

Reference: EXO/2015/1130

His Excellency
Mr Areseniy Yatsenyuk
Prime Minister of Ukraine
Kyiv

9 November 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

We have the honour to refer to the AIDS response in Ukraine and would like to thank you and the Government of Ukraine for your leadership.

The recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development signals a critical juncture in the global community's approach to health and development. We are particularly pleased that Ukraine has joined UN Member states in committing to reach the ambitious goal of ending the epidemics of AIDS and tuberculosis by 2030.

As you are aware, Ukraine continues to face one of the fastest growing HIV epidemics in the world, with the highest rates of infection in Europe. Of the 223,000 people living with HIV in Ukraine, only 66,000 currently receive antiretroviral treatment, which is the main reason for the continued increase in AIDS-related morbidity and mortality. Through shared responsibility and global solidarity, Ukraine has strengthened its national AIDS response and achieved impressive results. The new Global Fund grant agreement signed for Ukraine will provide USD 133M for the period 2015-2017, and includes the commitment of the Government of Ukraine to increase the share of domestic funding for HIV and Tuberculosis. In order for the Global Fund to provide the full extent of this funding, we encourage the Government of Ukraine to provide the envisaged counterpart financing including for antiretroviral treatment and opioid substitution therapy, as committed in the State AIDS Programme for 2014-2018.

Ensuring the smooth transition from external donor funding to domestic funds and expanding the coverage of these programmes to reach all those in need will be key to ending the epidemics of AIDS and tuberculosis in Ukraine.

In closing, we would like to reassure of our continued joint support to the Government of Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,



Michel Sidibé
Executive Director
Joint United Nations Programme on
HIV/AIDS



Mark Dybul
Executive Director
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and
Malaria

cc: Ms Natalia Yaresko, Minister of Finance of Ukraine
Mr Oleksandr Kvitashvili, Minister of Health of Ukraine