



Dear Ms. Matilda Ernkrans,
Minister for International Development Cooperation
Sweden

9 June 2022

Re: The 30% cuts of the Swedish funding to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the 2022 contribution

Dear Minister for International Development Cooperation,

Thank you for your time and comprehensive response to our request to Sweden.

We are happy to hear that you remain committed to international solidarity and to global objectives to end AIDS, TB and malaria, strengthening health systems and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

We are following Sweden's national affairs and are aware of the recent announcement that 1,3 billion SEK previously deducted from the ODA budget to be used to support refugees from Ukraine - has now been reallocated to the ODA budget administered by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). We celebrate these adjustments to ensure that civil society organizations and actors working for human rights and democracy can keep going with their important work.

Whilst we acknowledge and appreciate this recent development, we remain concerned that the 30% cut of the Global Fund for the 2022 contribution has not rectified as far as we know.

The stakes could not be higher for women and girls the world over and we remain hopeful and are expecting Sweden to continue to be the leader we know you to be. Should there be additional ODA available, because of a new prognosis by the Swedish Migration Agency later this summer, then we remain optimistic that Sweden will reinstate its initial and committed pledge made to the Global Fund 2022. We would also like to stress that the Global Fund prioritizes areas that are at the heart of Sweden's international agenda, and that was previously announced as areas to be fully safeguarded from the deductions: humanitarian assistance and countries with the poorest and most vulnerable people. 75% of the Global Fund's support goes to sub-Saharan Africa and 30% of the support goes to countries defined as particularly vulnerable and with a higher burden of disease, while paying special attention to key and marginalized populations, including LGBTI+ people, women, and adolescent girls. In addition to these figures about one third of Global Fund funding directly benefits sexual and reproductive health and rights, including activities like comprehensive sexuality education, addressing gender-based violence and supporting girls to stay in school.

As per our original letter we need Sweden and all countries to step up pledges by 30% in this 7th Replenishment. Anything less will result in lives lost and we cannot allow this to happen on our watch. If countries don't all pledge 30% more than the Global Fund 6th Replenishment then the Global Fund won't be able to access that US\$6 billion from the USA.

The Global Fund's Investment Case clearly indicates the need for 30 percent over the current grant cycle reflecting the fact that we have gone backwards or stalled in the fight against AIDS, TB, and malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. To reach the SDG 3 target of ending AIDS, TB and malaria as public health threats by 2030, we must speed up progress to reduce deaths and new infections. With an increased commitment from Sweden, the Global Fund partnership will be able to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women in the most affected countries by 72% and every



dollar invested will result in US\$31 in health gains and economic returns, further contributing to the achievement of the overall SDG agenda.

As one of the world's largest donors of multilateral aid for gender equality we ask you again to reconsider your support to the Global Fund.

Yours sincerely

W4GF