I write to inform you in confidence of the UK Government's proposed pledge of £1.4 billion to the Sixth Replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (2020-2022), which the Prime Minister will announce at the G20 Osaka Summit on Saturday 29 June 2019. As Chairs of the three All Party Parliamentary Groups which are particularly engaged on this matter and Chair of the Select Committee on International Development, I want to make you aware of the decision in advance, explain the reasoning behind it, and set out our plans for future engagement with the Global Fund.

The UK is a world-leader in global health and will continue to be so, including through our support for the High-Level meeting on universal health coverage at the UN General Assembly in September and hosting the 2020 replenishment of Gavi, the vaccine alliance.

We will only achieve good health for all by 2030 and meet Global Goal 3 on good health and well-being if we can successfully tackle the challenge of HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria. Despite impressive progress, more than 2.5 million people died from the three diseases in 2017. Every day nearly 1,000 adolescent girls and young women in Africa become infected with HIV. TB is now the leading cause of death from an infectious disease globally and a child still dies of malaria every two minutes. The gains we have made together are threatened by growing drug and insecticide resistance, wavering political will, and the challenges to meet the needs of neglected and vulnerable populations.

Against this background, and in line with our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, the UK will pledge up to £1.4 billion to the Sixth Replenishment of the Global Fund which will be hosted by France in October. The UK’s investment will help:
• Provide life-saving antiretroviral therapy for more than 3.3 million people living with HIV;
• Support treatment and care for 2.3 million people with tuberculosis;
• Distribute 92 million mosquito nets to protect children and families from malaria;
• Strengthen health systems, promote global health security and tackle antimicrobial resistance.

To support the fight against malaria, I have structured our investment to increase contributions from the private sector by agreeing to provide double the value of private sector contributions to the Global Fund for malaria up to a maximum of £200 million, providing £2 for every £1 contributed by the private sector. This builds on the success of our previous malaria match funds which have so far raised almost £200 million in additional private sector contributions to the Global Fund. It also contributes to fulfilling our commitment to spend £500 million a year on malaria over the five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

The UK pledge to the previous Global Fund replenishment included for the first time a £90 million published performance agreement which set out the areas where the Global Fund needed to stretch even further to improve its performance. I am pleased to report now the Global Fund has performed well against these priorities and we have been able to release the last two annual performance tranches on time and in full.

Building on the success of this approach, for this replenishment I have agreed a £100 million performance agreement with the Global Fund to address the key priorities for further improvement: working with governments on integration of Global Fund programmes into national systems and strengthening these systems to support achievement of Universal Health Coverage; a greater focus on disease prevention; strengthening the focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised, including women and girls; and anti-microbial resistance and global health security. These are all critical to the Global Fund’s long-term success in delivering against the Sustainable Development Goal targets for health. I will establish a new annual strategic dialogue with senior management at the Global Fund to review progress on these critical areas and further strengthen our partnership.

We will now use our early decision to encourage other donors, new and existing, to be similarly ambitious in their commitments. Ultimately, protecting the health of citizens is the responsibility of national governments and we expect governments to play their part and further increase their public spending on health.

I would like to express my gratitude for the important role the APPGs have played in advocating for those affected by the three diseases and the valuable expertise you bring to the challenge. I look forward to continue working with you to step up our collective efforts to end these epidemics.

Rt Hon Rory Stewart OBE MP
Secretary of State