Mr. Gabriel Jaramillo  
General Manager  
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria  
Geneva Secretariat  
Chemin de Blandonnet 8  
1214 Vernier  
Geneva, Switzerland  

May 8, 2012

Dear Mr. Jaramillo,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the Global Fund to provide clarity on how it will maintain and expand the implementation of rights-based HIV programs targeting sexual and gender minorities as the institution’s reorganization is finalized.

The global HIV epidemic has had a disproportionately heavy burden on sexual and gender minorities, with data showing that men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender communities are especially hard hit. Despite this, these communities have largely not been prioritized with targeted funding in the global HIV response. Where funding sources do exist, recent research indicates that intended HIV investments for MSM undergo attrition at the country-level due to a range of structural barriers, including homophobia.

The Global Fund has a long history of constructive action on these issues: In May 2009, the Global Fund’s Strategy in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities (SOGI Strategy) was approved by the Board. This strategy is intended to help ensure that investments more effectively reach men who have sex with men, transgender populations, male, female, and transgender sex workers, and women who have sex with women – all with a strong emphasis on evidence-based programs rooted in human rights. In 2010, the MARPs Reserve was established as a mechanism to ensure targeted funding for these populations and people who inject drugs. The Board initially approved US$ 200 million over five years, of which US$47 million was awarded in Round 10 for HIV programming in 41 countries over 2 years.

We applaud the work of the Global Fund Secretariat and Board to emphasize portfolio management in the recent reorganization and enshrine human rights as part of the new Global Fund Strategy. However, it remains unclear how the SOGI strategy will be implemented moving forward or who is responsible for that work. A plan that operationalizes the goals of the strategy is desperately needed to ensure the Global Fund’s long term success against the three diseases.

We request a public update on the following issues:

1. Leadership on the SOGI Strategy within the Global Fund – who is responsible for implementing the strategy, monitoring progress and reporting?

2. MARPs Reserve – How will the Global Fund build upon and replicate the success of the MARPs Reserve to stimulate demand from countries for programs for these populations?

3. Human rights – How will the human rights components of the Global Fund’s strategy be implemented and monitored, particularly those related to non-discrimination, gender equality, accountability and service delivery? (See especially points 25, 73, 74 and 75 in the Global Fund 2012-2016 Strategy).

We look forward to continuing to work in a collaborative manner with the Global Fund to achieve these goals, and stand ready to provide support to the process. Should you have any questions, please feel free to be in touch with Krista Lauer, Senior Policy Advisor at the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF) at klauser@msmgf.org.

Sincerely,

(List of signatory organizations follows)
Advocates for Grass Root Empowerment AGE, Nigeria
Advocates for Youth, United States of America
African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHeR), South Africa
Agrupación Nefertiti, Chile
Aibai Culture & Education Center, China
AID FOR AIDS, International
AIDES, France
AIDS Action Foundation, Saint Lucia
AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA), Namibia
Aids Fonds, Netherlands
AIDS United, United States of America
AIDS-Fondet/The Danish AIDS Foundation, Denmark
Akahata, Argentina
American Jewish World Service, United States of America
APNSW, Thailand
ARC, Antigua and Barbuda
Asociación ALFIL, Ecuador
Asociación Humanitas de Costa Rica, Costa Rica
Asociación Silueta X, Ecuador
Association La Brique, Togo
Astitiva - An organisation for the Support & Development of Sexual minorities, India
Belize Alliance Against AIDS, Belize
Blue Diamond Society, Nepal
BSWS, Bangladesh
Cambodian Center for Human Rights, Cambodia
Centre for Health Policy and Innovation, Canada
Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights, Ghana
Chengdu Tongle Health Counseling Service Center, China
Child Advocacy Solidarity Trust, Zimbabwe
CIPAC, Costa Rica
C-NET+ Collaborative Network for Persons Living with HIV, Belize
Colectivo SerGay de Aguascalientes A.C., Mexico
COLECTIVO TRANS LAS DIVAS, Bolivia
Colation of LGBTI Liberian and Allies (CLA), Liberia
Collectif Arc En Ciel, Mauritius
communication for Social change (CSC), Ghana
Community Access National Network, United States of America
CONCEPTO VIH-SIDA e ITS A.C., Mexico
dance4life, Netherlands
David Ostrow & Associates, United States of America
Destiny Foundation, United States of America
Drodrolagi Movement, Fiji
European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), Belgium
Espoir Vie-Togo, Togo
Foundation HE+HIV, Suriname
Friends of GF LAC, Argentina
Fundación Nimehuatzin, Nicaragua
GALZ, Zimbabwe
Gay Men's Health Crisis, United States of America
GAYa NUSANTARA, Indonesia
GENDERDOC-M, Moldova
Global Developmental Corps, South Africa
Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), United States of America
Grassroots Initiative for Youth and Elderly Dev.Organization (GIYEDO), Tanzania
HIV Young Leaders Fund, United States of America
Hiv-Danmark, Denmark
HIVOS, Costa Rica
Housing Works Inc., United States of America
Icebreakers Uganda, Uganda
ICHANGE CI, Cote D'Ivoire
ICS, Vietnam
India HIV/AIDS Alliance, India
Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development, Canada
International Center for Advocacy on Rights to Health (ICARH), Nigeria
International Center for Research on Women, United States of America
International Centre for Youth Development Information Communication Technology, Nigeria
International Federation of Red Cross, Switzerland
International Planned Parenthood Federation, United Kingdom
ISHTAR-MSM, Kenya
JaNP+, Japan
KANHNHA, Cambodia
Lawyers League for Minorities, Nigeria
LGBT-centre "Donbas-SocProject", Ukraine
LGBT Forum Progress, Montenegro
Men Against AIDS Youth Group, Kenya
Mens Empowerment Network, Fiji
MoKexteya, Mexico
Movimiento Homosexual de Lima (MHOL), Peru
Naz Foundation International, India & United Kingdom
New Horizon Foundation, Pakistan
NGO "Kyrgyz Indigo", Kyrgyzstan
Nigerian Men for Sexual health and Reproductive Rights (NIMSHeR), Nigeria
Northern Childcare Voluntary Organisation, Ghana
Northern Youth network, Malawi
Observatorio Centroamericano VIH, Costa Rica
Observatorio de Género y Equidad, Chile
Observatorio Latino / AID FOR AIDS International, United States of America
Okaloosa AIDS Support & Informational Services Inc (OASIS), United States of America
Ontario HIV Treatment Network, Canada
Oogachaga Counselling and Support, Singapore
OSE, Lebanon
Pacific Rainbows Advocacy Network, Fiji
PEMA Kenya, Kenya
Penitentiary Initiative, Ukraine
PLUS Coalition Internationale Sida, France
positive frontiers, United States of America
PRIDE In Action, Jamaica
PT Foundation, Malaysia
Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO, Armenia
Queer Alliance Nigeria, Nigeria
Queer Youth Uganda, Uganda
Réseau des Organisations Nationales de Lutte contre le SIDA (RONALSI), Central African Republic
Rainbow-Ethiopia MSM Initiative, Ethiopia
RAY Youth Consortium, Kenya
RedTraSex, Latin America and Caribbean
REDVIHDA, Bolivia
SÃ DA VIDA, Peru
Safe Pulse of Youth, Serbia
Serbian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRH Serbia), Serbia
Sexual Health Clinic Cairns, Australia
SGRainbow, Singapore
SIDACTION, France
Sigma Research London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
Spectrum Uganda Initiatives Inc, Uganda
Stop AIDS in Liberia (SAIL), Liberia
Swaziland Positive Living (SWAPOL), Swaziland
Tanzania Network of Women living with HIV and AIDS, Tanzania
Tanzania Assistance for Laws Awareness and Development Organisation (TALADO), Tanzania
Terre des Jeunes du Burundi, Burundi
Thanh Danh Consultancy of Research and Development LTD Company, Vietnam
The Eagles for Life, Kenya
The Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), United Kingdom
The Initiative for Improved Male health, Nigeria
Traveschile, Chile
UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development, United Kingdom
Unidad de Atención Sicológica Sexológica y Educativa para el Crecimiento Personal A.C., Mexico
United and Strong Inc., Saint Lucia
United Belize Advocacy Movement, Belize
Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Mens Health Centre, Australia
Vietnamese Community Mobilization Centre for HIV/AIDS Control, Vietnam
WA Gender Project, Australia
We For Civil Equality NGO, Armenia
WhyCantWeGetMarried.Com West Africa Chapter, Sierra Leone
Women Against Rape Inc., Antigua and Barbuda
World Foundation for Medical Research and Prevention, United States of America
Young Mothers Support Group, Uganda
Youth Against AIDS, Kenya
Youth for Health center, Mongolia
Youth LEAD, Thailand
Yugoslav Youth Association Against AIDS - Youth of JAZAS, Serbia

Cc: Mr. Simon Bland, Chair of the Board
Cc: Minister Mphu Ramatlapeng, Vice Chair of the Board
Cc: Members of the Board, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria