

**United Nations General Assembly High-Level Interactive Panel  
Discussion**

**“Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS:  
From Policy to Practice – Progress Achieved, Lessons Learned  
and Best Practices”**

**ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York**

**Monday, 22 September 2003: 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.**

**Address by Mr. Tarun Das, Director General, Confederation of  
Indian Industry**

**A CII Response To This Challenge**

India, with 1 billion + population has been our national platform. And, CII's HIV / AIDS work has covered 7 areas:

1. Formulation of a HIV code for industry as a part of our HIV/AIDS workplace programs focusing on awareness building amongst workers, families and communities. We have covered 2000 companies so far.
2. Programs of training the trainers in companies to sustain the work and training of doctors to deal with affected persons. CII now employs medical doctors and professional workers on our personal staff to carry this work forward.
3. We partner NGOs to provide employment to HIV+ persons. Paper recycling — example. Plus donating equipment and tools as required for income generation.
4. We have set up a separate facility to provide modest finance and help them get additional bank finance to enable HIV+ persons to set up micro-enterprises.
5. We have established a counseling helpline – now operational. (R Gere donation).
6. We organize sports and recreational events for HIV+ persons plus others to promote integration.

7. IBT / RNT – CEO's forum. PSU / Private sector dedicated to HIV / AIDS programs in Business and industry. Going beyond funds to a variety of ground level programs.

Three general points,

1. Domestic: CII – GOI / State public private partnership. NACO + State AIDS.
2. Global: CII – GBC Partnership – RH/JS Partnership. International reach and networking and sharing of best practices in the corporate sector.
3. Business Associations role & company's role. Associations - Catalyst & management of programs. Engagement of all business associations around the world = huge reach.

Commitment from India, from CII – from me personally. We shall engage our 150 partner institutions across the world to involve themselves deeply in addressing the HIV/AIDS issue. And, we want to learn from others. We shall help share and support all of them by sharing our knowledge and experience.

→ 2005 ← target.

It will not be easy. It will be a struggle.

1<sup>st</sup> step: Acceptance of shared responsibility by industry and business.

2<sup>nd</sup> step: Working out a specific pro-active, useful POA.

3<sup>rd</sup> step: building and investing in delivery systems.