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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**CANADA MISSES OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW LEADERSHIP ON HIV/AIDS, TB AND MALARIA AT GLOBAL FUND REPLENISHMENT IN BERLIN**

Yesterday at the Replenishment Meeting of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria in Berlin, Canada missed an opportunity to make good on promises from last year's G8 Summit in Heiligendamm to scale up efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

At the replenishment meeting, other donors made initial pledges equaling \$9.7 billion over the next three years, but Canada did not make a financial commitment. The pledges will triple the size of the Fund, which is welcomed by civil society groups around the globe. However, the Fund will need \$18 billion over the next three years to meet the Millennium Development Goals related to AIDS, TB and malaria, which includes the goal of achieving universal access to treatment by the year 2010. The \$9.7 billion pledged at this week's meeting is far from what is needed to address the crises posed by the most deadly infectious diseases in the world.

"We hope that Canada's refusal to commit to the Fund at the Replenishment Meeting does not close the door on future Canadian leadership and that a significant announcement will be made soon", said Michael O'Connor of the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development.

"We have so much to give" said Peggy Edwards, Co-Chair of the National Advocacy Steering Committee of the Canadian Grandmothers for Africa Network. "The devastation caused by HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in developing countries is a human rights tragedy. Our government can and must show leadership by making a full contribution to the Global Fund."

The Global Fund has produced impressive results: more than one million people living with HIV have been reached with life-saving antiretroviral treatment, tripling the number of people on treatment worldwide. More than 30 million insecticide treated mosquito nets have been distributed to families with children who are at

risk of contracting the disease, and 2.8 million people have been treated with life saving anti-tuberculosis drugs.

Canadians will be looking to the government this fall to take action and demonstrate that Canada is still committed to making good investments in proven, transparent, and effective initiatives like those administered through the Global Fund.

Canada has shown promise over the past 3 years by significantly scaling up its contributions to the Global Fund, and is currently ranked as the Fund's 8th largest contributor. We must build on this leadership.

*The Global Treatment Access Group is a coalition of over 20 Canadian non-governmental organizations working to halt the spread of HIV, Malaria and TB and ensure Canada meets its fair share commitment of infectious diseases.*

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