

**UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Biennial High Level Development Cooperation Forum**

**Panel: “How are civil society and new actors enhancing
impact at the country-level?”
New York City, June 30
Michel Kazatchkine Address (8 minutes)**

Excellencies:

Distinguished guests:

Colleagues and friends:

My warm thanks to President Merores for inviting me to participate in this panel.

In light of our experience at the Global Fund, I am always eager to talk about how civil society and the private sector are making such a positive impact in the international fight against the three major diseases on which we focus: AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Since its creation in 2002, the Global Fund has approved financing of US\$11 billion in 136 countries. It is now the primary multilateral funder of the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. It provides two thirds of global financing for TB and for malaria, and 25% of international financing for HIV programs.

We are now seeing the impact of this funding. Particularly in malaria, we are seeing major declines in incidence, morbidity and mortality in a growing number of countries. This is some of the strongest evidence we

have ever seen that we can indeed stop the spread of infectious disease in the developing world.

This impact is achieved because the Global Fund is not only a financing mechanism. It is a public-private partnership, in which civil society and the private sector play a fundamental role, both in governance, and implementation.

It is because of the AIDS crisis that we have seen a historic and unprecedented mobilization of civil society for global health in countries of both the north and the south. We understand more clearly, with each passing year, that governments cannot hope to fight major epidemics on their own. The full capacity of all partners must be brought to bear, in particular, the vastly untapped power of communities.

Among the most important innovations of the Global Fund is that it has raised partnerships with affected communities, including people living with the diseases, to an institutional level, and to the governance of development, in so many countries, often for the very first time.

On the Global Fund Board, civil society organizations have equal voting rights alongside donor and recipient governments. At the country-level, Country Coordinating Mechanisms - which bring together country stakeholders to develop funding proposals and oversee Global Fund grants - must comprise at least 40% representation from non-governmental organizations.

In addition to a governance role, civil society has a major role to play in implementation. Thirty percent of Global Fund resources are managed by civil society organizations. And they have proved themselves to be among the strongest implementers, with 83 percent of grants managed by NGOs receiving the top performance ratings.

This is because, when properly resourced and supported, NGOs can often reach communities and deliver services better than anyone else. In the case of AIDS, for example they can provide outreach services to the groups most at risk – sex workers, men who have sex with men; injection drug users –in ways that governments cannot, and sometimes, will not.

Civil society also mobilizes communities, provides prevention programs, education, and treatment literacy, in the most effective, inspiring and innovative ways.

We can all do more to harness the capacity of civil society for health and development. Sometimes a small investment in infrastructure, some capacity building, a computer, an internet connection, a place to meet, can make the world of difference.

That is why, in addition to supporting health systems strengthening, the Global Fund now specifically encourages countries to invest in strengthening community systems, as well.

The private sector is also a key, but too often, neglected partner for the Global Fund and in the development field. In the 21st century, we cannot talk about healthcare and

health systems without involving private sector. Private sector organizations, including private foundations, play many roles in the healthcare landscape, including that of donor, implementer and advocate.

I am pleased to note that private sector contributions to, and involvement with, the Global Fund have been steadily increasing. For example, the Product RED campaign aims to build a sustainable flow of funds to the Global Fund by contributing a percentage from purchases of famous consumer brands. Since its launch two years ago, Product RED has contributed \$120 million to the Global Fund.

As with civil society and NGOs, private sector organizations are also delivering healthcare to the communities in which they operate. I can share three examples that illustrate the impact of the private sector on the ground.

In Namibia, Namdeb Diamond Corporation developed an HIV/AIDS program for its employees, but extended the services to the local community of Oranjemund. This program, which includes prevention, treatment, and support services, is the first of its kind in Namibia and is seen by other businesses as a model employee and community wellness program.

Second, in Chennai, India, the private sector and civil society are working effectively together. A non-governmental organization called REACH carried out a three-year TB advocacy program using a Global Fund grant and trained private practitioners in the delivery of TB treatment and implementing a large community

awareness campaign on TB. The project has had considerable impact. Nearly a thousand private practitioners have been trained, 28 clinics established, and 9 non-governmental organizations were set up to strengthen public-private partnerships.

Third, private sector partners are important for international initiatives. The Global Fund is considering launching a much needed market intervention called the Affordable Medicines Facility for malaria (AMFm). It is aimed at making the new generation of malaria drugs available to the many patients in need who obtain drugs and health care through the for-profit sector. With the cooperation of private sector drug manufacturers, this initiative will help to reduce malaria mortality and morbidity and prevent resistance to effective malaria treatment.

These are just a few examples of public-private partnerships in health complementing the work of governments.

We are here today because the mission of ECOSOC is to promote social justice, expand human rights and contribute to the alleviation of poverty. This can only be done by building the broadest possible partnership of all who share these goals.

Let us remember that, along with governments, civil society and the private sector are essential partners in moving our shared agenda forward.

Merci beaucoup.

