



TIME GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT

In association with



Premieres November 1-3 at 9 pm



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr. Paul G. Allen
Investor and Philanthropist

Bono
Co-founder, DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa)

Sir Richard Branson
Chairman, Virgin Group of Companies

Mr. William H. Gates
Co-founder, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Mr. R.E. "Ted" Turner
Chairman, U.N. Foundation

KOFI ANNAN DELIVERS FIRST MAJOR SPEECH ON AVIAN FLU AT TIME GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT

UNVEILS 7 KEY PRIORITIES FOR UN SYSTEM AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS

'If other pandemics have taught us anything, it is surely the lesson that silence is death,' Annan Says

New York – U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan today delivered his first major speech on avian flu today at the TIME Global Health Summit in New York. In that speech, Annan outlined seven key priorities for the UN system and the international community to address in order to prepare for the possibility of a pandemic of bird flu.

First, he said, "Let us start by addressing the spread of bird flu itself. We must invest more to monitor and halt the spread that currently seems to be reaching a new country almost every day. That means strengthening veterinary infrastructure that is currently underfunded, so that disease outbreaks can be detected at source. And it means compensating farmers and families fairly and properly for the culling of their birds which, for so many communities around the world, are a desperately important source of economic security. And if they are not compensated, they are not going to tell you when their birds are sick. "

Annan said that the international community must educate people about the risks of living in close proximity with their animals. He said: "Second, we must help people accept that the current strain of bird flu challenges a way of life that has been with us for centuries – that of people living in close proximity with their animals. I myself come from Ghana, a country where families and their farmyard animals, children and chickens, often co-exist in one happy community. Hard as it will be, we must find ways of structuring that co-existence, or we will never be able to stop viruses migrating from animals to us -- and to our children."

"Third, we must prepare for the impact of a human pandemic by identifying what is needed to keep communities and countries running, should our fears materialize. That means working through what may happen, developing contingency plans and making advance commitments -- governmental and inter-governmental -- on how we will keep essential services going, from transport to trade, from security to health services and systems themselves," Annan said.

"Fourth, we must work to ensure access to antiviral medicines for all who will need them. That means exceptional efforts to scale up production; it means ensuring availability for people in the developing world, who currently risk going without; it means sharing the necessary science and technology with those who have the required capacity to produce," Annan said.

"Fifth, we must ensure transparency and cooperation on science and research, especially in the development of a vaccine. That means as much openness as possible among Governments in the sharing of specimens and information; it means overcoming individual national interests to work collectively in our common cause; it means brokering scientific cooperation and harnessing global inventiveness and expertise on an unprecedented scale. I was pleased to hear President Bush describe on Tuesday how the United States will make use of modern cell-based technology in developing novel influenza vaccines," Annan said.

– more –

Media partner



November 1 - 3, 2005

New York City

time.com/globalhealth

Major supporter
**BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation**

Supporters
The Coca-Cola Company



ExxonMobil



“Sixth, we must make full use of modern technology and culture to communicate vital facts about the virus, and what people can do about it. If other pandemics have taught us anything, it is surely the lesson that silence is death. That means using all channels at our disposal to disseminate information -- from radio and television, to email and mobile phone text messaging. If I may quote Mike Leavitt, the US Health Secretary: “Flu virus is a networked enemy. We must fight it with a networked army.” That is our challenge,” Annan said.

“Finally, we need political leadership and energy at the highest level. We need clear commitment from the top to ensure coordination of the response in every country, bringing in all parts of Government, civil society and the private sector,” Annan said.

“Already, we have seen courageous leadership in many countries, triggering a number of promising national and regional initiatives -- from the European Union to the African Union; from ASEAN Plus Three to the US International Partnership, which President Bush launched at the United Nations in September, and outlined further on Tuesday,” Annan said.

A full transcript of Annan’s remarks, and photos of his appearance, will be available on TIME.com/globalhealth later today. A webcast is available now at time.com/globalhealth.

TIME.com features ongoing reporting from the summit at www.time.com.

###

Media Contacts:

Global Health Strategies

Seth Amgott
202-415-2625

TIME

Ty Trippet
646-322-4299