



HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and the Role of the G8

ВИЧ/СПИД в странах Евразии и роль «Группы восьми» в борьбе с эпидемией

Statement

of the International parliamentary conference "HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and the Role of G8 in the Fight Against the Epidemic"

(June 8 2006, State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russia)

Participants of the international parliamentary conference "HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and the Role of G8 in the Fight Against the Epidemic" state that today the epidemic threatens human development; undermines economic stability, national security, stability of family and society, development of industrial and intellectual capacity and the general health of the nations. The overwhelming majority of people living with HIV/AIDS live in developing countries (about 95 % of all cases of the disease).

Confirming the need to reach the goals formulated in the UN Declaration of Commitment to fight HIV/AIDS, the Dublin Declaration on Partnership and the Fight Against HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia, and the Program of Urgent Measures to Combat HIV/AIDS in the CIS, G8 member countries are expanding their activities aiming to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

A potential threat of a serious epidemic is high in those countries of Eurasia that have considerably high levels of poverty, illiteracy, gender inequality, high levels of forced migration inside their borders and between the countries, as well as lack of resources limiting an effective fight against the spread of HIV.

The epidemic situation continues to worsen. The numbers of HIV infected women and children continue to grow. The gap between the developed and developing countries' access to identification, treatment and social integration of people living with HIV/AIDS is growing. This should be considered when forming a model of the future development of the disease, as well as for the development of effective policies in prevention and control in order to prevent full-scale epidemics.

It should be noted that during recent years the level of awareness and understanding of this problem among heads of state in many countries has improved, and that they have realized the strategic importance of strengthening the response to the rapid increase of HIV/AIDS infections. This has led to increased funding, as well as the strengthening of intersectoral and intergovernmental partnership for an effective fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

We welcome the obligations of the Russian Federation to increase the capacity of the healthcare systems in the countries of Central Asia and to develop partnership between healthcare services in this region.

The conference participants call on the G8 leaders to consider the following opportunities to unite the efforts of the G8 countries, CIS states, India and China to help increase the effectiveness of the fight against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases:

- Support the organization of a Global Healthcare Leadership Forum (consisting of the G8 countries plus India, China, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa) to discuss healthcare priority issues within the framework of the G8 health ministerial meeting held for the first time in 2006 in advance of the Russian G8 summit.
- Broaden the engagement between the G8 countries and China, India, CIS states and other countries in Eurasia, as well as with leading international organizations including the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to ensure sustainable funding of programs to combat HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.
- Strengthen the efforts of the G8, CIS states, India and China to adopt best practices on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, primarily within vulnerable groups, based on a human rights approach.
- Support further the understanding of the interrelation between public health and the health of vulnerable groups, and the development of specific prevention programs for children, young people, women, and vulnerable groups.
- Initiate a dialogue to address the global issue of the deficit in healthcare specialists with a focus on Eurasia. Support the expansion of professional healthcare education and capacity building for the needs of prevention and fight against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.
- Ensure exchange of best practices in building public-private partnerships, including non-governmental organizations and religious groups, people living with HIV/AIDS and the private sector; facilitate the strengthening of and legislative support of mechanisms for intersectoral cooperation.
- Initiate a focused dialogue on complex regulatory issues related to the procurement of lifesaving medical drugs at prices affordable for low and middle-income countries.



TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERS
AGAINST AIDS

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- Expand scientific research to create HIV vaccines in Eurasia, supporting Eurasian countries and ensuring effective use of scientific potential and best practices in the field of HIV/AIDS.

We, representatives of the people of our countries and legislators, believe it is necessary to do our utmost to implement the key points of this statement on respective national levels and to provide necessary legislative support to this process. Using the appropriate opportunities, we, representatives of the G8 and Eurasian countries, propose to:

- Hold special sessions in the G8 parliaments on implementation of commitments made at the previous G8 summits, in particular those related to containing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and other infectious diseases in Eurasia.
- Propose creating a Eurasian Parliamentary Working Group on HIV/AIDS and holding annually International parliamentary conferences on HIV/AIDS and Eurasia in advance to the G8 summits.

Conference participants have agreed to inform government leaders, as well as executive and legislative power branches on the outcomes of and commitments made at the International parliamentary conference "HIV/AIDS in Eurasia & the Role of the G8" (Moscow, June 8, 2006).