

Speech by Dr. Sarah England at Moscow GP launch, January 27, 2006.

Dobre Denh,

Dear chair persons, dear participants of this press conference.

This launch of the Global Plan to Stop TB is a call for Actions for Life towards a world free of tuberculosis. Russia is hosting the G8 this year for the first time. The Stop TB Partnership is very pleased that infectious diseases are on the agenda and we congratulate Russia for this initiative. We call for the G8 to endorse this Global Plan to Stop TB, and for all of the more than 400 Stop TB partners to work together to save 14 million lives.

This event in Moscow is part of a worldwide movement to launch the Global Plan to Stop TB. Right now at the World Economic Forum in Davos Switzerland, Bill Gates is announcing that he will triple his commitment to TB. He is pledging US\$ 900 million to fund this global plan over the next 10 years. Mr Gates says: This plan makes a compelling case for greater investment in tuberculosis. We're willing to triple our funding for tuberculosis and we urge others to do the same. If we have the chance to save 14 million lives and a clear plan to make it happen, we have an obligation to act.

All over the world – in Washington, London, Paris, Ottawa and Nairobi, the plan is being launched by political, technical, business, and cultural TB heroes. We need you all, not only today, but in the coming months and years, to put this Global Plan to Stop TB into ACTIONS FOR LIFE towards a world free of tuberculosis. The Stop TB Partnership salutes you and urges you on.

More than 400 partners, including many Russian experts- have put this plan together. This plan can deliver 14 million lives saved if we can deliver the political commitment to fund it and put it into action. This is a call for Actions for Life.

In financial terms, this plan calls for an investment of US\$56 Billion. Based on current funding trends, we project that \$25 Billion US Dollars can be readily sourced. We need to raise another \$31 Billion dollars from donors and from the domestic resources of endemic countries. The costs of not doing so are too serious to ignore. The financial needs are, in US dollars:

- \$ 29 Billion for DOTS Expansion
- \$ 6 billion for multi-drug resistant TB
- \$ 7 Billion for AIDS-related TB including ARVs for 3 million people with both diseases
- \$ 3 billion for technical assistance to endemic countries, and
- \$ 9 billion for the development of new vaccines, drugs and diagnostics

The pay off for this investment is measurable not only in terms of lives saved, but also in economic terms. The economic savings far outweigh the costs. TB hits hardest people in their most productive years, destroying livelihoods and plunging families into poverty. TB is **curable** and we have a proven strategy. Within weeks of starting treatment, patients can be back at work, supporting their families.

This Global Plan to Stop TB is based on a proven approach that delivers results. The new Stop TB Strategy, developed by WHO, has six components:

- 1) Pursue high quality DOTS

- 2) Address TB-HIV, MDR TB and other special challenges such as TB in prisons
- 3) Contribute to health system strengthening
- 4) Engage all care providers
- 5) Empower people with TB
- 6) Promote research.

The Global Plan to Stop TB is a call to action: Let us work together to translate the Global Plan to Stop TB into **ACTIONS FOR LIFE** towards a world free of tuberculosis.