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The Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment Conference: a challenge for France, a challenge for global health

For the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment Conference see <https://www.globalfundsixthreplenishment.org/en/>

By hosting the Sixth Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Lyon, France, on Oct 9–10, 2019, President Emmanuel Macron reaffirms France's longstanding contribution to the fight against these three diseases.

France was among the first countries to have supported the creation of the Global Fund in 2001. France has had a seat on the Governing Board since 2002. Two French nationals have been Vice Chairs of the Board, and Michel Kazatchkine was Executive Director from 2007 to 2012. The financial contribution

of France is the second largest historical amount provided to the Global Fund after that from the USA. France's 5% Initiative that started in 2011 has been an effective bilateral mechanism to mobilise support and technical expertise in francophone countries eligible for Global Fund grants.¹ From a political perspective, French Presidents and Governments have regarded the Global Fund as a linchpin for their development assistance for health, allowing global health to remain a priority for France over almost two decades.

Although global health has not always been a core priority for President Macron on the international stage—whether during his first official visit to Africa (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), in 2017, or during the 2019 G7 Summit in Biarritz, France—the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment Conference is an opportunity for France to retain and strengthen its influence in global health.

The Global Fund has been supported by unprecedented financial mobilisation for health—US\$41.6 billion since its inception. It has had a leading role in the progress achieved in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, with 32 million lives saved through the Global Fund partnership by the end of 2018.² The Global Fund has transformed the approach to international development assistance, creating a new ecosystem for global health based on



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multisectoral governance,³ civil society participation,⁴ country ownership, and independent evaluation mechanisms.

In a context of stagnating development assistance for health for at least the past 5 years,⁵ it is imperative that the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment Conference provides a clear and positive signal and initiates a new dynamic, including by refocusing on the trajectory of eliminating the three target diseases. The replenishment is also a time for donor and recipient countries to rethink the Global Fund's approach so that it increases investment in strengthening health systems and becomes more inclusive and more able to adapt to each context.

The Sixth Replenishment Conference in Lyon is a time to reposition France on the global health agenda. The success of the event will depend on the level of global financial commitment. Given the unmet needs and the possibility of fulfilling them with additional resources, the minimum \$14 billion⁶ expected for replenishment is not acceptable and a more ambitious target should be set. The success of the replenishment will also rely on the increased diversity of donors and stakeholders, moving from a Global Fund mainly financed by G7 countries to a truly multilateral Global Fund. Finally, the debate on enlarging the scope and priorities of the Global Fund within the current and future global health agenda should be at the centre of the international debate.

We believe that President Macron will have the courage and the ability to lead this international movement and that France will contribute with

substantial financial resources to the replenishment. France must keep its place as a key donor and help bring a new impetus to global health.

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Santé mondiale 2030 is an independent think tank gathering personalities committed for a long time to global health problematics. It bases its work within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The members of Santé mondiale 2030 are Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Paul Benkimoun, Michel Cot, Sana de Courcelles, François Dabis, Annabel Desgrées du Lou, Jean-François Delfraissy, Eric Fleutelot, Frédéric Goyet, Mathieu Lamiaux, Michel Kazatchkine, Marie-Paule Kieny, Lélío Marmora, Benoît Miribel, Olivier Nay, Louis Pizarro, Anna-Laura Ross, and Stéphanie Tchiombiano.

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