

STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

February 2nd 2012

Ten years ago a unique organization was formed. Inspired by tragedy and suffering that global leaders could no longer ignore, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria brought hope to the world. Ten years later, that hope has turned into reality. Almost eight million lives have been saved. Over three million people are now receiving anti-retroviral treatment and millions more are accessing testing and counseling services. Over eight and a half million cases of TB have been detected and treated. Malaria deaths have fallen by 50% in eleven African countries. All of this was unimaginable before we had the Global Fund. But our work is not yet complete. Of the 34 million people living with HIV, there are still 15 million who need treatment. Until last year, we were set on a path to end AIDS, TB and malaria.

Against the backdrop of success and promise, the Global Fund's mission is now in great jeopardy. Faced with a tough fiscal environment, some donor countries have put a limit on their pledges to the Global Fund and others have reneged on their promises altogether. The result has been a stunning shortfall of income which will stop any further progress. A week before World AIDS Day 2011, without the necessary resources in hand, the Global Fund was forced to announce that it was cancelling its next round of grants (Round 11) and would not be offering new funding opportunities until 2014.

This was devastating news for communities affected by HIV, TB and malaria. People living with HIV fear that their life saving treatments will soon come to an end. At a time in the history of the epidemic when the science has shown us that adherence to anti-retroviral treatment is a highly effective way to prevent HIV transmission, it seems especially cruel to threaten the hope and renewal that so many communities have experienced in recent years. This is a time when, with smart and strategic investments, we can end AIDS in the foreseeable future. But not without the political will to do so.

As Canadian civil society organizations and individuals, we call on donor country governments to:

- Urgently deliver on the commitments they made at the Global Fund Replenishment Meeting in 2010 and in prior commitments;
- Hold an Emergency Donor Conference to raise \$2 billion before July 2012 to put the AIDS, TB and malaria responses back on track.

Canadian leadership - in fulfilling our pledge to the Global Fund, urging other donor countries to do the same and supporting an emergency donors meeting this spring - will determine the future of the fight and the futures of millions of people around the world.

The Global Treatment Access Group (GTAG) is a working group of international development, human rights, humanitarian, and AIDS service organizations, trade unions, student groups and faith-based groups seeking to improve access to essential medicines and other aspects of HIV prevention and care, treatment and support for people living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries.

Bracelet of Hope

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network/ Le Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida

Canadian Treatment Action Council/ Conseil canadien de surveillance et d'accès aux traitements

GRAN – Grandmothers Advocacy Network/Le réseau d'action des grands-mères

Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development/Coalition interagence sida et développement

Maija Kagis, individual

Michelle Munro, Global health and HIV consultant

Oxfam Canada

Results Canada/Resultats Canada

UNICEF Canada

Contacts:

Janet Butler-McPhee, Director of Communications, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, 416-595-1666 ext 228, jbutler@aidslaw.ca

Niya Chari, Results Canada, Project Officer, Results Canada, (613) 562-924, niya@results-resultats.ca

Nicci Stein, Executive Director, Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD), (613) 233-7440 ext 113, nstein@icad-cisd.com