

General Debate Remarks from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria
IPU General Assembly – April 9, 2019
Delivered by Scott Boule, Senior Specialist for Parliamentary Affairs

Mr. Chairman and honorable Members of Parliament, it is a privilege to have this opportunity to address you today. My name is Scott Boule and I serve as Senior Specialist for Parliamentary Affairs at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria.

The Global Fund has observer status at the IPU General Assembly, and we are grateful to be able participate in general debate and as part of the IPU's Advisory Group on Health.

Global health is especially relevant to this debate's theme focused on peace, security and access to education because access to quality health care is essential to achieve these aims. When someone is sick, learning becomes difficult or impossible, and when a country lacks health infrastructure, stability and security are undermined.

The Global Fund invests approximately US \$4 billion each year in over 100 eligible countries worldwide. Since our creation in 2002, Global Fund-supported programs have saved an estimated 27 million lives. AIDS-related deaths have been cut in half since the epidemic's peak in 2005, and since 2000 there has been a 25 percent decline in TB deaths and a 45 percent decline in malaria deaths. In total, the Global Fund provides 20 percent of the international financing available to combat HIV/AIDS, 65 percent for TB, and 57 percent for malaria.

In addition, 27 percent of our funds, or about US \$1 billion annually, go towards building resilient and sustainable health systems through investments to improve procurement and supply chains; strengthen data systems; train the health workforce; build stronger community responses; and other related activities that form the foundation for progress towards universal health coverage. This annual investment makes the Global Fund the largest multilateral grant funder worldwide for these vital needs.

We recently launched our 6th Replenishment campaign at a preparatory meeting hosted by the Government of India. Our message during this campaign is we need to step up the fight to get back on track to end the epidemics of HIV, TB and malaria by 2030. This is the commitment the global community made in the Sustainable Development Goals.

France will host our Replenishment Conference in Lyon this October, where we must raise at least US \$14 billion for the next three-year cycle from 2020 through 2022. If we succeed, an estimated 16 million lives will be saved and 234 million infections will be averted, reducing both mortality and incidence rates by approximately one half. Support from parliamentarians around the world will be essential for success.

Equitable access to education, sustained peace, and lasting security won't be possible without achieving SDG 3 - health and well-being for all. Thank you for this opportunity today to discuss how the Global Fund is contributing to these important goals.