

High Level Political Forum, July 10th to July 19th, 2017

We can end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria

Dear Kristian Jensen,

At this year's High Level Political Forum, UN member states recommit to ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages through the review of the Sustainable Development Goal 3. This entails attention to all nine targets for Sustainable Development Goal 3, including target 3.3:

By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

This recommitment comes at a crucial time. In 2000, AIDS appeared to be unstoppable and had devastated an entire generation. But thanks to massive investments and intense research, today it is within our grasp to end the AIDS epidemic once and for all and achieve target 3.3. In this, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has played and will continue to play a vital role.

However, for the last couple of years, investments in fighting AIDS have flat-lined. UNAIDS estimates that global annual investments to fight AIDS must be increased from the current level of 22 billion USD to 30 billion USD in the coming years¹ to realize the goal of eliminating the epidemic altogether by 2030. In the absence of such an increase, the world will see 17 million additional AIDS-related deaths between now and 2030. Likewise, resources for fighting tuberculosis and malaria must be increased by 3 billion USD/year² and 6 billion USD/year³ respectively to achieve SDG3.3. Failure to meet these targets will pose an imminent risk of losing decades of success.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: A key player to achieve SDG 3

The Global Fund pools the world's resources to invest strategically in programmes to end these epidemics. Programmes supported by the Global Fund are already making progress towards target 3.3, and towards other targets such as reducing maternal mortality, ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under five, and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health care and universal health coverage for all.

We call on the Nordic governments to commit to ensure continued and comprehensive financial and political support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In doing so, we note that with their long history of joint co-ordination and a well-respected position in multilateral and bilateral fora, the Nordic countries have a unique potential to be front-runners in ensuring continued investments in global health and thus in a better and more sustainable world for all.

¹ http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/JC2686_WAD2014report_en.pdf

² <http://www.who.int/tb/global-tb-report-infographic.pdf?ua=1>

³ <http://www.who.int/malaria/media/malaria-mdg-target/en/>

This call to action has been forwarded to Nordic officials and was prepared by the Nordic network of civil society organizations from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden committed to achieving global health and supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

