, Delta, BC
Stop TB Canada, Edmonton, AB
The Council of Canadians, Ottawa, ON
USC Canada, Ottawa, ON
Visionledd, Burlington, ON

