

Press statement

UNAIDS welcomes appointment of new Global Fund Executive Director

Geneva, 8 February 2007 – The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) welcomes the appointment of Professor Michel Kazatchkine to the position of Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Professor Kazatchkine joins the Global Fund after serving as a physician for more than 20 years and leading the world's second-largest AIDS research agency. He currently serves as France's Ambassador for HIV/AIDS and Communicable Diseases. Professor Kazatchkine is a former Vice Chair of the Global Fund Board and first Chair of the Global Fund's Technical Review Panel, which assesses the quality of grant proposals.

“The Global Fund is a vital institution for the AIDS response and a key partner for UNAIDS. I am confident that Michel Kazatchkine will show exceptional leadership on AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as the Fund's new Executive Director and UNAIDS looks forward to the opportunity to strengthen our collaboration further.”

Since its creation in 2001, the Global Fund has provided billions of dollars to fund country-driven proposals, enabling them to respond to AIDS on an unprecedented scale. It is the institution providing the largest amount of funding for AIDS programmes in the world.

UNAIDS works closely with the Global Fund at the global and country level, providing guidance and support on AIDS-related policy and technical assistance.

With more money available than ever before for AIDS, UNAIDS hopes to build on the collaboration with the Global Fund to help ‘make the money work’ for the people who need it most – particularly in the areas of helping strengthen the country coordinating mechanisms responsible for distributing the funding, to ensure maximum efficacy and to meaningfully include civil society groups including people living with HIV.

“As the world's leading financial mechanism for AIDS the Global Fund is enabling countries to lead and significantly expand their AIDS programmes. We welcome efforts to encourage innovative partnerships to increase funding further, and efforts to ensure funds are used in the most efficient way through improved national, regional and global collaboration,” said Dr Piot.

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