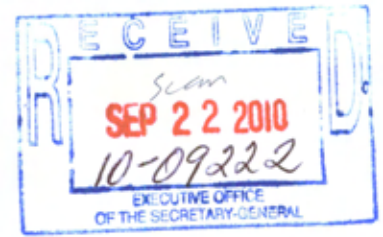




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THE HON KEVIN RUDD MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

(Australia)

Mr Ban Ki-moon
The Secretary-General
United Nations Secretariat
New York, NY 10017
UNITED STATES

back to
Central

Dear Secretary-General

19/09/10

I refer to your letter dated 12 August 2010 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, regarding Australia's support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund). As the issue you raise falls within my portfolio responsibility, the Prime Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting developing countries, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, to tackle HIV, malaria and tuberculosis. We view the Global Fund as a major partner in this endeavour and a substantial element of Australia's support to achieve the health Millennium Development Goals. We believe the Global Fund has played an instrumental role in reducing mortality levels, by garnering international resources to fight major diseases in the world's poorest communities.

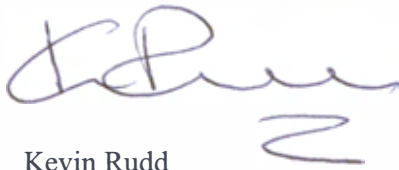
Over the last seven years, Australia has committed \$210 million to the Global Fund. The last three years have seen a significant increase in our core contribution, from \$18 million in 2007 to \$46.5 million in 2010. Australia has also recently signed a 'Debt2Health Swap' arrangement with the Government of Indonesia. This will cancel up to \$75 million in debt owed by Indonesia in parallel with Indonesia investing \$37.5 million in the Global Fund for approved tuberculosis programs.

Australia's response to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria is also provided through bilateral programs. This complements Global Fund grants through supporting countries' national plans to tackle these diseases. Importantly, Australia is supporting a range of programs to strengthen how health services are delivered, including through health financing, workforce development, and the provision of facilities and equipment. Such support underpins the delivery of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria programs as well as other health services.

The Australian Government intends to continue its support to the Global Fund in coming years. We are considering the level of our future contribution for 2011 and beyond as part of the replenishment negotiations, which will culminate in the pledging conference you will be chairing in New York in October 2010.

I look forward to Australia's continued engagement with the United Nations and the Global Fund to continue the fight against these three major diseases.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Rudd', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Kevin Rudd

19/9/10