

General Debate Remarks from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria
IPU General Assembly – October 16, 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.

Stability and respect for the rule of law are inextricably linked. Similarly, access to quality, affordable health care is inextricably linked with stability. The concept note for this general debate rightly challenges parliamentarians to “step up to courageously drive and promote the changes that are needed to transform the vision for a better world into reality” in order to “generate a real and tangible impact on people’s daily lives” and “end the perception of institutions being far removed from the citizenry.”

Failure to deliver such tangible impacts is fertile ground for the root causes of conflict and violations of human rights and international law. Just last month in New York, the UN General Assembly emphasized the essential role that access to universal health coverage plays in transforming people’s lives and creating a foundation for stability and prosperity. And in 2018 the UN General Assembly set a series of targets to combat the world’s deadliest infectious disease – tuberculosis. The political declarations issued for each both emphasize the important role the Global Fund plays in achieving their goals. Parliamentarians around the world will be responsible for holding their governments accountable for these commitments.

We recently released our annual Results Report for 2019, which incorporates data through the end of 2018 from the over 100 countries that receive Global Fund grants. We are very proud to report that programs supported by the Global Fund have saved an estimated 32 million lives since 2002. In 2018 alone, in the countries where we operate, 18.9 million people received life-saving antiretroviral HIV medications, over 5.3 million people were treated for TB, and 131 million insecticide treated bed nets were distributed to prevent malaria. In addition, the Global Fund continues to be the largest multilateral funder of grants to support sustainable systems for health, investing more than US \$1 billion a year in health systems strengthening to put countries on a path towards universal health coverage.

Last week, the Government of France hosted the Global Fund’s 6th Replenishment Conference in Lyon, and I am pleased to report that we raised just over \$14 billion for the next three-year grant cycle from 2020 through 2022. This amount exceeds the fundraising target needed to stay on track to end the epidemics of HIV, TB and malaria by 2030 as the nations of the world committed to in the Sustainable Development Goals. As a result, an estimated 16 million lives will be saved and 234 million new infections will be averted, reducing both mortality and incidence rates by approximately one half, and creating a healthier, safer and more stable future for all.