

# *The International Treatment Preparedness Coalition*

**7 April 2006**

**Jong-Wook Lee, MD, MPH  
Director General  
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**Dear Dr. Lee:**

We are over one hundred people living with HIV/AIDS and their advocates from over 50 countries around the world. We represent hundreds more who have not been able to sign this letter personally.

We would like to take this occasion to thank you for your truly visionary leadership in launching WHO's 3x5 campaign in 2003. Though we have all fallen short of seeing that three million people received antiretroviral treatment by the end of 2005, the 3x5 campaign was absolutely vital in speeding the pace of the expansion of AIDS treatment to the millions who need it around the world.

We are gravely concerned that the new Universal Access initiative, while enshrining a noble sentiment to ensure that all those who need AIDS care, treatment and prevention services receive it by 2010, lacks the specificity of WHO's 3x5 campaign and is not accompanied by any clear and concrete operational goals.

At the World Health Assembly in May, we urge you to publicly reaffirm your personal commitment to the spirit of the 3x5 initiative and WHO's commitment to work with countries to ensure that 3 million people are on antiretroviral treatment as soon possible and to set out clear, ambitious, new targets for the maximum achievable number of people WHO believes can be on treatment by 2008 and by 2010.

Despite the difficulties associated with the 3x5 campaign and the challenges it presented, *it is now part of your legacy*. It is an effort you should wholeheartedly take pride in. While so many leaders are willing to simply talk about their commitment to people living with HIV/AIDS, you are one of the few leaders who actually put the time, energy and resources of your institution behind an effort to save millions of lives despite the naysayers and the critics who tried to dissuade you from your task.

Our work is not done. Thousands of people died needlessly today because they still do not have access to AIDS treatment and care. Millions more will die over the coming years if WHO and its member states do not build on and extend the 3x5 initiative beginning now in 2006. There is not a moment to lose. We need to hear your voice loudly and clearly over the voices of others trying to divert our efforts or to move us entirely away from the historic premise that the 3x5 initiative represents: none of our lives is expendable, no one deserves to die, simply because they can't afford the drugs and the care they need to keep them alive.

Sincerely,

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