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Geneva, 18 December 2017

HE Ricardo Barros  
Minister of Health  
Ministério da Saúde  
Esplanada dos Ministérios Bloco G  
Brasília-DF / CEP: 70058-900  
BRAZIL

Your Excellency

On behalf of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, I would like to convey my sincere congratulations on Brazil's recent introduction of PrEP as an integral part of its preventive health care policy. Being the first country in Latin America to take this important step speaks to Brazil's commitment to the fight against HIV and leadership in the region.

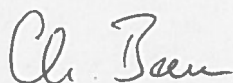
The Global Fund was created in 2001 by the international community and under the leadership of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as a global solidarity instrument to fight three of the most devastating epidemics. More than a decade later, Global Fund support has greatly contributed to achieving the health targets set by the Millennium Development Goals in countries where it invests, many of them achieving outstanding results. With the international community now firmly behind the Sustainable Development Goals, we are even closer to ending the diseases as epidemics.

Thanks to the long-standing relationships with partners such as Brazil, the Global Fund has supported programs that have helped save 22 million lives. To date, 11 million people are on antiretroviral therapy, 17.4 million people have been tested and treated against tuberculosis, and 795 million mosquito nets have been distributed to prevent families from getting malaria. However, much remains to be done to sustain the gains and ensure the sustainability of investments made in the last 15 years.

The Global Fund remains instrumental to achieving these goals together with its partners. Brazil benefited from a total of USD38 million for the fight tuberculosis and malaria until 2014. Since its transition from Global Fund funding, Brazil has maintained its long-standing partnership with the Global Fund through the provision of technical assistance to Lusophone countries in Africa. Brazil remains a key partner for countries like Guinea Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe and can have an exemplary role outside its borders through multilateral instruments like the Global Fund.

In this context, we hope to strengthen our partnership to accelerate global efforts towards our common goals. Global health is now a priority at high level political fora, including the G20. As a member of the G20 and one of the leading countries in the Latin America region, Brazil has an important role to play in the fight against the three diseases and I hope to have the pleasure of working with you to strengthen our great partnership and joint our efforts to end the epidemics by 2030.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Dr Christoph Benn  
Director of External Relations