



Investing in our future

The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

STATEMENT BY THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA FOR THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON AIDS

UN General Assembly, New York, June 10, 2011

Your Excellency Mr President of the General Assembly, Honourable Ambassadors, Delegates, Colleagues and Friends:

Ten years ago the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on AIDS set in train the creation of the Global Fund.

Today, the Global Fund is supporting half of the six million people on antiretroviral treatment in developing countries and is the major international funder for HIV prevention, including for PMTCT and harm reduction. Programs supported by the Fund have saved at least an estimated 7 million lives from the three diseases in just the last eight years. Not only has the Global Fund played a key role in channelling new resources, it has helped to mobilize a broad-based partnership globally and in countries that brings together governments, civil society, multilateral agencies and the private sector.

We can all take pride in what has been achieved since the landmark UNGASS meeting. In ten years, the world has not only demonstrated the feasibility of providing HIV treatment and prevention in resource-limited settings, it has shown that these interventions can be scaled up to reach millions of people. Most importantly, we are showing impact. The numbers of deaths and new infections are decreasing. Health and community systems are being revitalized. And lives are being saved on an unprecedented scale.

In 2001, the idea of treating millions of people with HIV, or virtually eliminating mother-to-child transmission, seemed almost Utopian. Five years ago, such goals began to seem achievable. Today, these are realistic objectives. The progress we have made in just a decade should encourage us to set more ambitious goals in 2011 and pursue them boldly in the coming years.

Despite the challenging discussions at this meeting, the Global Fund believes that there is in fact a strong emerging consensus about how we should now move forward to end the AIDS epidemic.

First, we must do more to maximize the impact of our investments, consistent with the UNAIDS investment analysis. This means striking the right balance between country ownership of programs and ensuring that proven, high-impact prevention is targeted to those who are most-at-risk, including men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs and sex workers. It means accelerating the uptake and coverage of new technologies and approaches, such as male circumcision and

couples testing and counselling. And it means renewing our vision for the continued, sustainable scale-up of AIDS treatment to the millions still in need and the millions more who will gain from its proven protective benefit.

Second, we must continue to leverage the impact of investments beyond AIDS to further strengthen health and community systems and make substantial, additional gains in the health of women and children. Eliminating vertical transmission of HIV in the next few years is critical to achieving these goals.

Third: We need to maximize value for money from our investments by leveraging markets for pharmaceutical products more strategically and enhancing the quality and impact of our partnerships, particularly in the provision of technical support at country level and addressing weak capacity in areas such as procurement and financial management. All of us – funders, implementers, bilaterals and multilaterals - must examine our ways of working and strive to deliver on our mandates as efficiently, effectively and transparently as possible.

Fourth: We must promote and protect human rights and ensure that equitable HIV services. Addressing challenges such as stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and those most-at-risk, tackling homophobia, gender inequality and sexual violence and empowering women and girls are not only moral imperatives but are essential to ending the AIDS epidemic.

Finally, without new resources we will not achieve results or sustain the gains we have made. There is a more compelling case than ever for current donors to continue to invest in the fight against AIDS and other diseases. But new donors must also come to the table if we are to reach more ambitious goals. This includes more implementing countries showing solidarity in the global fight by becoming donors and contributing their fair share. At the same time, we urgently need additional innovation in health financing.

Through the new five-year strategy now being developed, the Global Fund will contribute strongly in each of these five areas to ensure that interventions reach those in need, achieve broad impact, represent value for money and promote and protect human rights.

Ending the AIDS epidemic is possible if every stakeholder and sector contribute to the response in a renewed spirit of shared responsibility. The Global Fund stands ready to play its part as the major multilateral financing instrument in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria.