

CALL TO ACTION

The CSIS Task Force on HIV/AIDS: Strengthening U.S. Leadership June 2002

The CSIS Task Force on HIV/AIDS calls for strategic, forward-looking U.S. leadership to combat the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. The United States plays a leading role on global health issues, has vast institutional expertise in development, public health policy, and scientific research, and has at its disposal unmatched resources and global influence. For these reasons, U.S. leadership is essential to the present and future global response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. To be most effective, the United States will need to use its economic and human resources, influence, and public diplomacy skillfully to empower the world community to work together to combat HIV/AIDS. Success requires an aggressive, phased, five-year U.S. plan of action that capitalizes on U.S. core strengths and is based on science, public health, and pressing humanitarian requirements.

Specifically, the Task Force calls on the U.S. government to build its leadership through seven priority actions:

Substantially increase U.S. assistance.

- Raise U.S. annual support to at least \$2 billion in FY03, and at least \$2.5 billion the following year.
- Ensure that increased HIV/AIDS funding does not crowd out other poverty-alleviation and development funding, for example the commitment to the Millennium Challenge Account made by President Bush at Monterrey, Mexico this year.

Vigorously challenge key partners.

- Announce future increases in U.S. commitments at the June summit of the G-8 in Kananaskis, Canada, and challenge other G-8 members to quadruple their combined financial support from \$1 billion to \$4 billion, without diminishing funds devoted to alleviating global poverty.
- Challenge leaders in those countries acutely affected by HIV/AIDS to devote adequate resources—finances, personnel, and high-level attention—to public health.

Preemptively respond to the destabilizing consequences of AIDS.

- Mitigate the destabilizing impacts of HIV/AIDS now seen in eastern and southern Africa through expanded military-to-military AIDS training programs, integration of prevention and treatment into peacekeeping training and post-conflict assistance, and robust development assistance programs.

- Act now to build high-priority, high-visibility anti-AIDS partnerships with Russia, China, India, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and others where the pandemic's second wave is beginning to strike, with potentially dire implications for global stability and security.

Aggressively address now the implications of expanded treatment and a future vaccine.

- Develop a multi-year U.S. training strategy that invests in people to carry out proliferating prevention and treatment programs.
- Develop effective treatment regimens that minimize drug resistance, mitigate adverse side effects, and link prevention with treatment.
- Actively back diplomatic initiatives to ensure that acutely affected countries have access to medicines on a high-volume, long-term, low-cost basis.
- Prepare distribution mechanisms for future vaccines.

Actively enlarge the capacities of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria.

- Engage the Global Fund at a high level—politically, financially, and diplomatically—with a special focus on refined scientific and technical review criteria, robust mechanisms of accountability, and effective Country Coordinating partnerships that meaningfully incorporate nongovernmental organizations.
- Assist in developing parallel mechanisms to mobilize technical, financial, and in-kind support to the Global Fund from foundations and corporations.

Systematically improve coordination of U.S. efforts.

- Empower a senior, authoritative official, accountable to the President and the Secretary of State, to coordinate U.S. policy on HIV/AIDS, represent the United States in multilateral fora, and ensure that U.S. efforts are synchronized with multilateral efforts such as UNAIDS and the Global Fund.
- Improve coherence of U.S. efforts by defining more precisely the respective roles of individual U.S. agencies engaged in fighting HIV/AIDS, based on expertise and capability.
- Ensure that agencies receive resources proportionate to their mandate.

Forcefully communicate America's purpose to the American people.

- President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson should communicate directly to the American people what is at stake, the key elements of the U.S. leadership strategy, and how American commitments can reduce mass human suffering and build stability. Repeated overtures at this high level will guarantee sustained American popular support for U.S. leadership.
- These efforts should capitalize on growing bipartisan support within Congress for aggressive action to combat global HIV/AIDS.
- These efforts should build on the American people's rising awareness of the scale of human tragedy caused by HIV/AIDS, their support for U.S. engagement, and their growing confidence that U.S. investments will achieve results.