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25 June 2007

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Desmond,

Thank you for your letter of 23 May about the need for action at the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm on AIDS, TB and malaria.

I welcome the action by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance to raise the profile of this important issue. You are well placed to respond constructively to the AIDS epidemic, including through the important work of faith organisations providing health and educational services to some of the poorest and disadvantaged communities, and in helping to tackle the stigma that is all too often associated with HIV and AIDS.

At Heiligendamm the G8 reaffirmed its 2005 commitment to universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care by 2010 and made commitments that will significantly assist in funding and developing national AIDS plans. These include providing \$60 billion funding over the next few years, with \$1.5 billion for prevention of mother to child transmission, \$1.8 billion for paediatric treatments and \$1.5 billion for family planning.

The G8 reaffirmed its commitment to provide long-term predictable funding to the Global Fund in support of national AIDS Plans. It agreed to

support TRIPS flexibilities and the local production of drugs to ensure that affordable drugs are more widely available. And on malaria, the G8 agreed to take the necessary action to cut malaria prevalence in the 30 most affected African countries, to cut the number of deaths from malaria by half.

The G8 Summit made important steps forward in tackling HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. But there is much more to do. The UK will continue to press for the commitments made to be kept. I encourage you to continue to hold the UK and all G8 countries to account.

Best wishes,
Yours ever,
Tony

The Most Reverend Desmond M Tutu