



Action against AIDS Germany

Life is a human right
www.aids-kampagne.de

To
Dr. Guido Westerwelle
FDP-Parliamentary Group
Via E-Mail

Tübingen, 5th October 2009

Dear Dr. Westerwelle,

Congratulations on your election success! We wish you all the best for your upcoming task of forming a new coalition government! Action against Aids is a network that represents over 300 German non-governmental organisations and grassroots groups working in the fields of AIDS and development cooperation. We have made it our concern to remind politicians and the pharmaceutical industry of their obligations in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The German Federal Government has repeatedly vowed to make an active effort to achieve the goal of universal access to the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. It signed commitments to this effect at the United Nations in 2001 and 2006 and also promised to pursue this objective within the framework of a G8 communiqué. It is our observation that it will not be possible to reach this goal by 2010 with the funds that have been made available thus far!

We expect the new government to fill its obligations and work towards universal access both nationally and internationally. This means that the German strategy in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the action plan that has been drawn up must place greater emphasis on the goal of universal access.

In the coming coalition negotiations you, Sir, will have the opportunity to set important political accents and to insist on a stronger effort in the fight against the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. In spite of noticeable progress, for millions of people it still presents a deadly threat.

For that reason we emphatically request you to promote our cause in the negotiations for the new coalition and:

- raise the development cooperation funds to be made available in accordance with Germany's economic strength to such a degree that 10% of the international funding for the goal of universal access will come from Germany
- raise the percentage of national public development aid for 2010, which was 0.28% of GNI in 2008, to the minimum level of 0.51% decided on by the EU so that the UN standard of 0.7% of GNI will be reached by at least 2015
- raise the level of development cooperation funds relevant to health, which have been insufficient up to now, to a minimum level of 0.1% of GNI
- achieve coherent policies among the federal ministries so that human rights, and particularly the right to health has absolute priority over intellectual property rights at all times
- support the intention of the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS to have a systematic evaluation of the effects of international trade agreements on access to medicines and the development of new ones
- provide greater support for research in the field of HIV so that better medicines can be produced for children and new forms of therapy and additional means of prevention can be made available in the near future

- support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as an important multilateral funding instrument by increasing the contribution of the German government to one-tenth of the amount the Fund requires. Currently it is lacking at least US\$ 3 billion for the period up to the end of 2010.
- We are convinced that it is absolutely necessary to retain a separate federal ministry whose central concern is development policy, which will tackle the shaping of globalization in an inclusive manner (i.e. including the developing countries) with the aim of peaceful and stable development and which will also represent the interests of the poor countries in Cabinet.

We would be very pleased to provide you with further information or meet with you for a personal discussion.

Yours sincerely,



Speaker for the Catholic members
of Action against AIDS
Managing Director
Medical Mission Institute Würzburg



Managing Director
of Action against AIDS