

Leading the Charge: Driving Political Leadership & Collective Action to Defeat HIV, TB and Malaria and towards Health for All

Distinguished guests, colleagues, and friends,

I am honored to participate in the launch of the Global Fund's 8th Replenishment and speak on behalf of the Communities Delegation, the Developing Country NGO Delegation and the Developed Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund Board.

Many of us were part of the earliest responses to AIDS, TB, and malaria. Together, we have moved mountains, and today, we stand before you as living proof of the progress made because we are still alive.

We celebrate the **65 million lives saved** through the Global Fund's investments—an achievement that would have been unimaginable three decades ago. We see from the robust investment case the incredible potential to **save 23 MILLION MORE lives**, which will enable us to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Global Fund has helped and continues to help people and communities across all continents. Communities, in turn, help the Global Fund – often reaching people who may not otherwise have access to HIV, TB and malaria programs and contributing to their continuity of care.

Communities and civil society **ARE** experts, and we **DO** contribute to our collective success at all stages and levels, from program design to implementation, to monitoring and oversight. The Global Fund Partnership remains one of the few mechanisms that meaningfully engages civil society and communities. It is a true partnership that we cherish because of its effectiveness.

The Global Fund Partnership demonstrates how our collective actions, collaborations across sectors and disease areas, and the meaningful participation of civil society and communities set us up to 'win'. We must continue to center the people living with and affected by HIV, TB and malaria in the global responses.

We urge you to enable the Global Fund to continue to support community-led approaches, to build sustainable health systems and to drive tangible health outcomes.

While we celebrate the transformative gains, we cannot pretend that our work is done. We set out to end HIV, TB, and malaria—not to slow or contain them, but to **END** these diseases!

We are living in unprecedented times—where donor investments for health are shrinking—and which requires us to stay united and embrace relentless humanity despite the overlapping crises. We are confronted with urgent dilemmas of delivering proven life-saving prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care for HIV, TB, malaria, and overall health for people's survival, while weighing investments in technological advancements for the future.

Meanwhile, we are witnessing scientific progress—a TB vaccine is in the pipeline, long acting injectables offer new hope for HIV prevention, and additional malaria vaccines are being rolled out. Investments in enabling environments, human rights, gender equality, and integrated, inclusive, community-friendly health services are

also proven antidotes to stigma, discrimination and criminalization that fuel these diseases.

However, progress without action is just potential. And action requires investment. It requires YOUR investment and commitment.

We need this because we have unfinished business. **9.2 million people living with HIV** still do not have access to treatment. **Up to 4 million people with TB** are missed by health systems each year because they were not diagnosed, treated, or reported. And for malaria, even if high coverage interventions can be achieved, biological threats remain obstacles to progress. Without a robust replenishment, millions of people remain without proven prevention technologies that could change the trajectory of these pandemics.

We urge you — this is not the moment to retreat. **Now is the time to finish what we started together.**

We call upon donors, national governments, and the private sector to **STEP UP, not step back**, because we are so close to ending HIV, TB and malaria by 2030, as a public health threat.

If donors falter on their commitments, we all lose.

We call upon implementing countries to also increase their share in domestic funding to sustain the Partnership because it is becoming harder and harder to rely solely on external donors.

We welcome the 8th Replenishment target: Yes, it may sound ambitious but the need has not decreased, it is greater as shown by the resource gap from the previous Replenishment. We further welcome the target because it is grounded in science and based on evidence of what the need is, and lays out a path to proven solutions and innovations to finish the fight to end HIV, TB and malaria.

The long-term economic savings and return on investment speak for themselves: a successful Replenishment would see \$323 billion in economic returns over three years. That is more than annual gross national income of Romania, Chile, Finland and other 145 countries in the world. Impressive numbers.

Ultimately, behind each of these numbers is a person.

A future.

A dream.

And we have the power to make that vision a reality.

History will judge us — not by what we promised, but by what we delivered.