

September 18, 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: Honouring Commitment Made Under the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

As concerned international development organisations, AIDS service organisations, labour movements, faith based organisations, persons living with HIV/AIDS and concerned citizens we are writing to urge you to remember the commitments Canada made in June 25-27, 2001 when you and 190 other UN member states adopted the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

In adopting this Declaration the international community set common targets for reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and alleviating its impact. Among other things world leaders committed themselves to help affected countries address the crisis by reaching an overall target of annual expenditure on the epidemic of between \$US7 and 10 billion by 2005ⁱ. They also promised to establish a global HIV/AIDS and health fund to finance an urgent and expanded response to the epidemicⁱⁱ.

In January 2002, the call for a special fund was heeded with the creation of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS TB and Malaria (GFATM). The Fund is a new and innovative multilateral financial instrument. 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 donor and recipient countries, with participation from NGOs, private foundations, the business community and persons living with HIV/AIDS, TB or Malaria.

In calling for the Fund, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan asked for \$7 billion to \$10 billion a year to fight HIV/AIDS alone. Current estimates of the cost to address all three diseases are closer to \$14.2 billion for 2004ⁱⁱⁱ, and steadily more for later years.

The GFATM faces a financial crisis. The funds pledged and remitted by donor countries so far have been sufficient to approve 150 proposals from 92 countries. However, new commitments are not materializing and there are insufficient pledges on hand to meet projected needs in 2004 and beyond. A long term sustainable system for financing the GFATM is required to ensure that

we can help affected countries cope with HIV/AIDS, as called for under the Declaration of Commitment.

At the International Meeting to Support the Global Fund held in Paris, 16 July 2003, civil society groups challenged world leaders to ensure that the GFATM has long term sustainable funding through implementing an Equitable Contributions Framework based on a country's GDP.^{iv} The Equitable Contributions Framework calls on all rich and medium income countries to share the cost of helping countries to address the burden of these three diseases. As has been pointed out by numerous economic and security experts the health of the global economy depends on the health of its citizens. Ignoring the health of 1/3 of the world's population will have dire consequences for our global community.

The UN and international financial institutions have equitable funding mechanisms to address peacekeeping and other initiatives; it's time that the world took the war on AIDS, TB and Malaria seriously by implementing a similar mechanism to ensure sustainable funding to the GFATM.

The United Nations General Assembly will convene a full day meeting to review the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS on September 22. The meeting will provide an opportunity for world leaders to account for their progress in achieving targets set by the Declaration. **We call on you to take this opportunity to renew your commitment to the GFATM by increasing your pledge and endorsing an Equitable Contributions Framework.** 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

Yours truly,

Michael O'Connor
Executive Director

On behalf of the following National and International Organisations:

European AIDS Treatment Group
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
World Vision International
Oxfam Community Aid Abroad (Australia)
EAWM / Protestant Association for Development Co-operation in Austria
Foundation AEDES (Belgium)
MSF (Belgium)
SENSOA (Belgium)
Canadian AIDS Society (Canada)
Canadian Crossroads International (Canada)

Canadian AIDS Society (Canada)
Canadian HIV-AIDS Legal Network (Canada)
Canadian Treatment Action Council (Canada)
Dignitas International (Canada)
Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (Canada)
International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (Canada)
McGill International Health Initiative (Canada)
Oxfam (Canada)
Results (Canada)
Ibis (Denmark)
Danish AIDS-Foundation (Denmark)
AIDES (France)
Action against AIDS (Germany)
Action medeor (Germany)
Ärzte ohne Grenzen e.V/ (Germany)
The Association of Protestant Churches and Missions (EMW) (Germany)
Brot für die Welt/Bread for the World (Germany)
Christoffel-Blindenmission Deutschland e.V. (Germany)
Christian Blind Mission International (Germany)
Deutsche Lepra- und Tuberkulose Hilfe DAHW (Germany)
Difäm / German Institute for Medical Mission (Germany)
EHKN Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau (Germany)
Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony (ELM) (Germany)
MISEREOR e.V (Germany)
Missio Internationales Katholisches Missionswerk e.V. (Germany)
Mission Association of the Moravian Church (Germany)
World Vision (Germany)
Fondazione Villa Maraini (Italy)
Lila CEDIUS (Italy)
Nadir HIV Treatment Group (Italy)
Grupo Português de Activistas sobre Tratamentos de VIH/SIDA-Pedro Santos (Portugal)
Treatment Action Campaign (South Africa)
Action for Southern Africa (UK)
ActionAid (UK)
Interact Worldwide (UK)
International Family Health (UK)
Leicestershire AIDS Support Services (UK)
Naz Foundation International (UK)
Oxfam GB (UK)
Results (UK)
USPG Advocacy Group (UK)
Tearfund (UK)
ACT UP Philadelphia (US)
Aidspan (US)
Health GAP (US)
Physicians for Human Rights (US)

ⁱ Article 80 UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS June 25-27, 2001

ⁱⁱ Article 90 UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS June 25-27, 2001

ⁱⁱⁱ HIV/AIDS: \$10.5 b. (Source: UNAIDS and WHO, Oct. 2002)

TB: \$0.7 b. (Source: Global Plan to Stop TB - WHO)

Malaria: \$3.0 b. (Source: Roll Back Malaria - WHO, UNDP, World Bank)

^{iv} Speech by Richard Burzynski Executive Director, the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations at International Meeting to Support the Global Fund held in Paris, 16 July 2003