



October 21st 2015

OPEN LETTER FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD TO:

His Excellency, Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen of Denmark

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Your Excellency,

At the end of September, world leaders gathered in New York to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals, the global goals which will guide the world's efforts in development through 2030. Under the Health Goals "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" and an explicit sub-goal: "*By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases*". All countries agreed to implement this plan and pledged that no one will be left behind. Denmark has played an important role in negotiating the equality-oriented SDGs and is seen as a leader in the AIDS response due to its commitment to human rights.

We are shocked to learn that at the same time your government agreed to implement the SDGs, it announced that it has prepared a finance act that proposes dramatic cuts in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

We understand that this includes a planned yearly cut of 65 million DK to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for 2015 and 2016 (almost \$20 million USD), despite the promises made by the Danish Prime Minister and Nordic heads of state during US President Obama's 2013 visit to Stockholm and the pledge made at the Global Fund Replenishment meeting in 2013. The Global Fund is the mechanism through which more than 8 million people have accessed life-saving HIV medicine over the last decade. It provides preventative treatment so that women living with HIV can have HIV-negative babies, and it supports prevention and harm reduction

services to underserved populations. Your government is putting these gains at risk and letting people down.

On top of this you propose to end your contributions to the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, one of the leading organizations in the civil society response to HIV, and reduce the CISU funds (Civilsamfund I Udvikling – Civil Society in Development) available to Danish NGOs to implement HIV/AIDS prevention projects in partnership with civil society in the Global South. Also, in the future you plan to end funding for two major HIV prevention initiatives; the International Partnership for Microbicides and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative that advance scientific research in microbicides and AIDS vaccines. In addition, you propose to decrease the contribution to UNAIDS, and your bilateral support to HIV/AIDS and health programs in high prevalence countries is being phased out.

These cuts are in sharp contrast to what global leaders called for in New York: accelerated action and enhanced financial investments to fast-track the end of the AIDS epidemic. What keeps us from achieving this historic opportunity is an annual funding gap of US\$ 12 billion. **Maintenance levels of funding are not an option; cuts such as those being suggested in your finance act are devastating and may threaten gains from past investments.** If we want to prevent a resurgence of the epidemic and use this limited window of opportunity in time to end HIV/AIDS as a public health threat, we need more - not less - investments.

Ambitious investments now are required to ensure that no one is left behind. Increasingly the epidemic is about equity and human rights; young women, adolescents and already marginalized populations are bearing the biggest burden and see some of the highest rates of new infections.

Investing in the AIDS response is investing in maternal and child health, and in equality. It is also economically smart: earlier this year, the Lancet medical journal released a report suggesting that an ambitious scale-up in the fight against HIV/AIDS could generate benefits of US\$1157 billion dollars between now and 2030.

We call on you to live up to the promises made to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals and reverse the cuts to HIV/AIDS and the Global Fund in the Finance Act.

Denmark was a leader in the fight against AIDS – we need your leadership now more than ever.

Global Signatories

Organization Name	Country
Fundacion Huesped	Argentina
RedTraSex/Red de Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales de Latinoamérica y el Caribe	Argentina
Fundacion para Estudio e investigación de la Mujer	Argentina
Intercambios Asociación Civil	Argentina
Positive People Armenian Network NGO	Armenia
APCASO	Asia-Pacific
Pacific Friends of the Global Fund	Australia
RESULTS Australia	Australia
European AIDS Treatment Group	Belgium
Stop AIDS Alliance	Belgium
Positive-Generation	Cameroon
Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD)	Canada
Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network	Canada
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	Canada
RESULTS Canada	Canada
Mecanismo social de apoyo y control en VIH de Colombia - MSACVCO	Colombia
Linea de Apoyo a Personas con VIH Sida	Cuba
Hiv-Danmark	Denmark
AIDS-Fondet	Denmark
Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM)	Estonia
Friends of The Global Fund Europe	Europe

Organization Name	Country
Positiiviset Ry/ HivFinland	Finland
Global Health Advocates France	France
SOLTHIS	France
AIDES	France
ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership	Global
Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN)	Global
Coalition PLUS	Global
ONE Campaign	Global (Washington HQ)
HIV Iceland	Iceland
Presenation Society	India
Osservatorio Italiano sull'Azione Globale contro l'AIDS	Italy
Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network	Jamaica
Her Story Centre	Kenya
International Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV Kenya Chapter	Kenya
Kenya NGOs Alliance Against Malaria	Kenya
LEAN ON ME FOUNDATION	Kenya
WOTE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS	Kenya
BLUE CROSS NYATIKE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	Kenya
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV	Kenya
KENYA AIDS NGOs CONSORTIUM - KANCO	Kenya
ISHTAR MSM	Kenya
GAY & LESBIAN COALITION OF KENYA OF	Kenya
Kydesa Rainbow community	Kenya

Organization Name	Country
SMILE AFRICA DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION	Kenya
World AIDS Campaign International	Kenya
Stop TB Partnership- Kenya	Kenya
KeNAAM	Kenya
Kenya Treatment Access Movement-KETAM	Kenya
OPERATION HOPE (CBO)	Kenya
Movement of Men Against AIDS in Kenya(MMAAK)	Kenya
DANDORA COMMUNITY AIDS SUPPORT ASSOCIATION	Kenya
Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs	Lithuania
Association for Healthy Life Styles PULSE - Kumanovo	Macedonia
HOPS-Healthy Options Project Skopje	Macedonia
Doverba org mk	Macedonia
Civil Society Organization Center for development and improvement of public life Tetovo	Macedonia
Golomoti Active AIDS Support Organization(GASO)	Malawi
Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP)	Malawi
Journalists Association Against AIDS	Malawi
Union C	Nepal
NIRNAYA	Nepal
Aids Fonds - STOP AIDS NOW!	Netherlands
Global Network of People living with HIV (GNP+)	Netherlands
Y+	Netherlands
International Civil Society Support	Netherlands
KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation	Netherlands
ICW LATINA	Nicaragua

Organization Name	Country
3rd Sector Support Africa	Nigeria
Treasureland Health Builders Initiative	Nigeria
Good Health Educators Initiative	Nigeria
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre	Nigeria
Nye Pluss - hivpositives landsforening	Norway
HivNorge	Norway
White Dove Community Care Inc.	Philippines
AS - Center For The Empowerment Youth Of People Who Are Living With HIV And AIDS	Serbia
AIDS Accountability International (AAI)	South Africa
Fundación Salud por Derecho/Right to Health Foundation	Spain
Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organizations (EANNASO)	Tanzania
Tunisian Association of Positive Prevention	Tunisia
PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS(PLAS) LYANTONDE NETWORK	Uganda
WEDNET-AFRICA	Uganda
The Brea TB and Aids Foundation	Uganda
IceBreakers	Uganda
All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH	Ukraine
AIDS orphan UK trust	United Kingdom
International HIV AIDS Alliance	United Kingdom
STOPAIDS	United Kingdom
Youth Stop AIDS	United Kingdom
RESULTS UK	United Kingdom
AID FOR AIDS	USA

Organization Name	Country
Health GAP	USA
Pangaea	USA
ITEZHI -TEZHI WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS ASSOCIATION (IWAWA)	Zambia
Youth Engage	Zimbabwe
Advocacy Core Team	Zimbabwe