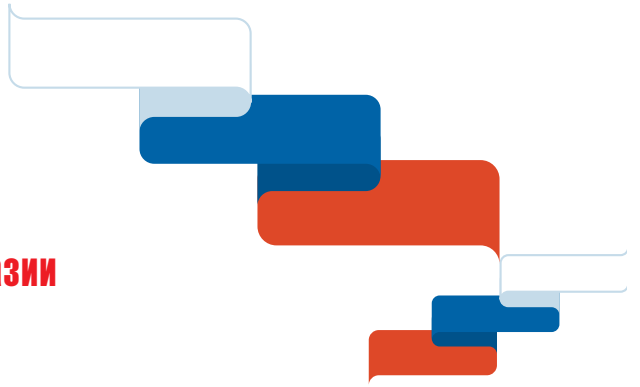




TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERS
AGAINST AIDS

HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and the Role of the G8

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



“HIV/AIDS IN EURASIA AND THE ROLE OF G8”

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
IN CONJUNCTION WITH RUSSIA'S G8 PRESIDENCY

June 8, 2006 • Moscow • State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly

On June 8, 2006, the Russian State Duma Interfactional Deputies' Working Group on HIV/AIDS, UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS and Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS (TPAA), in conjunction with the G8 Summit of 2006, held the international parliamentary conference “HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and the Role of the G8” at State Duma in Moscow. The conference, which was endorsed by the Presidential Executive Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, was organized in conjunction with Russia's G8 presidency aiming to:

- Focus attention of G8 leaders and the international community on the global threat posed by the Eurasian HIV epidemics and opportunities to stem them;
- Build a common understanding of the status and potential progression of the Eurasian AIDS epidemics, as well as the public health, social, economic and security threats they pose to these countries, their region and the world;
- Identify opportunities for improving national responses to the epidemics and identify initiatives and mechanisms through which the G8, its member countries and international organizations can engage.

Consistent with G8 actions over the past decade, Russia has made infectious diseases one of three priority areas for the St. Petersburg G8 Summit, along with energy and education. Russia's assumption of the G8 presidency in 2006 offered the possibility of consolidating existing G8 commitments while at the same time enlarging the group's HIV/AIDS focus to include Eurasia.

Conference participants involved up to 90 senior parliamentarians and officials from the G8, Brazil, China, India and CIS, as well as representatives from international organizations contributing to the development of national, regional and international HIV/AIDS policy. Participants issued a statement outlining concrete and realistic actions that can be carried out within the G8 framework and by national governments and international agencies.



At the first international parliamentary conference on HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and the Role of the G8, right to left: State Duma deputies A.Chilingarov, M.Grishankov, T.Yakovleva and V.Zubov, and President of Community of People living with HIV M.Rukavishnikov (State Duma, 8 June 2006)



At the first international parliamentary conference on HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and the Role of the G8, left to right: Chairs of the Russian and the UK parliamentary working groups on AIDS A.Chilingarov and N.Gerrard, and deputy M.Grishankov (State Duma, 8 June 2006)



At the first international parliamentary conference on HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and the Role of the G8: Deputy V.Zubov, MP N.Gerrard (UK), and deputy N.Gerasimenko (left to right)



Members of the Chinese National People's Congress Mr.Li Honggui and Mr. Li Shuwen



M.Bunge, Chair of Healthcare Committee, Germany's Bundestag

For nearly a decade, the G8 has focused attention and resources on a strengthened response to the surging global HIV/AIDS pandemic. Major achievements include the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria at the 2001 Genoa Summit, establishment of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise at the 2004 Sea Island Summit, and more recently, new efforts to address HIV/AIDS and poverty alleviation in Africa at the 2005 Gleneagles Summit. In each case, the G8's response has strengthened health systems, increased access to medicines, expanded resources, and generated high levels of media and public attention.

Russia, India, China and CIS countries share specific challenges vis-a-vis HIV/AIDS: each nation is currently faced with a relatively early HIV/AIDS epidemic that is steadily spreading beyond core at-risk groups into the general population. This trend underscores the urgent priority to put in place a comprehensive response to the epidemic that scales up prevention, treatment and care services and combats stigma.

The conference was chaired by State Duma Vice-Chair **A.Chilingarov**, Chair of the Interfactional Deputies' Working Group on HIV/AIDS. Participants and the list of speakers included Deputy Minister for Health Care and Social Development **V.Starodubov**, RF Head Physician **G.Onischenko**, State Duma deputies **M.Grishankov**, **V.Zubov**, **T.Yakovleva** and **N.Gerasimenko**, US Ambassador to the Russian Federation **William J. Burns**, as well as parliamentarians and experts from China, CIS, Germany, France, India, Iran, Portugal, United Kingdom and other countries.

Participants issued a statement that outlines concrete and realistic actions that can be carried out within the G8 framework and by national governments and international agencies. Participants called on the leaders of the G8 to ensure the priority status and urgency of decisions concerning the spread of HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and deepen the strategic cooperation in the area of HIV/AIDS in the Eurasian region.

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 inter-sectoral 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.



R.C.Dome, member of the Indian Parliament, J.Seelam, member of the Indian Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS (left to right), and members of Indian delegation



Doctor L.Roshal, chair of Committee on Healthcare Issues, Russia's Public Chamber



C.Passarelli, National STD/AIDS Program (Brazil), A.Alaei, National Research Institute for Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (Iran), and A.Ahmadi, member of parliament (Iran) (left to right)



At the first international parliamentary conference on HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and the Role of the G8: opening ceremony of the new photo exhibition "Affects Me. Affects Everyone," held in conjunction with the conference by the Russian Media Partnership to Combat HIV/AIDS and Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS (TPAA), together with the Community of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and the Objective Reality Foundation. This photo project features portraits of policy leaders, prominent public figures, artists, performers, journalists, managers from middle to top level and many others accompanied by personal expressions of participants' attitude towards the issue of HIV/AIDS (State Duma, 8 June 2006)



At the first international parliamentary conference on HIV/AIDS in Eurasia and the Role of the G8: During the conference, participants connected to a live broadcast of the talk show, "Time to Live," hosted by Vladimir Pozner, a leading Russian television journalist and TPAA Board member, and held in Saint Petersburg. Conference participants answered questions posed by members of the studio audience via a live satellite feed. The live telecast provided the conference participants with an opportunity to update the public at-large on the agreements reached during the conference. The telecast was organized by Fund for Social Development and Information within the frameworks of GLOBUS project and Saint-Petersburg STO TV-channel (State Duma, 8 June 2006)

- Initiate a dialogue to address the global issue of the deficit in health-care 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 inter-sectoral 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.
- 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).



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The Conference was jointly organized by the Russian State Duma Interfactional Deputies' Working Group on HIV/AIDS, the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on AIDS, and Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS (TPAA).

For detailed information on the Conference see <http://www.hivpolicy.net/G8EurasiaAIDS/>
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