

From Il Campidoglio

To the Prime Minister Mr. Berlusconi

Copy to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Frattini

President,

As Local Authority, I opened yesterday the conference of the International AIDS Society that is currently taking place at the Auditorium in Rome.

During the session, I listened to the desperate appeals made by Mr. Michel Sidibè , Executive Directors of UNAIDS, the President of Istituto Superiore di Sanità Prof. Enrico Garaci, the International Chair Dr. Elly Katabira, the Local Co-Chair Dr. Stefano Vella along with those made by several voluntary associations fighting against AIDS.

All of them unanimously reminded us the dramatic situation of AIDS spread still present in the poorest countries, particularly in Africa, and the urgent need to provide therapies at least to 6 million people in need.

As you know, G8 summit held in 2001 in Genoa took a decision, respected until 2009 to allot funds for the fight against AIDS, malaria, TB; funds that have been able to partially stop the spread of such diseases and provide health care for millions of patients.

The earmark of G8 Global Fund, as you know, has been confirmed in the recent meeting held on May (current year) in Deaville, and the United Nations have declared the Global Fund supplying at least until 2015.

Yesterday during the opening session of the international conference in Rome, Local and National Authorities, along with several associations that fight against AIDS, pressed the Italian Government to keep its commitment to providing funds, not disbursed since 2009.

I am aware of the difficult economical situation in the world as well as in Italy, and of all necessary sacrifices, but I cannot ignore the desperate appeals I heard yesterday. Unfortunately thousands of children, women and men, will not receive adequate treatments and therefore will die from AIDS, TB and malaria in the forthcoming months if Italy will not do its share of it.

For this reason, holding you in high esteem and showing you my gratefulness, I kindly ask you to review the decision and to back the Global Fund in the next years as promised in the past in order to save many lives and resist the epidemic of these terrible infectious diseases. The present situation shows that all efforts made by Governments and scientists have succeeded in controlling the epidemic. Abandoning everything now it would mean risking a new spread of these infections, with negative repercussions also for more industrialized countries.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Alemanno