



STATEMENT

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WHO WELCOMES GATES FOUNDATION PLEDGE TO GLOBAL FUND

The World Health Organization (WHO) today welcomed the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledge to the new Global Health Fund proposed by the United Nations and G8 nations.

"The Fund is off to a very good start," said Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, WHO Director-General. "The fact that governments, companies and private foundations are joining together to back the Fund illustrates that this is not business as usual. There is a realization that global problems need global solutions and that we all are stakeholders - no matter where we live and whatever our business. By their contributions, the donors are making the forces of globalization work for the secure future of humanity."

The Gates Foundation announced earlier today a \$100 million commitment to the Global AIDS and Health Fund, which it said should be used "for innovative HIV/AIDS prevention efforts".

For more information about the Gates Foundation announcement:
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/pressroom/release.asp?PRindex=388>

For further information, journalists can contact Office of the Spokesperson, WHO, Geneva. Telephone (+41 22) 791 2599; Fax (+41 22) 791 4858; Email: inf@who.int All WHO Press Releases, Fact Sheets and Features as well as other information on this subject can be obtained on Internet on the WHO home page <http://www.who.int/>