



International Labour Office
4, route des Morillons
1211 Geneva, Switzerland



The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria
53, Avenue Louis-Casaï
1216 Geneva-Cointrin, Switzerland

30 April 2003

Dear [Minister],

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was established in January 2002 to bring critical funding to countries battling against these three diseases. At that time, the International Labour Organization (ILO) gave full support to the establishment of the Global Fund. In April 2002, the ILO urged ministers of labour, and their social partners in the world of work, to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the new Fund and to submit proposals through the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) that included activities in the world of work.

One year later, the Global Fund has - in two rounds of proposals - made commitments worth US\$ 1.5 billion to support 160 projects over the next two years in more than 85 countries. The first disbursements are now reaching those countries, while at the same time the Fund is establishing mechanisms to become fully operational.

The momentum of programme development and implementation is accelerating, and the Global Fund has become an important new source of funding for scaling up activities to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic at country level. The ILO has intensified its efforts to promote and assist the implementation of its Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work, which was adopted and launched in June 2001 to coincide with a UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS).

We believe that the time has come for the ILO and the Global Fund to act in partnership to ensure that the contributions of the world of work and efforts to fight HIV/AIDS are better integrated at country level. Partnership is key to enhancing the impact of our respective efforts on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and on the realization of the commitments made by world leaders at the UNGASS and by governments, business and labour leaders at recent ILO global conferences and regional meetings.

As a financing mechanism, the Global Fund sees great value in working with the ILO to actively involve business and labour (employers in both private and public sectors, workers and their organizations) in the programmes that the Global Fund finances. The ILO's unique tripartite structure is invaluable for mobilizing key stakeholders in the world of work and their networks to significantly strengthen the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) process. Additionally, the ILO can support policy dialogue that will lead to a better understanding between the public and private sectors and to a more effective public-private partnership in the response to AIDS.

The first priority for an ILO-Global Fund partnership will be to support the role of the CCMs as an important integrating mechanism in the fight against HIV/AIDS and to encourage the tripartite constituents and other stakeholders to submit proposals to the Fund, in order to reflect the full potential of the world of work to address the epidemic. An innovative way to provide and expand care and support services through workplace interventions could, for example, involve workers and their families using employer-financed workplace programs, which are expanded through successful proposals submitted through CCMs to the Fund. These successful grants might include offering prevention through education, supplementing employer sponsored treatment facilities or providing other much needed community support. This is significant for reducing disparities in access to treatment which are leading to impoverishment of already disadvantaged groups, social disruption and possible conflict.

By working together to support the creation and sustainability of public-private partnership at country level, the Global Fund and the ILO will also encourage governments, business and labour to agree and take action on broader questions of globalization and its social consequences in relation to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The ILO and the Global Fund will soon enter into a formal partnership agreement through an exchange of letters.

As executive leadership of the ILO and the Global Fund, we jointly take this opportunity offered by our new partnership to encourage governments, employers' organizations and workers' organizations operating in both the private and public sectors to collaborate with each other and with other stakeholders as relevant to actively encourage and support the submission of proposals through the CCMs to the Global Fund. We encourage you to share this communication with employer and worker organizations in your country and to lend your support to them as they develop proposals for submission to the Global Fund. The timing of your support could not be better as the Global Fund has just announced a new round for proposals, which ends 31 May 2003.

The ILO, through its global Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work, and its technical specialists in the field, will continue to provide its tripartite constituents at country level with advice and technical support in preparing proposals for submission to the Global Fund. This will ensure that skills and resources are available to strengthen workplace and community based efforts in countries and regions where the Global Fund operates.

Guidelines on how to submit proposals to the Global Fund are available on the Fund's website, www.globalfundatm.org. The partnership between the ILO and the Global Fund will reinforce and diversify the CCM process and lead to initiatives which could serve as models of good practice in workplace action. In so doing, national capacity to guide the development of HIV/AIDS workplace policies and programmes will be strengthened and will contribute significantly to national efforts to combat the epidemic.

We thank you for your kind cooperation.



Juan Somavia
Director-General
International Labour Organization



Richard Feachem
Executive Director
Global Fund to fight AIDS,
Tuberculosis and Malaria