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Emne: letter to Committee Chair DK Folketing FA Committee

Dear Mr. Moller

I am writing on behalf of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to request an opportunity for the Fund to appear before a hearing of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Folketing, which you have the honour of presiding. I coordinate the relations of the Fund with Parliamentarians, and am a former Member of the Canadian Parliament for over 25 years [and with a Danish mother as you may guess from my name!]

Denmark has been a strong supporter of The Global Fund since it was founded 10 years ago. Indeed during almost all of the history of the Fund you were in a leading position in the Danish government as Foreign Minister, so well aware of our significant accomplishments in saving lives. The past couple of years have been extremely challenging for The Global Fund as we confront the reality of the economic crisis and our rapid growth into the largest funder globally of TB and Malaria, over 80%, and some 25% of all HIV/AIDS programs, in over 140 countries around the world. Since the last time the Fund appeared before your Committee, a couple of years ago, there have been many important changes both internally and externally. We are currently going through a major restructuring and refocusing, the Comprehensive Transformation Plan, under the leadership of Gabriel Jaramillo for the next twelve months. As a direct impact of the crisis, we were forced to cancel the most recent funding Round 11, with only the continuation of life-sustaining programmes being supported until 2014, unless we receive new sources of funding. At the same time, while Denmark remains a solid and valued partner, we do regret that both the last government and the current government have budgeted contributions to The Global Fund which do not honour the pledge that had been made by the then-government at the official replenishment conference at the UN in October 2010. In fact Denmark is the only country in this position, and we do of course that Denmark will be in a position to fill the gap before the end of the current pledge period in December 2013.

Given the many changes we have undergone since our last appearance before the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the importance of Denmark's role with the Fund, I do hope that it will be possible to schedule an appearance by our Head of Donor Relations, Stefan Emblad, at a future meeting of your Committee [Mr. Emblad appeared before the Committee during our last hearing in April 2010]. I of course understand that you have a very full agenda, if we were able to have a one-hour slot as previously, this would be most appreciated.

Best

Svend Robinson

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