



[ABOUT THE NETWORK](#) | [MAIN CONTENT](#) | [WHAT'S NEW](#) | [MEDIA](#) | [REACH US](#)

June 25, 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

Dear Prime Minister:

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

The GFATM is a new and innovative multilateral financial instrument established by G8 leaders after their meeting in Genoa. It is the largest global fund of its kind, with almost \$US3 billion currently committed. It operates as a financial instrument, not an implementing agency, with the goal of dramatically increasing resources available to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. The fund is a private-public partnership managed by a Board made up of equal numbers of donors and recipients with participation from NGOs, private foundations, business community and persons living with HIV/AIDS, TB or Malaria.

In calling for the fund UN Secretary General Kofi Annan asked for \$US 7 billion to \$US 10 billion a year to address the three diseases. One and a half years after its formal creation in January 2002, the fund faces a financial crisis. The \$US 3 billion pledged by donor countries so 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 on hand to approve a new round of proposals and the momentum for this innovative response will be lost.

In an effort to address this crisis and keep the promise to provide support to the millions living with HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria several rich countries have announced their intention to increase pledges to

the Fund. For example:

- The US Congress has passed legislation that permits it to provide up to \$US 1 billion per year to the Fund.
- France has increased its pledge by E400 m.,
- Italy has increased its pledge by E200 m.,
- The UK has increased its pledge by \$US80 m.,
- The European will probably increase its pledge by at least E336 m.
- New countries are beginning to engage, for example New Zealand has pledged US700,000 for 2003.

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs' recent report entitled "HIV/AIDS and the Humanitarian Catastrophe in Sub-Saharan Africa," recommends that the federal government triple its contribution to the Global Fund. We support this call and recommend that funding not be taken from existing commitments to international development assistance. While we acknowledge that CIDA is responsible for administering Canada's contribution to the Global Fund the intention of the Fund is to encourage rich and medium income countries to find additional resources to address the global health crisis. In our view CIDA has limited funds to address the many pressing development needs around the world which is why we continue to urge Canada to find new resources to address this crisis.

France is hosting a high level meeting in Paris on July 16 to promote the Fund. We respectfully request that you take the opportunity of donors' meeting to reassess Canada's position and make a contribution so we can do our part to address this global crisis?

Yours truly,

Michael O'Connor
Executive Director

Cc The Honourable William Graham
The Honourable John Manley
The Honourable Anne McLellan
The Honourable Susan Whelan

 [Return to previous page](#)



[About The Network](#) | [Main Content](#) | [What's New](#) | [Media](#) | [Links](#) | [Reach Us](#)

[Make a Donation](#) | [Quiz](#) | [Home](#) | [Français Accueil](#) | [Search](#) | [Site Map](#)



CANADIAN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK
RÉSEAU JURIDIQUE CANADIEN VIH/SIDA